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EARTH CHARTER+5 PROGRESS REPORT

Steven C. Rockefeller and Mirian Vilela, Editors



This Report is a working document intended for use by those attending the September 2005 Earth Charter Steering Committee meeting. It should not be distributed beyond the Earth Charter Steering Committee and Secretariat or cited without permission.

August 2005

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Introduction

It has been five years since the launch of the Earth Charter at the Peace Palace in The Hague, in June 2000. This report has been prepared as part of a five-year strategic assessment of the accomplishments and strengths and weaknesses of the Earth Charter Initiative. It is designed to assist the Steering Committee and a small group of senior advisors in developing a set of recommendations regarding goals and strategies for the future, a budget and fundraising plan, and a governance structure appropriate for the next five years. The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on September 17-18, 2005. Its recommendations will be finalized at a meeting of the Earth Charter Commission and Steering Committee in the Netherlands on November 7, 2005.

Following the launch of the Earth Charter, the Earth Charter Commission agreed not to meet in the future on a regular basis and charged the Steering Committee with oversight of the Secretariat and the Earth Charter Initiative. The Earth Charter Commission retained the authority to make changes in the text of the Earth Charter should revisions be deemed necessary. The Steering Committee established the following three goals as the major objectives of the Initiative beginning in July 2000.

1. To promote the dissemination, endorsement, and implementation of the Earth Charter by civil society, business, and government.
2. To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, faith communities, and many other settings.
3. To seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations.

This report endeavors to provide useful information on how the Initiative has operated and to what extent these goals have been achieved.

The report is divided into chapters that present reports on the following important aspects of the Initiative.

- organizational structure
- finances and fundraising
- dissemination and endorsement
- contributions to the emerging global ethics and international law
- Earth Charter education program
- promotion of the Earth Charter at the local community level
- Earth Charter youth program
- art and the Earth Charter
- religion and the Earth Charter
- business and the Earth Charter
- selected bibliography of published works that reference the Earth Charter

The different chapters have been written by the Secretariat staff and by a number of others who have played leadership roles in Earth Charter activities over the past five years. Some chapters include essays by two or three different individuals. This report should be regarded as a working document. The various chapters and essays have undergone only a minimum amount of editing. The reader will encounter different writing styles and methods of presentation. Given the scope of the Earth Charter Initiative, it has been difficult to gather all the information needed to make a complete report, and in some sections, this problem is more evident than in others. Some authors conclude their essays with recommendations, but others do not. The contents of the different chapters in their current form are not intended for distribution beyond the Secretariat and Steering Committee.

The story these chapters tell is in many respects an encouraging one. The worldwide participatory process that produced the Earth Charter and its broad integrated ethical vision make it a unique and important document. In spite of very limited financial resources and a fairly loose-knit organizational structure, the Earth Charter Initiative has a record of significant accomplishment, especially in the areas of endorsement, education, local community development, global ethics and international law. Also, the Earth Charter Youth Program has been expanding and developing in a promising fashion, and in the fields of art, religion, and business, there are some noteworthy accomplishments. As the bibliography reveals, the Earth Charter is being recognized in a growing number of books and journals. The successes of the past five years are due to the work of a dedicated Secretariat and the volunteer efforts of members of the Earth Charter Commission and Steering Committee and hundreds of Earth Charter supporters. In short, there has been progress in achieving the goals of the Initiative set in 2000, but what has been accomplished is only a beginning.

This report indicates that the major weakness of the Earth Charter Initiative is that it is a global project operating with a very small secretariat of three or four staff members and it has not been able to raise the funds necessary to secure additional professional support and to extend its outreach more aggressively and effectively. The Earth Charter Commission has not viewed as its responsibility fundraising for the Initiative since the drafting process concluded. Since the members of the Steering Committee reside in different regions of the world and funds for travel expenses have been very limited, the Steering Committee has not scheduled regular meetings, and its members communicate largely by e-mail. Some members occasionally meet together. The Committee has left fundraising largely up to two of its members and to the Secretariat. Lacking the professional staff that it needs and forced to rely heavily on volunteer support, the Initiative has not been able to take full advantage of the opportunities before it. For example, the preparation of educational support materials has proceeded at a relatively slow pace, and the Initiative has not had the capacity to launch a major global initiative with faith communities or with businesses.

When the Steering Committee meets in September, it will have the task of evaluating what the Earth Charter Initiative has accomplished and how it has done it. Further, the committee must decide whether or not the Initiative has a distinctive and significant role to play in the future in contributing to the world wide transition to a sustainable way of life, and, if so, how best to position the Initiative to play that role. There appear to be three basic options that the committee has regarding the future of the Initiative.

First, the Initiative could continue to operate more or less as it has. However, this is not an attractive option, given the difficulties with fundraising and the stresses and limitations these difficulties impose. Second, the committee could decide that the prudent course is to wind down efforts to promote the Earth Charter with an international secretariat and a coordinated international program, concluding that a continuation of these efforts is no longer warranted and/or is not financially sustainable. Under this scenario, there would probably be some spontaneous, ongoing use and promotion of the Earth Charter under the leadership of interested organizations and concerned individuals. Given all that has been achieved to date, the continuing relevance of the Earth Charter, and the opportunity the Initiative has to influence change, this second option should only be adopted if the Steering Committee is convinced there is no other alternative.

A third option is to reorganize and strengthen the Initiative, building on what has been accomplished. It is clear that if the Initiative is to develop its programs and make the full contribution that many believe is its potential, some major changes are in order. For example, a new governance structure with committed leadership would be required, an expanded professional staff is needed, the Initiative must carefully focus its efforts, partnerships with other international organizations must be further developed, and the fundraising capacity of the Initiative must be dramatically enhanced. The Steering Committee and its advisors must decide whether such changes are possible and whether what might be accomplished by these changes justifies the effort that will be required. An especially critical issue is whether the leadership necessary to successfully reorganize and advance the Initiative can be found. If it is not thought feasible for the Earth Charter Initiative to undergo a major reorganization and expansion, another possibility would be to reorganize the Initiative and greatly narrow its focus, concentrating the energy of the Secretariat on a manageable program in support of which funds could be raised.

This report does not conclude with a comprehensive set of recommendations that further clarifies these basic options and that fully develops what would be involved in option #3 or some modified version of it. For that, the Steering Committee should turn to the report of Alan AtKisson, who has been engaged by the Steering Committee to do an independent strategic review of the Earth Charter Initiative and to prepare recommendations regarding future possibilities. AtKisson is an expert in the field of sustainable development who brings to the task of a strategic review a very valuable fresh perspective on the Initiative. Since AtKisson and a number of his colleagues at AtKisson, Inc. have undertaken an extensive, in-depth analysis of the Initiative and since they are

familiar with the contents of this report and have been in communication with Steven Rockefeller and Mirian Vilela as well as many other Earth Charter leaders as they prepared their recommendations, this report has been limited to providing basic information about the activities of the Initiative. The recommendations it does include come at the end of the various chapters and are focused by the different authors of these chapters on the specific topic under consideration. All of this information will help the Steering Committee and its advisors understand and evaluate the discussion of strategic options and the recommendations presented in the AtKisson report.

Additional instructive information on the Earth Charter Initiative may be found in the sixty-two essays that have been written for *Toward a Sustainable World*: *The Earth Charter in Action* which has been edited by Peter Blaze Corcoran with Alide Roerink, and Mirian Vilela and will be published in time for the November Earth Charter Commission and Steering Committee meeting on November 7, 2005.

In conclusion I would like to express my deep gratitude to Mirian Vilela and the staff of the Secretariat for their leadership and hard work and to all who have committed themselves to the Earth Charter and are bringing its values and principles to life in their organizations and communities. Special thanks go to those who have contributed to the preparation of this report: Mirian Vilela, Rick Clugston, Brendan Mackey, Mohit Mukherjee, Klaus Bosselmann, Prue Taylor, Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Michael Slaby, Renaud Richard, Melanie Ashton, Dumisani Nyoni, Sally Linder, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Kamla Chowdhry, Joan Anderson, Marina Bakhnova, Betty McDermott, and Claire Wilson.

Steven C. Rockefeller
Co-chair, Earth Charter Steering Committee

Chapter I

The Organization of the Earth Charter Initiative

Mirian Vilela, Executive Director, Earth Charter International Secretariat
with contributions from Brendan Mackey, Mohit Mukherjee and Rick Clugston

The Earth Charter Initiative is an international movement of individuals and organizations that share the Earth Charter vision and are committed to promoting and implementing its guiding principles. A significant number of Earth Charter activities have been organized by the International Secretariat. Many others have been undertaken by Earth Charter focal points at a national level as well as by organizations that have made the Earth Charter a priority and which act as partners with the International Secretariat.

The Earth Charter Initiative is comprised of the following elements:

- Commission;
- Steering Committee;
- International Secretariat;
- Focal points;
- Partner Organizations;
- Individuals.

The Commission, Steering Committee and Secretariat make up the formal structure of the Initiative. However, these elements have not been legally incorporated as a Non-governmental Organization (NGO). This structure is formal only in the sense that it is the publicly declared organizational structure of the Initiative and operates in ways similar to a legally incorporated NGO. These formal elements are complemented by the activities and contributions of an informal network of volunteer individuals and organizations in many different countries from all regions of the world. Some of these organizations have been recognized by the International Secretariat as national Earth Charter "focal points." Others have been recognized by the Secretariat as "affiliated" or "partner" organizations. Such recognition has occurred via the exchange of letters.

Through its informal structure the Secretariat has encouraged a large number of groups and individuals to contribute to the mission of the Initiative by promoting, endorsing or using the Earth Charter in a variety of ways appropriate to local circumstances. Such engagement has generated a significant sense of ownership and on-going commitment such that the Initiative can be called a global grassroots movement for social reform. There is no doubt that many of the accomplishments to date are a result of the continuous enthusiasm and involvement of these volunteer individuals and groups who over the years have kept the Earth Charter Initiative alive. The maintenance of such an open and

participatory venture on a global scale is unique and a powerful example of how civil society can collaborate across political and cultural divides in the search for a more sustainable future. An Earth Charter Initiative Organization Chart is included at the end of this chapter detailing the formal and informal components discussed above.

Over the decade of the nineties the Secretariat of the Earth Charter Initiative was based at the Earth Council and functioned as a project under its umbrella. As a project, it was managed by an International Coordinator functioning under the Earth Council Executive Director and at the same time reporting to the Commission and its board. During that phase the main purpose of the Secretariat was to promote and coordinate a consultation process and the drafting of the Earth Charter.

In the year 2000, when the consultation process was completed and the Earth Charter launched, the Commission, considering that the Earth Charter Initiative had grown significantly, decided to create a Steering Committee to oversee Initiative operations and to separate the Earth Charter management from the Earth Council. Since then the Earth Charter International Secretariat has been reporting directly to the Steering Committee.

A) Earth Charter Commission

The Earth Charter Commission was established in early 1997 to oversee the consultation and drafting process and to approve a final version of the Charter, which was released in March, 2000, at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The full Earth Charter Commission met twice: in March 1997 and March 2000. In the year 2000 the decision was made that "the Commission would have no executive functions but would be the repository of constitutional responsibility with the authority to approve any fundamental changes in the terms of reference of the Earth Charter campaign recommended by the Steering Committee."[1] Since then the Commission has been kept informed about the developments of the Initiative; members have been encouraged to help promote the Earth Charter through their areas of activities; and a number of them have represented the Initiative in different contexts. Commission members have also been approached when a specific need emerged for their intervention and in cases concerning major changes in the priority of Initiative operations.

Commissioners vary considerably in the extent to which they actively promote the Earth Charter. Many Commission members when visiting a country, making speeches or presentations, have used the opportunity to share the Earth Charter. For instance, Maurice Strong presented the Earth Charter to the presidents of Brazil and Romania; Steven Rockefeller presented it to the Prime Minister of Montenegro; Wakako Hironaka presented the Charter to the Prime Minister of Japan; and Princess Basma, presented it to the government of Jordan

[1] Strong, Maurice, Memorandum to the Earth Charter Commission of 7 April 2000.

B) Earth Charter Steering Committee

The role of the Earth Charter Steering Committee, which is co-chaired by members of the Commission, is to oversee the operation of the Earth Charter Initiative and Secretariat. It is "the executive decision making body with overall responsibility for the direction and oversight of the management and financing of the Earth Charter Initiative."[2] Thus, it functions as an executive board. However the Steering Committee has only met physically as a whole body twice, and since 2001 a full meeting has not taken place due to financial constraints, although there have been some smaller gatherings. Therefore, decisions and information sharing have been accomplished through e-mails and telephone conversations. In that context, the Steering Committee reviews the Secretariat's financial statements and fundraising proposals, but it does not have fiscal responsibility for the Secretariat. The Steering Committee has four co-chairs. Over the years, the two most active co-chairs, Steven Rockefeller and Ruud Lubbers have been intimately involved in the operations of the Secretariat and the activities of the Initiative.

C) Earth Charter Secretariat

The Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat is based in San José, Costa Rica. The Secretariat provides support for the Commission and Steering Committee, manages major programs and global undertakings, and coordinates work with a global network of Earth Charter focal points in 54 countries and a number of partner organizations. The role of the International Secretariat is to facilitate and catalyze collaborative efforts to advance the implementation of the mission and objectives of the Earth Charter Initiative. The working team consists of three staff members (an executive director, an education programme manager, and a project officer), and from time to time its efforts have been complemented by some volunteer support.

In 2000 the Secretariat was given a mandate from the Commission to develop programs to promote the use and incorporation of the Earth Charter in business, faith groups, youth, indigenous peoples, governments, and the media sector. However, later (between 2002 and 2003), it was decided by the Steering Committee that the Secretariat should limit its work to a subset commensurate with its financial means and of greatest interest to the network of Earth Charter supporters it served. Consequently, as a priority, programs were developed in the areas of (1) education, (2) local communities, and (3) political support and endorsement.

The Secretariat undertakes a diverse array of tasks in support of the above programs, including: disseminating and promoting the Earth Charter; organizing workshops at the national level; participating in major international events such as the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and the IUCN World Conservation Congress;

[2] Ibid.

conducting on-going communication with interested individuals and organizations; developing basic resource materials; continually updating the three versions of the Earth Charter website in English, Spanish and French (www.earthcharter.org); producing and distributing the monthly *Newsflash*; and overseeing the work of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative (see comments below). Examples of resources developed by the Secretariat are: the Earth Workshop Toolkit "What can I do with the Earth Charter?"; the Earth Charter *Handbook*; the Earth Charter and Business Guide; and the Earth Charter Teaching Guidebook. The Secretariat reports periodically to all members of the Steering Committee and has particularly close communication with the co-chairs.

The Secretariat functioned in Costa Rica first under the umbrella of the Earth Council, then under the patronage of the University for Peace. Based on a Memorandum of Understanding, the finances and accounts of the Secretariat are managed by the University for Peace. The University also offers technical computer and website support to the Secretariat. In early 2005 the Secretariat initiated the process of formally registering itself in Costa Rica as an NGO.

The Secretariat benefits from the unique support of seven volunteer Senior Advisors. A volunteer International Advisory Committee was established to assist the design and implementation of the Education Programme. An advisory committee was also established for the Local Community Programme. The Education Programme Advisory Committee has been active, contributing to two online discussion forums and producing a framework document. Because of limited funding, the Local Communities Programme has yet to be activated.

D) Earth Charter Youth Initiative

The Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI) warrants further comment. It is a youth led initiative put together by an international core-group of young people from different countries committed to the Earth Charter and to bringing it to a larger number of young people worldwide. All members of the ECYI work on a volunteer basis. The ECYI objectives are to: (a) ensure that youth play an active role in promoting the values and principles of the Earth Charter; (b) work with youth organizations, networks and individuals to share the Earth Charter as a tool for promoting an ethic for justice, sustainability and peace; and (c) take the mission and aims of the Earth Charter Initiative and make them alive, relevant and applicable to young people around the world. Individuals and groups have been joining the ECYI with the only criteria being their commitment to actively promote the Earth Charter locally and internationally. There are approximately 200 youth members of this network from 30 countries, coordinated by a team of 5 people and facilitated by an overall coordinator, now based in Germany. The ECYI is functioning under the oversight of the Earth Charter Secretariat. (See also Chapter 7 on Youth.)

E) Partner Organizations

As noted above, partners are organizations that have been promoting the Earth Charter, supporting the Secretariat in many different ways, and using the Earth Charter in their programmes and/or policies and actions. Among the partner organizations collaborating with the Earth Charter Initiative are: the Association Pour la Terre; Boston Research Center for the 21st Century; Center for Respect of Life and Environment; Green Cross International; Institute Paulo Freire; IUCN Commission on Environmental Law; Soka Gakkai International; The UN University for Peace, The Humane Society of United States and the World Resources Institute.

F) Focal Points

In 1997 the Earth Council, acting as the Secretariat of the Initiative started to invite groups to form Earth Charter National Committees comprising representatives of different sectors of society such as civil society organizations, community, educational, business, and government representatives. The original purpose for National Committees was to coordinate a consultation process and offer feedback on the Earth Charter drafts. Gradually, this role evolved to promoting the Earth Charter, translating it into local languages, seeking endorsements, and now incorporating the Earth Charter into different areas of activity.

Thus, since the year 2000 national committees gradually evolved into Earth Charter Focal Points. Focal points are organizations or individuals which promote and use the Earth Charter and represent the Initiative in their country. Out of the 69 existing focal points, the secretariat has Memoranda of Understanding with 18 of them with the purpose of establishing a set of agreements for the relationship. These organizations use their existing resources and infrastructure to act as a focal point.

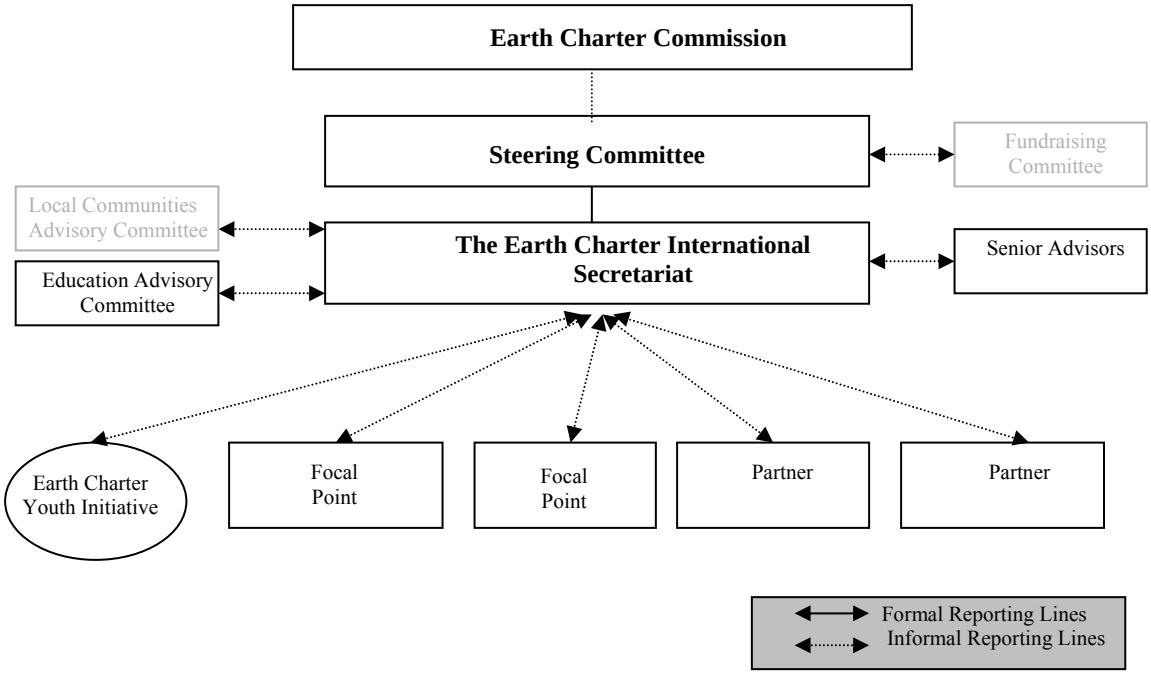
Naturally, some focal points are more active than others—for example, Armenia, Australia, Costa Rica, Holland, Mexico, Russia, Spain and the United States are very active. Activities range from incorporating the Earth Charter in their host organization's policies and programs to raising awareness on the Earth Charter and engaging other organizations and individuals in their region to endorse and use the Earth Charter. Focal points have translated the document into local languages when needed. Many have added the Earth Charter text to their website or simply added a reference to it; ten specific Earth Charter websites have been put in place by focal points in an effort to more effectively promote the Earth Charter message to their constituencies or country. There is an understanding that focal points report their activities on the Earth Charter to the Secretariat.

Below is a map identifying the location of Earth Charter focal points. See the end of this chapter for a complete list of Focal Points and partner organizations.

Earth Charter Focal Points Worldwide



Earth Charter Initiative Organization Chart



G) Conclusions and Recommendations

It has not been the intention of the Commission to have an over-centralized or large organizational structure nor to control the different efforts that are inspired by the Earth Charter. The current informal structure has allowed a number of organizations to feel part of the Initiative and to significantly contribute to its mission. This "loose volunteer network" has enabled groups to engage and have a sense of belonging, rather than feeling they are outsiders or are contributing to someone else's initiative.

It has been difficult for the Secretariat to monitor all the efforts that have emerged, closely support them, or exert an appropriate degree of quality control. For example, major activities are undertaken without the Secretariat's knowledge. Some groups have even raised funds independently, using as leverage the Earth Charter Initiative and logo.

Any organization or movement has, to a certain extent, a range of alternatives on how to function with regard to its level of centralization or control. Options range from a loose and decentralized *modus operandi* to a controlled and centralized management. Clearly, the Secretariat does not have the capacity in its current form to manage a tightly organized global network. Furthermore, such centralized control would not be welcomed by many of the partner organizations and volunteers. However, all those committed to the Earth Charter must accept something of the shared responsibilities regarding how the Initiative functions and is managed. It is critical that someone be responsible for ensuring that the integrity of the Earth Charter is maintained in all activities that purport to make use of and promote the Earth Charter. Also, it is difficult to imagine how the Earth Charter Initiative can continue as a global civil society movement for social reform towards sustainability without someone's taking responsibility for the necessary catalyzing and coordination. But, where will the resources come from to ensure the ongoing functioning of the secretariat?

One option for the Secretariat is to strengthen and formalize its relationships with some key existing organizations and partners that have legitimacy, capacity and a stable structure. Such organizations could eventually act as Earth Charter "nodes" either to a specific sector like education or business or to a region. These "nodes" could function on behalf of the Secretariat in their specific fields.

The role of the Steering Committee must be strengthened and clarified. One option is to legally incorporate the Initiative so that the Steering Committee changes into a formal organizational board with legal and fiscal responsibilities (functioning as a board of directors). The evaluation process needs to consider questions such as the form of incorporation (presumably a foundation or not-for-profit) and the constitution of the new governing board's membership.

As noted above, some partner organizations have been able to raise funds for their Earth Charter activities using the Earth Charter Initiative and logo as leverage. To the best of our knowledge, these activities have all been legitimate and have generated great benefit to the Initiative as a whole. The use of the logo has been largely based on prior consent of the Secretariat. However, in all cases, no proceeds have flowed to the Secretariat. The issue of using the Earth Charter as a vehicle for raising revenue is complex. However, the issue cannot be ignored in considering the future of the Initiative. Therefore, the assessment process needs to consider what kind of agreements should exist for the use of the Earth Charter and logo in fundraising activities.

When clearer priorities for the future have been identified and fundraising prospects have been established, the accountability of the Steering Committee, Secretariat and focal points must be strengthened and procedures for the periodic evaluation of related activities should be set in place.

H) Overview of Priority Areas from 2000 to 2005

The table below shows areas of concentration upon which the Secretariat has worked and how priorities shifted over the years.

Between the years 2000 and 2002 significant effort was given to dissemination and endorsement of the Earth Charter, then priority moved to seeing ways to implement the Charter in local communities and education and to a certain extent utilized among the youth.

MAIN ACTIVITES	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
PHASE I: Dissemination and Endorsement						
Translating the Earth Charter						
Disseminating it broadly						
Seeking endorsements						
Seeking governmental support						
Implementing the Type II partnership						
PHASE II: Implementation						
By Educational Institutions (formal & nonformal)						
By Local Communities						
By Youth Groups						
By Faith Groups						
By Business						

Darker = highest priority
Mid-color = somewhat of a priority
Lightest = not a priority

Appendix I. List of Focal Points and Partner Organizations

Focal Points

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Benin
Jacques Zanou
ONG Benin 21
jzanou2001@yahoo.fr; digitel@intnet.bj

Cameroon
Mme. Kanga Julienne
Nouvelle Afrique
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Egypt
Emad Adly
RAED Arab Network for Environment and Development
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Green Belt Movement
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Council for Environmental Studies and Conservation
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Thailand
Chamniern P. Vorratnchaipan
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EUROPE and CENTRAL ASIA

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Chapter II

Earth Charter Financial Report, 2000-2005

Prepared by Mirian Vilela with assistance from Rick Clugston

A) The Secretariat's Budget and Financial Situation

The Secretariat requires approximately US$10,500 per month - about US$126,000/year - to maintain minimal operations (with three full time staff members). Its operating expenses for 2003 amounted to $117,000 and US$164,943 for 2004. It benefits from office space and administrative support provided by the University for Peace, which significantly helps in reducing the funding required.

The summary of the income and expenditures from 2001 to 2005 are presented in the following table (Note: for 2005 the statement from 1 January through 15 June only).

Financial Statement - Earth Charter Secretariat

Statement of income and expenditures
for the years ended 31 October 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and June 15, 2005

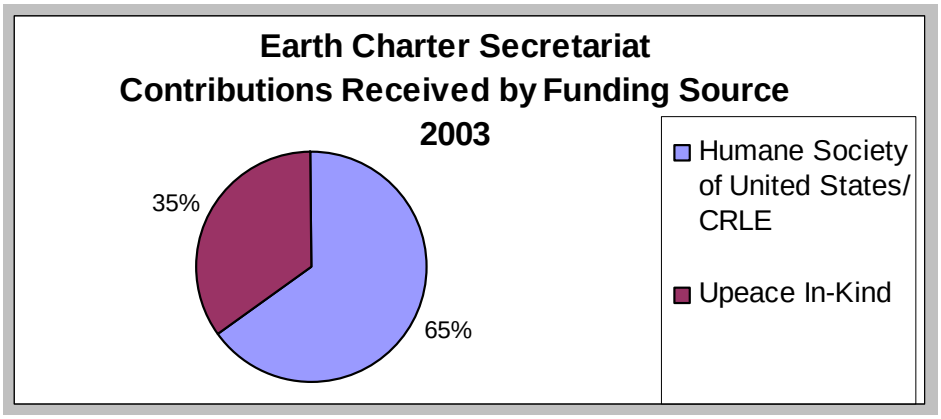
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Income					
Balance from prior period	47,081.33	12,816.48	6,902.91	(704.63)	52,994.19
Income from donors	152,635.00	110,000.00	110,000.00	218,642.28	70,120.00
	199,716.33	**122,816.48**	**116,902.91**	**217,937.65**	**123,114.19**
Expenditures					
Salary	82,286.66	72,580.88	94,370.89	107,847.07	46,428.98
Travel	4,447.57	11,244.96	12,481.10	3,851.46	1,072.54
Consultants/Seed Money	23,780.00	10,414.00	2,308.79	-	1,150.00
Meetings/ Workshops	42,178.64	-	-	7,516.61	7,344.57
Translations and Printing	19,349.13	11,907.18	3,168.40	43,311.00	47,175.00
Stationery	195.98	4,423.05	2,305.95	182.68	304.05
Maintenance	-	-	-	-	370.00
Communications	11,582.57	5,046.37	2,444.32	1,111.48	1,073.19
Miscellaneous	3,079.30	297.13	528.09		261.30
Purchases	-	-	-	1,123.16	1,095.00
Financial Expenses	-	-	-	-	45.00
Security Services	-	-	-	-	2,300.18
	186,899.85	**115,913.57**	**117,607.54**	**164,943.46**	**108,619.81**
BALANCE	**12,816.48**	**6,902.91**	**(704.63)**	**52,994.19**	**14,494.38**

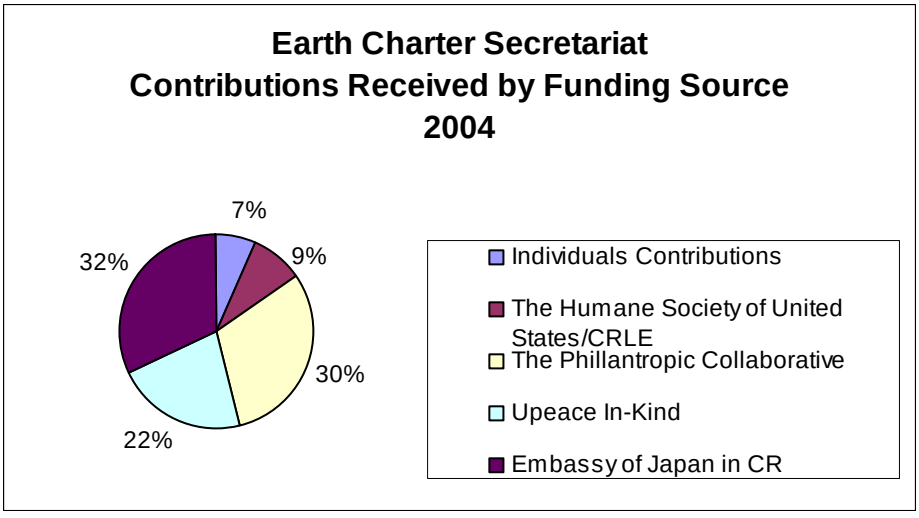
Contributions to the Earth Charter Secretariat 1994-2005

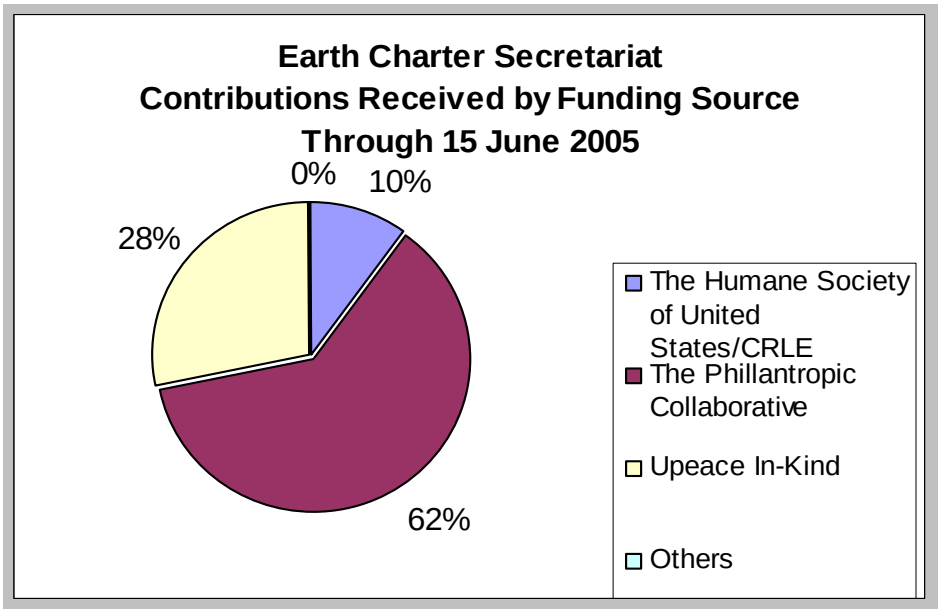
1994-96	Dutch Government (general support)	742,108
1997-98	Earth Council (general support)	71,307
1997	Canadian Embassy (special meeting, Children in Costa Rica)	3,406
1998-99	Earth Council (Secretariat & area managers)	104,165
	Swiss Embassy/Costa Rica (educator's meeting, Costa Rica)	9,000
	Rockefeller Brothers Fund (Secretariat and National Committees)	129,500
	Dutch Government (Earth Charter Continental Conference of the Americas)	6,000
	Dutch Government (Secretariat and Tilburg Office)	55,000
	TPC/Earth Charter Fund (Earth Charter Continental Conference of the Americas)	15,000
1999	TPC/ Earth Charter Fund (Secretariat)	30,000
	Fetzer Institute (training meeting)	12,000
	TPC/Earth Charter Fund (African Regional Consultation, Cape Town)	30,000
	Dutch Government (Secretariat and Tilburg Office)	55,000
	Center for Respect of Life and Environment/ HSUS (GCI Activities)	30,000
2000	TPC/Earth Charter Fund (National Committees seed fund)	50,000
	CRLE/HSUS (Secretariat)	20,000
	CRLE/HSUS (Earth Charter Commission meeting, Paris)	70,000
	CRLE/HSUS (The Hague Launch)	35,362
	Soka Gakkai, Inc. (General support/education and youth)	55,447
	TPC/Earth Charter Fund (Earth Charter Commentary and media)	32,135
	CRLE/HSUS (public relations and communication programme)	77,000
2001	The Philanthropic Collaborative/Earth Charter Fund	135,000
	CRLE/HSUS	17,635
2002	The Philanthropic Collaborative/Earth Charter Fund	40,000
	CRLE/HSUS	70,000
2003	CRLE/HSUS	70,000
2004	NCDO	3,387
	GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS - Various Individual Gifts	17,525
	Center of Humans and Nature	2,985
	The Humane Society of United States/CRLE	24,580
	The Philanthropic Collaborative/Earth Charter Fund	50,000
	The Philanthropic Collaborative/Earth Charter Fund	20,000
	The Philanthropic Collaborative/Earth Charter Fund (IUCN)	14,985
	Embassy of Japan in CR	90,000
2005	The Humane Society of United States/CRLE	10,000
	The Philanthropic Collaborative/Earth Charter Fund	60,000
	Others	135

TOTAL 2,258,662.17

Over the years contributions received by source of funding have been the following:







B) Financial reality - Secretariat versus Initiative

Given the nature of the Earth Charter Initiative movement, in which many organizations contribute significantly to advancing the Initiative's objectives, financially accounting for all of this would considerably increase the total yearly expenditure of the Initiative. For instance the EarthCAT Project managed by the World Resources Institute and Global Community Initiatives represents a significant financial contribution to the Initiative, but it is not reflected in this financial statement because the funds did not come through the Secretariat. Similarly, other contributions are not reflected in the financial statement. Some examples are:

a) all the Earth Charter brochures printed and mailed from the USA;
b) the Earth Charter exhibition produced by Soka Gakkai International;
c) the Earth Charter Local Communities Initiative led by Jan Roberts; and
d) all the funds generated by NCDO, Plan Netherlands and KIT Publishers to organize the Earth Charter+5 and the Earth Charter in Action Book.

This means that the Financial Statement of the Secretariat only offers a partial view of the Initiative's "real" budget.

The University for Peace is the only in-kind contribution included above because these are contributions that can easily be accounted for by the Secretariat. This in-kind contribution helps to make the Secretariat's operating expenses relatively small. As seen in the above pie charts, the University for Peace contribution to the Secretariat of office space, computer and website technical support, and general administrative and finance support is evaluated to be approximately US$60,000.

C) Fundraising Efforts

Overview since 2000

In the year 2000, the Earth Charter was launched and the new phase of the Initiative began following extensive discussions about priorities and programmes. A general fundraising proposal was developed following the mandate set by the Steering Committee as well as their inputs. It was determined that the Initiative should be working on various fields: Local and National Governments, Faith Groups, Media, Education and Business Sector. This proposal did not set out specific deliverables but sought general support for the Secretariat. The feedback received from this first attempt was that the proposal was too general, i.e. too unspecific about actual outcomes.

In 2001, efforts concentrated on a funding proposal on the Earth Charter Education Programme, responding to the need to have a more specific approach. A few donors were approached, but again there was no positive feedback. In retrospect, these early proposals were more strategic planning priority setting documents.

In the early stage of this process Rick Clugston was given the task of helping fundraise for the Initiative and was designated as the Chair of the Fundraising Committee. The original idea was to set up a fundraising committee with commission members and other individuals. However little interest was shown among members and the committee was actually never put in place, though a variety of individuals offered their advice.

Also between 1999 and early 2001, Ruder Finn, a US based public relations company, joined the effort as a highly successful public relations firm and fundraising organization. Originally they were going to assist a) raising the profile of the Earth Charter; and b) in fundraising. An initial attempt was a dinner that took place at the Earth Charter launch but did not generate concrete financial outcome. There was an understanding that they would work pro-bono, but it did not work out this way. Once the Earth Charter was launched, Ruder Finn did not continue assisting the Initiative. It seems that it was difficult for them to articulate the Earth Charter message in a way that members of the Steering Committee would feel comfortable with, and there were differences as to whether business corporations should be approached for offering financial support.

Fundraising Efforts since September 2003

In the framework of the Johannesburg Summit, an Earth Charter Type II partnership was launched and a funding proposal was developed addressing the needs to implement such partnership. At this stage a request for financial contributions was added to the Earth Charter website.

1. *Approaching Donors/Foundations*

Between 2003 and 2004, the Secretariat has approached nine donors and received one positive feedback, which was from the Japanese Embassy in Costa Rica. The funds from

the Japanese Embassy were for a specific project to develop educational materials in Costa Rica and unfortunately could not cover any operating costs of the Secretariat.

Donors approached (feedback received)

- Mott Foundation
- Compton Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation
- Mitsubishi Foundation
- Dutch Lottery
- Ford Foundation
- Chevron/Texaco Foundation
- Alcan Prize for Sustainability
- Japan Embassy
- CR-USA Foundation (Costa Rica)

Donors approached from whom we await feedback:

- UNESCO (3 options of proposals submitted)
- Swedish Government (we approached with an initial letter of inquiry)
- IBM Foundation
- Citigroup Costa Rica
- Avena Foundation (are not making grants this year)
- Horizon Organic Holding Company

A number of reasons could be highlighted to explain this "uphill battle":

a) The donor community is giving less money (due to stock-market decline) and there has been an increase in the number of applications received. Therefore the fundraising process has become more competitive than ever.

b) Foundations generally have extremely restricted program areas and requirements to which it has been difficult to adapt the Earth Charter programmes.

c) Foundations require more and more measurable and concrete outcomes;

d) Many foundations focus mostly on USA projects; others don't accept unsolicited proposals and many others give grants too small (such as $15,000) in comparison with the work proposal writing requires.

e) The Secretariat has not been able to tailor the proposals to fit specific foundation requirements or to present the Earth Charter Initiative message in a more compelling way (it has often been perceived as distribution of brochures and idealistic vision without practical grounding).

f) Earth Charter in action activities is relatively new and it is taking time to develop a track record of concrete accomplishments.

2. *Approaching Individuals*

Between April and June 2004 friends of the Earth Charter (including Commissioners) have been approached with a special request to support the Secretariat with a personal financial contribution and to help find alternatives to fundraise. Many relatively small donations were received. The Secretariat is working on a similar effort for 2005 in order to raise the necessary funds to keep its operations until the end of the year.

D) Looking ahead on the Fundraising Strategy

There are different funding avenues the Secretariat could target as per list below.

1. Foundations (US/Europe)
2. Individuals donors (through e-mail; phone calls; website)
3. Organizations that have endorsed the Charter
4. Corporations
5. Governments (and their development arms)
6. Revenue generating activities
7. Affiliate/membership Fees
8. Fundraising dinners

This assessment process needs to identify which of these activities are most promising and how to enlist key individuals to help approach the different potential supporters.

Revenue Generating Activities

The Secretariat started to consider the possibility of undertaking some Revenue Generating Activities. Over the years, the concept and practice of non-profit organizations having some revenue-generating activities to supplement financial contributions is becoming a more acceptable practice. The Secretariat could consider:

1. Offering courses / presentations or training on the Earth Charter but charge for it.
2. Receiving a percentage from the sale of Earth Charter music CDs ("Pour La Terre")
3. Developing a workshop for corporate executives on '*Private sector working towards sustainability'*
4. Developing an Online course targeting secondary school teachers: '*Teaching Universal Values: Educating for a Sustainable World'*

Dealing with Earth Charter Supporters/friends

Many organizations (Earth Charter Focal Points) may be able to fundraise for their Earth Charter activities using the Earth Charter logo. We should consider the feasibility of setting up a system by which different groups, raising money under the Earth Charter logo, contribute a percentage to the Secretariat as an 'Affiliate contribution'.

Considerations

When looking for alternatives for a more effective fundraising process we need to consider the following:

- It is not advisable to receive checks via mail to Costa Rica. So checks need to be mailed to an address to the US: a) for security reasons and b) to receive tax deductions. The Contributor may not have a clear idea whether it is contributing to the International Secretariat or others and who keeps a track of it. The Earth Charter Fund at The Philanthropic Collaborative, which is managed by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors in New York City, was set up to address these problems.

- Given that Secretariat is not the direct recipient; we have not been recording nor tracking donations, neither acknowledging them.

- For a foundation it is a complex case to understand as the applicant is an Initiative that is based in Costa Rica but is not legally registered and receives funds through a US based charitable 501 (c) 3. For that matter we need to register an Earth Charter Association in Costa Rica.

- The Secretariat has just set up an Earth Charter Association in Costa Rica in order to have a formally registered organization to apply for grants.

- There seems to be a wrong perception regarding the Secretariat financial capacity. Many possible donors believe that with such eminent commissioners and close connections to governments and UN bodies, the Earth Charter Initiative already has plenty of financial support.

- Clearly there is a possibility of approaching possible major donors for contributions and planned giving. But most Earth Charter constituents have little money and expect the Earth charter Initiative to be supporting them.

- Fundraising should not be done for the Secretariat per se but for projects in different fields that would then generate the necessary funds for the operations of the Secretariat.

The Initiative seems to be entering a new phase now with more concrete examples to show and more specific interest.

Chapter III
Dissemination and Endorsement of the Earth Charter

by Mirian Vilela

Following the launch of the Earth Charter in 2000, agreement was reached that the first goal of the Earth Charter Initiative should be "to promote the dissemination, endorsement, and implementation of the Earth Charter by civil society, business, and government." During the next two years, the Secretariat concentrated its efforts on widely sharing the Earth Charter and seeking endorsement from individuals and organizations in different fields.

First, the Earth Charter was widely circulated among the existing network of organizations and individuals that had participated in the consultation process and who were requested to help disseminate and seek endorsement. Volunteer Earth Charter Focal Points in 54 countries helped to disseminate it. A number of events were undertaken to raise awareness and support of the Earth Charter. Some of these events were organized by the Secretariat, in partnership with another organization, and others were organized independently from the Secretariat. On other occasions, the Earth Charter theme was added to the agenda of ongoing events. These events have generated support for the Charter. Sometimes, exposure to the Earth Charter at an event prompted others to share the Charter at subsequent meetings in other arenas as well.

A) Translation and Brochure Dissemination

In order to have groups and individuals endorse and actually use the Earth Charter in different fields, people needed to read the Earth Charter. Accordingly, translating the Earth Charter in different languages was one of the first tasks that needed to be addressed. Thus the Earth Charter has been translated into 32 languages since its launch. This was of major importance to reach out to people in different regions of the world. Some focal points continue the effort of translating it in other local languages.

This also involved publishing Earth Charter brochures in different languages. Over 520,000 brochures in English have been published and nearly all distributed from the Vermont Earth Charter Office and Earth Charter USA. Originally, distribution of these brochures was done *gratis.* However considering the growing demand, since early 2004 Earth Charter USA office have been charging US$0.10 per English brochure. The Secretariat produced and distributed approximately 33,000 brochures in Spanish, French and Portuguese and 10,000 in English. Downloadable versions of the Earth Charter in English, Spanish, and French are available for printing locally by groups and/or individuals.

In partnership with other organizations Earth Charter brochures were published in Danish, Nepali, Indonesian, Greenlandic, Hungarian, Japanese and other languages. Herewith are some examples of how this process was undertaken.

- Leonardo Boff, Earth Charter Commissioner, engaged the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, The Public Enterprise ITAIPU and the Centro de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos de Petropolis in a collaborative project to produce 1,500 Earth Charter videos, 25,000 booklets and 1000 posters for wide distribution with the purpose to promote the Earth Charter in Brazil.

- The Ministry of Environment of Mexico also enabled the Mexican Earth Charter Focal point to produce brochures locally and widely distribute them.

- Wakako Hironaka, Earth Charter Commissioner and Senator in Japan, engaged different groups to help produce an Earth Charter booklet in Japan, which has educational purposes.

- Erna Witoelar, Earth Charter Commissioner engaged local NGOs in Indonesia, such as Kehati, to help with the production of the Earth Charter Brochure in Indonesia. It was widely distributed in 2002.

- Princess Basma Bint Talal took the leadership to have the Earth Charter translated into Arabic and also to have brochures in Arabic produced and widely disseminated.

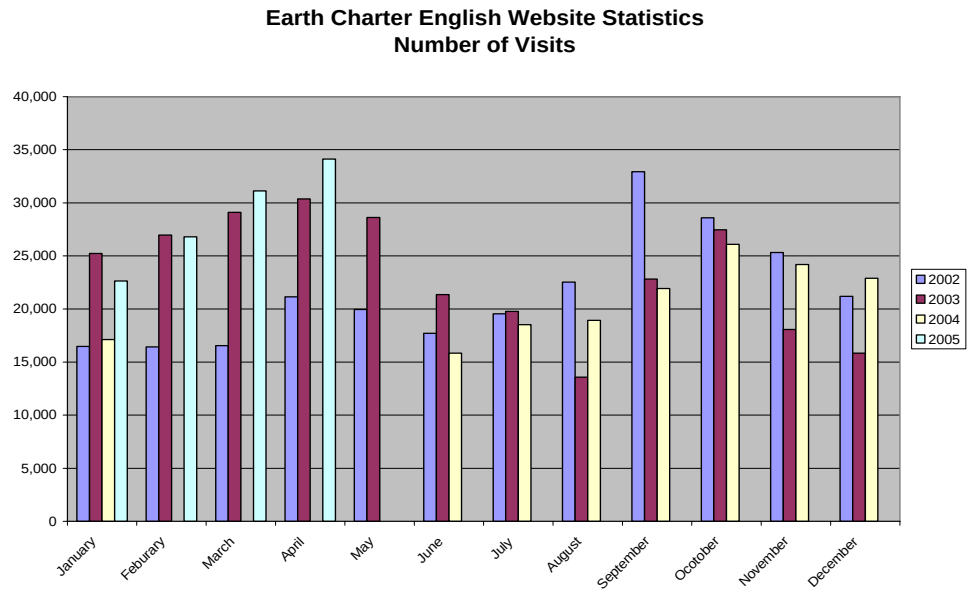
- Kamla Chowdhry helped in the process of translating the Earth Charter into Hindi.

- Henriette Rasmussen was instrumental in the process of having the Earth Charter translated into Danish and Greenlandic and its subsequent brochure printed.

B) Website

Setting up websites in different languages was also necessary. The Secretariat undertook the task of setting up English, Spanish and French websites, benefiting from significant volunteer support, particularly in the French website.

The three Earth Charter sites managed by the Secretariat provide updated information on activities, speeches, essays or any other material produced that is based on the Earth Charter. The statistics for visitors to the Earth Charter website since 2002 track how many different visits (not hits, which would be a much higher number) were made to the website in a given month. The graphics below reveals a higher number of visitors to the site during and following the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002, where the Earth Charter was in the global political limelight. The statistics also show that since June 2004, a year ago, the visits to the site have been steadily increasing; a positive trend that we believe reflects the Secretariat's efforts to regularly update the website and increase its user-friendliness. In the last two months for which the data are available, over 30,000 visits were recorded. It is important to note, however, that due to technical problems, data was not available for four months in 2004. These statistics only feature the visits to the Earth Charter website in English. Statistics for the Spanish and French sites are not available.



Other Earth Charter websites

A number of Focal Points and Partner organizations have also made an effort to advance the task of promoting and disseminating the Earth Charter. In this context, the following twelve Earth Charter websites have been put in place by Focal Points or partner organizations.

Italy	http://www.cartadellaterra.it
New Zealand	http://www.earthcharter.org.nz
Norway	http://www.earthcharter-norge.com
Russia	http://www.earthcharter.ru
South Korea	http://www.z9.or.kr
Switzerland	http://www.erdcharta.ch
United States of America	http://www.earthcharterusa.org
ECh USA Community Initiatives	http://www.eccommunities.org
Philadelphia Earth Charter Citizens	http://www.earthchartercitizens.org
Earth Charter of Cowichan Valley	http://members.shaw.ca/earthcharter
Earth Charter Community Summits	http://www.earthchartersummits.org
Earth Charter Youth Group Sierra Leone	http://www.ecygsierraleone.8m.net

In addition, many partner organizations have a section on the Earth Charter in their website.

C) Endorsements

The following policy statement was adopted by the Secretariat as a guideline regarding the meaning and purpose of endorsement of the Earth Charter, and it is shared with all organizations and individuals considering endorsement.

> Endorsement of the Earth Charter by individuals or organizations signifies a commitment to the spirit and aims of the document. It is an indication that they intend to utilize the Earth Charter in ways that are appropriate given their situation. For example, an organization might use the document to review its operations and modify its activities so that they better reflect the principles of the Earth Charter and it might integrate the Earth Charter into its educational programs. Endorsement also means a commitment to work for the implementation of the values and principles of the Earth Charter and a readiness to cooperate with others in this endeavor. There are many other ways that those who endorse the Earth Charter can help to advance the objectives of the Earth Charter Initiative.

To date the Earth Charter has been formally endorsed by 2,446 organizations.[3] Among these groups are national and international organizations, educational institutions, religious groups, and local governments. These organizations represent many millions of people and in some cases hundreds of organizations or local governments. For example, the 780 organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter in the United States represent over 40 million people. The NGO Forum at the Millennium UN Summit, which endorsed the Earth Charter, represented over 1,000 NGOs and ICLEI, which endorsed the Earth Charter in 2000, represents over 350 cities and towns. Many organizations have drafted their own statements of endorsement and forwarded them to the Earth Charter Secretariat (examples are available on the Earth Charter website and below).

A system to allow organizations and individuals to endorse the Earth Charter on-line was set in place in 2001. A year later a new requirement was added to this endorsement process which was that the organizations were asked to also send a formal letter of endorsement to the Secretariat by e-mail or by fax. Only when such letters were received was the organization's endorsement actually processed and put on-line. A request was made for all organizations that had endorsed prior to this period to also send formal endorsement letters to confirm their decision.

The list of the organization endorsements is available on line and the Secretariat has options to search by country, region or category. Organizational endorsements are divided into the following categories: faith groups, NGOs, national government agencies, local governments, businesses, schools, universities and other organizations (when it was not possible to identify under which the organization should be classified). In the future, a new category will be added for transnational intergovernmental agencies.

[3] Information taken from the Earth Charter website on 13 June 2005

• Businesses	207
• Faith Groups	223
• Local Governments	423
• National Government agencies	12
• NGOs	1,241
• Schools	246
• Universities	92
• Other Organizations	74

Separate chapters in this Report discuss Earth Charter initiatives with businesses, faith groups, educational institutions, and local governments. Regarding national governments, the endorsements have involved action by the following governmental agencies:

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Bolivia
Government of Costa Rica, President
Ministry of Environment, Costa Rica
Ministry of Environment, Ecuador
Ministry of Health/Health of Cairo Department, Egypt
Ministry of Youth, Egypt
Ministry of Environment, Honduras
Government of Mexico, President
Ministry of Environment, Mexico
Government of the Republic of Niger, Prime Minister
Parliament and Senate of Puerto Rico
Parliament of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia
Parliament of the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Russia
Parliament of the Republic of Kalmykia, Russia

It should also be noted that the endorsements under the category of "Universities" involve in some cases endorsements by particular groups within a university.

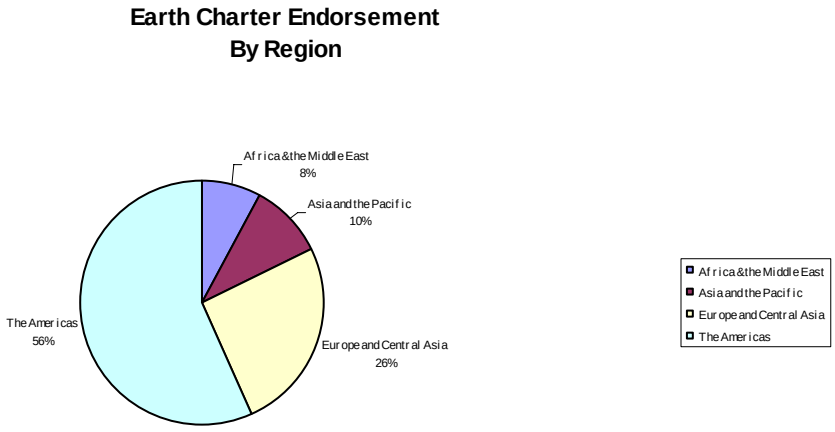
The list of individual endorsements, which includes over 12,000 names, is not available to the public.

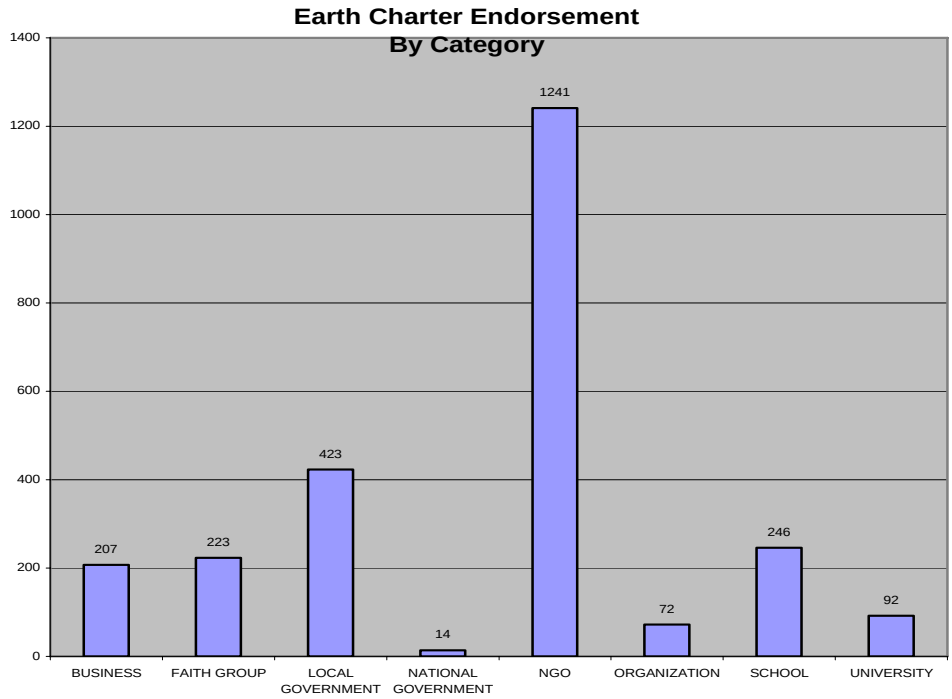
The possibility of being identified in the above categories for organizational endorsement was only set up in 2004, which means that classifying the significant number of endorsements that had already taken place had to be done manually by the Secretariat staff, and with minimal information about the organizations. This poses questions about the accuracy of the classification in categories of this endorsement list, which should be **seen as approximate information.** In addition, over the past years the server that holds this data has broken down twice, and although the information was recovered through back up files, this list probably contains a certain margin of inaccuracy. There is also a certain possibility that in the case of an organization which endorsed the Earth Charter online, we did not

receive the official letter of endorsement to confirm it, but their name may appear on line. This could quite possibly have happened through a computer error. The Secretariat would need a person to go through all the names and letters to check that. At this stage the Secretariat does not have the human resources necessary to do work.

Another problem that most likely affected the list of endorsement is that over the past five years, The Earth Charter P.O. Box changed twice for different reasons. A significant number of brochures were issued between 2001 and 2003 with P.O. Box numbers that are no longer functional. These brochures were widely distributed, encouraging groups to send their endorsement letters. It is believed that significant correspondence was lost in this process.

Reports on organizational endorsements by region and by category can be seen in the following graphics. It is important to note that this is approximate information; a good number of the business organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter are local and relatively small; national governments include Ministries, parliaments and some parties; in the case of the university category, it includes cases of a whole university as such and others are departments or the faculty of a university. A lot of work could be done to further organize and clarify this list, but it requires time and a person dedicated to that.





EXAMPLES OF EARTH CHARTER ENDORSEMENTS

Some examples of endorsements made by international organizations are the following:

- UNESCO General Conference held in October 2003 adopted a resolution endorsing the Earth Charter which states. "The General Conference….Resolves to:
  1. Recognize the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development, and acknowledge its ethical principles, its objectives and its contents, as an expression that coincides with the vision that UNESCO has with regard to their new Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007;

  2. Affirm our intention, as Member States, to utilize the Earth Charter as an educational instrument, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development;

  3. Invite the UNESCO General Conference to analyze with the UNESCO Director-General how to reinforce, in a practical way, the vision and principles of the Earth Charter in UNESCO programmes.

- IUCN - The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17-25 November 2004. The resolution approved by IUCN members states that the congress:

1. ENDORSES the *Earth Charter* as an inspirational expression of civil society's vision for building a just, sustainable and peaceful world;

2. RECOGNIZES, consistent with IUCN's mission, the *Earth Charter* as an ethical guide for IUCN policy and will work to implement its principles through the IUCN Intersessional Programme;

3. RECOMMENDS that the *Earth Charter* be used by IUCN to help advance education and dialogue on global interdependence, shared values, and ethical principles for sustainable ways of living; and

4. ENCOURAGES member organizations and states to examine the *Earth Charter* and to determine the role the *Earth Charter* can play as a policy guide within their own spheres of responsibility."

- The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the membership of which is made up of 350 cities, towns and counties around the world, formally endorsed the Earth Charter during its tenth anniversary World Congress in Wittenberg, Germany. The resolution adopted by ICLEI states: "We, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, endorse the Earth Charter. We commit our organization to the realization of its aims. We will seek to apply its principles in our programs, policies and other activities."

- The Millennium NGO Forum, which brought together over 1,000 NGOs for its meeting at the UN headquarters in late May, 2000, endorsed the Earth Charter in its final report and Declaration. In "We the Peoples Millennium Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action," the Forum "urges governments to endorse the Earth Charter in the UN General Assembly" and "urges civil society to adopt and disseminate the Earth Charter as a tool for promotion of values and actions which will create sustainable development."

- The Third Special Assembly of the Amazonian Parliament, which was held in Lima, Peru, passed a resolution in July 2000 endorsing the Earth Charter and supporting endorsement by the United Nations General Assembly.

- The Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), which includes thirty-one indigenous peoples living in Siberia and the Russian Far East, formally endorsed the Earth Charter at its tenth anniversary meeting in the spring of 2000. In addition, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Fenno-Scandinavian Saami Council, and the Danish Committee of Nature and Peoples of the North have joined RAIPON of Russia in pledging their full support of the Earth Charter. The support of these groups representing the inhabitants of the Arctic is especially significant since their representatives were concerned with the wording of certain principles in early drafts of the Charter. Their concerns, however, were addressed, and they are

now actively engaged in promoting the document.

- Green Cross International formally endorsed the Earth Charter at its June, 2000 annual meeting in Geneva, which included representatives from its twenty-six national committees.

- The Sierra Club (United States) Board of Directors at its May, 2000 meeting, approved the following resolution, which was later approved as well by The Sierra Club of Canada's National Board meeting on June 17, 2000: "The Sierra Club Board, acting upon the recommendation of the International Committee, endorses The Earth Charter, recently issued by the Earth Charter Commission and recommends that Club members and entities study its interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed."

- The Council of the University for Peace, meeting in San José, Costa Rica, passed a resolution endorsing the Earth Charter, which reads: "The Council strongly endorses the aims and the content of the Earth Charter and urges the Rector, in the development of the UPeace program, to take these into account." (November 8, 2000) The University for Peace was created by the United Nations to serve as a center for research and education in support of world peace.

D) Publications

Another critical mode of disseminating the Earth Charter is through the publication of books, articles, short pieces describing the Earth Charter and its relevance to various sectors. Chapter XI contains a selected bibliography of Earth Charter publications.

Appendix I: Selected List of International Organizations Endorsing the Earth Charter

African Academy of Sciences*
Club of Budapest
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace (400 members)
Copernicus-Campus*
Council of the Parliament of the World's Religions
Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership – GHESP*
Global People's Assembly Service Council
International Association of Universities - IAU
International Baccalaureate Organization
International Community for Ecopsychology (ICE) & their 25 members in 6 countries
International Consortium on Religion and Ecology (ICORE)
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
International Council for Science*
International Human Rights and Immigration Counseling Center (IHRICC)
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
International Process Network, the
Inuit Circumpolar Conference
IUCN - The World Conservation Union
Keep It Real Discussion Forums
Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD)
Millennium NGO Forum (a group of a 1000 NGO's)
North American Association of Environmental Education
Pax Christi International
Pax Romana ICMICA
Peaceways - Young General Assembly
Roman Catholic Religious Congregation the Society of the Devine Word
Science Council of Asia*
Sisters of Earth - International Conference (more than 100 signatures)
Soka Gakkai International
States Council of Lassaira and New Albion
The International Council for Science
Third World Academy of Science*
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*
United Nations University*
University for Peace
University Leaders for Sustainable Future
Women & Environment Development Organization - WEDO
World Federation of Engineering Organizations – WFEO*
World Mind Society
World Resources Institute
WWF International

* These organizations were all signatories of the Ubuntu Declaration on Education and Science and Technology for Sustainable Development issued at the World Summit on Sustainable Development issued at Johannesburg in 2002. Several of these organizations, including UNESCO, independently endorsed the Earth Charter.

Appendix II: Endorsements by Cities and Towns

City of Ayaviri, Peru
City (District) of Lacaquiz, Peru
City (District) of Mollepata-Anta, Peru
City (District) of Montero-Ayabaca-Piura, Peru
City (District) of Pucyura-Anta-Cuzco, Peru
City (District) of San Juan Bigote, Peru
City (Provincial) of Junín, Peru
City (Provincial) of Tocache, Peru
City Council of Burlington, United States
City Council of Potchefstroom, South Africa
City di Sarzana, Italy
City Dieban al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of al-Naseem, Jordan
City of Abedalah bin Rawaha, Jordan
City of Acraquia, Peru
City of Aeen al-Basha al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Alajuela, Departmanento de Gestión Ambiental, Costa Rica
City of Alarcon, Spain
City of al-Arthah al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of al-Asha'ri, Jordan
City of al-Auyoon, Jordan
City of al-Azraq, Jordan
City of al-Basilyyah, Jordan
City of Albatera, Spain
City of Aldehuela del Jerte, Cáceres, Spain
City of Aldeire, Granada, Spain
City of Algímia D'Alfara, Spain
City of al-Halabat, Jordan
City of al-Hareth bin Ammer, Jordan
City of al-Hashemiyah al-Jaddidah, Jordan
City of al-Hizman, Jordan
City of al-Jineed, Jordan
City of al-Jizah al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of al-Karak , Jordan
City of al-Ma'areed, Jordan
City of Almada, Portugal, Portugal
City of al-Muaqqar District, Jordan
City of al-Qadissah, Jordan
City of al-Quairah, Jordan
City of al-Rwaished, Jordan
City of al-Salihiya wa Naiefa , Jordan
City of al-Shafah, Jordan
City of al-Shrrah , Jordan
City of al-Sultani, Jordan
City of al-Wastiyyah, Jordan
City of al-Zarka, Jordan
City of Andorra, Teruel, Spain
City of Andujar, Spain
City of Antella, Spain
City of Arcones, Segovia, Spain
City of Arcos de Jalón, Soria, Spain
City of Arcos de la Llana (Burgos), Spain
City of Åre , Sweden
City of Arenys de Munt, Spain
City of Argamasilla de Alba, Spain
City of Arroniz, Navarra, Spain
City of Arteixo, Spain
City of Atalaya del Cañavate, Spain
City of Azanuy-Alins, Spain
City of Azuara, Zaragoza, Spain
City of Bab Amman, Jordan
City of Bailen, Spain
City of Bal'ama al-Jadiddah , Jordan
City of Ballesteros de Calatrava, Spain
City of Bani Hamidah, Jordan
City of Bani Hashim, Jordan
City of Baniarrés, Spain
City of Barcelona, Spain
City of Bárcena de Campos (Palencia), Spain
City of Barco de Valdeorras, Spain
City of Bayubas de Abajo, Spain
City of Bellingham, United States
City of Beniarrés, Alicante, Spain
City of Berco de Valdeorras, Orense, Spain
City of Berja, Spain
City of Berkeley, United States
City of Bienvenida, Badajoz, Spain
City of Bierain al-Jadiddah , Jordan
City of Blacos, Spain
City of Bonrepós i Mirambell, Spain
City of Borja, Spain
City of Borox, Spain
City of Brmah, Jordan
City of Brqash, Jordan
City of Cabañas de Ebro, Zaragoza, Spain
City of Cadalso de los Vidrios, Madrid, Spain
City of Cajamarca, Peru
City of Cala, Spain
City of Campotejar, Granada, Spain
City of Candin, Spain
City of Casas de Juan Nuñez, Spain
City of Castejón de Sos, Huesca, Spain
City of Castrillo de la Vega, Burgos, Spain
City of Castrillo de Villavega, Spain
City of Cayuela (Burgos), Spain
City of Cedeira (A Coruña), Spain
City of Cendea de Galar, Spain
City of Cervera del Llano, Spain
City of Chetilla-Cajamarca, Peru
City of Chiloeches, Spain
City of Chingas, Peru
City of Chirivel, Spain
City of Choropampa, Peru
City of Cifuentes, Guadalajara, Spain
City of Colungo, Huesca, Spain
City of Cotahuasi, Peru
City of Dair al-Kahf al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Deir Abu Saeed al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Delail , Jordan
City of Deza, Soria, Spain
City of Diesah, Jordan
City of Diputación Provincial, León, Spain
City of Dir Allah al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Dólar, Granada, Spain
City of El Fresno, Ávila, Spain
City of El Padul, Granada, Spain
City of El Viso del Alcor, Sevilla, Spain
City of Els Poblets, Spain
City of Elvillar (Alava), Spain
City of Estepar, Burgos, Spain
City of Ezcaray (La Rioja), Spain
City of Ezcaray, La Rioja, Spain
City of Fabero (León), Spain
City of Fariza, Spain
City of Fermoselle, Spain
City of Fontanosas, C. Real, Spain
City of Fuenmayor, Spain
City of Fuentidueña de Tajo, Spain
City of Fuhais, Jordan
City of Gaucin, Spain
City of Gemuño, Ávila, Spain

City of Ghawr al-Safi wa al-Mazraʹa, Jordan
City of Glasgow, United Kingdom
City of Goianésia, Goiás, Brazil
City of Goiania, Brazil
City of Gorafe, Spain
City of Gordoncillo, León, Spain
City of Granja de Torrehermosa, Spain
City of Great Ajloun, Jordan
City of Great al-Mafraq, Jordan
City of Great Irbid , Jordan
City of Great Jerash , Jordan
City of Great Madaba , Jordan
City of Great Rimtha, Jordan
City of Great Salt, Jordan
City of Great Tafila , Jordan
City of Griegos, Spain
City of Guadamur, Spain
City of Gudarrama, Madrid, Spain
City of Guisando, Spain
City of Guissona, Lerida, Spain
City of Hasa, Jordan
City of Heidelberg, Germany
City of Higuera de Llerena, Badajoz, Spain
City of Hontoria del Pinar (Burgos), Spain
City of Hortigüela (Burgos), Spain
City of Hosbaʹn al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Hosha al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Huaynacotas, Peru
City of Huseiniya al-Jadiddah , Jordan
City of Iel al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Igueña, Spain
City of Irhab, Jordan
City of Irixo, Spain
City of Jalance, Valencia, Spain
City of José Domingo Choquehuanca, Peru
City of Julcammarca (Huancavelica), Peru
City of Jumilla, Spain
City of Kafarat, Jordan
City of Khalediyah, Jordan
City of Khalid bin al-Waleed, Jordan
City of Kufranjah al-Jadiddah , Jordan
City of La Estrella, Toledo, Spain
City of La Frontera, Spain
City of La Hiruela, Madrid, Spain
City of La Losa, Spain
City of La Orotava, Tenerife, Spain
City of la Rambla, Córdoba, Spain
City of La Vid y Barrios, Spain
City of la Villa de Medellín, Spain
City of La Villa de Riaza, Spain
City of la Villa de Santa Brigida, Spain
City of Lácara, Badajoz, Spain
City of Langa de Duero, Soria, Spain
City of Las Cabezas de San Juan, Sevilla, Spain
City of Las Navas del Marqués, Ávila, Spain
City of Laviana, Asturias, Spain
City of León, Spain
City of L'Hospitalet, Spain
City of Llanera de Ranes, Spain
City of Loja, Spain
City of Loranca de Tajuña, Spain
City of Los Cortijos, Spain
City of Los Rábanos, Soria, Spain
City of Loub wa Mlaih, Jordan
City of Lugros, Spain
City of Maʹadi al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Maʹan, Jordan
City of Mahes, Jordan
City of Mala, Granada, Spain
City of Manshiyat Bani Hassan, Jordan
City of Marj al-Hamam , Jordan
City of Mazar al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Mazatlan, Mexico, Mexico
City of Medellín, Spain
City of Melbourne, Australia
City of Membrilla, Spain
City of Middle Shouneh, Jordan
City of Miguelturra, C. Real, Spain
City of Miño de Medinaceli, Spain
City of Moʹaab al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Molinaseca, León, Spain
City of Moncada, Spain
City of Moncofa, Castellón, Spain
City of Mondejar, Spain
City of Monfarracinos, Zamora, Spain
City of Monforte de Moyuela, Spain
City of Montalbán, Teruel, Spain
City of Montemolin, Spain
City of Monterrubio de Armuña, Spain
City of Montilla, Spain
City of Montpelier, Vermont (State Capitol), United States
City of Morelia, Mexico
City of Morón de la Frontera, Sevilla, Spain
City of Mouʹath bin Jabal, Jordan
City of Muñani, Peru
City of Mutʹa wa al-Mazar, Jordan
City of Na'oor al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Navaleno, Spain
City of Navalvillar de Pela, Spain
City of Navas del Madroño (Cáceres), Spain
City of Nepas, Spain
City of Nis, Republic of Serbia, Yugoslavia
City of North Vancouver, Canada
City of Olvega, Spain
City of Oslo, Norway
City of Palazuelo, Spain
City of Palma del Río, Spain
City of Panton, Spain
City of Pareja, Spain
City of Pedralba , Spain
City of Pedro Bernardo, Ávila, Spain
City of Peñarroya-Pueblo Nuevo, Spain
City of Peralta de Calasanz, Spain
City of Peranzanes, Spain
City of Piñar, Granada, Spain
City of Pinoso, Spain
City of Polanco, Cantabria, Spain
City of Polopos-la Mamola, Granada, Spain
City of Poroy-Cuzco, Peru
City of Pozoblanco, Spain
City of Princes al-Hussein bin Abudullah, Jordan
City of Puebla de don Fadrique, Spain
City of Pueblonuevo de Guadiana, Badajoz, Spain
City of Qatraneh, Jordan
City of Qriqrah wa Finan, Jordan
City of Quesada, Provincia de Jaén, Spain
City of Quiequeros, Peru
City of Quiroga, Spain
City of Rabano de Aliste, Spain
City of Rabiet al-Koorah, Jordan
City of Renieblas, Spain
City of Riaño, Spain
City of Riaza, Segovia, Spain
City of Riga, Latvia
City of Riola, Spain
City of Robleda, Spain
City of Ruecas, Badajoz, Spain
City of Russiefa, Jordan
City of Sabha wa Dafiyyaneh, Jordan
City of Safawi, Jordan
City of Sahab, Jordan
City of Sahel Houran, Jordan
City of Salobreña, Spain

City of San Antón, Peru
City of San Bartolomé Lanzarote, Spain
City of San Jose, Costa Rica
City of San José del Valle, Spain
City of San Leonardo de Yague, Spain
City of San Ramón, Costa Rica
City of Sant Antoni de Portmany, Spain
City of Sant Quirze del Vallés, Spain
City of Santa Colomba de Curueño, Spain
City of Santa Eugenia del Arroyo, Soria, Spain
City of Santa Eulalia del Campo, Spain
City of Santa María de Huerta, Soria, Spain
City of Santa María del Mercadillo, Burgos, Spain
City of Santa Marina del Rey, Spain
City of Santa Marina del Rey, Spain
City of Santa Marta, Badajoz, Spain
City of Santiago Millas, Spain
City of Santoña, Spain
City of Santovenia de Pisuerga, Spain
City of Santoyo, Palencia, Spain
City of Sarhan , Jordan
City of Sarou, Jordan
City of Sarou, Jordan
City of Segura de la Sierra, Spain
City of Sharhabeel bin Hasnah, Jordan
City of Shawbek al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Shihan , Jordan
City of Shwa'alh, Jordan
City of Siete Aguas, Spain
City of Siwameh, Jordan
City of Sobradiel, Spain
City of Sobrescobio, Spain
City of Solana de los Barros, Badajoz, Spain
City of Solorzano, Cantabria, Spain
City of Soria, Spain
City of Sunbilla, Spain
City of Tabiqat Fahel, Jordan
City of Talal al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Talayuela, Spain
City of Taybeh al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Tazacorte, Tenerife, Spain
City of Tébar, Spain
City of Teulada, Spain
City of Tolox, Spain
City of Toro, Peru
City of Torre de Miguel Sesmero, Badajoz, Spain
City of Torrecaballeros, Segovia, Spain
City of Torrellas, Spain
City of Torre-Pacheco, Murcia, Spain
City of Torrox, Spain
City of Totalan, Spain
City of Tudela de Duero, Spain
City of Um al-Jemal, Jordan
City of Um al-Rasas al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Um El-Basatien, Jordan
City of Um Elqotain wa Mykeftah, Jordan
City of Umachiri-Puno, Peru
City of Urbino, Italy
City of Urrea de Gaén, Spain
City of Usagre, Badajoz, Spain
City of Valdecaballeros, Badajoz, Spain
City of Valderrueda, León, Spain
City of Valenzuela de Calatrava, Spain
City of Valverde de la Vera, Spain
City of Vara de Rey, Spain
City of Vegacervera, Spain
City of Veganzones, Spain
City of Velamazan, Spain
City of Vellisca, Spain
City of Vilar de Barrio, Spain
City of Vilassar de Dalt, Castellón, Spain
City of Vilches, Spain
City of Villa de la Orotava, Spain
City of Villa de Santa Brígida, Las Palmas, Spain
City of Villa y Puerto de Tazacorte, Spain
City of Villadecanes, Spain
City of Villahan, Palencia, Spain
City of Villalba de la Sierra, Cuenca, Spain
City of Villalobos, Spain
City of Villanueva de Azoague, Spain
City of Villanueva Mesía, Spain
City of Villaobispo de Otero, Spain
City of Villariezo, Provincia de Burgos, Spain
City of Viñas de Aliste, Spain
City of Vinuesa, Spain
City of Wadi Araba, Jordan
City of West Irbid, Jordan
City of Yarmouk al-Jadiddah, Jordan
City of Za'tari wa al-Manshyya, Jordan
City of Zagra, Granada, Spain
City or Miguelturra, Spain

TOWNS:

Town of Bethel, Vermont, United States
Town of Bolton,Vermont, United States
Town of Boston Conservation Advisory Council, USA
Town of Bristol, Vermont, United States
Town of Charlotte, Vermont, United States
Town of Crested Butte, Colorado, United States
Town of Granby, Vermont, United States
Town of Hinesburg, Vermont, United States
Town of Huntington, Vermont, United States
Town of Isle La Motte, Vermont, United States
Town of Lincoln, Vermont, United States
Town of Marlboro, Vermont, United States
Town of Marshfield, Vermont, United States
Town of Middlebury, Vermont, United States
Town of Monkton, Vermont, United States
Town of Norwich, Vermont, United States
Town of Plainfield, Vermont, United States
Town of Randolph, Vermont, United States
Town of Ripton, Vermont, United States
Town of Starksboro, Vermont, United States
Town of Warren, Vermont, United States
Town of Weston, Vermont, United States
Town of Weybridge, Vermont, United States

Chapter IV
Planetary Ethics and Global Governance

Steven C. Rockefeller, Klaus Bosselmann, and Prue Taylor

A) Introduction

The Earth Charter states: "We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community." The Earth Charter was drafted in an effort to address this need. This chapter considers the importance of a new planetary ethics for good global governance and international cooperation. Further, it describes the contributions the Earth Charter is making to the formation of a global ethics and to international law, and it describes some of the ways Earth Charter principles are being implemented worldwide.

This chapter builds on the discussion of the dissemination and endorsement of the Earth Charter in the previous chapter. Each endorsement represents an affirmation of the values and principles in the Earth Charter and its concept of universal responsibility and global citizenship. Special attention is given in what follows to the relationship of the Earth Charter to international law and UN declarations since one major goal of the Initiative has been "to seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations," which would greatly enhance the Earth Charter's status as a soft-law document.

Since the UN General Assembly has never endorsed a document its members did not negotiate and draft, this goal was modified, and the Initiative is focused on seeking "recognition" of the Earth Charter by the UN. Following the World Summit on Sustainable Development, there was a consensus among those members of the Earth Charter Commission with close ties to the UN system that the Initiative's best chance of securing recognition of the Earth Charter by the UN General Assembly would involve adoption by the General Assembly of a document on a larger project that included recognition of the Earth Charter. There was a chance that this would happen with the International Implementation Scheme for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which was submitted to the General Assembly for approval in 2004. However, the General Assembly did not take formal action on the International Implementation Scheme.

This chapter contains two essays—one by Steven Rockefeller and one by Klaus Bosselmann and Prue Taylor—which were written for the book *Toward a Sustainable World: The Earth Charter in Action* (2005), edited by Peter Blaze Corcoran. These essays provide a good overview of the topic at hand. An additional very useful discussion of the Earth Charter and international law may be found in the essay by Parvez Hassan, "Earth Charter: A Blueprint for Sustainable Development," which also is being published in *Toward a Sustainable World*. In the concluding section of this chapter, there are three brief statements by Parvez Hassan, Mohamed Sahnoun, and Jan Pronk which contribute additional perspectives on the

significance of the Earth Charter as a global ethic. For more detailed information on the Earth Charter at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2004, see the special reports prepared for the Steering Committee and Secretariat on these meetings. The texts of these reports are available on the Earth Charter website, www.earthcharter.org.

For consideration of how Earth Charter ethics are being promoted at the local community level, see the chapter on sustainable community development. For a discussion of how the Earth Charter Initiative has endeavored to promote planetary ethics and a sense of universal responsibility and global citizenship among individuals, the reader should turn to the chapters in this report on education, art, and religion. For a further discussion of global ethics and business, see the chapter on business.

B) "The Transition to Sustainability" by Steven Rockefeller

"As never before in human history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning." These words introduce the concluding section of the Earth Charter, entitled "The Way Forward." The new beginning envisioned by the Earth Charter is the transition to a sustainable way of life, which involves as radical a shift in human thinking and behavior as the emergence of agriculture, the rise of the nation state, or the industrial revolution. One recent study aptly describes this shift as "The Great Transition."[4] The Earth Charter views the Great Transition to sustainable patterns of development locally and globally as essential to the survival and flourishing of human civilization in the 21st century. It also considers a sustainable future as a real possibility that human beings may achieve if they have the will, courage, and vision. This essay endeavors to clarify the distinctive contribution of the Earth Charter to the Great Transition, and it explores the Earth Charter's vision of the way forward and the progress being made.

The Earth Charter is designed to focus attention on the fundamental importance of ethical values and choices in the process of social change and the achievement of sustainability. Ethical values are concerned with what people determine to be right or wrong, good or bad in human conduct and relations. They form a community's sense of social responsibility and reflect a concern with the common good, the well-being of the whole community. Ethical values have a profound impact on human behavior, especially those values to which a people feel deeply bound. Scientific knowledge can inform our ethical choices by clarifying the consequences of different courses of action. However, science cannot determine in the final analysis what is right and wrong. That is the domain of the imagination, the heart, and the will. As stated in the Earth Charter Preamble, "When basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more." Our ethical commitments reflect what kind of persons we choose to be as well as what quality of relations we choose to maintain in our communities.

[4] Paul Raskin et. al, *Great Transition: The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead* (Boston: Stockholm Environment Institute, 2000).

A major social transformation involves a change in a people's ethical values. Ending slavery and discrimination on the basis of race or ending discrimination against women are prime modern examples. The Great Transition requires that a new ethical vision take hold of the imagination and heart of the world's peoples. The ethical reasons for a shift to sustainability are, of course, not the only reasons. There are many economic, health, and other practical considerations that appeal to individual, corporate, and national self-interest and that provide strong arguments for the shift. These practical considerations do often generate progress in the movement toward sustainable development, and that is well and good. However, appeals to self-interest narrowly defined are not sufficient. Without a new expanded sense of ethical responsibility that extends to the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations, a clear sense of direction and the motivation, aspiration, and political will needed will be lacking. For over three decades, UN Summits at Stockholm (1972), Rio (1992), and Johannesburg (2002) have recognized the challenge and set promising agendas for action, but governments by and large have failed to vigorously pursue implementation. In the words of the Earth Charter, the achievement of sustainability requires "a change of mind and heart."

More specifically, the Earth Charter focuses attention on the need for global ethics. It is concerned with the identification and promotion of ethical values that are widely shared in all nations, cultures, and religions—what some philosophers call universal values. Global ethics are of critical importance in the Great Transition because we live in an increasingly interdependent, fragile, and complex world. The mounting scientific evidence that Earth's climate is warming and that the primary cause is the human generation of greenhouse gas emissions provides one dramatic example of humanity's growing interdependence. In this matter, each and every nation is being affected by the accumulated impact of the behavior of all others. New studies such as Thomas Friedman's *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century* (2005) describe in detail the intensifying economic and social interdependence of individuals, businesses, and nations under the impact of the information revolution and globalization.

In the 21st century global interdependence means that no community or nation can manage its problems by itself. Partnership and collaboration are essential, and the dramatic innovations in communications technologies and the sharing of knowledge are making all sorts of new national, regional and global networks and partnerships possible. However, effective cooperation in an interdependent world requires common goals and shared values. This is especially true when communities endeavor to address problems like poverty, inequity, economic instability, global warming, the loss of biodiversity, the depletion of resources, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism. The Earth Charter Preamble, therefore, states that "we urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community." The Earth Charter principles, which are the product of a decade-long, cross cultural dialogue, endeavor to address this need.

One of the major achievements of the 20th century has been a wide ranging international dialogue that has led to articulation of an expanding vision of shared values. This vision is

found in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the World Charter for Nature and in many other covenants, treaties, and declarations issued by UN Summits and intergovernmental partnerships. In addition, the emerging global civil society has issued over two hundred people's treaties and declarations in the last three decades. In developing its vision of "interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life," the Earth Charter builds on and extends the ethical vision in these UN and civil society documents.

One especially important contribution of the Earth Charter to the shaping of the new global ethics is the document's recognition of the interdependence of all its principles and presentation of a holistic and integrated ethical outlook. More concretely, the Earth Charter appreciates the interrelation of humanity's environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual challenges, and, therefore, its ethical principles include, for example, respect for nature, environmental conservation, poverty eradication, human rights, gender equality, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace. Attempts to deal with problems in isolation will at best have only limited success. An inclusive well-coordinated, long-term strategy is part of the meaning of living and acting sustainably.

Taken together the sixteen main principles and 61 supporting principles of the Earth Charter provide a vision in rough outline of the ideal of a sustainable world community. These principles provide an ethical compass for charting the way forward. The Earth Charter can also serve as an educational tool for clarifying the meaning of sustainable development as a general concept. Narrowly defined, sustainable development means ensuring ecological sustainability, but beginning with the Brundtland Commission, there has been a deepening international realization that given the interrelation of humanity's goals, the more inclusive conceptualization found in the Earth Charter is appropriate. When discussing the concept of sustainable development, however, it is important to keep in mind that implementation at the local level of the general principles set forth in the Earth Charter will take many different forms. As "The Way Forward" states: "Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures will find their own distinctive ways to realize the vision." In addition, when the Earth Charter Commission approved the final version of the document, there was recognition that the global dialogue on shared values would and should continue. "The Way Forward," therefore, asserts that "we must deepen and expand the global dialogue that generated the Earth Charter, for we have much to learn from the ongoing collaborative search for truth and wisdom."

The Earth Charter is made up largely of general ethical guidelines and broad strategic goals supported by a world view that includes a sense of belonging to the larger evolving universe and "reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature."[5] Concerned to keep the document fairly brief, the Earth Charter Commission made a decision not to include discussion of mechanisms and instruments for

[5] See Earth Charter Preamble.

implementing the principles. "The Way Forward" does, however, make these observations about what implementation will require.

> Life often involves tensions between important values. This can mean difficult choices. However, we must find ways to harmonize diversity with unity, the exercise of freedom with the common good, short-term objectives with long-term goals. Every individual, family, organization, and community has a vital role to play. The arts, sciences, religions, educational institutions, media, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and governments are all called to offer creative leadership. The partnership of government, civil society, and business is essential for effective governance.

In addition, a specific reference is made to the important role of the UN and the need for a new international covenant that synthesizes and consolidates international law in the fields of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

> In order to build a sustainable global community, the nations of the world must renew their commitment to the United Nations, fulfill their obligations under existing international agreements, and support the implementation of Earth Charter principles with an international legally binding instrument on environment and development.

Since the Earth Charter was drafted, it has become increasingly clear that if the UN is to be an effective instrument of international cooperation and global governance in the 21st century, it must undergo major reforms. The Secretary General and a number of member nations have made constructive proposals, and the future of the UN hinges on the willingness of the international community to implement a reform agenda. Just as the soft law principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been translated into several legally binding human rights covenants, so there has been a hope that the Earth Charter principles would in time find expression in "an international legally binding instrument on environment and development." The elements of such a treaty have already been assembled by the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law in its Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development, which was first presented at the UN in 1995 and which has since been updated and revised. This Draft Covenant provides a solid basis for intergovernmental negotiation, but to date the international community has not been prepared to take the next step in advancing international law in the field of environment and development.

What progress is being made in deepening and expanding the ethical vision that guides the international community? What role has the Earth Charter played in this matter? Shortly after the launch of the Earth Charter at the Peace Palace in The Hague in June 2000, the Millennium NGO Forum, which included over 1000 NGOs, endorsed the Earth Charter and recommended that the UN Millennium Summit recognize and support the document. While this did not happen, the UN Millennium Declaration did reaffirm for the first time in two decades the principle of "respect for nature" as among the "fundamental values essential to international relations." It also identifies as fundamental "shared values" freedom, equality,

solidarity, tolerance, and shared responsibility and calls for "a new ethic" of conservation and environmental stewardship. In addition, the document sets forth the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are entirely consistent with the Earth Charter, and established some targets and timetables that involve important steps toward the implementation of a number of Earth Charter principles. For example, the MDGs include commitment to reduce by half the number of people living in absolute poverty by 2015, to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, and to integrate the principles of sustainable development into nation state policies.

Further progress was made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002. Even though many NGO groups endorsed the Earth Charter during the Summit and South Africa, the host nation, led an effort to recognize the Earth Charter in the Johannesburg Declaration, this was not to be largely due to the opposition of the United States. However, the Johannesburg Declaration does use language almost identical to that found in the Earth Charter Preamble to affirm in broad outline the Charter's vision of "global interdependence and universal responsibility."

> From this continent, the cradle of humanity, *we declare*, through the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the present Declaration, *our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to our children*. (Paragraph 6; italics added)

This statement is the first time that an international law document has made an explicit reference to the community of life. Furthermore, the Johannesburg Declaration deepens the meaning of respect for nature by affirming that people are responsible *to*, as well as *for* the protection of, the greater community of life. From the perspective of the Earth Charter, there is implicit in this formulation recognition that people are members of Earth's community of life and, as with communities in general, all the members of the community of life—non-human species as well as people—are worthy of moral consideration. In other words, non-human species as members of the greater community of life have intrinsic value as well as instrumental value.[6] It is also noteworthy that the ethic of care central to the Earth Charter finds expression in the Johannesburg Declaration's reference to a "caring global society." The WSSD Plan of Implementation in its Introduction states that "we acknowledge the importance of ethics for sustainable development." (I.5)

In 2003 the UNESCO General Conference of Member States adopted a resolution introduced by Jordan that recognizes the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for sustainable development and as a valuable teaching tool. A year later the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which includes 77 state governments and over 800 NGOs among its members who are from 140 countries, adopted a similar resolution at its World Conservation Congress in Bangkok. Over two thousand NGOs, including many religious groups, have also endorsed the Earth Charter. Coupled with the wide use of the Earth Charter as a teaching tool in schools

[6] See Earth Charter Principles 1 and 15.

and universities, all of these developments mark a significant, even if very gradual, shift in humanity's ethical awareness.

Is there actual progress being made in moving toward the goal of sustainable development? Is there evidence that a heightened sense of social and ecological responsibility is leading civil society, business, and government to undertake efforts that involve implementation of Earth Charter principles? It is very easy to become discouraged and pessimistic about the human future when one reads the steady stream of grim reports on global warming, the destruction of forests, biodiversity loss, shortages of water, poverty, HIV/AIDS, rising military expenditures, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism. However, in 2002 two environmental leaders, David Suzuki and Holly Dressel, published a book entitled *Good News for a Change: How Everyday People are Helping the Planet*. In fact, there is much good news that suggests attitudes are changing and an increasing number of individuals, corporations, religious organizations, and governments are finding ways to reverse dangerous trends and to implement Agenda 21 and the ideals and goals of the Earth Charter. The remainder of this essay considers some examples.

The dramatic growth in population during the 20th century is one factor contributing to the depletion of resources and the degradation of ecosystems. The world population has more than doubled over the past five decades, reaching 6.3 billion in 2004. The UN Population Division estimates that the world's population will continue to grow in the 21st century increasing by 40% before stabilizing and that this growth will occur largely in the world's 50 poorest countries. This will put added stress on ecological and social systems. The good news is that the annual rate of population growth has declined over the past three decades from 2.1% to 1.14% in 2004. Median fertility is projected to decline from 2.6 children per woman to just over two children by 2050. Demographers, therefore, predict that in 2050, human numbers will peak at around 9.1 billion rather than 10 or 11 billion as estimated earlier.[7] They may then begin to decline. It is largely the decisions and actions of women in countries like Brazil and India that account for the unanticipated decline in birth rates, and there is wide international agreement that the key to sustainable population growth in the developing world is gender equality and the empowerment of women through access to health care, education, and economic opportunity.[8] These values and goals have been incorporated to a large extent in the Millennium Development Goals, and the international women's movement is working to strengthen government commitment to gender equality.

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development identified poverty eradication as a cornerstone of a sustainable future. Over a billion people live in absolute or extreme poverty, struggling to exist on a dollar a day or less. In 2005 Jeffrey Sachs, an economist who is the director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and special adviser to the United

[7]United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision – Highlights* (New York: United Nations, 2005). Document ESA/P/WP.193 24 February 2005. See also Worldwatch Institute, *Vital Signs 2005: The Trends that are Shaping our Future* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2005), 64-65.

[8] See Earth Charter Principles 7 and 11.

Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, published an important book with the optimistic title: *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for our Time.* Noting that the world community has made a commitment to halving absolute poverty by 2015, Sachs argues that "Our generation can choose to end that extreme poverty by the year 2025." *The End of Poverty* explains what must be done to eliminate the basic causes of poverty and how this can be achieved at affordable costs. Sachs calls for a global poverty eradication coalition that would organize the scientific research required and generate the necessary financial assistance and with these resources help poor countries create the basic infrastructure (roads, power, and ports), health care, and education systems needed so that they can take advantage of the world's markets as engines of development. He also points out that sustainable development is essential, arguing that "while targeted investments in health, education, and infrastructure can unlock the trap of extreme poverty, the continuing environmental degradation at local, regional, and planetary scales threatens the long-term sustainability of all our social gains." The critical question facing the developed world, argues Sachs, is in the final analysis an ethical one: "Will we have the good judgment to use our wealth wisely, to heal a divided planet, to end the suffering of those still trapped by poverty, and to forge a common bond of humanity, security, and shared purpose across cultures and regions?"[9]

Some critics argue that Sachs is an overly optimistic liberal with too great a faith in reason, science, and the malleability of societies and with too little appreciation of the obstacles presented by traditional culture, corrupt governments, undemocratic institutions, and armed conflict.[10] It is certainly important to keep these concerns in mind when designing strategies to assist developing nations. However, the Millennium Development Goals and studies such as *The End of Poverty* present a challenge that an increasing number of international leaders are taking seriously. One indication is a recent decision by the Group of Eight (G8), the world's wealthiest nations, to cancel $40 billion of debt owed to international agencies by the eighteen poorest countries, reducing their annual debt burden by $1.5 billion.[11] The cancellation deal includes a stipulation that all the affected countries will take steps to eliminate corruption and an agreement that the money saved will be used for health care and education and in support of the poor. Debt relief has for a number of years been widely recognized as essential to poverty eradication, and it has been the focus of a number of anti-poverty campaigns such as Jubilee 2000.[12]

Democracy and sustainable development are interdependent, and democracy is now the dominant form of government in the world and is widely viewed by people in all regions as a universal value and the only legitimate form of government.[13] Historians view democracy as

[9] Jeffrey D. Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for our Time* (New York: Penguin, 2005), 1-4, 364-68.
[10] David Brooks, "Liberals, Conservatives, and Aid," *New York Times*, June 26, 2005 sec. 4.
[11] Alan Colwell, "Finance Chiefs Cancel Debt of 18 Nations," *New York Times,* June 12, 2005, Final edition. sec. 1.
[12] See Earth Charter Principles 9 and 10.
[13] Amartya Sen, *Development is Freedom* (New York: Anchor Books, Random House, 1999), xi-xii, 146-88. Amartya Sen, "Democracy is a Universal Value," *Journal of Democracy* 10:3(July 1999):3-16. Larry Diamond,

having spread during the modern period in three waves. The "third wave" involved a global democratic revolution that began in Portugal in 1974 and then swept through Latin American and into Asia and Africa and, with the fall of the Berlin Wall, into central and Eastern Europe.[14] By 2003 117 or 60% of the world's countries were democracies.[15] In 1999 the UN Commission on Human rights adopted a resolution on "Promotion of the Right to Democracy" affirming that "democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing."[16] One great advantage of democratic forms of government is that criticism is built into the system and people are able to hold their leaders accountable for how they respond to environmental and social problems. A recent study of the World Values Survey concludes that "democracy has an overwhelming positive image through the world" and is "virtually the only political model with global appeal, no matter what the culture."[17] Even though only nine of the forty-seven Muslim-majority countries are democracies, the vast majority of Muslims surveyed were found to favor democracy.[18] The struggle to secure human rights and democracy for all peoples is far from over, but in most regions of the world anti-democratic regimes are facing increasing external and internal pressure to change. The democratic trend in modern history is a cause for hope.[19]

In addition to population numbers, the major factor determining a society's ecological footprint is the technology it uses in energy production, agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and the operation of households. A sustainability revolution requires a technology revolution that 1) greatly increases the efficiency with which energy and material resources are used with the goal of doing more with less, 2) generates a shift from the use of fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, and 3) facilitates the prevention of pollution and elimination of all waste except what can be assimilated by ecological systems.[20] The technological revolution is gaining momentum and the world community has the scientific and technological expertise to achieve the innovations and advances that are needed. In order to expand and quicken the pace of the sustainability revolution in technology, there will have to be larger budgets for research and development, increased consumer demand, and stronger markets for green products. A special effort must be made to transfer green technology to the developing nations as their economies mature and modernize.

"The State of Democratization at the Beginning of the 21st Century, *The Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations* 6:1 (Winter/Spring 2005):13-18. Carl Gershman, "Democracy as Policy Goal and Universal Value," *The Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations* 6:1(Winter/Spring 2005):19-37. Gershman provides a very useful summary of the eight ways that democracy benefits people in developing countries and contributes to sustainability.

[14] Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991), 3-30.

[15] Diamond, 13.

[16] *Journal of Democracy* 10:3(July 1999): 182-83.

[17] As cited in Gershman, 22.

[18] Diamond, 16-17, and Gershman, 22.

[19] See Earth Charter Principle 13.

[20] See Earth Charter Principles 6 and 7 and James Gustave Speth, *Red Sky at Morning*: *America and the Crisis of the Global Environment* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005), 157-61.

A sustainability revolution also requires new systems of global governance that better manage the process of globalization, promoting the eradication of poverty, environmental protection, human rights, a more equitable process of economic development, and world peace.[21] The market by itself does not protect the environment or ensure social and economic justice. This problem is magnified when governments subsidize unsustainable activities, which they often do, and when the prices of goods and services do not reflect the full environmental and social costs, which is generally the case. Full-cost pricing should be high on the agenda of those working for a sustainable economic system.[22]

On the one hand the achievement of good global governance requires well-constructed systems of international law, responsible national governments, democratically managed and accountable transnational institutions (UN, World Bank, WTO, IMF, etc.), and effective methods of enforcement. On the other hand, global governance in our complex world is also increasingly a responsibility shared by civil society and corporations acting both independently and in collaboration with governments. This dimension of global governance involves decentralized, voluntary, and creative initiatives on the part of citizens' campaigns, consumer advocacy groups, and human rights and environmental NGOs as well as businesses.[23]

Prime examples of the sustainability revolution in technology and positive developments in global governance are the innovations and collaborations taking place in the field of energy production and consumption, especially as it relates to the problem of climate change. Many experts view global warming as the most serious environmental problem facing the world.[24] Scientists report that global warming is melting mountain glaciers and the ice sheets at Earth's poles and weather-related disasters are on the rise. They warn that climate change may lead to a rise in sea levels that threatens coastal ecosystems and communities, a disruption of ocean currents such as the Gulf Stream, a further increase in catastrophic weather events, and the spread of disease.[25] Considerations of this nature have led many business leaders to conclude that global warming is the major environmental threat to a healthy economy. In a "Special Report" on global warming *Business Week*, a US publication, stated in 2004:

[21] See Earth Charter Principles 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, and 16.
[22] Speth, 161-66.
[23] Speth, 172-90, 222-27, and Afterword. The World Business Council on Sustainable Development has labeled the spontaneous innovations of corporations and NGOs JAZZ, and Speth provides a very good description of the nature and extent of green JAZZ. See also *Vital Signs 2005*, 106-07.
[24] The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), *Impacts of a Warming Arctic* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004). *The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Synthesis Report*, (Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, 2005).
[25] For a more complete discussion of scientific research on global warming and what can be done to address the problem, see Speth, Afterword. See also *Vital Signs 2005*, 40-41, 50-51, and 88-89.

> Consensus is growing among scientists, governments and business that they must act fast to combat climate change. This has already sparked efforts to limit CO_2 emissions. Many companies are now preparing for a carbon-constrained world.[26]

The formation of The Climate Group illustrates the point. The Climate Group is an international coalition with a secretariat in the United Kingdom. Its members are representatives of corporations, cities, states, and national governments committed to collaborating on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sharing best practices. These members have joined in a commitment to develop new clean technologies, maximize energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy sources, build markets for green power, and share best practices.

In the past decade, the primary obstacle to corporate and government action on GHG emissions and other environmental problems has been the assumption that implementing sustainability measures will be too costly and will slow or halt economic growth. The experience of The Climate Group is providing significant evidence that this assumption is false and that major advances in energy efficiency and innovations in the use of renewable energy sources leading to substantial GHG emissions reductions can be made in ways that are cost-effective and often highly profitable. A recent study of corporations and governments participating in The Climate Group includes the following summary in its conclusion.

> BP reports a savings of $650 million from emissions reductions efforts. IBM reports a saving of $791 million. DuPont claims $2 billion in efficiencies. Alcoa is looking at saving $100 million by 2006. STMicroelectronics expects $900 million in savings by 2010. Germany reports its efforts will lead to the creation of 450,000 jobs, many of them within the renewable energy sector. . . .In the United Kingdom, emissions dropped by 15% between 1990 and 2002, and during the same period, the economy grew by 30%. Report after report concludes that the cost of implementing these efforts will be more than offset by the direct benefits. We can only conclude that on a fundamental level that it is quite practical and profitable to reduce GHG in a wide array of contexts using a number of simple strategies. . . . Further, it appears that the long-term benefits in many instances are substantial. Both corporations and cites are not only able to document savings but also to generate revenues from energy-efficiency programs.[27]

Reinforcing these trends, 150 national governments have ratified the Kyoto Protocol which entered into force in 2005. Led by Prime Minister Tony Blair, Europe is providing strong leadership on this issue, including plans to launch an international GHG cap and trade scheme. Other examples of the trend are the following. The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) has created a Cities for Climate Protection program which

[26] *Business Week* August 16, 2004, p. 60.
[27] Michael Northrop, "Leading by Example: Profitable Corporate Strategies and Successful Public Policies for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions," Widener Law Journal, 14:1 (2004). Michael Northrop is the program officer in charge of the Sustainable Development Program at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

has been joined by 108 municipalities in Europe, 147 municipalities in the US, and 184 municipalities in Australia.[28] Even though the Bush administration in Washington has withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol and opposes federal regulations designed to reduce GHG emissions, 28 state governments in the US led by California and New York are moving forward with programs to reduce GHG emissions and to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and markets for clean technologies.[29] As a result of these many initiatives, the Worldwatch Institute reports that "total use of solar and wind energy is expanding at a 30% annual rate" and that wind energy is now cheaper than natural gas, and "closing in on coal."[30]

The movement for socially and ecologically responsible investing and corporate accountability is an increasingly important factor in changing the policies and practices of businesses. CERES, for example, is a coalition of leading investment funds, environmental organizations, and other public interest groups committed to these goals. Through its Sustainable Governance Project, CERES has demonstrated that global warming involves significant financial risks for a wide range of businesses and has organized the Institutional Investors Summit on Climate Risk and the Investor Network on Climate Risk in an effort to encourage institutional investors and other shareholders to support corporate climate risk disclosure and actions that minimize the risk.[31] In addition, worldwide 640 companies participate in the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), a project launched by CERES that sets international standards for reporting on the triple bottom line of economic, social, and environmental performance, including GHG emissions. Over 300 corporations have adopted the GHG Protocol designed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), which involves internationally accepted accounting and reporting standards for GHG emissions.[32] The Equator Principles, which set environmental and sustainability standards for loan programs, have now been adopted by almost all the leading global financial institutions including Citigroup, Bank of America, HSBC, and JPMorganChase. When one considers all the forces that are now promoting a revolution in the way societies produce and consume energy, it appears that the industrialized world may be approaching the tipping point with regard to a willingness to take action in response to global warming and the need for more sustainable energy practices.

Many of these developments reflect the growing power and influence of global civil society which is exercised in and through consumer campaigns, shareholder initiatives, political movements, and Global Public Policy Networks (GPPNs) all involving the work of thousands of NGOs like CERES, GRI, and WRI.[33] The emergence of civil society as a third force in world affairs together with business and government is one of the consequences of the

[28] Michael Northrop, pp. 52-53.
[29] Pew Center on Global Climate Change, *Climate Change Activities in the United States—2004 Update* (Arlington, VA: Pew Center, 2004), p. 9.
[30] *Vital Signs 2005*, 14, 34-37.
[31] Speth, Afterword.
[32] World Resources Institute. See www.wri.org.
[33] Speth, 222-27. Speth provides an overview of the activities of dozens of leading environmental NGOs that are contributing to global governance.

communications revolution, which makes it possible for public interest groups to share and publicize information, mobilize resources and people, and collaborate with extraordinary speed. The role of NGOs is well-illustrated by the new ways in which social and environmental standards are being set for corporate behavior and compliance is verified. There was a time when corporations wrote their own codes of conduct and performance audits were generally an internal affair. In the 21st century, standards are being set in open negotiations between industry representatives and all the relevant stakeholders, including NGO experts, and verification of compliance is conducted by outside organizations that require full disclosure. Consistent with this approach, as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) undertakes the task of developing a new set of standards for corporate social responsibility, it has mandated that national delegations participating in the standard setting process must include members who represent consumers, the NGO community, and labor as well as industry and government.[34] In addition, NGOs have learned how to skillfully use market campaigns to put pressure on corporations to comply with performance and reporting standards. As consumers become better educated and more willing to use their purchasing power to express their social and ecological concerns, there are serious financial risks to corporations found to be out of step with recognized standards.

The new influence of civil society and the expanding role of NGOs in creating new systems of global governance is a development consistent with the spread of democratic values and it is giving the concepts of corporate transparency and accountability a whole new meaning. Also, CEOs are discovering that attention to the triple bottom line is good for business as well as the communities in which corporations operate. From the perspective of the Earth Charter, which is itself a global civil society endeavor to promote ethical principles that are in turn translated into binding government and business standards, all of these developments are part of the way forward.

The critical role of the emerging global civil society in building just, democratic, participatory, and sustainable societies underscores the great importance of education for sustainable development in schools, colleges, and universities and in non-formal programs that encourage life long learning.[35] The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), which the UN General Assembly has charged UNESCO with organizing, focuses much needed international attention on this urgent task. As UNESCO recognizes in its International Implementation Scheme for the Decade, the Earth Charter can serve as a valuable teaching tool in ESD programs.

Given the influence of the religions over the spiritual and ethical values of a large portion of humanity, their commitment to the new global ethics and a sustainable way of living is of great importance. The good news is that over the past three decades, substantial research has

[34] International Organization for Standardization. In 2005 the ISO held its first meeting to launch the development of the future ISO 26000 standard giving social responsibility guidelines. It is scheduled for publication in 2008. For their initial press release on this project, see http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/2005/Ref953.html.

[35] See Earth Charter Principle 14.

been done by intellectual leaders within the different religions on those teachings in their traditions that support the values of respect and care for the community of life and sustainability and on those teachings that are inconsistent with these values. Religious scholars have also clarified what can and should be done to reconstruct traditional systems of thought so as to integrate Earth Charter values fully into contemporary theology and religious philosophy. In other words, a generation of prophetic thinkers has gone far in laying the intellectual foundations for the kind of religious world views that will help people make the transition to a sustainable world community.[36] It remains to make this thinking part of the mainstream, which is beginning to happen in many communities. Tolerance for religious diversity is, of course, an essential ethical principle for an interdependent world seeking sustainability.[37] On this issue religious leaders in much of the world face a particularly difficult challenge, but there is a growing appreciation of the value of interfaith dialogue and willingness to participate in it.

As this essay suggests, it is possible to identify the beginnings of the Great Transition, but there are no grounds for complacency. Some would argue that what has been accomplished to date is too little too late. It is certainly true that fully achieving sustainable patterns of development remains a distant and very challenging goal. There is an urgent need to strengthen and accelerate the positive trends, and civil society can make the difference. Citizens, NGOs, and religious organizations must keep the pressure on government and business. However, there are many examples of a new sense of social and ecological responsibility taking hold in the corridors of economic and political power supported by the realization that sustainable development is sound economic practice, especially if one takes a long-term view. The Earth Charter can continue to serve as an ethical guide, teaching tool, and source of inspiration—a vision of what the human family can choose to be and to create. If the dangers and risks today are great, so are the opportunities. In the closing words of the Earth Charter: "Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."

C) "The Significance of the Earth Charter in International Law" by Klaus Bosselmann and Prue Taylor

From the perspective of international law, the Earth Charter is a new and fascinating instrument (Bosselmann, 2004, 69; Taylor, 1999, 193). This is partly due to its origins. The world-wide dialogue of thousands of civil society groups and individuals, over a period of several years, is impressive in itself. Unlike Agenda 21, the state-negotiated soft law document of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Earth Charter represents a much broader consensus. It is probably the first time that global civil society has produced a document, with

[36] See, for example, the ten-volume series on religions of the world and ecology published by the Forum on Religion and Ecology and the Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions and distributed by Harvard University Press.
[37] See Earth Charter Principle 16.

such a wide consensus, on global principles. Many of these principles were not created during the dialogue process, but they were further defined and put into an ecological context. Concepts like ecological integrity, precautionary principle, democratic decision-making, human rights and non-violence are well established in international law, yet not always so clearly defined as they are in the Earth Charter. More importantly, the interaction between all these concepts has not been spelled out in any other single document, not even in Agenda 21.

The reputation and credibility of the Earth Charter rests largely on its transnational, cross-cultural, inter-denominational approach. In a situation of a widely perceived crisis of global governance, this approach is highly significant. While the Earth Charter cannot be expected to be representative of global civil society in its entirety including, for example, corporate interests, it does represent a very significant sector of it. States will not, for example, be able to overlook its leading role in the light of their endorsement of type two partnerships for sustainable development in Agenda 21 and the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. States will certainly need partnerships with civil society if they want to gain control over anarchistic global corporate power.

Meanwhile, the Earth Charter continues to foster its moral-political leadership within global civil society. The promotion of its principles in more than 50 national Earth Charter campaigns, and the ever-increasing number of endorsing institutions, are evidence of its success and strengths.

In terms of international law principles, the Earth Charter represents *prima face* a draft legal document. The international legal community - states, the UN with its organizations and certain other international organizations - can choose to ignore it. However, this is unlikely. A number of states and international organizations have endorsed the Earth Charter. It also enjoys considerable recognition in legal education and scholarship. Leading texts of international law and numerous legal research papers have discussed the significance of both the Earth Charter itself, and its guiding principles (Kiss and Shelton, 2000, 70; Taylor, 1999; Taylor, 1998, 326). Recognition among international law scholars is a subsidiary source of international law (Art.38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice). While the legal status of a number the Earth Charter's principles is disputed, most of them are frequently referred to in treaties, conventions and other binding documents. Some key concepts such as the precautionary principle or sustainable development are not (yet) recognized as custom or general principles of international law. However, the common view is that they have become an integral part of international law (Birnie and Boyle, 2002, 84, 115; Kiss and Shelton, 2000, 248, 264).

In recent times, 'soft law' has become an important 'new' source of international law (Kiss and Shelton, 2000, 46). In contrast to 'hard law' (treaties, custom, general principles), 'soft law' is not legally binding. It cannot be ratified and does not have direct legal effect. However, the political strength of 'soft law' should not be underestimated. An example is Agenda 21. As a non-binding soft law document it cannot be ratified by states, but has proven to be among the most powerful documents in international environmental law. Since 1992,

Agenda 21 has been recognized and implemented by wide sectors of civil society all around the world. Local governments, small and mid-sized business, educational institutions and professional organizations have enacted statutes or guidelines of sustainable development citing Agenda 21 as their main source. This new kind of 'bottom-up ratification' has put enormous political pressure on governments to implement some form of governance for sustainable development. Among all the treaties and international documents promoting sustainable development, none have had as much impact on practice as the 'soft law' Agenda 21.

The Earth Charter can benefit from this experience. Although not yet recognized as a 'soft law' document, it has all the ingredients of becoming one in the foreseeable future. Acceptance of the Charter, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002, is illustrative (Bosselmann, 2002). In the year preceding the WSSD, efforts were made by Earth Charter Commissioners, and the International Secretariat, to gain recognition of the Charter, at the Summit. In his address to the opening session of the Summit, President Mbeki of South Africa cited the Earth Charter as a significant expression of "human solidarity" and as part of "the solid base from which the Johannesburg World Summit must proceed." In the closing days of the Summit, the first draft of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development included recognition of "the relevance of the challenges posed in the Earth Charter" (paragraph 13). On the last day of the Summit, in closed-door negotiations, the reference to the Earth Charter was deleted from the Political Declaration. (Rockefeller, 2002, 2). However, the final version of the Political Declaration included, in paragraph 6, wording almost identical to the concluding words of the first paragraph of the Earth Charter Preamble, which states that "it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations." Furthermore, Article 6 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation contains indirect reference to the Earth Charter: "We acknowledge the importance of ethics for sustainable development, and therefore we emphasize the need to consider ethics in the implementation of Agenda 21."

The WSSD documents reflect growing international support for sustainability ethics, as expressed in the Earth Charter. Since Johannesburg, international recognition has progressed. In October 2003, the 32nd General Conference of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted a resolution recognizing the Earth Charter 'as an important ethical framework for sustainable development.' In November 2004, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, approved a resolution recognizing the Earth Charter 'as an ethical guide for IUCN policy' and encouraging its Member states 'to determine the role the Earth Charter can play as a policy guide within their own spheres of responsibility'.

A decisive step toward soft law recognition would be a resolution of recognition by the United Nations General Assembly. But, even without such recognition, there can be little doubt about the Earth Charter's potential. A number of pathways could lead to the Earth Charter being acknowledged as a legally binding international instrument.

One of these pathways is the continued promotion of the Earth Charter within countries and among international organizations. The target here is to increase endorsements (in their various forms) up to a point were the Earth Charter reaches a certain omnipresence. This process could lead to its gradual transformation from soft law into a hard law instrument, in much the same way as nascent principles of law gradually gain recognition and status as binding "customary" international law.

Another path would be its conversion into a UN Draft Earth Charter, either together with the IUCN Draft Covenant on Environment and Development, or as a stand-alone document. Either way, the Earth Charter could become an official UN Draft document, eventually opening it up for negotiation among states (with all the advantages and disadvantages involved).

A further path could be to focus on the Earth Charter's content and seek dialogues with governments on desirable principles and their implementation in law and policy. Here the Charter could have a 'blueprint' function not dissimilar to Agenda 21.

However, the most promising path of all is to insist on the Earth Charter's validity as a novel instrument of 'global law'. Never before have so many people, in so many different countries, representing so many cultures and religions, reached a consensus on a central theme of humanity. To some extent, the Earth Charter can be celebrated as global civil society's first and foremost founding document. Such an achievement, both in terms of quantity and quality, puts the world's states on the back foot. States, having failed for so long to fulfil their promise of sustainable development, are rapidly loosing their political and intellectual leadership.

'Global law' as such does not yet exist. All we have ever seen in the Westphalian Age (since 1648) is inter-national law, i.e. law between nation states, not people. However, the Earth Charter's emergence sits squarely within the present system of international law. Earth Charter proponents may want to accept this system and hope for recognition by states, but states are not bound to do so. With equal justification, the Earth Charter qualifies as a founding document for transnational law or global law. Transnational or global legal thinking is not new and can, for example, point to the concept of universal human rights as promoted by civil society in the French and American revolutions. It found its international legal recognition in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948. States have reluctantly, and not without setbacks, accepted the idea of human rights as pre-state, universal entitlements. Equally, the UN Charter 1945 is a document of transnationalism, at least, in its underlying principle of collective responsibility for peace and security. The fact that states have, by and large, not been very successful in fostering human rights, peace and security, does not discredit global agreements such as the Universal Declaration or the UN Charter. To the contrary, the failure of states stresses the need for such instruments.

However, no international document has described the failure of states and peoples as clearly and forcefully as the Earth Charter. It is the failure to accept a three-fold imperative: "…that

we, the peoples of the Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations" (Preamble, Earth Charter).

In law, such imperatives and responsibilities are usually captured by notions of distributional justice. But what concept of justice is intended when we think of responsibilities to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations? The Brundtland Report (WCSD, 1987) derived two forms of justice from the idea of sustainable development, i.e. intragenerational justice (between people living today) and intergenerational justice (between people living today and in the future). Responsibility to the greater community of life is not reflected in this idea. The omission of this responsibility is common among state-negotiated documents on sustainable development (e.g. 1992 Rio Declaration, 2002 Johannesburg Declaration).

By contrast, care and respect for the community of life are central to the Earth Charter. They are central simply because, in an evolutionary process, human life cannot be separated from other forms of life. From the perspective of ecological integrity and sustainability, care for one another and for future generations is useless if we ignore the community of life that we are part of. If this is a moral imperative, it should also be a legal imperative.

For lawyers, the most challenging question is this: can the nonhuman world be part of the *justitia communis* or is it bound to stay excluded from the *justitia communis*? The former approach reflects a new concept, the latter follows the traditional, anthropocentric (human centred) concept of justice.

John Rawls, who shaped contemporary theories of justice more than anyone, has been very clear about the exclusion of the nonhuman world: "(the) status of the natural world and our proper relation to it is not a constitutional essential or a basic question of justice" (Rawls, 1993, 246). Rawls acknowledges 'duties' in this regard, but he describes them as mere 'duties of compassion and humanity' rather than duties of justice. To him, any 'considered beliefs' to morally include the nonhuman world "are outside the scope of the theory of justice." (Rawls, 1999, 448). There have been efforts to reconcile Rawls' political liberalism with ecological justice (Wissenburg, 1998; Barry, 2001; Bell, 2002), however, such efforts tend to underestimate the persistence of paradigms. How could Rawls or any legal theorist be expected to trade their anthropocentric liberalism for non-anthropocentric ecologism? Essentially, liberalism is blind to ecological interdependences, and so is the law derived from it.

The Earth Charter challenges the anthropocentric idea of justice. As humans have put the Earth's ecological integrity at risk, no level of social organization – economics, politics, law – can be exempt from the moral imperative of care and respect for the community of life. The test lies in the current state of affairs. If the Earth Charter is right, then we are in desperate need of a new framework of thinking. Justice needs to include the community of life (Bosselmann, 1999; 2005). Perceived in this way, people of all cultures and nations may be able to give the dream of global law some solid foundation.

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D) Assessments of the Value of the Earth Charter

The following statements by Parvez Hassan, Mohamed Sahnoun, and Jan Pronk have been excerpted from essays that they have written for *Toward a Sustainable World: The Earth Charter in Action* edited by Peter Blaze Corcoran. Parvez Hassan has served as chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, and both Mohamed Sahnoun and Jan Pronk have served as UN Special Representatives to Africa.

1. "The Earth Charter is on course to become one of the most inspirational documents of this century, joining ranks with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the past century. . . . As an ethical lodestar and motivational tool, the Earth Charter succeeds magnificently across many dimensions. By integrating ecological concerns with mankind's historic quest for social justice, democracy, and peace, it creates a successful environmental ethic which will resonate well beyond the constituency of environmental activists. Having gone through the most participatory consultation process of any document in history, its call for global responsibility has an unshakeable legitimacy. . . .

"It is only when the lofty principles of the Earth Charter become binding legal obligations and are implemented by people all over the world will the Earth Charter have achieved its potential."

--Parvez Hassan

2. "I believe the Earth Charter is a very adequate and comprehensive response to the call to resolve root causes of insecurity and violent conflict in Africa. It is my hope that the Charter is adopted and endorsed as widely as possible, so that it becomes like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In a sense, the Earth Charter is about Earth's rights. One cannot go without the other. We must complete what we have achieved so far in governance and in human rights through the international endorsement of Earth's rights."

--Mohamed Sahnoun

3. "The Earth Charter could be a perfect guideline for negotiation in Sudan. In political talks, to solve a conflict one always needs a declaration of principles. The principles in the Charter could be used as a framework within which a specific conflict could be addressed. The values enshrined in the Charter could underpin a domestically—or internationally-shaped comprehensive approach. The Charter could provide a base and guide to build such an approach and to find support for it among all stakeholders."

--Jan Pronk

E) Concluding Recommendations

Promoting the Earth Charter as a global ethic and as a guide to sustainable development and good global governance has always been fundamental to the Earth Charter Initiative. The Earth Charter has a special significance and an important role to play as a unique declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful world. Therefore, if the Initiative continues as an organized international effort, promoting the Earth Charter as a global ethic for good global governance should remain a central concern. This would require:

(1) A continued effort to secure endorsements and implementation by civil society, government, and business. As the civil society endorsements mount, it will be easier to persuade businesses that it is in their interest to support the Earth Charter and implement relevant principles.

(a) The Initiative should consider somehow indicating its support for other sets of principles and standards such as the Global Reporting Initiative, the Forest Stewardship Council standards, the Bellagio Principles, and the Equator Principles that represent meaningful steps toward implementing Earth Charter principles. It should also seek support from the NGOs that are mounting these other efforts, and in some cases a partnership may be mutually beneficial.

(2) The Initiative should continue to seek UN General Assembly recognition of the Earth Charter. This will be difficult given the current political situation. It can probably most easily be accomplished by embedding recognition of the Earth Charter in another document with a broader agenda. This was almost achieved at the WSSD in 2002 with the Johannesburg Declaration and the International Implementation Scheme for the DESD in 2004.

(a) If a Democratic Party administration succeeds the Bush administration in Washington in 2008, an effort should be made to secure US government support for the Earth Charter. This would make UN recognition easier to obtain.

(3) There should be continued attention to IUCN's endorsement with follow up on implementation of the endorsement resolution.

(4) The Initiative should continue to work with the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and the Academy of Environmental Law in efforts to promote the Earth Charter's status as a soft-law document and to encourage UN action on the IUCN Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development.

(5) This chapter has emphasized the importance of good global governance. Any sound system of global governance must involve responsible and effective systems of local governance. In that regard, the development of tools like EarthCAT, which help

local communities use and implement the Earth Charter are of critical importance. See Chapter VI on Sustainable Community Development.

(6) The worldwide dialogue on global ethics continues to be very important and should have the support of the Earth Charter Initiative.

Chapter V
Education Programme Report – 2000-2005

Brendan Mackey, Chair, EC Education Programme Advisory Committee and
Mohit Mukherjee, Education Programme Manager, Earth Charter Secretariat
with contributions from Rick Clugston and Mirian Vilela

A) Introduction

Following the launch of the Earth Charter in 2000, agreement was reached that the second goal of the Earth Charter Initiative should be "to encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, faith communities, and many other settings." An ambitious set of objectives was established in the year 2000 for the education programme of the Earth Charter Initiative. These objectives included: developing and disseminating educational materials to promote understanding, from an Earth Charter perspective, of the fundamental challenges and choices facing society; building a global network of educators committed to working with the Earth Charter; and the formation of partnerships with appropriate educational organizations around the world. These objectives remain ambitious given that the use of the Earth Charter in formal education at any level is a formidable challenge. Few curricula address sustainability in their content, and when they do, they invariably steer away from explicitly addressing the ethical dimension. So, educators attempting to make use of the Earth Charter in their educational programs and activities are confronted by such barriers.

Nonetheless, as detailed in this chapter, the Earth Charter education programme has made remarkable progress towards its objectives. The objectives have been significantly advanced through the efforts of a substantial and growing network of educators around the world who have voluntarily developed educational materials based on the Earth Charter. In many cases, they have had to overcome significant inertia in their institutions and find creative ways of integrating the Earth Charter into existing curricula and activities. The cases presented in this chapter include wonderful and inspiring examples of teachers working with the Earth Charter in Spain, Australia, the United States of America, and Brazil. Implementation of the Earth Charter educational programme has also been greatly facilitated through the support of the international advisory committee, made up of dedicated individuals in key organizations (including UNESCO, IUCN, and the Jane Goodall Institute), together with activities sponsored by governmental education departments including those of Costa Rica and Mexico.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Secretariat and the global network of educators, we can now proudly point to a substantial body of educational materials from cultures around the world. An indicative compendium of these materials has been compiled and is available via an online database on the Earth Charter Initiative web site. As a complementary resource, a generic "Teachers guide to the Earth Charter" has been produced by the secretariat and is currently being tested. This guide aims to assist teachers in understanding the educational

objectives of the Earth Charter and to catalyse the development of locally relevant and culturally appropriate educational materials.

At the international level, the Earth Charter has received widespread endorsement and uptake. UNESCO has endorsed the Earth Charter as a useful resource for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The IUCN has also endorsed the Earth Charter as an educational resource. And at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Ubuntu Declaration on Education, Science & Technology for Sustainable Development endorsed the Earth Charter as "the inspiring, fundamental and balanced set of principles and guidelines for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century, which should permeate all levels and sectors of education." Details of these and other key international initiatives are presented in the sections below.

All agree that action is urgently required to address the critical real world problems faced in securing a more just, sustainable and peaceful world. However, it is also clear that a "phase shift" in thinking is needed to catalyse the necessary social reforms. As noted in the synthesis of the first education online forum, "Education is the key to advancing the transition to more sustainable ways of living. Transformative education is needed - education that helps bring about the fundamental changes demanded by the challenges of sustainability."[38]

Historically, all processes of social reform are met with resistance from those comfortable with the *status quo*. Given this, we should not be surprised at the difficulties encountered by teachers in their attempts to integrate the Earth Charter into existing educational systems. However, the efficacy of the Earth Charter education programme cannot necessarily be evaluated based only on short-term perspectives. Education is a life-long process whose social impact might take generations to manifest. It may be that the true accomplishments of the Earth Charter education programme are not realized for decades to come.

[38] Mackey, Brendan G. (2002). Synthesis: Summary of the Earth Charter Education Advisory Committee Inaugural Online Forum. Brendan G. Mackey (editor). *International Journal of Curriculum & Instruction* Vol IV(1):81-96.

B) Initiating the Education Programme (2000 – 2001)

1) The International Education Advisory Committee

Overview

The Earth Charter International Secretariat established a programme in the year 2000 to promote the educational uses of the Earth Charter and to develop associated educational resources. An international advisory committee was formed in 2001 to assist the development of a strategic plan, including specific projects aimed at using the Earth Charter in higher education, schools, professional development, and as part of life-long learning at the community level. Members of the advisory committee were drawn from organizations and individuals who supported the Earth Charter and either had been using it in their educational activities or were interested in doing so. A first education online discussion forum was held between 26 August and 9 September 2001 with the aims of articulating an educational philosophy to underpin the educational use of the Earth Charter and identifying strategic educational opportunities, priorities and partnerships.

The results of this online forum are summarized in a document titled, *Synthesis*, the full-text of which is available on the Earth Charter website. It clearly articulates why the Earth Charter represents a unique educational framework, discusses some of the main principles and challenges of the Education Programme and provides recommendations on key priority areas for the programme to focus on going forward. The findings summarized in this synthesis report reflect the combined wisdom of the participants who represent a diverse array of educators from around the world. Some key conclusions and recommendations from the report are presented here.

Key principles

There was general agreement on a set of key principles that should be used to guide the development of Earth Charter educational programmes and materials:

- *Action research* – material should be developed in collaboration with a network of educators representative of the target audience;
- *Experiential learning* – wherever possible, use should be made of learning activities that involve action orientated learning or "learning by doing;"
- *Cross-Disciplinary* – the integrated ethical perspective presented by the Earth Charter requires inquiry unconstrained by conventional disciplinary boundaries;
- *Collaboration* – it is essential that we find collaborative ways to join efforts with educators in all fields.

Key roles

An important conclusion reached by the advisory committee was the recognition of two key educational roles for the Earth Charter, namely, (1) a framework and source of content for curricula aimed at educating for sustainable living, and (2) a catalyst for promoting an ongoing multi-sectoral dialogue on global ethics.

In addition to constituting a global ethical framework, the Earth Charter has a complimentary educational role to play in catalysing an ongoing "Socratic" dialogue on global ethics – inquiry and debate into the search for common understanding and shared values. As noted in the Earth Charter conclusion "…we have much to learn from the ongoing collaborative search for truth and wisdom."

Unique contributions and core themes

The Earth Charter provides material for three main educational outcomes:

- *Consciousness raising* - in terms of sensitising people to the complex matrix of environmental, social and economic problems extant in the world today and the need to move towards more sustainable patterns of behaviour;
- *Application of values and principles* – the main body of the Charter is action orientated and functions as a guide to more sustainable ways of living;
- *Call for action* – the educational challenge here is to help foster a culture of collaboration aimed at promoting justice, sustainability and peace.

The Charter's integrated ethical perspective provides a set of core themes on which to base new educational materials, including:

- Critical trends and choices;
- Universal but differentiated responsibilities;
- Interdependence of social, economic and environmental domains;
- Respect and care for the community of life;
- The role of local and global partnerships;
- Ecological integrity
- Economic and social justice
- Democracy, nonviolence, and peace.

Priorities for programme development

Several priorities for the Education programme were discussed and the following conclusions reached:

- A priority for the Earth Charter education programme was to document a set of cases that illustrate how educators have made use of the Earth Charter in a diversity of cultural contexts in at least four educational settings: schools; institutions of higher learning; community education; and professional development.

- Documentation was needed on the history and background of the Earth Charter, as well as a commentary on the development and drafting of the document, including the various sources drawn upon in the formulation of the principles (e.g. law, science, philosophy). A global consultation process was also important to develop.

- Given the high level of interest in the Earth Charter at the community level, there was a need for a module/training programme based on the Earth Charter for community leadership in sustainable living that would promote integrated community planning.

- Given the crowded character of modern formal education curricula, particularly in primary and high schools, opportunities should be explored to use the Earth Charter within existing educational programmes.

- In higher education, courses that would likely be open to use of the Earth Charter include those that already enable learners to clarify, challenge and extend their value systems, and programs that address the challenges of "big picture" issues such as international relations, globalization and peace.

Conclusions from the Advisory Committee Forum

Values education is an often-contested theme in education due to legitimate concerns about "which values" and "whose values" are being promoted. These concerns can be met so long as the values represent core values that are life-affirming, promote human dignity, advance environmental protection and social and economic justice, and respect cultural and ecological diversity and integrity.

The Earth Charter can validly lay claim to represent such a core set of values, particularly given the participatory and multicultural process that underpinned the drafting of the document. Given this, the Earth Charter provides critical content for development of curricula with the educational aim of teaching the concepts and principles of sustainable living.

2) The WSSD and Earth Charter Education

Introduction

The WSSD was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. Several educational activities and partnerships were advanced during this Summit, and are briefly described below. The complete report on the World Summit by Steven Rockefeller is available via the Earth Charter web-site.

An Earth Charter Type II Partnership Focused on Education

The World Summit pursued two different types of outcomes. The Type I outcomes are the Political Declaration and the Plan of Implementation. The Type II outcomes are partnerships involving governments, NGOs, and businesses.

The Earth Charter Initiative developed a Type II partnership on the Earth Charter and education for community leaders that was approved by the Summit. Joining this partnership were the governments of Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, and Niger, UNESCO, the IUCN Education and Communication Committee, and thirteen NGOs.

entitled "*Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter*," the three main objectives of this partnership are to:

- Train community development leaders in utilising the Earth Charter as an educational tool;
- Integrate the Earth Charter into the curriculum of selected organizations of global and regional reach;
- Develop, in partnership with significant international educational organizations, new curricular and educational materials using the Earth Charter.

Earth Charter in other education events

The Earth Charter was widely embraced by educational organizations during the WSSD. The Statement of Education for Sustainable Development from representatives of National and Regional Professional Associations for Environmental Education, with members in 73 countries and all continents, declared: "*we support the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for sustainability*."

The Ubuntu Declaration, signed by eleven of the world's foremost educational and scientific organizations, called for greening of classroom curriculum. In this declaration these organizations endorsed the Earth Charter as the inspiring, fundamental and balanced set of principles and guidelines for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful education. The organizations issuing the Ubuntu Declaration were: United Nations University; UNESCO; African Academy of Science; International Council for Science; International Association of Universities; Copernicus-Campus; Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership; Science Council of Asia; Third World Academy of Science; University Leaders for a Sustainable Future; and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. UNESCO, in its role as task manager for Agenda 21 Chapter 36 on Education, Training, and Awareness, announced two major Type II partnerships related to higher education: Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership (GHESP) and Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter. Both partnerships incorporate the Earth Charter in their programs.

Conclusion

An increasing number of educators have begun using the Earth Charter in their teaching and learning. These activities, some of which had arisen spontaneously, have reaffirmed the usefulness of the Earth Charter as a framework for education towards sustainability.

The events at the Johannesburg Summit helped generate significant exposure and support for the Earth Charter in education. It reinforced the feeling that changing values is a long-term educational process rather than simply an intellectual discussion about the benefits of sustainable development. At the conclusion of the Summit, the Earth Charter Steering Committee decided to prioritize the educational uses of the Earth Charter as a next step, keeping in mind the limited financial and human resources available.

C) Building the Education Programme (2002 – 2004)

Introduction

Given the growing number of individual educators using the Earth Charter, there was a need for coordination and communication to effectively advance the integration of concepts and principles of sustainable living into education. Teachers working in formal education systems were writing to the Secretariat requesting guidelines on how to teach with the Earth Charter. Non-formal educators were seeking workshop modules to introduce the Earth Charter in the settings they worked in. Both these groups of educators recognized that teaching the values underlying sustainable development was a complex task and wished for a community with which to interact.

The Earth Charter education programme responded to these needs for coordination and communication, resource development, and a supportive political climate to facilitate the educational implementation of the Earth Charter globally. Accordingly, the education programme has been focused on the following main streams of activity from 2002 – 2004, with many of them ongoing in 2005.

Overview of major streams of activity

1) Formulating a Plan of Action with key partners
2) Leveraging the opportunity of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)
3) Hosting a second Educators' Online Forum
4) Developing a 'Teaching Resource Database'
5) Creating a 'Guidebook for Teachers'
6) Collaborating with partners on developing Earth Charter resources.

1) Formulating a Plan of Action with Key Partners

A 3-day working meeting titled "Earth Charter in Action" was held in Urbino from 26-30 June 2003, bringing together key Earth Charter partners to develop a two-year Action Plan that would significantly advance the development and implementation of the Earth Charter education programme as well as the Type II partnership, "Educating for Sustainable Living Using the Earth Charter," launched during the Johannesburg Summit. Over fifty individuals representing nearly that number of organizations participated.

The Action Plan defined priority activities as well as mechanisms of coordination and implementation. Additionally, the following objectives were realized:

- Training and collaboration opportunities to strengthen each organization's capacity to follow through with their action plans;
- Establishing a coordination and implementation mechanism for the partnership;
- Making arrangements for funding partnership activities;
- Sharing of successful examples of implementation of the Earth Charter.

The Secretariat has unfortunately not been able to secure the funding necessary to ensure full implementation of this global partnership. Instead, in the absence of external funds, selected partners worked on elements of the plan for which they could secure the necessary resources. For example, in Costa Rica the development of materials and teacher training on sustainable living with the Earth Charter was undertaken. In Mexico, the Ministry of Public Education introduced the Earth Charter as an educational theme for primary and secondary school levels through its new Civic and Ethical Foundation programme. Soka Gakkai International added new content to their travelling exhibition on the Earth Charter and continue to present it at new locations around the world. More details on these and more activities are available in Section IV of the report.

2) Leveraging the opportunity of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)

In December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring 2005 the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. UNESCO was designated to be the lead agency in this endeavour.

In early 2003, UNESCO developed a first draft of an *International Implementation Scheme for the Decade.* The Earth Charter International Secretariat prepared a response to this document recommending that UNESCO use the Earth Charter as an educational instrument and an ethical framework for the Decade.

In October 2003, the 32nd General Conference of UNESCO adopted a resolution "*recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development*". The Resolution affirmed member states' intention "*to utilize the Earth Charter as an educational instrument, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development*". This represented a significant acknowledgement of the importance of the Earth Charter within the Decade.

Since 2002, the education programme has been making concerted efforts to build on the above-mentioned resolutions and explore areas of collaboration with governments and educational institutions in order to help them implement the resolutions. It has also been in close communication with UNESCO, and has submitted three project proposals for the creating of educational resources based on the Earth Charter.

In October 2004, UNESCO's revised Implementation Scheme for the Decade was launched. The Implementation Scheme prominently features the Earth Charter, stating, "*The Earth Charter sets forth a concise formulation of the meaning of sustainable living and development*." (page 14). This notable mention of the Earth Charter sends a clear message to all stakeholders of the importance and relevance of the Charter's vision in the context of the Decade.

3) Hosting an Educators Online Forum

In December 2003, responding to the need to further the discussions initiated in Urbino and to advance the education programme's activities, the Secretariat hosted an online forum entitled "*The Earth Charter as an Educational Framework for Teaching and Learning about Sustainable Development*." The Forum brought together 120 registered participants from around the world to share perspectives and experiences of utilizing the Earth Charter as an educational tool.

The forum addressed each of the following topics:

1. Educational Philosophy for the Earth Charter.
2. Suggested Pedagogies for Teaching the Charter.
3. Current Educational Practice: To analyse the content of the online education database.
4. Defining an Earth Charter Education Toolkit/Guidebook

During the two-week forum, participants engaged in a rich dialogue with over 200 messages being posted, offering comments, insights and advice for the education programme. Based on the feedback received in the Forum, the Education Database was expanded and criteria for analyzing the content have been developed. The need for a 'Teacher's Guidebook' was confirmed, with valuable feedback on its structure, content and organization. A summary document capturing the richness of these discussions can be viewed on the Earth Charter website. The complete thread of discussions can also be viewed from the education programme link of the web-site.

4) Developing a Teaching Resource Database

A Teaching Resource Database was developed and made available via the Earth Charter web-site with the goal of capturing as many relevant experiences as possible in order to offer examples of how the Earth Charter was being utilized in the field of education. The database brings together educational materials, such as lesson plans, activities, and case studies that have been developed in different parts of the world using the Earth Charter as a guiding framework. The resources have been classified by educational level and are being continually updated. All educators who have used the Earth Charter as an educational tool are encouraged to submit any materials that they created to be included in the Database.

A Snapshot of the Teaching Resource Database

	Primary/Secondary	Tertiary/Higher Education	Non-Formal
Number of Resources	36+	13+	28+
Kinds of Materials	• Several children's adaptations in many languages • Suggested classroom activities in different subjects • Online student and teacher activities and training	• A 100-pg. handbook on the Earth Charter • Several course syllabi that explicitly use the Earth Charter • Suggested pedagogies for working with the Charter	• A collection of activities for communities to study the Earth Charter. • A guide to organizing an Earth Charter workshop • A description of a grassroots movements based on the Charter.

5) Creating a Guidebook for Teachers

The Secretariat received numerous requests indicating the need for an Earth Charter Education Guidebook for teachers in primary and secondary schools. The development of this Guidebook drew upon the experiences of the growing network of educators who are using the Earth Charter in their teaching. The Guidebook is written to all teachers, irrespective of their nationality or subject area and offers practical guidelines on how to bring sustainability into the classroom. The Guidebook is currently in draft format as it is being pilot tested by several teachers in the Earth Charter network. It will be available during the course of 2005.

6) Collaborating with partners on developing Earth Charter resources

The following resources have been developed primarily by our partners, with the education programme playing an important role in publicizing and disseminating them through our network.

UNESCO - Multimedia Teacher Education Programme, International

As part of its programme, "Educating for a Sustainable Future," UNESCO led the development of a multimedia teacher education programme entitled, *Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future*. In 2002, a third version of this online module was launched. The programme contains 100-hours of professional development modules for teachers, curriculum developers, education policy makers, and authors of educational materials. It provides a valuable overview of the holistic and interdisciplinary concept of sustainability, its implications for teaching across the curriculum, its emphasis on values and ethics, and teaching methods that can be used for such subjects. The multimedia format of these modules means that they can be used by teachers either independently or in small self-study groups – even in isolated

locations – thus avoiding traditional barriers of access to training and new information. This material includes a substantial section on the Earth Charter and also suggests ways to be involved in the Earth Charter process. It is available at: http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/

A Study Manual of Reflection for Action, USA and Italy

T*he Earth Charter: A Study Book of Reflection for Action* is a handbook of over 100 pages, offering an overview and background of the Earth Charter process and principles. It was co-authored by Elisabeth Ferrero and Joe Holland, from St. Thomas University, Florida, USA. In February 2003, Pax Romana announced the publication of the Italian version of the book. The book was also published in Portuguese by the Paulo Freire Institute in 2004 and presented at the Education Forum in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The English version is available via the Earth Charter web-site.

Earth Charter UNESCO CD and School Kit

Launched in 2003, this project has advanced considerably in 2004 under the leadership of *Pour la Terre* and in close collaboration with the Secretariat. The concept is for the production of a CD, geared toward children aged 5 to 13, with Earth Charter related songs performed by major local and independent artists. Each CD will contain at least 20 songs. The product is to be freely distributed and made available via Internet to educational facilities throughout the world by UNESCO, WWF and the Earth Charter Initiative.

This CD aims to be a teaching tool helping with the task of educating for sustainable development using the Earth Charter. An accompanying school kit will serve as a bridge between the songs and the Charter's principles, suggesting practical activities and applications. The resources should be ready by June 2005.

"Where We All Belong" CD by Raffi, Canada

In the summer of 2003, Raffi, a famous Canadian children's troubadour, launched a music CD inspired by the Earth Charter. *Where We All Belong* invokes the power of music to help promote the Earth Charter message. It contains three songs inviting people to celebrate life. The songs convey an inclusive vision of the Earth as an abundant home, "a circle where we all belong." It offers an opportunity for diverse groups to share the Earth Charter with their membership and is being used in several different educational spheres, from elementary schools in the Balearic Islands, Spain to St. Thomas University, USA.

Earth Charter CD-Rom, Italy

In late 2003, a new version of this Italian Earth Charter CD-Rom was produced by the Italian-based organization called Pronatura with financial support from the government of the Lazio Region and the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Environment. This Earth Charter CD-Rom is intended to serve as an educational resource and to raise awareness of the notion of sustainable development. It has been

distributed in 20,000 schools of Lazio, mainly in Rome, with the support from the Italian Ministry of Environment. The CD-Rom contains the text of the Earth Charter, its background history and supporting documents. For more information, please see http://www.cartadellaterra.it

Earth Charter Publications
Over the last five years, a number of publications specifically on the Earth Charter have been produced. For example, the book *Terra América*, published in Brazil in 2003, was inspired and guided by the Earth Charter. Many other publications with a substantial section on the Charter have also been put together. Additionally, the World Resources Institute report for 2002-2004 features several case studies, including one on the Earth Charter. You may find a more complete list of publications with references to the Earth Charter in Chapter XI of this report.

Section Conclusions
The period from 2002-2004 was significant for the Earth Charter education programme in the sense that despite limited resources, the programme was able to address many of the critical needs of educators working with the Charter. Lobbying on the part of the Secretariat resulted in the UNESCO resolution on the Earth Charter which also helped tremendously in generating the political climate necessary to facilitate the educational usage of the Charter.

The partners' meeting in Urbino, the resulting Plan of Action, the second Online Forum, as well as frequent e-mail communication helped generate a sense of coordination and focus amongst educators working with the Charter. Direct communication channels were established and the Earth Charter website became a dynamic tool, helping to share new resources.

This being said, the Initiative had been unsuccessful in its efforts to fundraise for the programme and consequently many potential projects outlined by partners were not able to move forward. Another shortcoming was that e-mail and web-based communication leaves behind those on the other side of the digital divide.

D) Educational Activities 2000 – 2005

"Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that sounds abstract – sustainable development – and turn it into reality for all the world's people."
Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General

Introduction
Over the past five years, the Earth Charter has been endorsed and utilized by educators around the world in various settings including schools, institutions of higher education, community, and professional development organizations. Primary and secondary school teachers have found the Earth Charter an inspiring vehicle for engaging students to think

positively and creatively about their futures. University educators have found the Earth Charter a useful resource in courses on ethics, the environment, social justice, sustainable development, globalisation, peace education and international relations. Community educators have found that the Earth Charter can raise people's awareness of the global challenges we face, and assist them in evaluating their own situation to decide on positive courses of action. Undoubtedly, all these different groups have found that the Earth Charter explains the abstract concept of sustainable development by offering concrete principles around which an educational programme can be constructed.

This section of the education chapter offers a number of brief examples of how the Earth Charter is being implemented in different educational settings around the world. These represent a small sample of the many cases of the Earth Charter in action. The Earth Charter is actually being used as an educational resource by so many organizations in varied settings that we are not able to keep track of its usage and there are many cases that we are not aware of. The examples below therefore are illustrative and do not constitute an exhaustive list.

1) Primary and Secondary Education

Case 1: Education for Peace and Cooperation, SPAIN
Guillem Ramis was an elementary-school teacher on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca, Spain for most of his life. Over the years, he saw that the Island's ethnic composition was changing, due to increasing immigration. He noticed racism and growing xenophobia and realized that there was a need for "multicultural education." When he came upon the Earth Charter, he felt it was a blueprint to address these issues, as well as many more.

Guillem initially worked on a children's adaptation of the Earth Charter in order to make the language accessible to his young learners. He coordinated several translations of the adaptation, helped by foreign immigrants in Mallorca. The children's adaptations of the Earth Charter became the starting point for a number of activities for his class. His work attracted the attention of the Ministry of Education of the Balearic Islands, which gave him a position to set up the "Vivim Plegats" (*Living Together*) programme in the year 2000. Under his guidance, there are about 70 schools in the Baleric Islands that have incorporated this multicultural education philosophy based upon the Earth Charter.

As part of the Vivim Plegats programme, a multicultural team visited the schools regularly and gave performances about their cultures, so children learnt about life in different immigrant communities and other countries. They reflected the multicultural nature of the society, the challenges that different groups experience on the islands, and the political and cultural situation in the world. The programme encouraged inter-school collaboration and exchanges with schools in other countries. Schools also involved the community, from parent participation to cultural performances, exhibitions and essay competitions. Even though a change in government has meant that the programme is no longer supported by the government, the participating schools continue their commitment to the vision of the programme.

An 11-page detailed description of the Vivim Plegats programme can be found in the Earth Charter Education Database along with Earth Charter adaptations for youth and children.

Case 2: Secondary School Experience in Aguascalientes, MEXICO

'*Educating for a sustainable development with the Earth Charter*' is a programme that was initiated and is being carried out by two teachers, Gina Ramírez and Ana Lilia Martínez, in the Secondary General School NO. 15 of Aguascalientes.

They first put together a curricular proposal using the main principles of the Earth Charter, proposing to stimulate a change in attitude in the students and school community. The goal was to turn teachers, students, and school staff into agents for change, with a deep sense of caring for Earth and the larger living world. The proposal was accepted by the school board.

It was agreed that engaging the whole school community was very important in order to ensure an integrated process of change and have the whole school committed to the Earth Charter vision. Therefore, before the 2002 school year began, the teachers, administration and support personnel participated in a workshop about the Earth Charter, its history, its content, and how it related to their work. The teachers were encouraged to start relating their lesson topics with the principles of the Earth Charter.

The more the students became aware of the Earth Charter, the easier it was for teachers to make linkages between Earth Charter principles and class topics. This process helped students acquire and consolidate knowledge, abilities, attitudes and values needed for a responsible relationship with the environment. Subsequently, both teachers and students adopted an active and participatory role in working towards solutions to the problems that might affect their community.

Given the success of this Earth Charter-based education programme, the founding teachers have planned to share their experience and spread the Charter and their methodology to other schools in the Morelia and Zacatecas regions in Mexico.

Case 3: The Brink Expedition, AUSTRALIA

The Brink Expedition, an Australian initiative, began in May 2003 and will be finished during 2006. The expedition is travelling through 30 countries using human and natural elements. The aim of the Brink Expedition is to bring social and environmental issues into mainstream awareness – through technology (internet), media (radio, documentary), schools (curriculum) and sport (cricket).

The Brink Curriculum covers nine "Hotspots", or issues of social and environmental concern. Each of these hotspots carefully links back to the relevant Principles of the Earth Charter. The very first Curriculum Module - "The Brink Expedition and the Earth Charter" explores the Earth Charter and explains how the expedition itself is an example of the Earth Charter in action. The other Hotspots include:

- Ocean Care, Global Warming;
- Indigenous peoples of the Americas;
- Understanding Cultures;
- Fairer Trade;
- Endangered Species;
- Disappearing Forests; and
- Indigenous Australians.

When the Brink Expedition team visits a community, they communicate the message of the Earth Charter and spend time in schools to discuss the Earth Charter and the Brink hotspots. All schools registering with the Brink School Room receive a School Pack, containing the Earth Charter, a children's adaptation of the Earth Charter and the UNESCO CD-Rom *Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future* as well as other Brink materials. The School Room of the Brink website currently includes 65 schools from Australia, USA, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Spain and Sweden.

The story of the Brink Expedition has made its way onto television, radio and newspapers in Australia, Argentina, Chile and Spain. People who would not necessarily be aware of or concerned about social and environmental issues are beginning to take notice because they have been attracted to the adventure of the Expedition itself. Having already gained the support of the Education Department in Queensland, Australia, the Brink Organisation is working towards developing relationships with educational institutions across Australia and around the world, in order to shift education for sustainability into mainstream curriculum.

Case 4: Bringing the Earth Charter to Primary Schools, FRANCE

The Earth Charter has been utilized as a pedagogical instrument in the work of the French organization *Actions Pour Une Charte de la Terre*, which involves schools in different regions of France. In 2000, it disseminated the Earth Charter to primary schools which inspired drawings by children which were then exhibited at the Regional House of the Environment. In addition, they produced a book of these illustrations. The organization has been collaborating with another French NGO, Les *Amis de la Terre* (Friends of the Earth) which introduced the Earth Charter to a federation of 750 organizations advancing ecological integrity in France.

Most recently, in 2003, the organization coordinated three-day workshops for 150 students and teachers in Paris. These learning workshops with primary school children were organized under the theme "I will do something for my planet." The workshops concluded with the decision to develop a pedagogical kit on the Earth Charter, produce an Earth Charter song, and create a French Earth Charter website.

In addition, *Foundation of France* agreed to provide seed funds for *Action Pour Une Charte de la Terre* to further their work linking education, art and the Earth Charter. It will allow the opening of a Centre of Education and the Protection of the Environment in Auvergne, France which will also play a role in teacher-training and the material development.

Case 5: Costa Rican Ministry of Public Education, COSTA RICA

Since 1999, even before the Earth Charter document was finalized, the Ministry of Public Education had been undertaking workshops with educators in primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of the Earth Charter Initiative and to promote its values and principles. In 2000, the Costa Rican national group, formed as a joint effort of the Museo del Nino, the University of Costa Rica, the National University, and the Long Distance Learning University, held a number of additional workshops for educators. One example was the workshop, "Explorations Inside and Out of the Classroom," held in September 2000, during the Second Congress of Science. Specifically designed for educators, the purpose of the Congress was to provide teachers with tools to help children define concrete actions to implement the Earth Charter.

In 2002, the Costa Rican Ministry of Education included the Earth Charter into the transversal curriculum themes for primary and secondary schools under the "Environmental Culture for Sustainable Development" effort. This effort to integrate the core values of the Earth Charter into mainstream curriculum on a national level, led by the Ministry in consultation with key stakeholders, is a model example of how the Earth Charter can be a catalyst for curricular reform.

As the Secretariat is located in Costa Rica, there is special interest to use the example of the Costa Rican educational system as a model of what could be replicated in other countries. Accordingly, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Costa Rican Ministry of Education,

The Costa Rican National University and the Ministry of Environment has produced educational materials based on the Earth Charter for primary and secondary schools.

2) Higher Education

Case 1: University for Peace, COSTA RICA
The University for Peace (UPEACE) was established in 1980 "with a clear determination to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace." From its headquarters in Costa Rica, UPEACE carries out peace education and research.

The "Introduction to Peace Studies" course, part of the core curriculum of the University, introduces students to the field of peace studies as an integrated, interdisciplinary area of research. As part of that course, a 3-hour session is devoted to the Earth Charter with the goal of introducing it as a document, a process, and a tool. In 2002, the Earth Charter Secretariat collaborated with UPEACE professors in putting together this class and offering specific exercises that engaged students in using the Earth Charter as an instrument or a catalyst for multi-sectoral, cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue on global ethics. The class was repeated in 2003 and has been included in the syllabus for future years.

In another important initiative at UPEACE, the Earth Charter has been used as a reference for the development of a Master's Degree programme in Peace Education with a focus on training education policy makers and teachers. The Master's programme, first launched in 2004, is geared to professionals in formal education who are working or would be interested in working in the development of peace education programs, particularly in the context of countries and regions experiencing conflict and development challenges. The preamble of the Earth Charter was used to articulate the learning goals of the programme. The Earth Charter is also incorporated explicitly as an important topic in one of the programme's courses entitled "Sustainable Development Education."

Case 2: Michigan State University, USA
In spring 2002, Professors Terry Link and Laurie Thorp of the Department of Resource Development, taught a course entitled *"Earth Charter: Pathway to a Sustainable Future?"* This course focused on the Earth Charter document as a vehicle for personal, institutional, community, national and global transformation. The professors designed the course as an alternative model for students, both in terms of pedagogical approach and learning assessment.

The class met twice a week for 80 minutes. In the first session of the week a featured speaker or group of speakers addressed a specific principle of the Earth Charter and was asked to provide short recommended readings. The second session was a discussion based upon the issues covered in the first session. Each student was required to participate in a semester-long project of engagement with the Earth Charter and their community. The project was documented through the compilation of a praxis portfolio.

Both the 5-page syllabus and course review (which details course design, evaluation and operation) are available on the Tertiary Education section of the Earth Charter Education Database at http://www.earthcharter.org/resources

Case 3: University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, INTERNATIONAL
The mission of the association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF) is to make sustainability a major focus of teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities worldwide. ULSF uses the Earth Charter as a key document in its programmes and partners with the Earth Charter Initiative on a range of activities.

ULSF is also a partner of the Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership (GHESP), an effort to mobilize higher education institutions to support sustainable development teaching. The four partner organizations are ULSF, COPERNICUS-Campus, The International Association of Universities (IAU), and UNESCO.
Together the partners represent over 1000 universities committed to making sustainability a central focus of their teaching and institutional practice. From its founding, GHESP has used the Earth Charter as an inspiration and framework for its programmatic planning and is developing resource materials for teaching sustainable development in higher education of which the Earth Charter plays a central role. For more information, please see http://www.ulsf.org

Case 4: Florida Gulf Coast University, USA
The Earth Charter has been adopted in several courses and programmes at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). "The University Colloquium: A Sustainable Future," for example uses the Earth Charter. This course is a graduation requirement in all five colleges of the University.

The Charter is also used in English composition classes and in the Learning Academy – an academic community-building programme for new students. Professor James Wohlpart relies on the Earth Charter when he introduces sustainability as an organizing principle into his English courses. The undergraduate programme in English was revised to include an emphasis on humans' relationship to the environment, a focus that will also be key to the new Master's programme in English. Students in these courses are asked to consider ways in which culture creates narratives that provide meaning in life and the way in which sustainability functions as a twenty-first century narrative. In an environmental literature course taught by Professors Wohlpart and Peter Blaze Corcoran, students are introduced to the Earth Charter as a new approach to global ethics and sustainability. In Professor Corcoran's environmental education course, the Earth Charter is the focus of education for sustainable development and is being used as inspiration in reconceptualizing environmental education.

In late 2003, FGCU received the approval to establish a Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. The Earth Charter collaborates with the Secretariat in Costa Rica on specific projects.

Case 5: Harvard University, USA
In August 2004, the Earth Charter Secretariat invited Dr. Fernando Reimers, professor at Harvard's Graduate School of Education, to learn about the Earth Charter Initiative.

Dr. Reimers, who is also the Director of the International Education Policy Programme, decided to include the Earth Charter in his introductory course titled, '*Education Policy Analysis and Research in Developing Countries'*. He taught it in 2004 and it is now part of the syllabus for future years.

Case 6: Federal University of Mato Grosso, BRAZIL
The Federal University of Mato Grosso in Brazil has been using the Earth Charter in a number of different areas. In November 2003, the University organized a seminar on Environmental Education involving over 500 participants with the Earth Charter as a central document and theme. The event, which took place in Mato Grosso from 6 to 8 November, was televised throughout Brazil.

The University has developed formative courses for public schools teachers to explore implementation of the Earth Charter within school curricula and political and pedagogical projects. The State Secretariat of Education of Mato Grosso collaborates with the University working towards building new socio-cultural paradigms of behaviour that reaffirm the principles of sustainable development. They have used the Charter in various regional seminars and meetings, teacher training courses, and in community education.

Case 7: Saint Thomas University, USA
Two-thirds of all ethics courses taught at St. Thomas include the Earth Charter as a required theme and reading. In Professor Ferrero's classes, students apply Earth Charter principles by doing organic gardening and documenting their experiences and reflections via journals, reflection papers, etc. In 2003, the University partnered with a local NGO, Florida Yards Neighbours, in a field course involving students and community residents in organic gardening and zero landscaping. According to the organizers, the project was successful and will be repeated every spring semester. Beyond multimedia presentations of their work, students are also asked to reflect on the content of the Earth Charter as part of the course.

Case 8: Western Michigan University, USA
Dr. Harold Glasser, Professor of Environmental Studies, has used the Earth Charter in his "Environment, Technology, and Values" class. Students are asked to evaluate and critique the document and carefully review each of the sixteen principles. They are asked to consider the following questions: Is the Earth Charter interesting and engaging? Does it encourage you to read on? Comment on whether you agree or disagree with each principle and why. Explain your position. In your view, do the principles do an adequate and effective job of outlining a path for a "sustainable global society"? Why or why not? What would you change to make a more compelling case? Comment on the "Preamble," the "Principles," and "The Way Forward." How relevant do you feel the Earth Charter is as a guide to public policy?

Case 9: Hendrix College, Arkansas, USA

Dr. Jay McDaniel, professor of religion, has used the Earth Charter in a course called "State of the World," which satisfies a General Education requirement called "Global Challenges" at Hendrix. The syllabus states that "the purpose of this course is to enable you to consider 'the big picture' of the state of the world and your own place in making a constructive difference in the world." McDaniel suggests that the Earth Charter's preamble adequately assesses the state of the world and its principles capture the best hopes for the future. McDaniel has also used the Earth Charter in a course on Buddhism in the context of dealing with socially engaged Buddhism; and in a course called "Religion, Animals, and Earth," suggesting that it offers guidelines for affirming animal welfare, environmental responsibility, and human well-being.

Case 10: Villanova University, Pennsylvania, USA

Professor Ted Nunez incorporated the Earth Charter into an undergraduate introductory ethics course at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. He introduces the Earth Charter after the class studies the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and couples it with a discussion of three sustainable development policy agendas to show students what the Charter might look like in practice.

Taking the Earth Charter as an educational and organizational tool, the students work in groups of two to consider the Charter within the context of Neo-Liberal, Ecological Modernization, and Globalization From Below policy agendas. Although some students always resist the Earth Charter, arguing that it is too idealistic and vague, Ted has experienced a generally positive response when he asks students if they would sign the Earth Charter, and what lifestyle changes they would be willing to make if they did.

In addition to his classes, Ted plans to have an Earth Charter table as part of Villanova's Earth Day events. His hope is to involve his students, who will by then be familiar with the Earth Charter, in education and outreach to the campus.

Case 11: Yeravan University, ARMENIA

The Earth Charter has been the theme of seminars and workshops and is being used as an educational instrument at Yeravan University. An Earth Charter booklet in Armenian, English, and Russian was published and distributed at the National Earth Charter Forum, in seminars and workshops held in rural areas of Armenia, and through national libraries. Related Earth Charter materials are also included (in Armenian) in the book *Towards Sustainable Development of Armenia*, published in September 1999.

In this country, which has lived with a history of genocide and repression, the new regime is embracing the roadmap for democracy and peace offered by the Earth Charter. Both the ASHD and Yeravan University are looking to expand their implementation of the Earth Charter to reach all sectors of society.

3) Nonformal Education

Case 1: The Paulo Freire Institute, BRASIL
The Paulo Freire Institute (IPF) recognizes the Charter's potential as a powerful tool to inspire positive change in individuals and communities. In its last 10 years of involvement in the Earth Charter movement, IPF organized and participated in many national and international gatherings to promote the Earth Charter's values and developed a new eco-pedagogy based on the Earth Charter.

In the IPF "JOVemPAZ" project (the Youth Peace Project), social educators are trained to generate school and community activities that focus on the development of a culture of peace and sustainability. The Earth Charter serves as a key element in this training, to encourage reflection on how a change in lifestyle can contribute to social change and the common good. In 2002- 2003, over 200 educators were trained through this project in three regions of Sao Paulo.

The Citizen School Project which involves some 150 schools in Sao Paulo, works to develop and improve relationships among members of the school community—parents, teachers, students and administrators. The project invites schools to develop democratic management practices including participatory development and evaluation of the school curriculum. Schools are invited and conducted to utilize the Earth Charter as a project guide.

In IPF's literacy projects, the Earth Charter is utilized as a document to teach sustainability. "It is useful not only for environmental education but as a guide to all our curricula," says Moacir Gadotti, Director-General of IPF.

Case 2: Earth Scouts, USA
Organized by the Institute for Ethics and Meaning, the Earth Scouts was conceived of in 2003 as an outgrowth of the Earth Charter Community Summits hosted in the U.S. It is open to all youth and adults.

The mission of the Earth Scouts is to empower youth to "change the world one fun badge at a time," through learning about the Earth Charter and participating in fun activities that will benefit themselves and the Earth community.

"Trailblazer" groups are developing programme and badge templates for children and youth from ages 3 to 13. Similar to other scouting organizations, Earth Scouts will be working towards earning badges. In each age group, there is one badge for each Earth Charter principle. Badges prescribe specific steps for youth to follow. Youth will be given age-appropriate guidance and support in designing their own requirements for fulfilling the badge steps.

The process of earning a badge is based on the 'Learn, Show, Do' model often used in cooperative learning environments. First, the scout will learn the principle through research,

answering guided questions, interviews, field trips, etc. Second, the scout will demonstrate his or her knowledge of the principle by sharing it with their Earth Scout group. Finally, the scout will participate in an activity that exemplifies the principle.

Case 3: NAIA (Nucleus of Friends of the Childhood and Adolescence), BRAZIL
NAIA was formed by teachers and popular educators in formal education who were looking for ways to organize alternative educational spaces to address themes not normally addressed in formal education. In that search for an educational space for liberation, reflection, and action, they found in the Earth Charter a document containing the fundamental values in the formation of eco-citizens, who respect themselves, others and the environment. With that, they hosted a 3000-person event within the World Education Forum, entitled "Living Together: to Know and to Live the Earth Charter" held in January 2003 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

NAIA works with the Earth Charter to allow children to have a voice in their own future through proposing actions to be accomplished in schools and communities and global events related to the environment, human rights and ethical values. The goal is to help foster attitudes, habits and related values for a sustainable and peaceful global society.

In addition, and for the second consecutive year, NAIA organized a parallel event to the 2003 World Social Forum, entitled 'FórumZINHO' (Forum for Children). The event was marked by the free distribution of an illustrated booklet with an adaptation in Portuguese of the Earth Charter for Children, developed by NAIA. This booklet was developed to offer key Earth Charter messages to children. NAIA plans to carry on its ongoing contribution to raising of awareness in children and youth. For more information, please see:
http://www.forumzinho.org.br/

Case 4: Seeds of Change Exhibition, Soka Gakkai International, INT'L
Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is a lay Buddhist association headquartered in Japan with 12 million members in 185 countries and with a strong tradition of social engagement. It is also an NGO actively promoting peace, culture, environmental awareness and education. Its members are encouraged to contribute to their local communities and work for change.

In 2002, in collaboration with the Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat, SGI produced an Earth Charter exhibition entitled "Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and Human Potential," which was first launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The exhibition describes the need for sustainable development and introduces the positive vision of the Earth Charter. It presents individual experiences from India, Costa Rica and Kenya, showing how personal commitment can make a difference when acting to solve local environmental problems such as deforestation and water shortage. The exhibition highlights the Earth Charter as a "map" showing the way towards a sustainable lifestyle.

During the Johannesburg Summit, the video "A Quiet Revolution" complemented the exhibition strengthening the message that "empowered individuals can change the world." The video was later broadcast internationally by National Geographic. Since then, SGI has taken the "Seeds of Change" exhibition and the video to different parts of the world in order to promote public awareness of the Earth Charter and to stimulate discussion about the Charter's educational potential. The exhibition and video were produced in many languages, so it can be mounted in regional venues where there is the greatest need for grassroots education and information activities. The English version of the exhibition can be downloaded from the Earth Charter website.

Case 5: Educational activities with the Earth Charter, MEXICO

Since 2000, the Network of Environmental Educators in Michoacan prioritised their activities around the Earth Charter. In 2002, the Network launched a yearlong workshop for teachers at the Centro Educativo Morelia. They also introduced the Earth Charter as a didactic tool at the University of Vasco de Quiroga and the University of Morelia. They have developed a youth and adult training programme utilizing the Earth Charter and a pilot project of companion materials and exercises. In 2003-2004, the Network continued their educational workshops and added a training class for Montessori teachers.

Case 6: Radio Netherlands, COSTA RICA

Radio programmes explaining the Earth Charter began transmission in November 2000. These programmes were created by Radio Netherlands and consisted of 10 radio magazines distributed in weekly 24-minute sessions. They addressed the specific values of the Charter and provided detailed explanation, stories and interviews. Programmes were transmitted to 552 radio stations in Latin America and the Caribbean through Radio Netherlands. Short stories for children are being developed using the same format.

In addition, the Culture for Peace Programme of UNESCO's Regional Office, Radio Netherlands, and the Earth Council produced a children's planner book for 2001, the main theme of which focused on values. It features the Earth Charter, as well as a portion of its text on the back of each month's display. Fifty thousand copies of the planner were produced and distributed to schools throughout Central America as part of UNESCO's Culture for Peace Programme. Also, in support of this initiative, Radio Netherlands produced a storybook for children entitled "Historias de un Planeta Cercano" (Stories of a Neighbor Planet) with an exercise folder enclosed. The storybook uses the Earth Charter values as its main theme.

Section Conclusion:

The brief cases presented here illustrate the universal appeal of the Earth Charter, from educators working with a literacy project in Brazil to a university professor in the U.S. These examples reinforce the flexibility of the Earth Charter as a framework for bringing sustainability to educational processes. With the beginning of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and a growing recognition of the need for more holistic, integrated educational approaches, the potential for the Earth Charter to be further used as an educational instrument is great.

Please note that the highlights cited above from the Earth Charter network represent organizational efforts of working with the Earth Charter. In addition to these, a number of dedicated individuals have been working with the Earth Charter as an educational tool.

E) Consolidating the Education Programme (2005)

2005 represents five years since the Earth Charter was launched and offers a good time to take stock of what has been accomplished, to try to evaluate the impact generated, and to plan for the future. 2005 is also the first year of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development which should offer the Earth Charter education programme a favorable climate to advance its activities.

1) Year of Consolidation

Here are some of the main consolidation activities planned for the year in addition to the ongoing programmatic priorities.

i. *Earth Charter+5 Event*: A major Earth Charter+5 event will be taking place from 7-9 November 2005 in Amsterdam. This event will gather most key Earth Charter education partners and will offer a platform for the educators in the network to share their experiences using the Earth Charter and for the Education Programme to set goals and priorities for the next five years.

ii. *Cases*: The first Education Online Forum had concluded: "*One of the most practical and useful courses of action is to document a set of working examples and case studies that illustrate how educators have made use of the Earth Charter.*" The Education Programme is ready to take the next step beyond sharing experiences and will be putting together a compilation of case studies. The challenge is one of gathering enough information for each case to put together a clear and compelling account of how the Earth Charter is being used and the impact it is having.

iii. *Content and Usage Analysis*: The education programme will also be conducting a content and usage analysis of the examples and materials on the Teaching Resource Database. The aim is to analyze how educators are using the Charter educationally and also point to possible gaps in usage.

iv. *Third Online Forum*: An Education Online Forum will be held in mid-2005 to share progress, plan activities for the Decade as well as to prepare for the education thematic area of the Earth Charter+5 meeting in November.

v. *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*: The Decade presents a unique opportunity for the Earth Charter. As mentioned previously, in 2003 UNESCO adopted a resolution affirming member states' intention "*to utilize the Earth Charter*

as an educational instrument, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development." The Secretariat will continue to explore ways to provide concrete follow-up to the resolution passed and to promote UNESCO's political recognition of the importance of the Charter in the context of the Decade.

2) Looking Ahead

The Earth Charter education programme faces a number of interrelated challenges in the coming years.

First, we cannot expect further significant advancement of the educational programme without injection of the financial resources required to fully implement projects, retain key staff, develop new materials and to refine existing ones, and for staff and collaborators to undertake the travel and discussions needed to engage with key educators and organizations around the world, particularly those from economically lesser-developed countries.

Second, the curricula of educational systems at all levels are increasingly "full." Teachers are straining to cover core materials, and there is ever-diminishing space for new, additional content, however noble the theme. For most classrooms, the solution lies in finding creative ways of integrating the Earth Charter message into existing educational programmes and activities. This is a non-trivial task.

Third, the education programme must continue to build upon the excellent connections that have been established with significant international organizations and initiatives, including UNESCO and the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the WSSD Partnership, and IUCN.

Finally, from a philosophical perspective, the educational programme must continue to unfold in ways that, while avoiding proselytizing, nonetheless reflect the reality that advancing the transition to more sustainable ways of living requires transformative education. To quote again the *Synthesis* report from the first online forum:

> "…*accelerating progress towards sustainability depends on rekindling more caring relationships between humans and the natural world and facilitating the creative exploration of more environmental and socially responsible forms of development. The Earth Charter provides a unique framework for developing educational programs and curriculum aimed at transformative learning for a more just, sustainable and peaceful world."*

Chapter VI
Sustainable Community Development

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with contributions from Rick Clugston, Gwendolyn Hallsmith, and Brendan Mackey

A) Sustainable Development and Local Communities

Local communities vary in size, composition, structure, and organization. A local community, as it is generally understood, includes but is not limited to the local government authority. Businesses, schools, and cultural activities are all important parts of local communities. The degree to which local communities meet our needs for economic security, a safe and healthy environment, a place where our voice can be heard in collective decision-making processes, and a sense of belonging will determine how sustainable they are.

From the perspective of sustainability, the local community level is an especially critical sphere of action. This is where individual citizens can be most involved and influential. Local government can organize public debates that define the values of the community and can mobilize change through open dialogue.[39] The core Earth Charter values of justice, sustainability, and peace must be implemented at the local community level if they are to be firmly established.

In the historic global action plan for sustainable development, *Agenda 21*, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recognized the potential of local communities to be a pivotal leverage point towards increasing sustainability, stating: "Because so many of the problems and solutions being addressed by *Agenda 21* have their roots in local activities, the participation and cooperation of local authorities will be a determining factor in fulfilling its objective." Local communities across the world are increasingly embracing their power to effect change and are engaging in sustainable development discussions and projects.

B) The Earth Charter and Local Communities

The Earth Charter Initiative has recognized the critical role that local communities play in moving humanity towards a more sustainable way of life. The Initiative has therefore put much effort into making the concept of sustainability accessible to local communities by developing ways they can use the Earth Charter principles in local government programmes, planning, and activities. The Initiative aims to have Earth Charter principles used as a guide for sustainability planning and assessment in local communities and has taken up the task of promoting awareness, endorsement, and implementation of the Earth Charter by local authorities. Much of the Earth Charter Initiative's work with local communities has been done with the support of key organizations such as the Earth Charter Community Summits,

[39] Glass, Steven M. "Sustainability and Local Government". Agyeman, Julian & Bob Evens, eds. *Local Environment.* Vol.7, No.1. Philadelphia: Carfax Publishing Taylor and Francis Group, February 2002.

Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Fundacion Deyna and ForoSoria 21 in Spain, Global Community Initiatives (GCI), and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

The Earth Charter can be used by local communities as a:

1. Awareness raising strategy,
2. Framework for action planning and community development
3. Guide for policy making and program initiatives,
4. An assessment tool to evaluate progress toward sustainability.

One of the most powerful initial movements in support of the Earth Charter developed when local community leaders in many countries conducted a massive educational campaign leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and led their cities and towns to endorse the Earth Charter. Hundreds of municipalities around the world, without any central coordination, endorsed the Earth Charter, which in turn led to thousands of local citizens becoming aware of it and to furthering its spread through civil society.

The international sustainable development movement, of which the Earth Charter Initiative is a part, has led many local communities to seek guidance regarding how to promote the transition to sustainability. The Earth Charter Initiative has met this need by producing in collaboration with WRI and GCI the Earth Charter Community Action Tool (EarthCAT), which involves a practical guidebook and software that can be used to assist local communities in moving towards sustainability, environmental protection, and a culture of peace. The guidebook helps communities define shared values and goals, develop action plans and new programs, and evaluate progress. The Earth Charter is effective as a framework for ethical and sustainable community development because it stimulates communities to redefine their values and priorities and to transform lifestyles and patterns of production and consumption.[40]. It provides communities with a multifaceted and comprehensive way of looking at both their current development patterns and their goals for the future.

Communities have used the Earth Charter as a guide for policy making and an assessment tool in several different ways. Local governments and communities have chosen to compare existing policies with the principles of the Earth Charter, to use the Earth Charter as the inspiration for new policies and activities, and to engage in debates and discussions stimulated by the Earth Charter. Local authorities such as the government of the City of Joondalup and the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority have found that using the Earth Charter as a reference check list for their policies has been effective in helping them to become more sustainable.

More detailed information on various specific Earth Charter Initiative local community projects is provided in what follows.

[40] Ibid.

C) Local Community Initiatives with the Earth Charter (2000-2005)

Type II Partnership

An Earth Charter Type II partnership was launched during the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 with the purpose to provide education and training for local leaders and communities regarding the fundamental principles of sustainable development and how to incorporate these principles into decision making processes. Following the launch, a partners meeting took place in July 2003 in Urbino, Italy, to develop a plan of action and clarify the roles of the different partners. ICLEI (The International Council on Local Environment Initiatives) and Lead International agreed to take a leadership role in developing training modules and facilitating workshops. However fundraising efforts fell short of expectations and the overall plan of action could not be implemented as designed. A few of the partners proceeded to implement their Type II commitments, but many lacked the resources to realize their ambitious goals.

Endorsement- Cities and Towns

Since 2000, nearly 400 towns and cities have endorsed the Earth Charter. These municipalities are located across the globe in Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Yugoslavia. Cities and towns such as North Vancouver, Canada; San Jose, Costa Rica; Urbino, Italy; Oslo, Norway; and Berkeley, California have all stated their support for the Earth Charter. In Spain alone, approximately 220 municipalities have endorsed the Earth Charter. Earth Charter endorsement has also come from all 99 city governments in Jordan.

In addition to individual municipalities, leagues and organizations of local community authorities have also endorsed the Earth Charter. The Florida League of Cities, which is a voluntary municipal league currently comprised of 404 of Florida's 408 municipalities and six charter counties, endorsed the Earth Charter in 2001. In the same year, the Earth Charter was also endorsed by the US Conference of Mayors, the official nonpartisan organization of the nation's 1,183 cities with populations over 30,000. In addition, the Catalonia Network of over 100 municipalities and the Association of 150 Towns of Soria, Spain have endorsed the Earth Charter.

ICLEI

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is an association of local authorities with a membership of approximately 350 local communities. It was launched in 1990 as the international environmental agency for local governments under the sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), and The Center for Innovative Diplomacy. ICLEI's mission is "to build and support a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental conditions through the cumulative impact of local actions."

ICLEI formally endorsed the Earth Charter during its tenth anniversary World Congress in 2000 in Wittenberg Germany, stating: *"We, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, endorse the Earth Charter. We commit our organization to the realization and promotion of its aims. We will seek to apply its principles in our programs, policies and other activities".* Since its endorsement, ICLEI has actively encouraged its membership to discuss and ratify the Earth Charter at public meetings and to use the document locally as an educational tool and guide to sustainable living. ICLEI has been instrumental in encouraging several local governments to endorse the Earth Charter.

For the Johannesburg Summit, ICLEI organized a Local Government Summit with the participation of over 700 mayors and local community leaders. At this Local Government event, a special session on "Just and Peaceful Communities", addressed the Earth Charter and served to share experiences in using it in the context of local communities. In addition, the Johannesburg Call and the Local Government Declaration to the WSSD, which are the outcomes of this event, both referenced the Earth Charter.

The Earth Charter Secretariat and ICLEI developed a plan for a collaborative project to implement the Type II partnership, which involved training of local authorities and leaders in using the Earth Charter as a sustainable community development tool. The lack of funds prevented it from being implemented.

Then in 2003 at the 3rd ICLEI World Congress held in Athens, Greece, over 400 mayors, local leaders and representatives were brought together under the theme "Local Action 21 and Local Governments Implementing Sustainable Development." In the session on "Principles that are essential to guide local action," ICLEI members addressed the need for a set of principles by which to measure performance. The Earth Charter and other instruments were considered when discussing the question "What principles fulfill these expectations, and how can they be underpinned by performance indicators?" The congress unanimously agreed that ICLEI should include the Earth Charter in its new Charter and continue to explore ways of combining its Local Agenda 21 efforts with the Earth Charter.

WRI, GCI, and EarthCAT

In late 2003, an Earth Charter Partnership for Sustainable Communities (ECPSC) was formed to further the development of necessary tools to help local communities use the Earth Charter. The partnership consisted of the World Resources Institute (WRI), the Earth Charter Initiative and Global Community Initiatives (GCI). These organizations have worked together to develop the Earth Charter Community Action Tool (EarthCAT) to provide communities with a step-by-step guide for how to engage their citizens in a long-term visioning process, to develop goals, targets and strategies to implement sustainable practices, and to measure their progress using indicators and reporting systems.

EarthCAT provides two complementary resources for communities to use when developing sustainability programs: online management support software available at www.earthcat.org and a workbook entitled, *Taking Action for Sustainability: The EarthCAT Guide to Community Development.* The software takes users through the major Earth Charter principles, one by one; helping them set specific goals, targets, strategies, and indicators guided by each principle. There is a built-in database, allowing users to see what goals other communities have set. The workbook is being developed as a practical guide for engaging a multi-stakeholder group in a comprehensive sustainable community planning initiative, based on successful revitalization and sustainability programs of communities in the United States, including Burlington, Vermont, and cities in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Africa.

An initial version of the *EarthCAT software* was released at the Sustainable Communities conference in Vermont, USA, in July 2004. A first draft of the accompanying workbook was completed in January 2005 and is available via the EarthCAT website listed above and the Global Community Initiatives website: www.global-community.org.

EarthCAT was designed to provide communities with a framework that permits them to identify a shared vision for the future, goals, targets, strategies, indicators, and specific action plans as they work towards a sustainable future. EarthCAT is an important resource for local communities that are looking for a clear methodology for becoming sustainable.

Currently, the workbook, as well as the online software, is being experimentally tested in several communities and will be further revised. The intention is to receive feedback from different groups on how to improve it and to engage municipal associations and their member communities in using these tools as part of an innovative and participatory local action program.

Already, there has been significant interest in EarthCAT as a planning methodology. The City of Newburgh, NY, USA, and the City of Calgary, Alberta in Canada are using the test edition of the workbook for two substantial long-range planning projects. Newburgh is in the process of creating their first Sustainable Master Plan, and Calgary has embarked on an ambitious 100 year plan for the city, called Imagine Calgary. Calgary has budgeted $2.5 million dollars for

the effort, and hired nine staff members to carry it out. The efforts that Calgary is making have also inspired the other communities in the province. Workshops have been delivered to the Calgary Regional Partnership, a coalition of municipalities that surround the city, and in July of 2005 the Alberta Municipal Association will deliver a workshop on EarthCAT to the President's Summit on Sustainable Communities, which will include many of the municipalities in the province of Alberta, and to the Community Development staff of the provincial government.

In addition to the individual city efforts:

- the U.S. National League of Cities offered the very first training workshop on EarthCAT to their members in January of 2005, which was provided by GCI.
- SALGA in South Africa worked with GCI to offer an EarthCAT workshop to the staff of Ekhurleni, a city outside of Johannesburg, in September of 2004.
- The International Federation for Housing and Planning invited Gwendolyn Hallsmith, the Executive Director of GCI, to give the keynote speech about EarthCAT at their international conference called "The Intentional City" in Portland, Oregon in May of 2005.
- Another promising development that is just beginning in North America is that Cinergy Corp., a major energy producer in the midwestern part of the United States, has expressed an interest in training their communities in the EarthCAT planning techniques. They deliver energy to Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky, so their service area represents a large group of municipal governments.

In addition to the North American efforts, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) is eager to train their member municipalities and provincial level representatives to use EarthCAT as a planning tool. They would also like to take a leadership role in introducing it to other African cities and towns. The Peruvian Committee of Mayors, the Institute for Community Development in Ukraine, the Ministry of Local Government in The Gambia, an NGO in Benin, and several cities in China are also interested in participating in the training and using EarthCAT to help build local capacity for planning and community development. The main barrier at this point for the communities and organizations in less affluent areas of the world is a lack of funding. The North American cities are paying for the training themselves; to date despite extensive fundraising efforts, we have not found a source of support for training communities in other regions.

Republic of Tatarstan, Kalmykia and Kabardino Balkaria - Russian Federation

In April 2001, the State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan in Russia voted unanimously to adopt the Earth Charter. During the Hague launch of the Earth Charter in June 2000, a special envoy of the President of Tatarstan, M. Shimiev, announced the readiness of the Republic of Tatarstan to implement the Earth Charter. Thus was born the Earth Charter project entitled "Tatarstan- a Territory for a Culture of Peace, Sustainable Development, and Tolerance."

During the last six months of 2000, Tatarstan with the help of the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity undertook a comprehensive review of the extent to which its policies and practices conformed to Earth Charter principles and how their compliance with these principles could be improved. In November 2000, a working meeting on the verification of the Earth Charter took place at the republican level. Earth Charter presentations were made to the State Parliament Committee on Environment in further preparation for the official presentation of the Earth Charter to the State Council in April 2001. A special workshop was also held following the endorsement of the Earth Charter. This workshop included the Tatarstan public, experts, and leaders of state government bodies. Its purpose was to further consider in detail the whole set of issues regarding the effective use of the Earth Charter as a guide for sustainable development. In Tatarstan, the Earth Charter was successful in helping to stimulate and guide discussion about what kind of future the Republic wanted for itself. The Earth Charter helped to serve as a framework for a new ideology of increased peace and sustainability in Tatarstan.

Following that and through similar processes, the Republic of Kalmykia endorsed the Earth Charter in October 2002 and the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria in April 2003. The purpose is not only to have them endorse the Earth Charter but go through a process of analyzing and understanding it in order to use it in policy making. Currently, work is underway to promote the Earth Charter in 11 regions of the Russian Federation, that are situated along the Volga river, where over half of the Russian population lives.

US Local Community Summits

In 2001 the Institute for Ethics & Meaning in Tampa organized the first Earth Charter Community Summits with the purpose to engage individuals and groups at the local level in learning about the Earth Charter and implementing its principles into their personal lives and community policies and practices. Since then Earth Charter Community Summits were held annually as grassroots efforts to bring people together to be inspired in making the Earth Charter's principles a reality in their lives and communities.

The annual Earth Charter Community Summits have been held simultaneously in a total of 47 cities across the US and a few international communities. The summits, celebrated simultaneously in different cities across the US and a few international communities, were connected via satellite broadcast so that participants could hear the words of keynote speakers from other cities and engage in a “round-robin” in which they shared their enthusiasm for the Earth Charter. This gave the participants the experience of being part of a national effort to use the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter Community Summits have been successful in informing, educating, and engaging people of diverse backgrounds through Earth Charter related festivities, music, art, speeches and dialogues.

Local summit organizers are volunteers who simply want to bring the Earth Charter to their home-towns. Many do not have organizing backgrounds but are guided by their passion for

the Earth Charter. The local organizers design the festivities and programs of the summits for their communities. In 2004 the Earth Charter USA Communities Initiatives (ECUSA-CI) has grown out of the Institute for Ethics & Meaning's work and has taken the lead in coordinating the summits and in facilitating an informal alliance of Summit cities that are implementing the EC's vision and principles.

The Summits reach beyond activists to educate the general public about the Earth Charter and to spark their engagement in local Earth Charter initiatives. Some of the initiatives that have come out of the Summits include educational workbooks and lesson plans for schools and the endorsement by University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, which led to a campus environmental audit guided by the Earth Charter. This initiative has generated projects to have the Earth Charter integrated into graduate school curriculum and the formation of a Student Organization in Business Ethics and Research in the University of New York in New Paltz. City endorsements include Seattle, Washington and the county of Ventura, California. Santa Barbara, CA. will use the Earth Charter as a guide for the re-localizing of food and energy.

Other local initiatives include Earth Scouts, a program for boys and girls ages 3 to 15 years of age founded on the principles of the Earth Charter with groups in 8 states. Tampa, Florida has launched the Earth Charter Community Indicators project in conjunction with the researcher from Harvard School of Public Health's Study on neighborhoods. The unique centerpiece of the project is the measurement of citizens' personal sense of connection and trust with others. Summit cities also used the Earth Charter as a guide for Voter Education in the last presidential election, in the mission statement of the Northwest Coalition for Educational Reform, and for a weekly television series, *Earth Charter Living,* being broadcast in 14 Earth Charter cities.

The Earth Charter Community Summit launch in 2001 featured 12 cities. The 2002 Summits were held in 24 cities in the US, including: Hartford, Connecticut; Boulder, Colorado; Tampa, Florida; and Honolulu, Hawaii. The 2003 summits, held in 33 cities, featured the international grassroots launch of "Where We All Belong", a song for the Earth Charter by internationally acclaimed children's singer and songwriter, Raffi. The 2004 community summits were held in 29 cities.

Vermont Town Meetings, USA

The Earth Charter Initiative inspired a campaign to put the Earth Charter on the agendas for the 2002 annual Town Meetings that convened in small, rural villages all over the state of Vermont. Vermont Town Meetings are famous for being very close to pure democracy. Every registered voter is invited to the meeting, and acts as part of the municipal legislature. The towns are required to send their budget and the agenda for the meeting to everyone in the town in advance of the annual gathering. During the meetings, issues ranging from expenditures on roads, fire engines, water, and social services to nuclear weapons production are debated and voted on.

The campaign to put the Earth Charter on the agenda for the 2002 Vermont Town Meetings was initiated by Gwendolyn Hallsmith, who was inspired by the adoption of the Earth Charter during the ICLEI Congress in Wittenberg, Germany. She enlisted campaigners in 30 towns in the State of Vermont, who obtained the signatures of five percent of the town's voters, the requirement for placing the Earth Charter on the agendas of the meetings. The local activists also initiated local educational campaigns to raise awareness of the Earth Charter, so that when all the citizens turned out to vote at Town Meeting, they were prepared.

Despite a well-organized opposition effort led by fundamentalists and hunters, the Earth Charter ultimately received a lot of support in Vermont. 23 of the 30 towns with the Earth Charter on their agendas voted to endorse the Charter, including Burlington, Vermont, the state's largest city, and Montpelier, Vermont, the state capitol.

To help the Vermont communities implement the Earth Charter principles once they had been adopted, Global Community Initiatives organized an international conference in Burlington, Vermont during the summer of 2004. Called Sustainable Communities 2004, over 400 people from 45 countries and 35 states and provinces attended the conference, including a delegation from the Earth Charter Initiative and representatives from the Vermont cities and towns who had endorsed the Earth Charter.

Åre, Sweden

Åre became the first municipality in Sweden to endorse the Earth Charter when the Municipal Executive Board took such decision during a meeting held on 2nd December 2002. Following public promotion of this commitment, the city worked to develop Earth Charter study material.

Joondalup, Australia

The city of Joondalup succeeded in applying the Earth Charter as part of the planning process for the 2000-2005 City of Joondalup Strategic Plan. Joondalup, located approximately 26 kilometers north of Western Australia's capital city of Perth, is the second largest local government authority in Western Australia. The city's strategic plan was developed with input from communities and other stakeholders, including councilors and staff. The Integrated Planning Framework provided staff with a clear role in achieving key results and enabled greater organizational and community alignment with the Strategic Plan. In this process, the Earth Charter assisted the city of Joondalup in incorporating sustainability principles into its Strategic Plan.

A way in which Joondalup utilized the Earth Charter in its strategic planning process was by comparing the Charter's principles with existing Council policies. This comparison showed that many council policies relate or correspond with principles in the Earth Charter. It highlighted an especially strong connection between the city's Environmental, Social, and Economic Sustainability policy (policy 2.6.4) and numerous Earth Charter principles. The comparison also found that existing Council policies tend to be specific and relatively narrow, in contrast to the broader scope of the Earth Charter Principles.

In addition to highlighting similarities between the Earth Charter and the policies of Joondalup, the comparison indicated that the city had no existing policy which related to either Earth Charter principle 9 or principle 16. The city of Joondalup was therefore able to recognize gaps in its policy in relation to both poverty alleviation (principle 9) and the promotion of a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace (principle 16).

From this experience, the city's Planning Unit considered the Earth Charter to be ideal for helping communities and organizations to establish and determine their strategic direction. The Unit found that the Earth Charter has practical applications as a comprehensive checklist for developing sustainability indicators, an educational tool for teaching and learning about sustainable practices, and an inspirational set of guiding principles in their community's activities. Joondalup won a state government award for sustainable development planning.

Melbourne, Australia

Melbourne, with a population of three million, incorporated the Earth Charter into its Strategic Plan, which envisions the city as thriving and sustainable by 2010. The city government undertook a comparative evaluation of their existing policy with the Earth Charter's main principles, finding the vision and many points in its Objectives Plan for 2010 to be consistent with the Earth Charter. The city government plans to explore opportunities to demonstrate their adoption of the Earth Charter principles through the Council's environmental programmes. The Mayor of Melbourne was selected to represent all major Australian cities at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and supported acknowledgement of the Earth Charter in the Local Authorities Summit resolution.

One key outcome of the City of Melbourne's process was the publication of *The Melbourne Principles,* which incorporate the principles of the Earth Charter and make it more accessible to municipal leaders. The Melbourne Principles were also adopted at the Local Government Summit in 2002, and have been particularly effective as a tool to introduce the Earth Charter in English-speaking countries like Canada.

Sanibel, Florida USA

The Earth Charter of Sanibel (ECOSanibel) is a non-profit group of local individuals and organizations inspired by the Earth Charter and committed to having it grounded in Sanibel's community activities and planning. In 2003 ECOSanibel began a series of Earth Charter Study Circles during the summer. It also organized a number of lectures and activities to promote the Earth Charter vision in the community; one example is the Sierra Club's Earth Day Festival. In October 2003, ECOSanibel organized their first off-island event, a regional Earth Charter Community Summit and Celebration, coinciding with the simultaneous local summits. ECOSanibel continues to be active in raising awareness on the Earth Charter and promoting the use of it by their local community.

The city government of Sanibel was one of the first U.S. cities to endorse the Earth Charter as a part of Earth Day celebrations. However it got in the midst of political controversies involving different views regarding the Earth Charter and also regarding the process of having it endorsed not being widely participatory. The city government went through a unique process of having to withdraw its endorsement due to some public pressure. Despite of that a group of commitment citizens continue to share the Earth Charter vision and actively promote it.

Toronto, Canada

The Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), after endorsing the Earth Charter in 2002, began a process of comparing the Earth Charter principles with existing TRCA policies. In this process, they:

1. Went through the Charter and identified the principles especially relevant to them.
2. Listed the identified principles and sub-principles and then, for each of them, came up with:
    a. An interpretation of the listed principle and commentary on its relevance
    b. Recommendations for how the principle could be reflected in or incorporated into the Authority's policies and programs.

This process helped TRCA to make its programmes and activities more sustainable and compatible with the Earth Charter. It also contributed to the comprehensive review undertaken by TRCA staff of the challenges and opportunities facing the TRCA in the decade ahead. The review took place between 2002 and 2003 and involved extensive consultations both internally and externally to assess strategic proposals and help prepare its strategic plan. Designing the strategic plan took into account a summary of consultations, assumptions about the future and an examination of the challenges to be faced in pursuit of the vision, values and principles of the TRCA (drawn largely from the Earth Charter). TRCA's strategic plan is called "The Living City."

Urbino, Italy

The City of Urbino, Italy officially endorsed the Earth Charter in May 2001. Urbino's entire town center has been declared a UNESCO world heritage site and the city is regarded by many people as an ideal balance between art, culture, the environment, and modern business. Before and after its endorsement of the Earth Charter, Urbino engaged in several sustainable development projects and supported both the Agenda 21 project and the "European Cities" Charter for Lasting and Sustainable development. According to Mayor Galuzzi, the "senses" of the town were "in tune with the principles expressed in the Earth Charter, even before we were aware of the document itself".

It was for this reason that Urbino was chosen as the setting for a prestigious international event: the presentation of the Earth Charter by Mikhail Gorbachev. The initiative took place under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. A

major outcome of this event was the formulation of the Urbino Declaration, a declaration of support for the Earth Charter Principles signed by a wide range of political, social, and cultural organizations and notable individuals.

Chile

The Instituto de Ecologia Politica has worked to disseminate the Earth Charter to schools and local communities throughout Chile in order to raise awareness and commitment to the Earth Charter principles. Its activities have included training workshops for community leaders on sustainable development and the principles that should guide communities towards a more sustainable future. As part of this process, the Institute created a method of Local Sustainability Certification (LSC). This voluntary certification process encourages communities to work toward a sustainable society, in which social justice, economic equity, ecological integrity and participatory democracy are addressed in a balanced way. Community progress is assessed against a set of predetermined standards. These standards are based on the principles of sustainability as expressed in the Earth Charter and a set of core LSC criteria. To date, LSC has been introduced to several communities, generating interest from both local authorities and communities. Canela and Tirúa were the first communities to be involved in the certification process.

Costa Rica

In March, 2000 the mayor of San José, joined by his staff, presented the results of the project "The Municipality of San José Towards Sustainability". This project involved the training of municipality staff on sustainability in practice, and the incorporated the Earth Charter vision as the basis of its work activities. Some 1800 employees of San José's municipality (involving police, administration, sanitation, infrastructure, and health departments), about 80% of the total workforce, participated in this process.

Over the six-month duration of the project, fifteen training sessions were held to define desirable strategies for implementing sustainable development. One major exercise gathered the opinions of participants regarding the moral attitudes they believe should be shared by the personnel of the city government on sustainable development. Seminar participants adopted a code of ethical behavior as their own version of the Earth Charter, based upon twenty-one desirable principles. Through this project, the City of San Jose made great strides in encouraging sustainable development and the adoption of a new, more ethical view of a shared future at the municipal level.

In addition, in May 2003, another project engaged Members of the Municipality of Santo Domingo of Heredia with the purpose to raise understanding on the sustainable development concept and its relationship with their community vision. This training project was initiated through collaboration between The Ministry of Environment, the Earth Charter Costa Rican Group, and the ICLEI local office. In this context, the Earth Charter was used to sensitize

participants to sustainability concerns and to stimulate their reflections on those values and principles that should guide the community towards a more sustainable future.

In this workshop, participants reflected on ideal guiding principles for their community and then examined topics related to local sustainable development. The work carried out in this workshop generated the identification of individual and group values that should be adopted by the community as a basis for efforts toward sustainable development. Complementing this work was an analysis of problems specific to the community and possible solutions and a reflection on the Earth Charter. A small booklet offering the results of this effort was published by the Ministry of Environment. The original intention was to follow up on this process with other members of the same community and also to form the community sustainability vision, however this second phase could not be carried out.

Jordan

In May 2002, the heads of Jordan's 99 municipalities jointly endorsed a declaration of support for the Earth Charter. The adoption of the Earth Charter by local municipalities was intended to promote an integrated and strategic plan in Jordan to advance sustainable development. This significant happening occurred under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma and was organized by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), together with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment, in cooperation with the General Corporation for Environmental Protection.

Kenya

The Green Belt Movement is a grassroots NGO that focuses on environmental conservation and community development. It was founded in 1997 by 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner professor Wangari Maathai. Although the Green Belt Movement is currently engaged in many projects, tree planting has always been its focal activity.

In 2000, the Green Belt Movement undertook the role of coordinating an Earth Charter process in Kenya. Through this project, the Green Belt Movement translated the Earth Charter into Kiswahili in order to make it more comprehensible to readers. The Green Belt Movement disseminated packets containing a questionnaire and the Earth Charter in both English and Kiswahili to 1,050 organizations, including: NGO's, development agencies, government authorities, schools, and religious groups. Through this process, the Green Belt Movement helped to bring the idea of sustainable development to local communities and authorities in a country where documents such as Agenda 21 are unfamiliar to many people.

Malaysia

In 2001, the Earth Charter Promotion Group was formed in Senlangor, Malaysia. The Earth Charter Promotion Group includes individuals actively involved in residents associations, political parties, NGOs and other community-based organizations The main activity of this group between 2001 and 2005 was promotion of the Earth Charter in order to raise awareness

of the document in Malaysia. The Earth Charter Promotion Group also engaged in projects to train local community leaders in the principles of the Earth Charter. The work of the Earth Charter Promotion Group was done through lectures and presentations on the Earth Charter, its history and content and the need to implement sustainable development policies at the local authority level. It also involved wide dissemination and group discussions about the Earth Charter with departmental heads of local governments.

Mexico

During the "First National Gathering of Ethics for Sustainability: Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter," held in Morelia, Michoacan in November 2003, the City Council in formal session endorsed the Earth Charter and expressed its intent to adhere to the Earth Charter principles and use the Earth Charter to raise citizen awareness of sustainability. This decision followed the local government's earlier decision to incorporate the Earth Charter into its Environment Education Programme and launch a publication for youth about the Earth Charter.

The municipality of Apatzingan, in Michoacán, implemented a programme called "Induction an Integral Management of Solid Waste for a Healthy Apatzingan," geared to youngsters and ecological groups from all high schools of the city. This programme was inspired by the Earth Charter and the workshop "Internalization of values and principles: Earth Charter" was offered by the Network of Environmental Educators Michoacán. Participants continued their involvement as environmental promoters in schools, acting as agents of change and raising awareness of an integrated approach to principles of sustainability.

To celebrate the endorsement of the Earth Charter by the Municipality of Mazatlán, the Instituto Cultural Occidente organized a series of activities and local radio programmes on Radio Cultura in November 2003. Activities involved primary and secondary school students and educators to reflect on ways Earth Charter principles can be implemented in their lives. Participating children and adults expressed enthusiasm for further collaboration to make the Earth Charter vision part of their community vision of the future. In one of the radio interviews, a member of the ecological commission of the State Congress committed himself to bringing the Earth Charter before the Chamber and requesting endorsement on behalf of Congress. A mobile Earth Charter exhibition was prepared with background information and pictures, facts about the consultation process, the Earth Charter in different languages, and poems by youth.

Papua, New Guinea

The 870 tribes of Papua New Guinea (PNG) used the Earth Charter as a model to create their Tribal Charter through a public consultation process similar to the drafting process of the Earth Charter. The Tribal Charter describes historical and natural challenges faced by PNG tribes and how these challenges are linked to those faced by all tribes globally. It outlines fundamental principles and offers suggestions for forging partnerships with other stakeholders to develop and implement sustainable, peaceful and equitable practices in

managing natural resources for long-term survival. The "Mama Graun Tribal Charter" is an example of what a community or group can achieve with the Earth Charter as an inspiration vision.

Fundacion Deyna, Spain

The Foundation for Development and Nature (DEYNA) has been key to the dissemination and promotion of the Earth Charter through municipalities in Spain. DEYNA is an NGO that, since its creation in 1992, has promoted and shared guidance with local authorities on implementing Local Agenda 21. DEYNA's activities focus primarily on the province of Soria- but include other areas of Spain- to guide local communities in the process of translating the theory of sustainable development into practice, in accordance with participatory democracy and by making the public aware and sensitive to ecoethics.

DEYNA's project to widely disseminate Earth Charter materials to local authorities took place between 2002 and 2003, in close collaboration with Fundacion Biodiversidad and Fundacion Cultura de Paz. Through this project, 8,104 city governments received copies of the Earth Charter. As a result, approximately 220 municipalities in Spain have endorsed the Earth Charter. A number of these municipalities have been exploring ways to incorporate the Earth Charter in their work, particularly in the Province of Soria following endorsement of the Earth Charter by the Association of Municipalities of the Soria Province.

Forum Soria 21, Spain

Since March 2001, Forum Soria 21 has undertaken activities to make the Province of Soria an example of sustainable development implemented at the local level. With the support of the Mayor of Soria, Forum Soria 21 encouraged public authorities and the private sector toward long-term commitment to the Earth Charter principles and implementation of a local Agenda 21 programme.

In March 2003, Forum Soria 21 organized its first meeting to address "Social and Ethical Responsibility of Private Companies Towards Sustainable Development." This event brought together key representatives from the private sector in Spain and served as an opportunity for key actors to reiterate their commitment to join forces in making the Soria Province a world model for implementing sustainable development at the local level. Its concluding declaration states, "the participants endorse the Earth Charter and have committed to promote a collaborative effort between the public and the private sector to implement and promote the principles of the Earth Charter." With that, eighteen private companies that belong to the Club of Sustainability Excellence have jointly expressed their commitment to the Earth Charter. Following that Telefonica, a main telephone company, has added the Earth Charter to their website and to one of their communications with their clients.

ITAIPU Hydroelectric Power Plant, BRAZIL

The ITAIPU Hydroelectric Power Plant, one of the largest power generators in the world, is a bi-national enterprise jointly developed by the governments of Brazil and Paraguay. ITAIPU is a public-sector body committed to a high level of social engagement in the Cuenca of Paraná region, where it operates.

Under the leadership of Nelton Friedrich, ITAIPU has used the Earth Charter as a valuable ethical framework, an educational tool, and as the common thread linking the 70 or more individual projects that are part of the local community programme *Cultivando Agua Buena* (Cultivating Good Water), which began in 2003. The projects, of a socio-economic benefit to the local population, are staffed by more that 150 people and account for a budget of US$ 7.5 million annually. According to Friedrich, the ethical framework of the Earth Charter provides a counterbalance to the utilitarian culture that is becoming more prevalent over time.

The education component of the programme seeks to bring the notion of sustainable development to the communities surrounding this public enterprise and includes sharing documents such as Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals, but mainly the Earth Charter. ITAIPU has printed more that 6,000 copies of the Earth Charter in Portuguese in its efforts to disseminate the document. It has also included the Charter in a number of other publications, including its Newsletter. To date, 29 municipalities, 145 NGOs, and 318 schools representing over 88,000 students, have been involved in ITAIPU's educational work with the Earth Charter. According to Friedrich, "All participants get the Earth Charter."

> The Earth Charter fully guides the "Cultivating good water" programme, to the point that the goals and projects outlined in the strategic plan of the programme till 2008, reflect the vision of the Earth Charter. Therefore Itaipu effort seeks not only to disseminate and promote the Earth Charter but on an institutional and rather on a regional movement that has the objective to change the traditional paradigm to a model that is sustainable, based on the Earth Charter.

D) Local Communities Advisory Committee

In early 2003, the Earth Charter Secretariat initiated an effort to form an advisory committee for the Earth Charter Local Communities Programme. The group, named the Earth Charter Local Communities Advisory Committee, was comprised of people from around the world who had been involved either in the Earth Charter Initiative and/or in work with local communities. The group completed its initial task of clarifying the programme's mission and priority actions. The committee stated that the mission of the local community programme should be to further encourage the endorsement and implementation of the Earth Charter at the local community level and that the programme's priority actions should be creating and disseminating tools and resources to assist local communities in this work. The committee was initially successful, but its work was discontinued after a year due to a lack of human and

financial resources. The members of the Local Communities Advisory Committee include Rajen Awotar (Mauritius Island), Abelardo Brenes (Costa Rica), Mateo Castillo (Mexico), George Cheriyan (India), Jelel Ezzine (Tunisia), Massimo Galuzzi (Italy), John Goldsmith (Australia), Gwendolyn Hallsmith (USA), Lisa King (Canada), Gejza Legen (Slovakia), Gathuru Mburu (Kenya), Slobadan Milutinovic (Yugoslavia), Jan Roberts (USA), Lorena San Ramon (Costa Rica), and Kangzheng Zhang (China).

E) Recommendations and Conclusions

- Action at the local community level is perhaps the most effective way to achieve the goals of the Earth Charter. A concerted effort at the local level to implement the principles of the Charter could have a lasting, meaningful impact. However, it will require the commitment of significant resources to continue and expand the Earth Charter Initiative's local community program.

- Ideally the Initiative should reactivate and reconstitute the Local Communities Advisory Committee so that Earth Charter Initiative staff and the supporting organizations like GCI and ICLEI can receive guidance and support from experts in the field. Its major focus should be to develop an Earth Charter sustainable community visioning and implementation process. This would be based on a comprehensive study of efforts to utilize the Earth Charter in a variety of community settings, on best practices and lessons learned from the breadth of experience described above.

- The EarthCAT workbook, training program, and software could be very effective ways of helping local communities use the Earth Charter in their planning, policies, and programs. For EarthCAT to be effective, however, it needs to be adapted and translated for the different areas of the world that will use it – we recommend starting with the six U.N. languages. Each of these adaptations needs to have at least one project implemented with international support, so the changes and insights gained can be incorporated into the methodology and software for everyone's benefit. We have identified cities in Tunisia and Jordan (Arabic), China (Chinese), Benin and Senegal (French), South Africa (English/African), Ukraine (Russian/Ukrainian), and Peru and Ecuador (Spanish) who are interested in moving forward. The main obstacle at this point is that we do not have funding to continue this work anywhere except North America, where cities, towns, and companies are paying themselves for training and technical assistance so they can effectively use the tools we have developed.

- The cities and towns that have endorsed the Earth Charter are a ready market for Earth Charter planning and implementation support. Once the tools are developed, adapted, and translated, it will be easy to involve them in what has been designed as a self-directed process.

- If additional resources are available, it would be productive to collaborate further with ICLEI in the effort to assist its members in addressing the need for a set of ethical principles for sustainable development and indicators by which to measure progress towards sustainability.

- In order to be effective in operationalizing any Earth Charter Local Community programme it will require staff resources at the Secretariat and in the supporting organizations like ICLEI and GCI dedicated to advancing this programme. This takes dedicated funding, since all of these organizations are overworked and understaffed.

Another very promising way to disseminate the Earth Charter is through the existing networks of cities and towns. While it's true that over the short term, the Earth Charter Initiative Secretariat, ICLEI, and GCI will need staff and funding to continue the program, if their target audiences are the organizations that support training and technical assistance to municipal governments on the national, state, and regional level, rather than directly to local municipalities, then the promise of sustainable efforts that do not depend on long-term grant support can be realized. SALGA in South Africa, United Cities and Local Governments in Barcelona, the Peruvian Committee of Mayors, the U.S. National League of Cities, are all examples of these organizations.

Chapter VII
The Earth Charter Youth Initiative

Michael Slaby, Earth Charter Youth Initiative Coordinator
with contributions from Melanie Ashton, Dumisani Nyoni, and Renaud Richard

A) Introduction

Since its launch in the year 2000, the Earth Charter has been an inspiration and call to action for thousands of young people around the world. In addition, the drafting process was supported by youth activities in various countries. As a catalyst for these spontaneous activities, the Earth Charter Youth Initiative was created in 2000 as a network of youth organizations and individuals who share a common interest in the values of sustainable development as they are expressed in the Earth Charter. The Internet is used as the main means of communication and exchange of experience. Because the Youth Initiative has primarily depended on the enthusiasm of volunteers to fuel its activities, a lot of potential remains untapped. There are many more young people actually using the Earth Charter than those who are participating in the created network (such as Roots and Shoots, SGI, Earth Scouts etc.).

The ECYI was put together by a core-group of young people from different countries committed to the Earth Charter and active in bringing it to a larger number of young people worldwide. Individuals and groups who do not advocate hatred or violence can join the ECYI. The only criteria are actively promoting the Earth Charter locally and internationally. The aim of the ECYI is to have a cultural diverse network with a thorough understanding of the Earth Charter principles and values. To date, around 200 activists and youth organizations from more than 30 countries have joined the network and communicate through the e-group of youth@earthcharter.org

The objectives of the Youth Initiative are to:

- Work with youth organizations, networks and individuals to share the Earth Charter as a tool for promoting an ethic of justice, sustainability and peace.
- Take the mission and aims of the Earth Charter Initiative and make them alive, relevant and applicable to young people around the world.
- Ensure that youth play an active role in promoting the values and principles of the Earth Charter.

Another objective of the ECYI is to expand its network in order to help disseminate the Earth Charter. This is done through networking and workshops.

The following pages will highlight the main activities and achievements of the ECYI.

B) Structure of the ECYI and Assistance from the International Secretariat of the Earth Charter Initiative in Costa Rica

In 2000, it became apparent that the involvement of young people in the Earth Charter process had to be given greater attention and effort. A then 18-year-old volunteer from Zimbabwe, Dumisani Nyoni, was based at the Earth Charter Secretariat. Dumisani was tasked with developing a network of young people and organizations interested in working with and collaborating with the Earth Charter Initiative, and using the Earth Charter as a tool and guide in their work.

Using Internet technologies to reach out to thousands of young people and groups via the internet and email, information on the Earth Charter was sent out and an invitation made for young people to participate in the Earth Charter process globally and to seize the opportunity to ensure that youth were part of this historic movement. Many positive responses came through from young people all over the globe, inspired by the message of the Earth Charter and the promise of building a new platform for sustainability in the years to come based on a spirit of interconnectedness, global understand and a shift in our ethical commitment to a more just and sustainable world.

What were apparent from the onset of founding the Earth Charter Youth Initiative were three clear guiding principles:

- That we cannot have a global dialogue about the future without including and involving young people in a meaningful way;
- That youth, when given the space, can engage with global issues with as much passion and commitment as the older generation. The purpose of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative is to provide that space;
- That it is essential to develop tools and resources to facilitate youth activism around the issues which the Earth Charter highlights.

In the past 5 years, a lot of progress has been made on these grounds as the Earth Charter Youth Initiative has grown. Tangible results have been achieved in several countries around the world, where young people have taken on the challenge to participate in this global dialogue and to make the Earth Charter relevant to their own communities.

Initially, the Earth Charter Youth Initiative was a network of young people and organizations supported by a volunteer coordinator to integrate and use the Earth Charter in their programs and activities. It can at times be a challenge to find tangible and practical ways to make the Earth Charter relevant in every context The support of a youth coordinator was therefore invaluable to the success of the network in the early stages and will continue to be so in the on-going evolution of the initiative, with perhaps a full time coordinator needed at this stage to ensure continuity and momentum.

As the Network expanded, more youth became involved in carrying out the vision of the Youth Initiative. A brief yearlong strategy was developed, which has evolved into an annual practice. The core team of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative put together a strategy document that they

help to execute in partnership with the Earth Charter secretariat in San José, Costa Rica.

The Earth Charter secretariat in Costa Rica, although strapped for resources, has made efforts to support the Youth Initiative throughout this time. On occasion, partial funding has been made available to young people to participate and represent the Earth Charter at various events such as the WSSD PrepCom in Bali, Indonesia. Furthermore, the continued inclusion of the youth voice in the Earth Charter's website and publications has kept the perspective of young people present in the global work of the initiative. A lot of work still has to be done to generate adequate resources for the Earth Charter Youth Initiative to reach its potential.

In 2002, The ECYI received support from the International Secretariat, which employed Nicole Jiron Beirute as international youth coordinator. Under her guidance, several youth friendly Earth Charter materials were produced (see below) and the loose network of the ECYI was given a more organized structure. As a result of these efforts, a core-group of five volunteer individuals from at least three continents was established to coordinate the network.

Renaud Richard from France, who worked at the Secretariat from October 2002 to June 2003, was able to spend around 20% of his time on coordinating the ECYI. Inter alia he participated in the preparations of draft youth reports for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, updated the youth section of the international Earth Charter website at www.earthcharter.org and created the group mail of youth@earthcharter.org as the main means of communication for the international network of the ECYI. This newly established e-mail network soon rose to around 100 youth organizations and individuals from some 20 countries and since then doubled its size to around 200 activists and organizations from some 30 countries. Although high in numbers, this e-mail facility is very scarcely used. There are maybe 10 to 15 mails sent per year.

From August to October 2003, Michael Slaby from Germany did an online-based internship for the Secretariat and spent 20 hours per week formulating a comprehensive funding proposal for the ECYI. He also strengthened its network and programs. Parts of this general and broad based proposal were sent to the Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation but could not reach acceptance. After his internship, Michael continued his effort to coordinate the ECYI on a voluntary basis. His studies allow him to spend around 5 to 10 hours per week on the tasks of:

- Answering requests of interested youth (for this purpose, the e-mail address of youthcoordinator@earthcharter.org was established),
- Maintaining and expanding the program of Earth Charter Youth Groups (see below),
- Updating the international homepage;
- Informing the network about current developments;
- Representing the ECYI at international conferences.

C) Youth Friendly Earth Charter Materials Produced

Earth Charter Workshop Tool-Kit
This Earth Charter Workshop Tool Kit was compiled by Nicole Jirón Beirute. It is an instrument and guide to use when organizing an Earth Charter Workshop. It has different sections from which you can select the one most appropriate to your goals and activities.

PowerPoint Presentation on the Earth Charter and the ECYI
PowerPoint presentation on the Earth Charter, the Earth Charter Youth Initiative and the creation of Earth Charter Youth Groups, prepared by Hamza Alamoosh, Jordan.

ECYI Fact Sheet
The core facts about the mission, the aims, the structure, and the programs of the ECYI.

Earth Charter Youth Groups – Toolkit
Earth Charter Youth Groups. Why? What? How? ... and Resources!
A 5 page toolkit to help you start your own Earth Charter Youth Group!

+ Reports of successful Earth Charter introductory workshops, presentations, speeches, outreach programs and other youth activities

The materials mentioned above can be found at www.earthcharter.org/resources/youth.

D) Youth Involvement in the Drafting Process (1997 – 2000)

Severn Cullis-Suzuki from Vancouver, Canada was nominated as youth representative in the Earth Charter Commission, which oversaw the drafting process. Severn reached fame through the touching speech that she gave in front of the heads of states assembled at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)-the Rio Summit. At that time, Severn was 12 years old. At the age of 17, Severn participated in the Rio + 5 Forum and made sure that the concerns of young people were taken seriously in the process of drafting the Earth Charter. Inter alia, she was instrumental in the inclusion of principle 12c in the final version of the Earth Charter. This principle stresses the need to: "Honor and support the young people of our communities, enabling them to fulfill their essential role in creating sustainable societies." The launch of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative was inspired by this ethical principle.

E) The Launch of the ECYI in 2000

Quote from the Annual Report 2000:
The Earth Charter calls on us to increase our responsibility regarding the inclusion of future generations, as it is appropriate that those who will inherit the Earth be given voice now. The following are examples of some projects developed through the ECYI to achieve this goal.

Pole-to-Pole 2000

Pole-to-Pole was a nine-month journey made by 8 young adults seeking to initiate and support ongoing environmental and humanitarian projects throughout the world. The Pole-to-Pole team invited their audiences to pledge a shared vision of world harmony in action, by writing down their personal vows and entrusting them to the expedition. The team took these symbols of personal commitment (known as the Millennium Challenges) and brought them to their final destination, the South Pole, to show the world that individuals can really make a difference, step by step. On their journey south (through the Americas), the Pole-to-Pole team passed through Costa Rica and met with Dumisani Nyoni of the ECYI. They agreed to partner and carried the Earth Charter flag with them to the South Pole where, on January 1, 2001, the flag was symbolically planted. "We too must carry the Earth Charter, step by step, and embed it deeply" expressed one of the team members.

Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign, Education Development Center, USA

In September 2000, the Earth Charter Initiative connected with the Youth Employment Summit Campaign, a project of the Boston-based Education Development Center. Through this collaboration, a project was developed with the support of the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank focusing on the "promotion of youth led enterprises in off grid renewable energy." The collaboration was inspired by principle 12 (c) of the Earth Charter.

By collaborating with the Earth Charter and launching the multi-year project focused on creating sustainable livelihoods, the YES Campaign shifted the emphasis of employment creation for youth to include environmental sustainability as a core piece of the Framework through which the vision of the global campaign is being executed.

An online database of effective practices in renewable energy has been launched (www.yesweb.org/gkr/). This database contains several publications and newsletters highlighting the importance of renewable energy and offering practical advice and research on generating jobs and promoting entrepreneurial opportunities that also take care of the planet we live on. Most excitingly, five entrepreneurs from Ghana, Malawi, India, Peru and Georgia were supported in launching renewable energy enterprises of their own, demonstrating that young people can indeed succeed in addressing economic needs and building sustainable communities.

The Earth Charter is a tool that helps to define important conversations around the global. It enables creative, practical solutions to emerge while at the same time keeping a focus on the essence of sustainable development. The experience of the linkages between the Earth Charter and the YES Campaign tell an important story of the power of coupling the core issues of sustainable community development and economic empowerment with the energy and passion of the younger generation.

F) Bringing the Earth Charter to Johannesburg: Events leading up to the WSSD (2001-2002)

Asia Pacific Earth Charter Conference

Over 20 young people participated In the Asia-Pacific Earth Charter Conference held In Brisbane from 29 November to 2 December 2001. The conference, organized by the Queensland Earth Charter committee, featured young people as members of the organizing team, as the presenters in the formal program, and as facilitators of workshops. The conference was a great success and provided young people from the Asia-Pacific Region the opportunity to network, learn more about the Earth Charter and continue the growth of the Earth Charter youth network.

International Young Professionals Summit

The International Young Professionals Summit (IYPS) 2001 brought together 120 young professionals from around the world in order to highlight, discuss, inspire and facilitate action in relation to key issues (the themes of the Summit) which are currently facing humanity and its future. These issues included: poverty; social capital; environment; and sustainability. In bringing together international young professionals, including those already involved in efforts to address these social problems, the Summit sought to match specific problems with possible solutions. A key strategy for achieving this was through linking people with a working knowledge of problems with those in positions to develop and implement solutions.

Recognizing the synergies between the themes of IYPS and the goals of the Earth Charter, Melanie Ashton proposed an Earth Charter workshop to the organizers. The aim of the workshop was to introduce young people to the Earth Charter and encourage the meeting to endorse the Earth Charter and the delegates to pledge their support to it. As a result, the following Pledge of support was included in the official Resolutions document of the IYPS:

> "The Earth Charter - Values and Principles for a Sustainable Future." We, as delegates of IYPS 2001 wish to pledge our full support to this document. In particular, there are several elements of the Earth Charter that we believe are especially relevant to us as young professionals that we wish to re-affirm. These include, the now especially relevant need to promote a culture of tolerance, non-violence and peace, by building democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful. We recognize the necessity to encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity and co-operation among all peoples and within all nations. We re-affirm the need for social and economic justice through the eradication of poverty as an ethical, social and environmental imperative. We are highly concerned about the grave state of the majority of the world's people and re-affirm the need to guarantee the right to potable water, clean air and environment, food security, education, health care, shelter and safe sanitation.
>
> We realize the effects of over-consumption, and re-affirm the need to adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard the Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights and community well being. We recognise that responsible and sustainable consumption of world resources is the responsibility of nations, communities and individuals. As young professionals, we view triple bottom line accounting and

socially responsible investment as a priority. Immediate action needs to be taken. We have taken it upon ourselves to initiate projects that respond to the issues and needs raised by the Charter, projects that involve young professionals and that will begin to contribute to the securing of a sustainable future. Pledging to the Earth Charter as a delegation is a symbolic gesture of solidarity and demonstrates our continued commitment, passion and integrity towards a sustainable future. Our commitment to the Earth Charter is also a benchmark in our lives of visual pro-active development and compassion for all life on earth.

As young professionals taking part in IYPS 2001, we pledge our full support to the Earth Charter and will strive to promote and disseminate the Earth Charter in our personal and professional lives. We will raise awareness, disseminate and encourage the Earth Charter and its adoption by local communities, organisations, governments and networks. We fully support the endorsement of the Earth Charter at WSSD 2002 and will urge our governments to endorse the Earth Charter.

The United World College's Youth Action Summit (UWCYAS)

This event was held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in July 2002. 'Our Planet' was the main theme of the first week, during which the Earth Charter Youth Initiative was very involved. Five international members of the ECYI participated and used the Summit as their first personal meeting. For them, the Youth Action Summit was an incredible opportunity to accomplish the following:

- Start the process of consolidation of the Earth Charter youth network and its relationship with the whole Earth Charter Initiative.
- Start a network with other organizations, specifically International Youth Parliament, UNEP Youth Reporter, and others.
- Promote the Earth Charter through workshops and opinion exchanges during the meetings and the free time.
- Have the Earth Charter presented to governments at WSSD in Johannesburg by the official youth delegates of UWCYAS

UNEP Global Youth Forum in Denmark, Side event on the Earth Charter

The UNEP Global Youth Forum 2002 was held from 25 to 30 March, 2002 In Århus Denmark. The event was attended by over 120 young people from each continent and was considered a lead up event to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. At this event, the Earth Charter was presented at an evening side event. The event was an opportunity for young people unfamiliar with the Earth Charter to learn more about it and about how it can be used in young people's activities around the world.

PrepCom IV Indonesia - 27 May to 7 June 2002

The fourth PrepCom to WSSD was held In Indonesia. The Earth Charter Initiative was well represented and continued to stress the need to base political actions for sustainable development on a sound ethical framework The Initiative called on the WSSD to welcome the Earth Charter, and on individual governments to endorse it. This event Introduced more young people to the

Earth Charter, namely members of the Youth Caucus. Young people supported the efforts of the Earth Charter Initiative and the Youth Caucus committed itself to publishing and supporting the Earth Charter. Young people also participated in the Earth Charter Partnership working session, at the Bali Hilton Hotel on June 1 and 2 and In the Cultural event organized by the Earth Charter Secretariat.

World Summit on Sustainable Development, 26 August to 4 September 2002
The WSSD was held In Johannesburg South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002. Over 150 young people attended this event, forming part of the Youth Caucus. Three members of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative, Melanie Ashton, Linley Black, and Renaud Richard, attended. These young people worked with other members of the Earth Charter Delegation to promote the Earth Charter and coordinate the numerous side events. Additionally, they were active participants in the youth caucus, ensuring that young people were well informed about the Importance of the Earth Charter. As a result, the Youth Caucus supported the Earth Charter and included the following points in their final statement:

- Shared responsibility and interdependence and the prerequisite of prior and informed consent must be recognized.
- An integrated ethical framework of shared values, such as the Earth Charter, must be established to guide us toward the common good and effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda at all levels.
- Commitment to existing global governance agreements is essential.

G) The Program of Earth Charter Youth Groups (2003-2005)

Outline:
In April 2003, the ECYI launched the program of Earth Charter Youth Groups. A 5-page toolkit called "Earth Charter Youth Groups. Why? What? How? ... and Resources" was drafted and posted on several international websites. The program was developed to strengthen the international youth network and help youth from all over the world to build activities based on the Earth Charter. An Earth Charter Youth Group is an inclusive committee, group or network of young activists and youth organizations working to bring to life the vision of the Earth Charter in their communities, locally and nationally.

The general objectives of ECYGs are:

- To inspire people locally to adopt sustainable ways of living and to be active in projects related to sustainable development and the Earth Charter.
- To make the Earth Charter known and implemented in a broad public.
- To empower young people to take action and change the world.
- To enjoy life in giving joy to others!!!

Since April 2003, the following ECYGs have been created:

Sierra Leone
By autumn 2003, four local ECYGs of approximately 20 people had been created in the West-

African Sierra Leone, which is one of the poorest countries of the world. The Sierra Leonean population had to endure one of the most horrible and brutal civil wars in the last decade of the twentieth century, leaving thousands of them dead, traumatized, raped, or maimed. In the process of post-conflict resolution and reconciliation, the Earth Charter has been discovered by the Sierra Leonean youth as a guide to creating a culture of peace, understanding and toleration. Together, the four local groups form the national Earth Charter Youth Group-Sierra Leone. Its membership consists of a broad range of individuals, such as: representatives of youth NGOs, networks and umbrella youth organizations, pupils from different secondary schools, university and tertiary students, and ex-combatants.

They introduced the Earth Charter to hundreds of young activists at different workshops and set up programs of

- promoting a culture of peace
- having the Earth Charter used as an educational tool at schools and universities
- offering youth leadership training
- environmental protection
- media programs

In several workshops, they sensitized ex-combatants to the universal components of a culture of peace and helped to reintegrate them into their communities, where they sometimes were forced to commit atrocities during the times of war.

In one of their activities, the ECYG-Sierra Leone instigated the collection of garbage from the homes of residents of the Firestone Community. The litter was formerly disposed in the nearby Nikol Stream and had thus caused pollution and sometimes even led to quarrels among the members of the community because the water is also used for drinking and washing. The garbage collection created some form of employment for young people, helped to create conducive sanitary conditions in the community and also reduced the number of conflicts over the pollution of the river. The garbage is now deposited at the approved government's dump site Bomeh.

More information about the ECYG-Sierra Leone can be found at www.ecygsierraleone.8m.net.

Jordan

In Jordan, the "Black Iris Earth Charter Youth Group" was established in the complex of the Princess Basma Youth Resource Center, which is part of the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (Zenid) that serves as Jordan's national focal point for the Earth Charter Initiative. The group is named after the black iris of Jordan, a flower which is the national symbol for growth and renewal. It is coordinated by a core-group of seven young leaders from diverse social, ethnic and religious backgrounds affiliated to different youth organizations in Jordan. The broad membership of the group is mainly constituted of the students of various universities in Jordan.

To date, Black Iris has achieved the following:

- Developed a national strategy to disseminate the EC among youth of Jordan, aiming at

launching youth led initiatives based on the EC's integrated vision of sustainable development, justice and peace .
- Created Arabic EC materials.
- Started building a regional EC network with active youth in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, aiming at promoting a culture of peace in this large conflict area
- Introduced the Earth Charter to lots of governmental and non-governmental organization, including the Jordanian Federation of Women
- Made the Earth Charter one of the supporting documents of Jordan's National Strategy for Youth
- Contributed articles to the Youth Section in the Jordanian newspaper ALRAI, discussing topics such as international development issues, youth development issues and democracy
- Fostered discussions on youth participation guided by Earth Charter principles in the Jordan Forum for Youth and Culture, which is an umbrella organization for youth led initiatives
- Initiated programs of community service, such as: giving free lessons to orphans and non-privileged students at school and university levels, assisting youth with physical and social barriers and organizing projects to protect the local environment

The Philippines

On the archipelago of Negros Occidental in the Philippines, the environmental youth organization entitled "Eco Trekkers Society" joined the ECYG-program in 2003 and started to use the Earth Charter in their local campaign against the introduction of genetically modified organisms. In these efforts, they organized expositions, workshops and local conferences to warn about the dangers of biologically engineered crops and used Earth Charter principle 5d as their ethical guideline. Thus, the Earth Charter has intensely been discussed in various local settings such as the Technological University of the Philippines in Visayas, on whose campus the Eco Trekkers are located.

Other activities include mountaineering, nature tours and local clean-ups. In a recent activity, the Eco Trekkers cleaned a coastline of 200 meters and collected 6 tons of litter. In their activities to disseminate the Earth Charter among NGOs, institutions and individuals in their area, the Eco Trekkers were able to reach their government, which considered using the Earth Charter in peace negotiations with rebel forces. One of the institutions which the Eco Trekkers encouraged to endorse the Charter is the national Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly, which consists of 9 Filipino youth-serving organizations. This network eventually included a workshop on the Earth Charter as one of the program highlights in its Nature Camp 2004 and thus reached several hundred young activists.

By calling themselves an Earth Charter Youth Group, the Eco Trekkers demonstrate their connectedness to other youth around the world who promote the vision of the Earth Charter in their respective local communities. For more info, see www.freewebs.com/ecotreks/index.htm

Earth Charter Youth Group – Mindanao
Another ECYG was formed on the campus of the Mindanao Polytechnic State College (MPSC), in Cagayan de Oro, located on the Filipino archipelago of Mindanao. The group of twenty-two dynamic students aged 16 to 22 was created in October 2004 after their Biology Teacher introduced the Earth Charter to them and fostered a discussion about how they could use the Earth Charter to make a difference in their own community.
In one of their first activities inspired by the Earth Charter, this ECYG organized a local clean-up and collected 1.5 tons of garbage from a local coastline.

Ethiopia:
In Jimma, the second largest city in Ethiopia, an Earth Charter Youth Ambassador encouraged teachers to use Earth Charter education material in their classes. Several youth organizations endorsed the Charter and are today using it as an ethical guide in their struggle against widespread threats of HIV, poverty and environmental degradation. In five different junior secondary schools, ECYGs have been created which focus on poverty eradication, tree-planting campaigns, waste collection, protection of human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace.

Romania
In Constanta, Romania, the "Ovidius Teen Club" has been created on the campus of the local high school. The Club members heard about the Earth Charter in the discussions about how the school could participate in the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. After linking the Charter to the club's plans and projects, the teacher facilitating the club contacted the Earth Charter Youth Coordinator in early 2005 and communicated the interest of the club members to join the Earth Charter Youth Group program. Inter alia, the club runs projects such as:

- Protecting local natural reserves such as the Danube Delta,
- Protecting people against daily dangers such as food addictives, electromagnetic radiation, alcohol, cigarettes and drug abuse,
- Resolving human conflicts and the generation gap and
- Finding solutions for environmental problems such as polluted water treatment and making paper out of algae.
- In their first brainstorming on the Earth Charter, the Ovidius Teen Club developed ideas for concise projects and activities relating to each of the sixteen main principles of the Earth Charter.

Brazil
A group of students and professors from the Faculdades Jorge Amado, a Brazilian College, located in Salvador, Bahia, became an ECYG in early 2005. The students are majoring in International Relations and are doing research or implementing projects related to sustainable development, using the Earth Charter's principles as a guideline for their work. Well known in their communities, they are now spreading their work throughout the neighborhood. Their activities include:

- Monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals
- Identification of institutions that are implementing the MDG and the Earth Charter

(data base + interviews)
- Development of donors and grantmakers database
- Seminars, short-term courses and workshops on the Earth Charter principles.

USA
In the city of Bremerton, Washington, USA, the Next Generation Team of the non-profit organization Narrow Crossings has set up an ambitious program of forming a National Youth Forum for a Sustainable Future. They are currently planning for an event of exhibitions and activities to be held in New York, Seattle and San Francisco during the National Environmental Education Week in May 2006 and have elaborated a sophisticated funding proposal for this purpose, listing numerous renowned organizations as partners and supporters. The Earth Charter is used as one of their international references. The Next Generations Team applied for recognition as an Earth Charter Youth Group in April 2005. Currently, forms of partnership between Narrow Crossings and the Earth Charter Youth Initiative are being evaluated.

H) Other Earth Charter Activities
In addition to the Earth Charter Youth Groups, various other youth organizations conducted dynamic activities to implement the Earth Charter. Here are a few examples:

Earth Scouts
Earth Scouts is a co-ed youth organization launched at the 2002 Earth Charter Community Summit in Tampa, Florida and facilitated by the Institute for Ethics and Meaning. The program encourages youth of the age 3 to 17 to "Change the world one fun badge at a time!" Similar to the badge system of "normal" scout organizations, members of the Earth Scouts can earn a badge for each Earth Charter principle. Thus, the members are guided through a process of Earth Charter-related activates. The Earth Scouts encourages youth to explore their interdependence with the planet and humanity. Earth Scouts is more than just cleaning up a river or going on a hike—it is learning about how nature is dependent on our economic system and how economics are dependent on our culture and how our culture is dependent on us. And while the youth (and adults) are learning about this interdependence, they are enjoying the fellowship of peers while having fun.

Earth Charter Concerts
The Earth Charter Concerts Season, organized by the Costa Rican Earth Charter Committee and celebrated at the Children's Museum, started in May 2003. The season continued with a monthly concert for the next three months and concluded with great success.

The proposal for an *Earth Charter Concert Season* came up as an idea to promote the Earth Charter and sensitize Costa Rican youth to the Charter's message. Until that moment educational efforts to promote the Earth Charter in Costa Rica had been through initiatives such as community workshops and training. The outreach of these initiatives had been very important. Nevertheless, no one had ever thought about the possibility of promoting the Earth Charter message through more informal initiatives and to larger audiences. Within this context, the idea of the *Earth Charter Concert Season* arose. This was an education proposal that aspired to attract, in one

venue, different kinds of young people and for them to join together with the same message, despite their differences. , each concert of the season brought together Rock and World Music, demonstrating that two groups that seemed irreconcilable could participate in the same concert and build jointly, in the midst of their differences, a whole new musical project. These concerts were an effort to offer opportunities to enjoy differences and see them, not as threatening, but as an opportunity to create something good.

Inclusive Leadership Adventures

Inclusive Leadership Adventures is a non-profit diversity education project in Canada, co-sponsored by Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society and Canadian Mental Health Association – Cowichan Valley Branch. Both organizations have endorsed the Earth Charter and have their activities guided by the Earth Charter vision as they bring diverse people together in camp settings to explore, share, and celebrate social diversity and biodiversity.

Since autumn 2003, several Inclusive Leadership Adventures were conducted to explore the Earth Charter. Together with ECYI Coordinator Michael Slaby who made a lecture tour through the region of greater Vancouver, Vancouver Island and Salt Spring Island, the two Pole-to-Pole Representatives Renaud Richard and Dylan Spencer co-facilitated Advanced Training in Inclusive Leadership in May 2004. These trainings succeeded in their goal of moving beyond the words of the Earth Charter to develop deep emotional and intellectual connections. Participants left the Adventures with:

- A deeper understanding of the Earth Charter
- Appreciation of social diversity and biodiversity as gifts that enrich communities
- Inclusive leadership skills for acting in ways and guiding others to act in ways that respect and care for our diverse human family and all living beings in our Earth community
- Plans for local actions to take back to their homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities for implementing the principles of the Earth Charter. One of those plans has been elaborated by Kim Citton who then developed a Yoga Training based on the Earth Charter. In her sessions, she invites her students to connect the traditional yoga postures, which are named after plants, animals, structures and characters with corresponding principles of the Earth Charter and thus help to develop an “intrinsic” feeling of what these principles mean and stand for.
- Confidence that by sharing leadership locally, we are each contributing globally in ways that are making a world of difference for our human family and the larger living world.

I) Expanding the Network: Partnerships with Other Youth Organizations

During the last five years, members of the ECYI participated in several international conferences and were successful in establishing partnerships with other youth organizations and networks. However, given the weak situation of the ECYI in terms of stable coordination, much potential remains untapped. In the following, a few of these conferences and partnerships are depicted.

Roots and Shoots

Another major youth organization that endorsed the Earth Charter is the Roots and Shoots youth program of the renowned Jane Goodall Institute. Roots and Shoots runs local youth chapters in various countries. Inter alia, the Earth Charter has been included into the educational guidebook "Lessons of Hope" that is used as the main educational tool for the groups. As with SGI, some forms of partnerships with the ECYI have been discussed but have not yet been realized.

Soka Gakkai International Earth Charter Committee, Vancouver

A Soka Gakkai International Earth Charter Committee was established in Vancouver. The Committee, which is mainly run by young people, organized a major kick-off event for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development on May 7, 2005. This youth conference and exhibitions entitled "The World is Yours to Change" attracted more than 2000 participants and involved more than 30 local organizations. The Earth Charter was given a central role as an ethical guide and educational tool. Several different workshops, panels, and discussion circles were hosted and keynote addresses were given by renowned politicians and scholars. The organizations involved considered staying in touch after the conference and coordinating their activities for the Decade. The youth leaders of the SGI Committee now plan to invite other national and regional SGI structures to follow their example of forming Earth Charter Committees. Forms of closer partnerships between SGI and the ECYI were discussed at the Earth Charter in Action Conference in Urbino, Italy, in July 2003, but largely remain part of the untapped potential for the future.

World Youth Peace Summit / European Peace Summit

In 2004, an official partnership was established between the ECYI and the World Youth Peace Summit, which was planned for October 2004 but was then postponed to 2006. The Summit will be organized by the Council of Religious Leaders that was established after the Millennium Peace Summit in New York in 2000. The aims of the summit are to form a global youth council to serve as a resource for the United Nations Security in the matters of world peace.

In May 2004, a European Youth Peace Summit was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. It brought together some 500 youth activists from Europe who developed an action plan and established a network. Members of the ECYI have participated in Sarajevo and are involved in the follow-up.

Parliament of the World's Religions, Barcelona, Spain, July 7 – 13, 2004

The Parliament of the World's Religions held in Barcelona, Spain, from July 7-13, 2004, was a gathering of some 4,000 religious leaders, scholars, lay people and social activists from around the world. The Parliament's panels and discussions focused on the topics of water, refugees, international debt, and religiously motivated violence. The Parliament put special emphasis on youth involvement.

ECYI Coordinator Michael Slaby organized a panel within the Parliament. The event, entitled "The Earth Charter: shared Values for Building a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable Future," was

scheduled in the biggest venue at the Parliament and was attended by approximately 350 participants. Given its success and the interest shown, an international interfaith youth network was established. Michael joined this network and now makes links between the members of this network and the ECYI.

AGS Summer Institute on Sustainable Development, Braunwald, Switzerland
Also in July 2004, Michael Slaby hosted an Earth Charter Introductory Workshop at the Summer Institute on Sustainable Development - Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES), Braunwald, Switzerland. The YES is a summer course organized yearly by the local Center on Sustainability at the Swiss Institute of Technology, Zurich. The local Center on Sustainability is part of the Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS), a partnership between four technical universities: The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Tokyo, and Chalmers University of Technology. After the workshop, a partnership between AGS and the ECYI was forged. This partnership is becoming more concrete, as AGS is seeking the involvement of local ECYI members in some of their upcoming projects in Africa.

J) Youth Activities at the Earth Charter + 5 Summit in Amsterdam

The EC + 5 Summit in Amsterdam will be the first major personal meeting of 25 key members of the ECYI. In preparation of this gathering, international youth delegates have been selected for the purpose of ensuring a long-term planning. Thus, the summit will bring together the old and new leaders of the ECYI. Youth input for the thematic sessions will be prepared and a meeting between the ECYI members and Dutch networks for Sustainability will be prepared. Besides, several members of the ECYI contributed to the book "Towards a Sustainable World: The Earth Charter in Action" that will be launched at the event.

K) Recommendations for the Future

Bearing in mind that all the achievements documented in this report were reached without any major institutional or financial assistance—being mainly infused by the enthusiasm of a handful of volunteers—it can only be estimated what would be possible if the ECYI was given full-time coordination. The main programs depicted in the comprehensive funding proposal designed in 2003 are still important and worthy of funding.

1. Establishment of Earth Charter Youth Groups in at least 15 countries over the next two years.

To make an impact at the local level, the ECYI requires the full engagement and involvement of youth based in each country. To promote the concept of Earth Charter Youth Groups, youths in at least 15 countries will receive technical support in developing well-coordinated and established youth groups taking action to promote the Earth Charter locally and nationally and to build partnerships. The main responsibility of securing funds for these initiatives will rest with the groups themselves.

Most of the support will be given in the form of well-printed Earth Charter materials which the groups can disseminate locally, as well as a technology infrastructure in the form of some web-space on the international website of the Earth Charter Initiative through which groups can disseminate information and network with one another. Direct financial support will be granted when possible only as seed funding to launch the Earth Charter Youth Group's activities.

It is important to note that nearly half of this goal has been reached even without any funding as ECYGs were created in seven countries. Given the high number of additional requests mainly coming from youth in Africa, there is a high potential which could be fueled through full-time coordination and seed funding.

2. Expand the local, national and global youth networks for sustainable development with the integrated framework of the Earth Charter

Many youth led organizations and youth networks are currently championing a variety of issues including environmental protection, human rights, equitable human development, peace and other specific areas that make up the broad concept of sustainable development. The Earth Charter's inclusive ethical vision recognizes that these problems are interdependent and indivisible and helps to shift from fragmented perspectives to address issues in a more integrated manner. Therefore, the EYCI will strive to engage existing youth-led organizations in using the Earth Charter as an integrated framework for the local activities of many youth groups around the world.

Thus, the ECYI will help to expand the local, national and global networks of young people active for sustainable development by bringing together youth NGOs, youth led organizations and networks as well as student groups and interested individual young people under the integrated ethical vision of the Earth Charter. In this, the ECYI will cooperate closely with the WSSD youth caucus, as a number of youths are members of both of these groups.

To facilitate the knowledge exchange, the youth section of the international website of the Earth Chart er Initiative will be expanded and upgraded to enable young people to share experiences on undertaking locally-based projects that are in the spirit of the Earth Charter. In addition, a regular e-mail based newsletter will be developed to keep youth groups around the world informed on the progress of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative. The newsletter will also include information on tools and resources for promoting and implementing the Earth Charter, information about other youth led sustainable development initiatives and announcements of opportunities for youth participation in projects that are in the spirit of the Earth Charter.

Concrete examples already exist of how the above activities can be achieved with high degrees of success (see www.earthcharter.org ⇒ resources: youth). With the appropriate support, these activities can be scaled up and their impact broadened and deepened globally.

Chapter VIII

Art and the Earth Charter

The Introduction and survey of art initiatives has been prepared by Mirian Vilela, followed by a separate essay by Sally Linder.

A) Introduction: Art and the Earth Charter

For centuries, artists have embraced their position as social critics and commentators. They have understood the power that songs and images can have to alter people's perspectives and to transform the world. As instigators of change, many artists today are responding to the ecological and social challenges facing the world by creating pieces that call for a more sustainable way of life. They are creating music and images that they hope will help people to see the flaws in the world and to work to change them.

Several artists have used the Earth Charter as inspiration for their work. Songs and paintings with Earth Charter themes have served both to allow the messages of the Earth Charter to reach a wider range of people and to inspire viewers, listeners, and the artists themselves to adopt a more ethical and sustainable way of life. The artists that have worked with the Earth Charter have ranged from international celebrities to art students in primary schools. These artists have been inspired to create pieces by a variety of factors, including: organized contests and activities; the words of friends and colleagues; and, most importantly, the message of the Earth Charter itself. Many of the artists that have created Earth Charter themed pieces have found that their artwork has been immensely well received. Art has played an important role in inspiring people to embrace the principles of the Earth Charter and to alter their lifestyles.

B) Art Initiatives using the Earth Charter

In an attempt to inspire efforts in this field, the Earth Charter Secretariat has put together an Art Section within the Charter's website displaying a variety of Earth Charter-related artwork. This section includes artistic interpretations created and inspired specifically by or for the Earth Charter. It provides a place for individuals—youth as well as adults—to express their thoughts and reactions to the Charter through a medium other than texts or speeches. The Art page can be found at http://www.earthcharter.org/art

Ark of Hope

The Ark of Hope is a large wooden chest beautifully decorated with images of the planet's cultural and biological diversity, and the Earth Charter is inscribed on papyrus parchment on the inside of its lid. It was designed and painted by Vermont, USA artist Sally Linder, built by cabinetmaker Kevin Jenness and lined by fabric artist Beth Haggart. The Ark is filled with

prayers, poems, and images expressing the hopes and aspirations of thousands of people. See www.arkofhope.org for photographs and stories about the Ark.

The Ark of Hope was created for a celebration of the Earth Charter held at Shelburne Farms, Vermont on September 9, 2001. On September 11, 2001 volunteers were cleaning up from the September 9th event when news came of the New York and Washington, DC terrorist attacks and tragedies. Sally Linder's immediate, spontaneous response to the horror was to begin walking the Ark of Hope to New York and the United Nations. Hundreds of walkers joined the pilgrimage to New York City, bringing with them hope and the vision of the Earth Charter to communities along the way. For two months the Ark of Hope was walked over 350 miles through four states. The last leg of the journey down the Hudson River was aboard the legendary sloop *The Clearwater*. It was met in New York City by *Clearwater* founder and folk singer Pete Seeger. In New York City, the Ark of Hope was placed on display at the Interfaith Center of New York City for several months. During that time it was put on display for three weeks in the lobby of the main building at the United Nations.

The Ark also journeyed to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. In Johannesburg, Sally Linder and her colleagues brought the Ark of Hope into the black settlements of Soweto, Zandsprite, and Diepsloot, where they spent over a week sharing with children and young people the vision of the Earth Charter and exploring with them through dialogue and art hopes and aspirations for the future. During the Summit twenty-two young people from Diepsloot marched with the Ark of Hope organizers to the Summit convention centre where they addressed delegates on the concerns of youth and the relevance of the Earth Charter.

Through the combination of artistic expression with the inspirational Earth Charter, the creation of the so-called "Temenos Books" is part of the process of engaging people in expressing their own values and wishes for the future. A Temenos book is a handmade book filled with pages of visual prayers/affirmations for global healing, peace, and gratitude. The purpose of the Temenos Project is to introduce the Earth Charter to educational and private sectors, with the belief that the artistic process can inspire people to a deeper commitment to Earth and to the Earth Charter principles. In the early stages of this project, over 5,000 Vermont (USA) artists, teachers, schoolchildren, university students and community members participated in the Temenos Project, making either books or masks of Earth elements. Teachers involved in the project engaged their students in discussion of the Earth Charter principles, generating the kind of internal reflection that can lead to a change in attitudes, values, and behavior.

The Ark of Hope continues to travel to different parts of the world, where workshops on the Temenos books are also offered. Schools, churches, museums, and various organizations, including the UN, have hosted the Ark of Hope since its creation. It is hoped that this will continue as an effort to introduce the Earth Charter to audiences globally, spreading hope and the recognition of the interdependence of justice, and economic and ecological integrity, which together build a culture of peace. It is anticipated that the Ark of Hope will be present

during the upcoming Earth Charter+5 celebration in the Netherlands, and Temenos workshops are also being planned.

This report on Art and the Earth Charter concludes with an essay by Sally Linder, entitled "Ark of Hope and Temenos Books" which provides additional information on the purpose and uses of the Ark of Hope.

Toulouse, France

The Toulouse Earth Charter Committee, led by Actions pour une Charte de la Terre (Actions for an Earth Charter), engaged in a project in 2000 in which they disseminated the Earth Charter in primary schools. Students were inspired by this project to create powerful drawings and paintings based on the Earth Charter. This artwork was exhibited at the Regional House of the Environment for two months. Drawings created by the children ranged from peaceful images of dolphins and trees to a frowning Earth and the globe saying "Stop." A book containing the children's art and the text of the Earth Charter in French was later produced. Considering that this has raised the interest of many and generated positive impact, "Actions for an Earth Charter" continues to bring the Earth Charter vision to youth and children by engaging them in expressing their understanding on the challenges humanity faces and the values for a more sustainable world through drawings.

Green Cross Youth Contests

Green Cross, in collaboration with UNESCO, FAO, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organized the international editions of three annual youth art contests titled "Images for the Earth" carried out in support of the Earth Charter. The inaugural contest took place in 1998. In 1999, almost half a million students took part in the second contest, entitled "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies." In 2000, students from eight countries took part in the third contest, under the theme "Energy-Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiencies". International prize ceremonies provided an opportunity to congratulate the winners of the contests and to show the work done. Through these contests, students involved in this initiative particularly in Italy and Burkina Faso, were educated about environmental problems and their solutions and about the role of the Earth Charter in achieving a sustainable future for the planet.

Graeme Payne, Australia

Australian artist Graeme Payne created an exhibition of sixteen paintings inspired by the principles of the Earth Charter. These paintings were originally used as a visual backdrop for the 2003 Theology and Philosophy Festival in Grafton, Australia. When creating the exhibition, Payne worked to paint images that would truly move viewers and would summarize the Earth Charter in a comprehensive way. Although all of his images are strong

in emotion, Payne states: “I didn’t want to project a feeling of total despair so I combined confronting paintings with more uplifting ones.”

The exhibition has been shown in numerous venues since the Festival and the response has been very favorable. According to Payne, the exhibition has truly succeeded in stimulating people to think more deeply about the Earth Charter. “Many people have contacted me to say how moved they were,” Payne states, “but probably the most gratifying comment is when they tell me it has helped them find more meaning in the Earth Charter and, like myself, they have been stimulated to think more deeply about the many issues facing our modern world family.”

Earth Charter Planner and Calendar

The Ministry of the Arts of the Sisters of St. Joseph LaGrange created a planner and calendar for 2003 with reflections from the Earth Charter and paintings inspired by the Earth Charter for every month. This calendar was the 2003’s edition of Sr. Mary Southard, CSJ’s project to create a yearly Earth Calendar. All of the artists who contributed to the calendar were art enthusiasts who shared a common vision and love for the Earth.

By creating an Earth Charter Calendar, the Sisters of St. Joseph LaGrange hoped that the themes chosen for each month would serve as little reminders during a busy day and would encourage and invite people to notice and be aware. The striking and beautiful paintings were intended to capture the words of the Earth Charter selected for each month. The Sisters of St. Joseph LaGrange were able to spread the news about the Earth Charter to thousands of people through their striking and beautiful calendars and planners. They sold out early in the season, and, as director Flo Christiano states, “We knew immediately that it was due to the Earth Charter theme.”

Earth Charter Songs

Several songs have been written for the Earth Charter movement by artists from around the world. In Paraguay, singer Alfredo Estigarribia Lopez was inspired by the Ecological Movement of Paraguay to compose and record an “Earth Hymn” in homage to the Earth Charter. This song was presented during a special event on September 24, 1999, at the headquarters of the National Commission for the Defense of Natural Resources. “Earth Hymn” is a tribute to the beauty of the world and of Paraguay.

In Venezuela, Sven Nehlin wrote “La Ultima Flor,” a song about the Earth Charter. This song, composed in 2000, offers the Earth Charter as an alternative to the destruction of the world and of the last flower of its kind, la ultima flor. Nehlin sent “La Ultima Flor” to hundreds of people as an Earth Charter promotion for the end of the millennium.

At the South Australia Earth Charter launch in 2000, students of Thomas More College sang an Earth Charter Song written by Nick Vall. This song was a call for peace, justice, and an understanding that nature can provide everything that we need if we stop abusing it. Additionally, an Earth Charter song entitled "Nous, les enfants de la Terre" was written in France by Eric Tudico.

Earth Charter Monument, Brazil

Artist Jonas Correa, inspired by the Earth Charter, created an Earth Charter Monument. The Earth Charter Monument, located in Mato Grosso, Brazil, was unveiled at the 1998 Continental Conference of the Americas. In the center of this monument, a large statue of Earth is balanced on the trunk of a tree. Five children, representing the five continents, surround the tree. They are holding hands as a human chain to symbolize the protection and security of the planet. This monument, intended to convey both the power and meaning of the Earth Charter, was presented to the public in a highly publicized ceremony. Through the statue, the Earth Charter's message of the interconnectedness of humanity is powerfully conveyed.

Raffi

In the summer of 2003, Raffi, a famous Canadian children's singer and songwriter, launched a music CD inspired by the Earth Charter. The CD, *Where We All Belong,* contains three songs inviting people to celebrate life and invokes the power of music to help promote the Earth Charter. The song "Where We All Belong", sung on the CD as both a chant and a ballad, conveys the message of the Earth Charter by describing Earth as an abundant home and "circle where we all belong."

In addition to creating the CD, Raffi has held Earth Charter themed concerts. In the winter of 2004, the 300-member Gettin' Higher Choir accompanied Raffi for Earth Charter inspired benefit concerts held in Victoria, B.C., Canada. Everyone attending the concerts was given a copy of the Earth Charter and encouraged to endorse it and to find a way to promote it in their workplace or community. Raffi's song has been used as an educational tool by teachers in many different educational spheres, from elementary schools in the Balearic Islands in Spain to St. Thomas University in the USA.

Pour la Terre – Earth Charter Unesco CD

Pour la Terre, a non-profit French environmental association, has engaged in a project to create a music CD to promote the Earth Charter. Initial discussion with Pour la Terre took place in early 2002; then a Memorandum of Understanding outlining this collaborative effort was signed with the Earth Charter Secretariat. In February 2004, UNESCO, the World Wildlife Fund, and the French Secretariat of Sustainable Development agreed to support this project. Partners have a shared understanding that the Earth Charter UNESCO CD is an important way to deliver the message of the Earth Charter to schoolchildren. It promotes the teaching of sustainable development fusing songs by international artists with Earth Charter

principles. UNESCO plans to use the CD/DVD to promote the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

The first part of the CD project, an international Earth Charter/UNESCO CD was completed in spring 2005. This CD contains twenty-one songs on two disks by independent artists from around the world, including: Maná with Carlos Santana, Youssou N'Dour, Chico and the Gypsies, and Naveen Kumar. In addition to the songs, the CD is composed of a school kit that includes a detailed description of each song, and also a Guide **"**The Earth Charter: an educational tool" which delineates the background information for the CD: the complete text of the Earth Charter and general information on the Initiative. The School kit has: a) song lyrics, with relevance of each to Earth Charter values and principles, b) biographies of the artists and their activities relating to sustainable development, and c) suggested educational exercises linked with the song and the associated theme(s).

The United Nations "Classic Live" Performing Arts Group, Japan

For nearly two decades, the UNClassic Live performing arts group has been successfully giving performances in Japan. In recent years it has created a stage performance based on the values and principles in the Earth Charter. In the fall of 2005, UNClassic Live will be traveling to New York City and presenting this Earth Charter production at the United Nations Auditorium, Carnegie Hall, and New York State University Art Theatre at Stony Brook. UNClassic Live has the support of Earth Charter Commissioner Wakako Hironaka.

C) "Ark of Hope and Temenos Books, 1999-2005" by Sally Linder

Since its unveiling on September 9, 2001 the Ark of Hope carrying the Earth Charter and Temenos Books: Images and Words for Global Healing, Peace and Gratitude, has significantly contributed to the Earth Charter Initiative. Over 12,000 people from four continents, ages five to elderly, have been introduced to the Charter through the Ark and its cargo of hundreds of Temenos Books. Every element of the Ark is an expression of beauty and a reflection of the Earth Charter principles. The Ark and books give a tangible, rather than abstract, experience of the Charter; as the Ark travels the globe and the images and messages accumulate they are a living, interactive symbol of burgeoning support of the Charter. Simply, beauty attracts, images speak a universal language, and due to the active and participatory nature of the Ark and Temenos Project, the Earth Charter takes on life.

Hope fuels art. How we imagine the future ultimately decides how we live the present. Quoting William James: "I will act as if what I do makes a difference". Since 1999, thousands of children and adults have responded to the Charter through their participation in the Temenos Book Project. Fifty public and private schools in Vermont, USA alone participated, including one school with over 900 students creating Temenos Books. Schools

in New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Connecticut, and Montana, USA, and schools in South Africa and the Netherlands have further added books to the Ark of Hope.

Due to the momentum and exposure of the Earth Charter in preparation for the September 9, 2001 Vermont event, *For Love of Earth, A Celebration of the Earth Charter*, 22 towns in the state of Vermont endorsed the Charter in Town Meetings as a soft law guide to town and city planning. The mayor of Burlington, Vermont, Peter Clavelle introduced the Charter to the US Conference of Mayors where it received unanimous endorsement.

Articles on the Ark of Hope have appeared in over thirty national and international newspapers, four magazines in the US and Netherlands, in the Indian published book *Strength of a Woman*, and in over twenty internet articles. Faith communities have hosted the Ark and/or Temenos Books including the Interfaith Center of New York, Green Mountain Monastery, the Sacred Place at Ubunto Village, World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, Traprock Peace Center, Unitarian Universalist United Nations Church, and His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at the International Art of Living Center in Bangalore, India. The State House of Vermont, and the United Nations have exhibited the Ark of Hope. Ohio's 2002 International Middfest, New York's 2002 Hudson River Revival Festival, South Africa's Global Footprints Festival, and the Food and Trees for Africa Celebration in Soweto, South Africa have also presented the Ark. Earth Charter Community Summits in three states included the Ark and Temenos workshops in their programs, as did the Vermont 2004 Sustainable Communities Conference, and the 2005 Earth Charter +5 Celebration in the Netherlands.

Five universities and colleges in the United States and three art museums in the Netherlands and US exhibited the Ark. Soka Gakkai International included the Ark in its exhibition space at the Ubunto Village of the WWSD, and in its publication *Seeds of Change*. The 2001 *for love of Earth, A Celebration of the Earth Charter* in Vermont, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the 2005 International Women's Conference in Bangalore, India provided further exposure of the Charter through inclusion of the Ark and/or Temenos Books in their schedule of events.

In a spontaneous response to 9/11, leaving on that very afternoon, the Ark of Hope was walked 350 miles from Vermont to the United Nations in New York. For two months thousands of ordinary citizens accomplished an extraordinary feat. In a time of fear and mistrust The Ark of Hope's beauty provided a safe haven from which to share the Earth Charter's vision of global interdependence and shared responsibility. Being a box with something unknown inside, and walking the box, disarmed people. Traveling three miles per hour provided plenty of time to intimately share the Charter's vision. Carrying the Ark we discovered that walking was a form of prayer. Since that historical journey people in Johannesburg's informal settlements and towns and cities in the US have chosen to walk the Ark through their communities and hold impromptu Temenos workshops on sidewalks, river banks, and dirt alleyways.

The sheer number and age range of individuals from different cultures, faiths, and sectors of society introduced to the Earth Charter through the Ark of Hope and Temenos Project in the last five years clearly identifies the strength of the arts in promoting Earth Charter values. It also speaks of the successful emergence of a more participatory socially interactive framework for art. An individual's inner dialogue becomes engaged with the external issues of the world through art's hands-on approach. The heart as well as the head is engaged; the body is poised to pursue further physical actualization and implementation of the art object's content, in this case, Earth Charter principles.

Judging by the public's active and positive response to the Ark of Hope and Temenos Project people are indeed attracted to, pleasured by and mobilized by works of art. Art and art-making inspires and promotes mutuality and attachment to vision. Too often the Earth Charter Initiative has not fully or actively embraced the power and inherent human need for art, for 'making special'. Most Earth Charter conferences, and other conferences that include Earth Charter sessions and events are not embellished with ceremony, ritual, or art. This also holds for Earth Charter brochures, promotional materials, newsletters, and other published materials such as yearly reports and books. Most of the Charter's outreach materials are dry and appeal largely to 'talking heads'. Ceremony and art-making provide time and place for feeling. Inherent in human behavior is the fundamental tendency to make art and the fundamental need to respond to 'specialness'.

The Earth Charter Initiative, of which I include the Ark of Hope, lacks significant and sustaining financial support. Similar to the Initiative, a constant hurdle for the Ark is funding; many organizations desire to promote the Earth Charter through hosting the Ark but have been unable to due to lack of funds. Furthermore, despite successful hosting organizations covering the cost of the Ark's transport to their venues, there are many hidden costs and hundreds of hours of time commitment in the managing and upkeep of the Ark and Temenos Books. Throughout a four year period several dedicated individuals have stepped forward to donate their time to further the visibility of the Earth Charter through the Ark of Hope, and this has been very gratifying. Because the Ark lacks the supportive umbrella of an organization there is no work force, and no financial or tax exemption benefits. This has certainly impacted the life of the Ark, particularly its future. Just as the Initiative needs more corporate involvement so does the Ark. The Ark has done no corporate outreach and this needs to be addressed. Judging by the Ark's appeal in educational, art and faith communities, I see no reason why the appeal would not be present in the business sector as well. The bottom line of the dollar would of course have to be usurped by the desire for good will.

The greatest strengths of the Initiative are the Earth Charter itself, and the vision's grassroots following. And let us not forget or diminish the greatest supporter of all:
Earth. I strongly urge the Initiative to utilize Beauty and Art to their advantage. I challenge the Earth Charter Initiative to be the pioneer in the interdependent environmental, social/economic and peace movement in actively integrating the arts into every aspect of their work towards the ultimate goal of implementation of the Earth Charter principles.

The Earth Charter is a work of art. Just close your eyes. Listen to the song: “Let ours be a time remembered”. Stand in the presence of the beautiful painting: “of a new reverence for life”. Dance to the “joyful celebration of life”.

Chapter IX
Faith Groups and the Earth Charter

The introduction and overview has been prepared by Mary Evelyn Tucker and is followed by essays by Kamla Chowdhry and Joan Anderson. As will be evident from the Overview, the Earth Charter Initiative is still in the process of gathering full information on the extent of the use of the Earth Charter by various religious groups.

A) Overview by Mary Evelyn Tucker

Introduction

The contributions of the religious community to the formation of the Earth Charter were noteworthy in the drafting process. The strong commitment to values and ethics that the Charter embodies can be further promoted by the world's religions. The urgency of the planetary crisis we are facing is calling the religions forward to address the problems of equitable sustainable development.

Indeed, it is becoming increasingly evident that the religious traditions are poised to play an important role in promoting the Earth Charter and its principles for a sustainable future. The potential here is enormous and has yet to be fully realized. Part of the difficulty in this regard is that there are no international organizations that bring together all of the world's religions. Moreover, representation within each of the denominations is controversial. It is highly debatable who should speak for one of the traditions when a spectrum of theological positions are evident in each of the religions ranging from orthodox to reform or conservative to progressive. Despite these obstacles many religious communities are very open to the Charter and would be prepared to do more with some guidance or encouragement.

It is also worth noting that within the academic community in the United States there is a growing recognition that environment studies programs need to have a component that includes ethics and values. There is a realization that science and policy are necessary but not sufficient for the solutions of our many environmental problems. The Stanford scientist, Paul Ehrlich made an important statement in this regard at the Ecological Society of America in August 2004. The heads of major environmental studies programs at Harvard, Columbia, Yale, Stanford, Duke, and the University of North Carolina have all expressed agreement with this position which represents a major shift in thinking. The Earth Charter can be an important part of this discussion of environmental values and global ethics within environmental studies programs.

Moreover, in the development community there is an understanding that religious and cultural values matter enormously in effective sustainable development projects. The Harvard web site on world religions and ecology may be helpful in underscoring these points. In particular, there is a section on the web site that has an extensive bibliography on poverty, development and religion. See http://www.harvard.environment.edu/religion.

Formative Input During the Drafting Process

The Earth Charter Initiative can be seen as not only a document but also a process. In the drafting stages it involved the most wide spread consultation ever to take place for an international document. The world's religious communities gave input to the principles of the Charter in a variety of ways both formal and informal. Some of the early input came through the 10 part conference series on World Religions and Ecology from 1996-1998 at Harvard's Center for the Study of World Religion. At some of these conferences Steven Rockefeller was able to present the Charter in its draft form.

During the drafting period several major themes were highlighted as important to be included in the Charter from the perspective of the world's religions. Some of these themes included a strong sense of social justice and equity from the Jewish and Christian groups. From Buddhism there arose a sense of universal responsibility (as articulated by the Dalai Lama) along with a keen sense of the interconnected value of life. From Hinduism and Jainism there was an insistence on non-violence toward humans, other animals and the larger natural world. Indigenous representatives also urged that traditional environmental knowledge (TEK) be included along with a sense of the protection of biodiversity and land. The phrase in the Preamble, "Earth is alive" was considered to be of immense importance for indigenous peoples. Similarly the larger cosmological framework of the Preamble was indebted not only to contemporary science but also to the organic holism of Confucian and Taoist thought.

Varieties of Responses and Use by the Religious Traditions

1) Endorsement

Approximately 220 religious groups have endorsed the Earth Charter. Many of them represent a significant numbers of members. These religious groups are located in a wide variety of countries. Many of the faith groups that have endorsed the Earth Charter are rooted in the various Christian denominations. The Earth Charter has received overwhelming support from congregations of Catholic nuns as approximately 80 congregations of women religious worldwide have endorsed the Earth Charter. Several Buddhist organizations and groups with other religious and spiritual beliefs have also endorsed the Earth Charter, and a number of groups with other religious and spiritual beliefs have also endorsed the Earth Charter. Significant support for the Charter has come from indigenous peoples in the Circumpolar North, New Guinea, and North America.

Many religious based organizations have endorsed the Earth Charter, including: Pax Christi International, a non-governmental Catholic peace movement with members worldwide; Pax Romana ICMICA, an international association of Catholic professionals and intellectuals composed of local federations, groups, and individuals; the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, which seeks to "cultivate harmony between the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its other guiding

institutions"; the United Church of Canada, the largest Protestant denomination in Canada, and Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist association with more than 12 million members in 190 countries and territories worldwide.

The endorsements of various religious traditions and religious based organizations should be encouraged and expanded. However, beyond endorsement there is a need to think of strategies to make the document an effective call to action for a just, equitable and sustainable future.

2) Context

Rethinking mission- Many religious groups, especially the Catholic nuns have used the Charter to rethink their mission in a broader global context of sustainability.

3) Ethical Linkages

One of the most important contributions of the Charter for the religious communities has been to bring together a broader cosmological perspective with a call for environmental justice and social justice. In other words, the understanding of the intricate unfolding of evolution and the complexity of ecological systems is an important basis of the Charter that is being linked more directly to human oriented justice concerns. Leonardo Boff, the South American liberation theologian is an important spokesperson for this perspective that recognizes attention to liberating people without care for the Earth is insufficient. These issues need to be linked as they are in the Charter.

4) Celebration/Ritual/Art

Some of the religious communities are using the Charter as a means of celebration and ritual and this needs to be further explored. Ceremonies of repentance for ecological damage have emerged along with prayers of praise for the beauty and intricacy of creation. Moreover, religious communities are calling for hope for effective human action for a sustainable future. Art has emerged in this process including the highly effective Ark of Hope that draws heavily on religious symbolism.

5) International Connections

It is becoming increasingly clear that various international organizations such as UNEP and UNDP recognize the importance of the religious communities in helping to foster their work. Klaus Topfer, the director of UNEP, and Adan Amin, the director of the NY office of UNEP, have frequently referred to the world's religions as important partners in environmental protection. Moreover, in the Earth Dialogues conferences sponsored by Gorbachev the key question has emerged, "Is Ethics the Missing Link?" These would be important avenues to pursue for highlighting the Earth Charter as a context for global ethics for sustainable development.

C) Deepening the Discussion Within and Between Religions

1. Denominational Contributions

1. Jewish

The Earth Charter Commissioner, Rabbi Soetendorp of the Netherlands, has no doubt been promoting the Charter in Jewish communities and can give us more information on this.
I have not been able to determine if there is much activity in the Jewish community in the US around the Charter. Adam Stern at the Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) may be able to tell us if there are any efforts of Jewish groups to support the Charter
Adam@coejl.org
Or Rabbi Larry Troster
larry@coejl.org

2. Christian

Greek Orthodox

Symposia on Religion, Science, and Environment have been sponsored by His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew. These symposia focused on the conditions of the sea have included some discussion of the Earth Charter, and Mary Evelyn Tucker has brought copies of the Earth Charter to the symposia on the Black Sea and the Aegean. http://www.ec-patr.gr.

Protestant

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Retreat Center in Bossey, Switzerland, sponsored a conference on the Earth Charter. Dieter Hessel and Rick Clugston met with the leadership of the World Council of Churches and the US National Council of Churches but were not able to secure endorsements. It would seem that some follow up with Bob Edgar the President of the National Council of Churches would be helpful as he has assumed such an important leadership role.

Also contact Cassandra Carmichael the Eco-Justice Coordinator for NCC -Phone: (202) 544-2350 ext. 27 - E-mail: cassandra@toad.net)See also http://nccecojustice.org.

The Wyoming Association of Churches -- of whose Board he is a member -- is undertaking a statewide study of the Earth Charter in 2005. www.WyomingAssociationofChurches.org For more information, contact Donn Kesselheim (ouzel@rmisp.com).

To involve the Evangelical Community more it would be good to explore:

Care for Creation Web site
http://creationcare.org

Evangelical Declaration on the Care for Creation
http://www.creationcare.org/resources/declaration.php

Quaker

The Quaker community has endorsed the Charter.

http://www.fcun.org/pubs/Newsletter%201804/newsletter28d.html
Ruah Swennerfelt, a Quaker, has been very supportive of the Earth Charter and it is used in their outreach and a new publication entitled *Earthcare for Friends: A Study Guide for Individuals and Faith Communities (*Burlington, Vermont: Quaker Earthcare Witness, 2004). See also http://www.SAYMA.org. The Charter was used at the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Associates of the Society of Friends. Also, Donn Kesselheim is working from the Quaker perspective in Wyoming on study groups on the Charter across Wyoming (ouezel@rmisp.com).

Unitarian

In 2002, the General assembly of the Unitarian-Universalist Association endorsed the Earth Charter. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) represents the interests of more than one thousand Unitarian Universalist congregations, on a continental scale. Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with its roots in the Jewish and Christian traditions. It "keeps an open mind to the religious questions people have struggled with in all times and places".

The Unitarian Universalists adopted the Earth Charter at the end of their annual five-day General Assembly held in Quebec City. This Assembly was attended by more than 4,100 people. In endorsing the Earth Charter, the delegates to the General Assembly called for all member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association to do likewise.

Ron Engel has been instrumental in these efforts in the U-U community.

Catholic

Mikhail Gorbachev, co-chair of the Earth Charter Commission, presented the Earth Charter to Pope John Paul II following the launch in 2000. However, there has been no formal recognition of the Earth Charter by the Pope.

The Earth Charter Commissioner, Leonardo Boff, has done important work in Brazil and in other parts of Latin America to assist in promoting the Earth Charter among Catholic communities and beyond. He successfully integrates the universe story, liberation theology, and the Earth Charter.

Of all the religious groups we have been able to collect the most information in the area of the Catholic community, although largely in North America. In the Catholic world the women religious (Catholic nuns) have been some of the key leaders in promoting the Charter in their communities and in public workshops and conferences.

• Call to Action
This is an organization of some 8,000 members, largely Catholic lay men and women, along with nuns and priests. It is several decades old and is a forum for discussion of Church related issues within a progressive framework. In November 2004 in Milwaukee Mary Evelyn Tucker made a presentation on the Charter to a group of some 300 people. It was well received and the majority of people attending were familiar with the Charter and were already using it in a variety of ways including teaching, as well as a basis for a broader call to social justice and environmental action within Church groups.

• Center for Social Change
The Center for Social Change, USA, was launched in 2001 with a vision of helping communities give voice to their expectations for a better place to live. Its mission is to "develop and promote research, communication, and action for social change with a focus on quality-of-life issues, social policy, and the soul of the community". The Earth Charter is the context from which all of the Centers for Social Change initiatives are viewed.

Under the leadership of president Sister Michaela Rock, Centers for Social Change created an Earth Charter theme workbook for young people entitled "…and justice for all." This workbook, published in 2003, is designed to empower young people to become actively involved in social action by experiencing the Earth Charter principles and learning the value of creating social policy and impacting public policy through experiential activities. It is arranged into sixteen weekly lessons intended to create a hands-on learning experience in social justice for youth.

• Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR) in Washington, DC
In the summer of 2003 Mary Evelyn Tucker gave two workshops at the annual meeting of LCWR held in Detroit. It was well attended and it was clear that many of the religious communities of nuns are already using the Charter and are among the strongest supporters of it in the Christian world.

LCWR has also produced a publication called *Tending the Holy* that uses selected passages from the Charter and from scripture for reflection, discussion and prayer. See www.lcwr.org

• School Sisters of Notre Dame
After endorsing the Earth Charter in 2001 the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (Shalom) Coordinating Committee of the School Sisters of Notre Dame began to work to promote the Earth Charter and to disseminate it to members of School Sisters of Notre Dame congregations. Sisters were encouraged to reflect upon the Earth Charter and implement it in the work that they were already doing.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame have a long-standing tradition of working for justice and peace, and the themes of economic and social justice within the Earth Charter easily resonate with their endeavors. Caring for the Earth is part of the School Sisters of Notre Dame's mission to serve.

Contact:
School Sisters of Notre Dame
c/o Eileen Reilly
345 Belden Hill Rd
Wilton, Ct 06897
203 762- 3318
communications@ssndwilton.org

• Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
Contact: Sister Ann Oestreich IHM (Congregation Justice Coordinator) www.cscsisters.org

Earth Charter USA sent out a questionnaire to a number of religious organizations. Among those responding were the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Their response are as follows:

1. How have you used the Earth Charter (e.g., in workshops, courses, discussion groups, conferences)?

The Congregation endorsed the Earth Charter in 2002. Since then, we have disseminated copies to all of our members (500+), used it as the basis for congregation-wide prayer services, and offered suggestions for implementation on the local, national and international levels.

We began educational efforts on the Earth Charter with our members prior to 2000. Sister Eileen Gannon, OP, came to Saint Mary's and gave input to our Justice Committee, the group that is charged with implementing the Earth Charter.

We had a campus-wide audit which was done by Al Fritsch, SJ and Paula Gonzalez, among others. We are working to implement the suggestions made in the audit throughout campus.

Our sisters in Sao Paulo, Brazil, who run the Colegio Santa Maria, have educated their school faculty about the Earth Charter and they have re-organized their curriculum around the Earth

Charter principles. Each class in the Colegio is involved in a project to implement one of the Earth Charter principles, many of which engage the local community in Sao Paulo.

During Lent we've organized a Vespers service that focuses on the Earth, entitled Earth Stations.

In 2002 we published a brochure entitled *Earth at Risk* that featured the Earth Charter as a resource. This brochure was disseminated to groups throughout the U.S., including the members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). Group in Canada, Asia, Africa and Latin America also used the resource. It is available in English, French and Spanish. The brochure is available as a pdf file at http://www.cscsisters.org/justice/pdf/hcij_ere.pdf A publication of the Holy Cross International Justice Office, entitled *Perspectives*, featured the Earth Charter in Volume 2, Number 2 issue http://www.holycrossjustice.org/publications.htm Both the Sisters of the Holy Cross and the International Justice Office provide links to the Earth Charter on our web sites.

The Earth Charter was used in many of the Chapter discussions in 2004 (Chapter is the governing body of the Congregation which sets its direction for a five-year period). In June 2005 we offered a training seminar for justice coordinators, part of which was a day-long session devoted to the Earth Charter and its evolution (presenter was Joe Holland). We've disseminated copies of the book by Joe Holland and Elisabeth Ferraro, *The Earth Charter: A Study Book for Reflection and Action*, to seminar participants and members of our Justice Committee.

We have chosen to organize all of our work for justice in the next four years around Principles II, III, and IV of the Earth Charter, devoting a focus year to each principle. This year (August 2005 – August 2006) we will focus on Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace.

We also give financial support to the Religious Orders Partnership (ROP), which promotes awareness and implementation of the Earth Charter.

2. How many people participated and how long did your Earth Charter activity last?

We've tried to engage our entire congregation (500+ sisters) in Earth Charter activities. All of our sisters, plus other members of the Holy Cross family (2500 priests, brothers and sisters) have received information about the Earth Charter. Most have participated in the prayer services; several have been part of workshops and/or informational sessions on the Earth Charter.

3. What were the results? (What worked? What didn't?)

With our population, prayer services always work. They help to integrate the Earth Charter with our congregational commitments, and to help us realize the oneness of all of creation.

Workshops, seminars and input days have been very good. We often show the film, *A Quiet Revolution*, to illustrate how ordinary people can implement Earth Charter principles and make a tremendous difference in the world.

What doesn't work is just handing out copies of the Earth Charter and not putting it in some kind of meaningful context for people.

We feel that our efforts thus far have been quite successful and we hope to build on them in the next three years.

4. What kinds of promotional or educational materials did you develop? (Please send us materials such as syllabi, posters, flyers, workshop descriptions, reports, photos, and a description of your planned follow-up activities as appropriate).

See the web sites referred to in the answer to question #1.

We would like to see more a-v materials developed on the Earth Charter; e.g. DVDs to introduce people to the Earth Charter, to explain the process of developing the Charter, to see how people are implementing it throughout the world, and that suggests creative ways to implement it locally, nationally and internationally.

• Sinsinawa Dominican Order

For Christmas 2004, two retired sisters of the Dominican Order of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, Srs. Mary Jane Herlik and Sue Klein, decided to mention their involvement in the Earth Charter and include the Earth Charter website in their Christmas letters. As a result, friends of the two sisters were informed about the Earth Charter and one couple has begun work to actively promote it. In addition, Srs. Mary Jane Herlik and Sue Klein made a presentation at their Southern Province Chapter with a triptych display, handouts, and key questions about the Earth Charter's principles. The Earth Charter was endorsed at that meeting and later by the Sinsinawa Dominican Central Council, which represents 700 members.

Contact:
Sisters of Charity of Halifax, Nova Scotia
c/o Margaret Coppenrath
24Spectacle Lake Drive
Nesconset, NY 11767
Caris2@aol.com
631 467-1303

Other Congregations or Centers using the Earth Charter
This information has been provided by Earth Charter USA.

Congregation Sisters of St Agnes
Congregation of St Joseph
Congregation of the Sisters and Associates of St Joseph
Daughters of the Holy Spirit (Connecticut)
Daughters of Wisdom
Dominican Sisters
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
Genesis Farm
Maryknoll Sisters
Presentation Sisters Wagga, Australia
Sisters of Charity of St Augustine
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters of Earth
Sisters of St Francis of Assisi
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sisters of the Presentation (Iowa)
Sisters of St Joseph
Sisters of St Joseph of La Grange
Sisters of St Joseph Consociate Membership
Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon
Society of the Holy Child Jesus
Presentation Convent (South Dakota)
Ursuline Sisters

• **Global Education Associates**

Global Education Associates involves an international network of Roman Catholic organizations. Pat Mische, the founder and director of GEA, has said she would be happy to give a fuller report when she returns from overseas on August 22. Home phone 301 474 0388.

• **Pax Christi** and **Pax Romana** have endorsed the Charter
Joe Holland could provide more information on this.
Ejholland@aol.com or joehollandoffice@aol.com

• **Rockhaven Ecozoic Center**

This is a Catholic renewal center and lay-spiritual community in House Springs, MO who actively integrates the principles of the Earth Charter into daily life and course/retreat offerings. The Earth Wisdom course and portions of the Rockhaven 100-day renewal program

are based upon the principles in the Earth Charter. The Earth charter is also discussed in detail at the Ecozoic Living workshops. Rockhaven uses the Earth Charter teaching material developed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame religious community.

Contact:
Denise Rushing
Rockhaven Ecozoic Center
7621 Rivermont Trail
House Springs, MO 63051
636-671-3623

A problem area:
Among Catholics the principal drawback for some groups has been a misperception that the Charter is endorsing abortion when it is calling for reproductive health care for women and girls. While many attempts have been made to rectify this, nonetheless the perception has not disappeared. How to address this issue may be important to attend to.

3. Bahá'í

Although not endorsing the Charter, the Bahá'í community has been an active supporter of the Charter and its framework of a global ethics for sustainable development. The leadership of the international Bahá'í community did not endorse the Earth Charter because they objected to several principles, including Principle 13.c. What they objected to in 13.c was the specific reference to a right to dissent. In the Bahá'í community, after a major policy decision has been made, dissent is not considered appropriate.
Contact: Peter Adriance - 202-833-8990, PAdriance@usbnc.org, http://www.usbnc.org/dept/oea.asp.

4. Buddhism

The Earth Charter Commissioner, A.T. Ariyaratne from Sri Lanka, should be an important source of information in the use of the Charter among Buddhist communities in south Asia. The Sarvodaya organization, which Ariyaratne leads, has used the Earth Charter in its extensive community development work in Sri Lanka and he has personally warmly endorsed the document. See, for example, his essay in *Toward a Sustainable World: The Earth Charter in Action*.

A large number of Buddhist leaders, including the Dalai Lama, contributed to the drafting process for the Earth Charter. On several occasions the Dalai Lama has indicated his support for the document. While there is a lot of potential in the Buddhist community for endorsing and using the Charter, for the most part Soka Gakkai International has taken a lead role in this regard (see report of Joan Anderson). There are, however, various avenues to pursue to expand the involvement of the Buddhist community. In North America this includes exploring the Buddhist Peace Fellowship based in Berkeley that is interested in

environmental work and has an important network of activists. These include engaged Buddhists such as Joanna Macy, Ken Kraft, Stephanie Kaza (all of whom are familiar with the Earth Charter), and others who would no doubt be very supportive. Moreover, the community of engaged Buddhists such as Sulak Sivaraksa in Thailand, and Thich Nat Hahn in France would be worth contacting in this regard.

The Earth Charter has been endorsed by the Rochester Zen Center and the Vermont Zen Center in the USA and by the Dharma Drum Monastery on Taiwan.

5. Confucianism

One of the leading scholars of Confucianism, Harvard professor Tu Weiming, attended some of the drafting meetings for the Charter and he speaks about it widely in his numerous lecture tours in Asia. He is a major supporter of the Charter and is an important vehicle for its entry into China in particular. Indeed, the Forum on Religion and Ecology is discussing with him the possibility of doing two conferences in China to highlight the crisis of over development. Two years ago the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Pan Yue, gave a speech on the need for an environmental ethics in China drawing on Chinese religious traditions such as Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism. Thus we intend to focus on Confucianism and on Daoism in these conferences. The Harvard volumes on Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism are being translated into Chinese. In the conference context, the Charter will be a key document. It may also be that we can have the Charter included as an appendix of the translated volumes.

6. Daoism

While there is no endorsement yet of Daoists for the Charter it may be possible through contacts in western China that such an endorsement or involvement may be possible. The Daoist scholar, James Miller, may be of assistance in that regard. james.miller@queensu.ca He is in contact with us about organizing a conference on Daoism and ecology in China.

7. Hinduism/Jainism

The Earth Charter Commissioner, Kamla Chowdhry, a Hindu, has helped to support the Charter in India. Ashok Khosla has also been supportive, in particular at the CEE conference held in Ahmedabad. Both Chowdhry and Khosla link the Charter to Gandhian thought, especially with regard to non-violence and peace.

Satish Kumar, a Jain monk has done the same via the magazine *Resurgence* and Schumacher College in England. A major supporter for this work in the future may be Vandana Shiva in India.

8. Indigenous Traditions

The Earth Charter Commissioner, Henriette Rasmussen, has been active in encouraging support and use of the Charter in the Circumpolar Inuit organization. Finn Lynge has also played an important role in this region.

The Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), which includes thirty-one indigenous peoples living in Siberia and the Russian Far East, formally endorsed the Earth Charter at its tenth anniversary meeting in the spring of 2000. In addition, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Fenno-Scandinavian Saami Council, and the Danish Committee of Nature and Peoples of the North have joined RAIPON of Russia in pledging their full support of the Earth Charter. The support of these groups representing the inhabitants of the Arctic is especially significant since their representatives were concerned with the wording of certain principles in early drafts of the Charter. Their concerns, however, were addressed, and they are now actively engaged in promoting the document.

In 2003, the 870 tribal groups in Papua, New Guinea met and endorsed the Earth Charter and using the Earth Charter drafted their own local Earth Charter.

Chief Oren Lyons, who actively participated in the drafting process and directly influenced the construction of Principle 12, has been an important supporter of the Charter in North America.

9. Muslim

Iran
At the Tehran Conference on Religion, Environment, and Peace sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (June 2001 and May 2004) Mary Evelyn Tucker included the Charter in her presentations and brought copies to distribute. It was very well received by the 200 participants present at each conference.

Indonesia
At the Center for Religious and Cross Cultural Studies at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta in August 2005 a seminar on world religions and ecology will be taught by Mary Evelyn Tucker with a Turkish scholar of Islam, Ibrahim Ozdemir. The Earth Charter will be an important component of this seminar.

II. Inter-religious Contributions

1. Parliament of the World's Religions

Barcelona, Spain

The Parliament of the World's Religions, from 7- 13 July 2004 in Barcelona, was a gathering of some 4,000 religious leaders, scholars, lay people, and journalists from around the world. The Parliament's panels and discussions focused on four major topics: water, refugees, international debt, and religiously motivated violence.

Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI) Coordinator, Michael Slaby, organized a panel within the Parliament. The event, entitled *The Earth Charter: Shared Values for Building a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable Future,* was scheduled in the biggest venue at the Parliament and was attended by approximately 350 participants. Among the speakers at the panel were Professor Mary Evelyn Tucker, from Bucknell University; Earth Charter Commissioner, Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp; Josiane Troillet, with *Actions Pour Une Charte de la Terre*, France; and Michael Slaby. It is believed that this effort has raised the interest of many to use the Earth Charter in their work and further explore the linkages between the Earth Charter and other values based efforts.

Cape Town, South Africa

In December of 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa the Parliament of the World's Religions sponsored an important discussion regarding an emerging global ethics. This featured a presentation of the principles of the Earth Charter by Steven Rockefeller and the key concepts framing the Declaration of Global Ethics by Hans Kung. Responses were made to the presentations by the Harvard Confucian scholar, Tu Weiming, and the historian of religions, Mary Evelyn Tucker. The session was well attended and provoked a lively discussion. Steven Rockefeller and Kamla Chowdhry presented Benchmark Draft II to the Parliament at a plenary session, and during their presentation they presented a copy of Benchmark Draft II to Nelson Mandela who addressed the plenary session immediately afterwards.

2. Earth Charter Event in Germany

In 2005, The German Earth Charter Team organized an Earth Charter panel with an audience of approximately 500 people at one of the biggest Christian events in Germany. The event took place as part of "Kirchentag" ("church day") and was organized by the Lutheran-Protestant church, bringing together more than 300.000 people. Among the panelists were Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp (Earth Charter Commissioner), Angelika Zahrnt (the Head of Friends of the Earth Germany) and Michael Slaby (Youth Earth Charter Initiative Coordinator).

3. Earth Charter Focal Point in Germany

The Ecumenical One World Initiative (OeIEW), which focuses on ecology, development, and the promotion of a sustainable way of life, has been involved in the Earth Charter Initiative since 1999. In 2001, the Ecumenical One World Initiative worked with BUND, Friends of the Earth Germany, to produce a German Earth Charter Brochure. This brochure made the Earth Charter more accessible to the German people and helped to raise awareness. The 2001 Ecumenical One World Annual Meeting focused on the Earth Charter and the Earth Charter promotion process in Germany.

4. Spirituality and Sustainability Conferences in Assisi, Italy

For five summers (1995-2000) the Center for Respect of Life and Environment under the leadership of Rick Clugston held a series of conferences in Assisi, Italy, at which the Earth Charter was a major component. These conferences attracted many participants from the Catholic and Protestant communities in Europe and North America. Thomas Berry was a frequent participant.

5. Spiritual Celebrations of the Earth Charter

Various religious groups have created ceremonies for celebrating the spiritual and ethical values in the Earth Charter. One example would be "for love of earth" organized by Sally Linder and Cami Davis, in Burlington, Vermont, USA. Another example would be the programs organized by Sister Patricia Bombard, BVB, D.Min. Institute for Spiritual Leadership. www.spiritleader.org.

B) "Earth Charter: Sacred India" by Kamla Chowdhry

Looking back in history, especially of the last few hundred years, it is evident that the great 'progress' made by the West had its roots in the spread of colonialism, in the survival of the fittest, in the arrogant and violent use of power, and in the piracy of wealth and resources.

By 1914, 84.4% of the world's terrestrial area had been colonized. In the colonized countries brutality was widely practiced not only in dealing with the natives, but also in dealing with natural resources.

During these last few hundred years, economic growth and development has also lent itself to major destruction of earth resources – disappearing of forests, falling water tables, collapsing fisheries, expanding deserts, rising sea levels, the destruction of eco-systems, and the dying of many species.

We now live with a deeply wounded Earth.

The scientists, ecologists, as also our religious and spiritual leaders, are telling us that we must learn to live in harmony with the Earth, on Earth terms, not on our increasing economic needs, and not on our greed of wanting more and more.

In order to move towards a sustainable future, to a more equitable future, to a non-violent and peaceful future, we will need to awaken again the inner spirituality of people. We believe the Earth Charter will help bring together science and spirituality, and the sense of the 'sacred' in our dealings with the Earth.

Bhagvad Gita and Gandhi: The Message and The Saint

The *Bhagvad Gita*, a religious and a spiritual guide for action, was written around the 2nd and 5th century B.C. It is essentially a dialogue between two central speakers – Lord Krishna and Arjuna about 'duty' and about achieving oneness with '*Brahman*' (God)

The main task of *Gita*, in the conversation it contains between Lord Krishna and Arjuna, is to remove from Arjuna's mind – from all minds – the sense of the ego, and this sense of 'mine'. Lord Krishna points out to Arjuna that it is this attitude of possession which causes people to be selfish, jealous, and violent.

Gita's main message has been "you have the right to work but for the work's sake only. You have no right to the fruit of work. Desire for the fruits of work must never be your motive in working".

Bhagvad Gita has been Gandhi's strongest bond for action. Two words from Gita specifically influenced his political actions – '*aparigraha*' (non-possession) and '*sambhava*' (equability). '*Aparigraha*' meant that Gandhi agreed to jettison his material wants, which cramps the style of the spirit, and also helps shake off the bonds of money, property and sex. And 'equability' meant that he agreed to remain unruffled by pain or pleasure, victory or defeat, and worked without considering success or failure, that is, without hankering after the fruit of action.

In changing history, Gandhi was the first individual who used non-violence, not only at the individual and personal level but also in dealing with social, economic and political action. He explained "I saw that nations like individuals could only be made through the agony of the Cross and in no other way. Joy comes not out of infliction of pain on others, but voluntarily borne by oneself".

Gandhi, who was deeply influenced by the *Bhagvad Gita*, and often described as a saint, changed the map of India. He took us from the world of science and technology, from the lust of power and profit, to the spirit of simplicity and saintliness and of renunciation with which India was, and still is familiar.

In his struggle in South Africa, when Gandhi was only about 24-25 years old, he experienced violence on roads, trains and buses. At the Petermaritzburg railway station Gandhi was

violently and unceremoniously thrown out of his first class train compartment with bag and baggage. Gandhi spent that night in great pain and anguish. This was the beginning of Gandhi's turning inwards, and as he acknowledged years later, this painful experience was the most creative and spiritual awakening in his life. This experience turned into a passionate cause for human dignity and justice, and it led him to discovering inner peace and tranquility.

In order to move towards building a peaceful and a sustainable future, we will need to awaken the inner spirituality of people and of communities. We believe the Earth Charter will help bring together science and spirituality to serve the Earth and its living creatures.

Sir Radhakrishnan, a philosopher and India's first President, looking back at our history pointed out "the greatest in the story of man on earth is not his material achievements, the empires built and broken, but the growth of the soul from age to age in its search for truth and goodness. Those who take part in the adventure of the soul secure an enduring place in history of human culture. Time has discredited heroes as easily as it has forgotten anyone else. But the saints remain".

Hinduism and Environment: A Way of Life

Hindus regard everything about them as pervaded by divine presence. The rivers, mountains, lakes, animals, flora and fauna, are all manifestations of God, and therefore there is a deep respect and gratitude felt towards nature.

In the Vedas, *Mahabharat*, *Upanishads*, *Puranas* and other religious books, man has been forbidden from exploiting nature and to recognize that divinity prevails in all natural elements, including trees, plants and animals.

India is a vast network of sacred places. There are sacred rivers, sacred mountains, sacred trees and plants, and sacred cities. There has also been a long tradition of maintaining sacred groves in many places in many states. In Rajasthan, a few centuries ago, it is said, that the King sent his men to cut trees for use in his palace. The village women hugged the trees to prevent their cutting. The story goes that about two hundred women were 'cut' and killed hugging trees before the King stopped! And even now a few years ago when a private sport agency sent their men to cut the trees women resorted to hugging the trees when the agents arrived. The *Chipko* movement – clinging to trees – has spread in many parts of India, and in other parts of the world as well.

The forest groves nurtured by villagers are looked upon as habitations of the gods. These groves also influence the spiritual and ethical behaviour of communities.

Most of the rivers in India are used as major 'pilgrimages'. The Ganges is especially sacred and used by the Hindu world – as also by others – to visit her banks, to sing, to pray, to be healed, and to be connected with their gods. At the famous *Kumbh mela* every year, where millions come from all over India, where the Ganges connects with the *Jamuna* and the

invisible *Saraswati*, people pay their homage, and to pray for their healing, their sicknesses, as also to seek mercy and compassion from the gods. These pilgrims believe Mother *Ganga* will take care of them.

The mountains too are treated as sacred. Many parts of the Himalayas are sacred sites, and millions of pilgrims also go to these centers with great devotion.

Mount *Kailash*, one of the peaks in the Himalayan region is considered especially sacred where over a billion people from India, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, visit every year. The pilgrims view Mt. *Kailash* as a divine dwelling place of God and Goddess *Parvati*!

The whole emphasis of the present as also of the ancient Hindu religious practices is that human beings cannot separate themselves from their natural surroundings, because Earth has the same relationship with man as that of mother with her child.

Earth Charter and Sacredness

The Earth Charter is a document and a philosophy whose time has come.

When humanity reaches a new low history has shown that someone or something happens. With the despair and degradation that accompanied colonialism, Gandhi happened in India, and Nelson Mandela in South Africa. Both Gandhi and Nelson Mandela changed the map of the world.

With the Earth and its people in deep degradation, the Earth Charter has happened. The Earth Charter is a document which makes an appeal to humanity to move in the direction of sustainable living, of moral and ethical living, of peaceful and compassionate living, and of pursuing technologies with a human face.

Most changes that have altered the course of history began with individuals who by their example and actions did what many thought impossible. Underlying each one is a moral conviction and a fearlessness that refuses to be subdued.

Gandhi changed the map of the world. His life was rooted in India's religious concerns with a passionate search for truth and a profound reverence of life, the ideal of non-attachment, and readiness to sacrifice all for the knowledge of God. And he pointed out 'for me there is no politics devoid of religion. Politics bereft of religion are a death trap because they kill the soul"

The religious spirit in India is widespread. There are millions of people who move around as pilgrims, as *swamis*, as *yogis* in search of God. And there are thousands of '*ashrams*' (religious, spiritual abodes), which people select to join in their search of peace and of God.

India has many many spiritual institutions with membership of millions, serving people in many ways – education, hospitals, health services, etc. and above all sharing their knowledge, and their spirituality. Sri Sathya Sai Baba's work is spread through 8000 Centers in India, and several hundreds abroad. The Sai Baba's institutions are not in pursuit of promoting religion, but in promoting 'love' and 'service' for others. One of Sai Baba's saying "Love all, Serve all…. Forget the harm that anyone has done to you and forget the good that you have done to others".

Another example is Pandurang Shastri, a *Gita* teacher, whose work is a movement of human transformation. The movement is about growth in self-knowledge, a knowledge that links 'self' to divinity. It is rooted in the idea that God is within us, and works with us . The best way of offering our gratitude to God is through offering of our 'efficiency' to Him as a devotional act. *Swadhyaya* literally means the study of knowledge and discovery of the self.

The *Swadhyaya* movement has spread in many parts of India and has a membership of about 150 million people all over the country and growing.

Pandurang Shastri's movement has helped people in agriculture, health care, better drainage, spreading of education, etc. In one of the drought years in Gujrat the devotees of Pandurang Shastri, with devotional service, helped recharge 94000 wells and rebuilt 500 ponds in a year!

Veerabhadra Misra is a '*mahant*' a priest in one of the largest temples in Benares, as also a Professor of Engineering in the Benares University. He is deeply concerned about the Ganges and suggests "the western approach will not work here. You will need to use a different language and a different relationship with the Ganges. Life is like a river. One bank is the '*vedas*' and the other bank includes science and technology – we need to pay attention to both banks"

The Ramakrishna Mission, a spiritual organization started by Swami Vivekanand in 1897 has attracted millions of professional people to serve communities. Swami Vivekanand, as a young man, traveled all over the country without a name, as an unknown beggar sleeping in stables and on the roadside with beggars and lepers. The 'pilgrimage' helped him to understand the deep poverty and despair of India's poor, as also their deep spirituality. The Ramakrishna Mission besides about 100 Centers in India, have many Centers in USA, as also in other parts of the world.

There are many many religious and spiritual movements all over India, serving the needs of people and communities. Religion as practiced in India need not be a retreat from the world.

There are millions of institutions in our lives that promote religious and spiritual and service actions for communities and for people that need their services. Gandhi had said 'My Life is My Message'. So too is the message from these millions of 'spiritual' people and institutions.

If we wish to promote the vision of the Earth Charter, and help build a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century, we need to make the religious and spiritual organizations as our partners as also a part of our agenda.

And we need to be the change we want others to be.

C) "The Earth Charter and Religion" by Joan Anderson

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) and the Earth Charter

There are a number of levels on which there is a good "fit" between the SGI and the Earth Charter, both in terms of underlying principles and modes of development and implementation. The SGI is a global network of ordinary citizens linked by a shared vision of creating a better future for all Earth's inhabitants; the religious philosophy of Buddhism has always stressed that the reform of the inner life of the individual is the essential basis for any effort to improve social conditions; and the multicultural nature of our movement means that dialogue is deeply imbedded in its fabric. All these factors have made it very natural for many SGI members worldwide to find resonance with the ideals and objectives of the Earth Charter—the search for a shared ethical basis for a better world.

In terms of concrete action, the SGI and its members have been actively engaged in promoting the Earth Charter and putting its principles into action on different planes: international, national, local, and individual. SGI, a lay Buddhist association, currently has around 12 million members around the world, of whom around 10 million are in Japan. Outside Japan, there are a total of 77 countries where there is an officially registered SGI organization. Each operates independently, and while the religious beliefs and practices of Nichiren Buddhism are common to all, programs of socially-engaged activities are developed in line with local priorities and expertise and not mandated from SGI centrally.

The activities carried out by local and national SGI organizations tend to fall into several broad thematic areas – peace education, environmental protection and education, human rights education and interfaith dialogue and collaboration. As faith practitioners our members share a commitment to social justice, but for the most part they are not specialists. Our activities tend to fall into the category of "public education" or awareness-raising/constituency-building. Exhibitions have been one popular form of activity, often linked to seminars, workshops or lectures.

At the international level, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda has promoted the Earth Charter repeatedly in his annual peace proposals issued on January 26 to mark SGI Day. He also contributed comments and feedback twice during the drafting process. His leadership has been symbolically important to SGI's continuing involvement in the Earth Charter movement. In addition to references to the Earth Charter in the peace proposals, he also authored a proposal on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the run-up to the

WSSD; in this he referred specifically to the importance of the Earth Charter both as a vision and as an educational tool for the Decade. In articles and editorials on the theme of ESD he has repeatedly made reference to the Charter.

The availability of educational resources has also encouraged respective SGI organizations to become involved. The video "A Quiet Revolution," which was produced by the Earth Council in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP and SGI, while initially not explicitly linked to the Earth Charter, has been frequently used in conjunction with events and activities related to the Charter. This film has been translated into numerous languages, been awarded at several film festivals, and shown on national TV stations in many countries. It continues to be in very high demand for educational purposes. A new 6-language DVD version has been produced which directly links the film to the Charter.

The exhibition "Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and Human Potential," created in partnership with the Earth Charter Initiative for the WSSD, has also been an important resource. This exhibition has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Italian and Spanish and shown in many different venues around the world, often in partnership with other organizations and in conjunction with seminars on how people can contribute to sustainability in their own lives and communities. Because this exhibition was designed with ordinary citizens in mind, it has been demonstrably successful in inspiring individuals to believe that they can do something to "make a difference."

The SGI Charter, adopted in 1994, articulates many of the same concerns as the Earth Charter, stating "We recognize that at no other time in history has humankind experienced such an intense juxtaposition of war and peace, discrimination and equality, poverty and abundance…..that humanity's egoism and intemperance have engendered global problems, including degradation of the natural environment and widening economic chasms…." The range of issues SGI is concerned with, and their interlinkages, make the Earth Charter a very convenient "junction box" which helps bring together these different issues in a way similar to the SGI Charter, but one which can more easily be shared with others. That these are ultimately ethical issues which require changes in fundamental human attitudes and behavior, away from selfishness and greed toward wisdom, responsibility, compassion and action for the sake of others, is a message which SGI members readily relate to, as it matches our basic belief that change starts from the individual undergoing a process of "human revolution" or inner-motivated change.

Two core principles of Buddhism generally make it easy for SGI members to relate to the Charter – respect for Earth and life in all its diversity, and the recognition of the interdependency and interconnectedness of all life. For us the lack of reference to a god-like figure in the Charter makes it easier for us to relate to it. The only problem sometimes is that our members might be over-enthusiastic in identifying how "Buddhist" the Earth Charter is. Because it so beautifully articulates our concerns, in internal background materials and training sessions we are always careful to emphasize "this is *not* a Buddhist document" and to stress that it is a strength of the Earth Charter movement that it brings together people and

groups from different faiths. In only isolated instances have our members reacted negatively to what they perceived as the promotion of a particular political agenda within the organization.

Since 1997, when the SGI-affiliated Boston Research Center for the 21st Century began consultations on the Benchmark Draft of the Earth Charter, and Mr. Ikeda first stressed the importance of the Earth Charter in his peace proposals, individual SGI members in many countries have been inspired by the vision articulated in the Charter. There are now two main e-networks linking these individuals. One links around 70 SGI members in 30 countries, and the other brings together key Earth Charter people within SGI-USA. Many of the latter groups have been actively involved with helping to organize local Earth Charter Community Summits. Between 2001 and 2004, SGI members in the U.S.A. and Scotland participated in a total of 19 such Summits.

In some cases almost the entire SGI organization in a particular country has become engaged, as in Canada and Taiwan, and in some cases such as Malaysia ongoing practical projects such as recycling have been linked to Earth Charter activities. SGI Hong Kong has a regular column in its publication devoted to the Earth Charter. In June 2005, the SGI Canada Vancouver Earth Charter Youth Committee was one of several groups awarded the City of Vancouver's "Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award." SGI-Italy has developed a program of innovative youth forums and "talk shows" where young people meet in small groups and use the Charter as a tool for reflection on their real-life concerns.

However, it is maybe at the individual level that the Charter has affected people most deeply. One SGI member who created a bilingual school in Beijing made the Earth Charter the ethical foundation for the school. Another is creating an Earth Charter-based learning center for sustainable development in rural France and a couple of SGI Earth Charter activists in Scotland are creating a social enterprise called "Action for Change" which will support the UN decade for ESD through promoting the message that individual action makes a difference. Its toolkit will include the use the Earth Charter, visual media and Green Mapping techniques to educate people about their own potential to affect positive change. Such grassroots initiatives may well be where the most sustained and direct impact of SGI's support of the Earth Charter is felt.

This scattered response is partly indicative of the autonomous nature of SGI organizations around the world. Another reason is that in some cases the senior leadership of the SGI organizations has not yet fully grasped the potential significance of the Earth Charter. It is not always easy to quickly understand its vision and purpose.

As SGI organizations I believe we could do more to promote the Charter internally within our own membership. As faith groups we have an unusual capacity to reach the grassroots, the "ordinary people" whose actions and basic attitudes create the future. More also could be done generally within the Earth Charter movement to capitalize on this outreach potential within religious congregations. Another area which could be strengthened both within SGI

and more broadly is use of the Earth Charter at interfaith events as it lends itself so well to the process of identifying common concerns about the state of humanity and the Earth. It is important to make efforts to include indigenous perspectives in such activities.

It is very significant that groups representative of all the world's major religious traditions are actively promoting the Charter amongst their memberships and this provides an important starting point for the process of building bridges and recognizing common agendas which should be more deliberately built upon.

We feel that the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development also offers important possibilities for learning and collaboration and would like to see the faith groups which are already active in the Earth Charter movement come together to discuss how we can bolster ESD efforts and awareness and use of the Earth Charter during the Decade. SGI has been an active participant at CSD and parallel activities for the past few years. Most recently, during CSD13, SGI worked with the Bahá'í , the National Council of Churches and other faith based groups to promote involvement by religious groups in the Decade, as well as further use of the Earth Charter within this context.

SGI is committed to further deepening and developing its involvement in the Earth Charter movement and looks forward to increased collaboration with faith-based groups as well as other NGOs over the next five year period. This period will be decisive in determining to what extent the Earth Charter "takes off," becomes genuinely widely known and accepted and begins to fulfill its potential as a global rallying cry towards a more sustainable future.

Appendix I: Faith Groups that have Endorsed the Earth Charter

Australia
Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace
Christian Brothers, Presentation Sisters & Friends for Justice,
Congregation of Christian Brothers
Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy
Diocese of Bathurst
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart [Australia] Justice and Peace Centre
Presentation Sisters, Christian Brothers and Friends Justice Group
SGI Australia
Women and the Australian Church - WATAC

Brazil
Sisters of the Holy Cross, Area VI-Brazil and Peru

Canada
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
Catholic Network for Women's Equality (CNWE)
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood
Outreach Committee Salt Spring United Church
Parksville/Qualicum branch of Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
School Sisters of Notre Dame - Canada

Chile
Congregación Misionera Padres de San Columbano

China
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

Colombia
Vicariato Apostolico de Inirida

Costa Rica
Asociacion Cristiana de Jovenes de Costa Rica
Ministerio de Educación Pública

East Timor
Maryknoll Sisters

El Salvador
Maryknoll Mission Community

France
Sisters of St.Joseph of Lyon
Soka Gakkai France (Lyon)
Soka Gakkai, Paris

Germany
Central Mission of Fransicans
Ecumenical Initiative One World (OeIEW)
Ökumenische Initiative Eine Welt
(Ecumenical One World Initiative)
Pax Christi - German Section

Guatemala
Maryknoll Sisters

Honduras
Hermanas de San Jose de Lyon

India
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Holy Angels
Holy Cross Convent
Institute of the Fransiscan
Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyon
EFICOR, India

Indonesia
MADIA (Masyarakat Dialog Antar Agama)

International Organizations
Congregation of the Sisters of
St. Joseph of Peace (400 members)
Council of the Parliament of the World's Religions
Pax Christi International
Pax Romana ICMICA
Roman Catholic Religious Congregation
the Society of the Divine Word
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace and its 400 members
Soka Gakkai International

Italy
Divine Word Missionaries
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Frati Minori di Sicilia
Society of the Holy Child Jesus Generalate
Soka Gakkai Italia

Lebanon
Soeurs de Saint Joseph de Lyon

Marshall Islands
Maryknoll Sisters Marshall Islands

Mauritius
SGIM, Mauritius

Mexico
Hermanas de San Jose de Lyon
Maryknoll Mission Association
of the Faithful Region
Maryknoll Sisters in Mexico

Netherlands
SGI - Nederland (Dutch Soka Gakkai International)

New Zealand
Cenacle Sisters

Nicaragua
Sisters of Maryknoll of St. Dominic, Nicaragua

Pakistan
Our Lady of the Rosary, Pakistan

Philippines
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary-JPIC
Holy Family of Bordeaux
Delegation of the Philippines
JPIC Office, Mission Congregation of
the Servants of the Holy Spirit
Maryknoll Sisters
Mission Congregation of the Servants
of the Holy Spirit - Rosary Province
Siervas de San Jose

Puerto Rico
Convento Jesus Mediador

South Africa
Provincial Synod of the Church
of the Province of South Africa

Spain
Misioneras Doctrina Cristiana

Switzerland
Oekumenische Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Kirche und Umwelt

Taiwan
Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhism Foundation

United Kingdom

Dornoch Firth Baha'i Circle
Norwich and Lynn Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

United States
Burlington Friends Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
Church of the American Indian USA
Church of the Earth Nation, Inc.
Church of Y Tylwyth Teg - Welsh
Tradition in America
Coalition for Interfaith and Intercultural
Knowledge and Action
Congregation Justice Committee of
the Sisters of the Holy Cross
Congregation of St. Agnes
Leadership Team
Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross
Connecticut Regional of The Sisters
of Mercy (335 Members and Associates)
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
Federation of Sisters of Charity
First Congregational Church - UCC (MA)
First Congregational Church
(plus 28 church members) (Illinois)
First Presbytarian Church of Kirkwood
First Unitarian Univeralist Society of Burlington
Great Lakes Region of Sisters of Charity, BVM
Green Fire - 7 Generations Ministry
Green Sanctuary Committee; Unitarian-
Universalist Church of Tallahassee, FL
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Institute Justice Team, Sisters of
Mercy of the Americas
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office
Wheaton Franciscans
Marykknoll Sisters
Maryknoll Mission Association
of the Faithful
Maryknoll Sisters
Medical Mission Sisters
Middlebury Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Middlebury, VT Area Clergy
Missionary Sisters of the
Immaculate Conception
National Board of Leadership Conference
of Women Religious
National Catholic Rural Life Conference
National Coalition of American Nuns
New England Yearly Meeting
of Friends (Quakers)
North Universalist Chapel Society
Northwest Quarterly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
Office of Justice & Peace, Archdiocese of Portland
Office of Justice and Peace, ST Augustine Diocese
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Pax Christi USA
Platte Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Prairiewoods: Franciscan Spirituality Center
Presbyterians for Restoring Creation
Rochester Zen Center
SGI-USA
SGI-USA Mid America Region
Sisters of St. Joseph of Corondelet - |
St. Paul Province - Justice Commission
Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine
Sisters of Charity Halifax
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
(aprox. 225 signatures)
sisters of charity of St. Augustine
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston
Sisters of Loretto and Comembers
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Regional Community of Detroit
Sisters of Mercy of Vermont
Sisters of Mercy, Northeast Justice Team
Sisters of Providence of
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the
Sisters of Saint Joseph
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Orange
Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methosius
Sisters of St. Francis of Savannah, MO
Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sisters of St. Joseph of
Carondelet, Los Angeles
Sisters of St. Joseph of
Carondelet, St. Louis- Congregational
Leadership Team
Sisters of St. Joseph of La Grange
Sisters of St. Joseph, Watertown, NY
Sisters of the Holy Names
of Jesus and Mary, Washington Province
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Soka Gakkai International - Mendocino, CA
District
South Starksboro Monthly Meeting of Friends
(Quakers)
St. Mary FaithJustice Ministry
State College Friends Meeting
Stow Conservation Trust
Unitarian Universalist
Association of Congregations

Unitarian Universalists
Unitarian Universalists for
Ethical Treatment of Animals
United States Leadership of Sister
of Notre Dame de Namur
Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk- US Province
Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ
Vermont Zen Center
Vicentian Sisters of Charity
Wheaton Franciscan Sisters
Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker)
World Pantheist Movement USA

Uruguay
Soka Gakkai Internacional del Uruguay

Chapter X
The Earth Charter and Business

Mohit Mukherjee, Brendan Mackey, and Mirian Vilela

A) Sustainable Development and Business

There is growing appreciation within the business sector regarding the need for ethics for sustainability. Business leaders are recognizing that the reasons for incorporating the sustainability agenda into their *modus operandi* go beyond image building and meeting legal requirements regarding environmental protection, labor rights, etc. Increasingly, businesses are finding that a commitment to sustainability can make a positive contribution to their overall financial performance and can provide a means to gain critical market advantage. Companies that take a lead in implementing environmentally and socially responsible measures benefit from the enhanced public perception, raised employee morale and job satisfaction, and direct cost savings associated with more efficient use of energy and materials. The corporate sector is under increasing pressure from both customers and shareholders to demonstrate how company goals and operations match social and environmental values. There is increasing demand from consumers and shareholders for companies to be transparent about their performance with regard to sustainable development principles.

The term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has progressed from being a new and marginal concept to being recognized as a mainstream consideration of many leading businesses. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development defines Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as "the commitment of business to contribute to sustainable economic development, working with employees, their families, the local community and society at large to improve their quality of life." The challenge today is no longer to convince the business sector to recognize that sustainable development practices need to be adopted but rather to support businesses in bringing about the needed change in organizational cultures and practices.

B) The Earth Charter and the Business Sector

The Earth Charter Initiative has had a mandate to work with the private sector. As noted in the Earth Charter's official brochure, the Charter "*can be utilized as an instrument of designing professional codes of conduct that promote accountability and for assessing progress towards sustainability in businesses…*" However, given limited human and financial resources, the Earth Charter Initiative has not had the means to develop a program of activity in this field. Nonetheless, some private companies have of their own volition endorsed and made use of the Earth Charter.

A number of approaches have been promulgated that endeavor to help businesses integrate sustainability into their activities (e.g., ISO 14000, the Global Compact, The Natural Step, the Global Reporting Initiative, and the Equator Principles). Why would a business choose to work with the Earth Charter given that there are a number of other frameworks for sustainable practices tailored specifically for the corporate sector? One reason is the integrated vision articulated by the Earth Charter. Some initiatives focus exclusively on environmental considerations without considering issues of justice and peace. Alternatively, some approaches focus on the social dimension but leave the environmental considerations unspecified. The Earth Charter can, therefore, play an important role in complementing other approaches by providing a broader and integrated ethical framework for sustainable development. In addition, it can validly lay claim to broad acceptance by civil society throughout the world and can thereby assist businesses operating internationally.

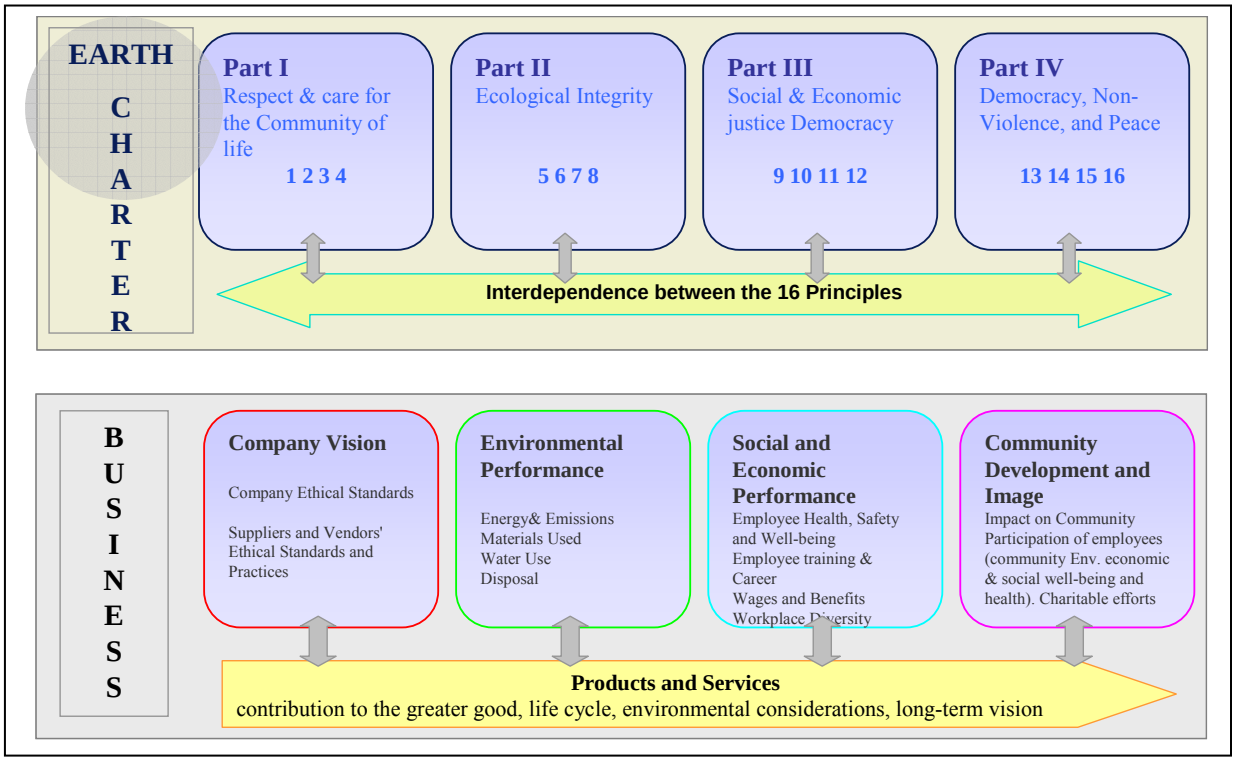
C) Using the Earth Charter in the Business Sector

The Earth Charter has been designed as a general ethical framework and guide to more sustainable ways of living. It is, therefore, not immediately apparent to a business enterprise how the Earth Charter can be used in ways that might be beneficial. To encourage its acceptance and use by the business sector, the Secretariat has developed a document entitled, "What Can I do with the Earth Charter in Business?" which discusses the Earth Charter's relevance to the business sector and details some of the main ways the Earth Charter can help businesses re-shape their organizational cultures that are sensitive and responsive to the challenges of sustainable development. This document has been developed as a way of exploring how the business sector might begin engaging with the Earth Charter. To date it has been circulated only among the Earth Charter Network and has yet to be shared with specific private companies. It highlights three key points about how the Earth Charter can potentially be useful to the business sector. They are:

1. <u>As a Framework for Strategic Planning and Assessment</u>
For the potential of sustainable development to be realized, it must be integrated into the planning and measurement systems of business enterprises. For this to occur, the concept of sustainable development must be articulated in terms that are familiar to business leaders. The Earth Charter's principles can be viewed in relation to five business fields:

- Company Vision
- Environmental Performance
- Products and Services
- Social and Economic Performance
- Community Development and Image

In each of these areas, the relevant Earth Charter principles can guide the practices of the organization, as shown in the diagram below.



See also the Business/Earth Charter assessment chart at the end of this report.

2. To Assist in Design Codes of Conduct

The concept of an ethical framework needs to be incorporated into the policies and practices of a business. This does not mean that new management methods need to be invented. Rather, it requires a new cultural orientation and extensive revision of systems, practices and procedures.

ManyOne Networks is a business guided by the principles found in the Earth Charter. "*We believe that the Earth Charter represents the most complete and balanced expression of global social priorities yet achieved. We believe that every organization's first responsibility is to the world as a whole, not to its narrower self-interests.*"

"The Earth Charter represents the zenith of the responsibility initiatives. Were a business to design professional codes of conduct based on the Charter it is doubtless that the long-term health of the company would improve. This is not an easy task. But by taking this step, the CSR program in a company could become exponentially stronger as the responsibility becomes something the employees begin to take home with them. In the end, business can and does shape the habits of their employees and consumers. The Earth Charter offers a tool to assist in finding the path towards this responsibility and sustainability."[41]

[41] Senne, Jeff. "Creating Competitiveness Through Responsibility"; *Business Costa Rica*, September 2004.

3. In Ethical Investment

Sustainable investment, also known as 'socially responsible investment' (SRI), has grown enormously in the past decade. In the early days, it was regarded as a fringe interest, mainly for small investors with strong views on the environment and human rights. Since then, the amount of money invested in 'sustainable' funds has increased dramatically, and many of the large financial services firms have begun offering their clients a 'sustainable' option.[42]

Two preconditions for future growth of the sector are (i) investor confidence in the credibility of the indexes themselves, and (ii) investor confidence in the financial security of their investment. The Earth Charter can contribute to meeting these two preconditions as it provides a framework for addressing investor confidence issues that defines environmentally and socially responsible practices for investment.[43]

D) Business Initiatives with the Earth Charter (2000 – 2005)

While thousands of organizations have endorsed the Earth Charter, only a relatively small number of those are businesses. This is in large part because the Initiative has not had the resources to actively pursue the private sector and further develop tools to facilitate the implementation of the Earth Charter principles in that setting. That being said, the endorsements and isolated cases that have taken place point to a tremendous potential for the Earth Charter in the business sector.

Australia

A workshop on the Earth Charter and ethical investment was held in Canberra, Australia, in October 2001. The workshop was held in the Australian Parliament House under the patronage of the Hon Judi Moylan MP. The workshop was organized by Dr. Brendan Mackey of The Australian National University, in partnership with the Australian Wilderness Society and Henderson Walton Consulting. Workshop participants included representatives from investment advisers, banks and NGOs. The workshop was sponsored by Woodside Petroleum – an Australian energy corporation that operates internationally. This experience has generated interest among individuals involved in this particular sector to explore ways of using the Earth Charter to further the aims of ethical investment and to offer clear sustainability principles to guide such endeavor.

RepuTex is an agency that assigns ratings (analogous to a credit rating system) to companies, organizations and government bodies based on their social, environmental, corporate governance and workplace practices. In this context, RepuTex has used the Earth Charter principles as a reference for the creation of its benchmarks, particularly in their environmental category. The RepuTex system is being extended into other national economies, including China, and provides an innovative way for the Earth Charter to influence and be useful to the

[42] Taken from internal documents, "What can I do with the Earth Charter in Business?"
[43] Hawkins, Michele; "Ethical Investing" in *Earth Charter Bulletin*, December 2001.

business sector. The Earth Charter Initiative could usefully explore ways to partner with RepuTex in the coming years to advance sustainable development.

USA

In local Earth Charter Community Summits held in the U.S. every year, a number of businesses have expressed interest in working with the Earth Charter, and a few have taken initial implementation steps. Similarly, Green Cross Sweden has reported significant interest expressed by businesses in adopting the Earth Charter.

Spain

In March 2003, Forum Soria 21 organized its first meeting to address "Social and Ethical Responsibility of Private Companies towards Sustainable Development". This event brought together key representatives from the private sector in Spain and served as an opportunity for key actors to reiterate their commitment to join forces in making the Soria Province a world model for implementing sustainable development at the local level. In its concluding declaration, participants endorsed the Earth Charter and have committed to promote a collaborative effort between the public and the private sector to implement and promote the Principles of the Earth Charter.

As a consequence, Telefonica, a large telephone company operator has placed the Earth Charter on their website and on the back of their communications with their clients as a way to promote the Earth Charter and sustainability values.

E) Conclusions

Over the last few decades, with the growth of privatization and corresponding downsizing of governments, the business sector is bigger and more powerful than ever before. At the same time, this sector is becoming increasing conscious of the sustainability agenda and has vested interests in taking steps towards being more sustainable. These developments present an important opportunity for the Earth Charter Initiative to develop a program that facilitates the implementation of the Earth Charter in the business sector.

The Earth Charter's broad and integrated ethical vision, together with the Initiative's good reputation, and growing prominence in certain international arenas, make the Earth Charter a potentially attractive framework for businesses that are grappling with the challenge of sustainable development.

In order to take advantage of such opportunity, the Earth Charter Initiative needs to determine if indeed this should be a priority in the coming years and, if so, it must identify how it can bring together the necessary financial and human resources to develop a substantial program of engagement with the business sector. A modest but useful first step in this direction might be to establish a Business Advisory Committee.

Appendix I:

Business : a way to read & apply the Earth Charter

Table 2 presents a comparison between the Earth Charter and business field. Field which relate to Earth Charter principles are shown highlighted in green, yellow or red according to 3 parameters short, medium or long term vision.

- **Short term vision**
- **Medium term vision**
- **Long term vision**

	Earth Charter Principles															
Business field/ activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Company Vision Company Ethical Standards Suppliers and Vendors' Ethical Standards and Practices	a b	a b	a b	a b	a b c d e f	a b c d e	a b c d e f	a b c	a b c	a b c d	a b c	a b c d	a b c d e f	a b c d	a b c	a b c d e f
Environmental Performance Energy and Emissions Materials Used Water Use	a b	a b	a b	a b	a b c d e f	a b c d e	a b c d e f	a b c	a b c	a b c d	a b c	a b c d	a b c d e f	a b c d	a b c	a b c d e f
Products and Services— contribution to the greater good, life cycle, environmental considerations	a b	a b	a b	a b	a b c d e f	a b c d e	a b c d e f	a b c	a b c	a b c d	a b c	a b c d	a b c d e f	a b c d	a b c	a b c d e f
Social and Economic Performance Employee Health, Safety and Well-being Employee training and Career Dvpmt Wages and Benefits Workplace Diversity	a b	a b	a b	a b	a b c d e f	a b c d e	a b c d e f	a b c	a b c	a b c d	a b c	a b c d	a b c d e f	a b d	a b c	a b c d e f
Community Development and Image Impact on Community that relates to community environmental, economic and social well - being and health Participation of employees in community activities aimed at improving the quality of community members' lives, social conditions and environmental quality. Philanthropic or charitable efforts in same areas.	a b	a b	a b	a b	a b c d e f	a b c d e	a b c d e f	a b c	a b c	a b c d	a b c	a b c d	a b c d e f	a b c d	a b c	a b c d e f

Appendix II: Businesses that have endorsed the Earth Charter

Andorra
Dignen Esquire

Australia
Aquila Management Services PTY Ltd.
AXCO Pty Ltd.
Chris Klar Architects Pty.Ltd.
Couta Caffe
CoWorking Solutions
Cybersell Online Pty Ltd.
Ethical Investment Company of Australia Pty Ltd.(EICA)
Ethical Investment Services
Ethical Investor
Henderson Walton Consulting
Inner Northern Community Housing (Brisbane) Association Inc.
Mark Spong & Associates Pty Ltd.
Mowbray Falls Enviropark Pty. Ltd.
Myson Enterprises
Protective Behaviours Consultancy (WA)
Sapphire Coast Tourism
Southern Ocean Software
Spiffa Inc.
Universal Business Dynamics Corporation Pty. Ltd.

Verb Studios
Woolloongabba Community Care Inc.
Yarra Valley Expo Pty Ltd.

Austria
Peter Polz

Brazil
AquiRola Web
Brother Cast Diálogo
Da Vinci Diálogo
Esc. Est. Joaquim Edson Camargo

Canada
Building Bridges Consulting
Earth Mirror Consulting
Gathering Place of the Saskatoon Inner City Inc.
Growing Circle Food Co-op
Nonlinear Thought Inc.
Palm Training Inc., Canada
Renaissance Relaxation Response Ctre
West Montreal Counselling Centre
Polster Environmental Services Ltd.

Costa Rica
Word Magic Translation Software, Costa Rica

Germany
Drachen Verlag GmbH
LIMA-Theater
Orga Lab GmbH
Qualitas - Organisationsentwicklung GmbH

India
Design Cell (Architects & Planners)

Ireland
Downey Youell Associates

Japan
NTT Group, its 139 companies and 230,000 members

Mexico
Rancho el Cantor
Xcaret Group

Netherlands
Birgitta de Vos bv.

Nigeria
Urthor Consultants & Ikono-lni Youth Consultative Assembly (IIYCA)

Norway
Hastor Management Coach

Peru
Centro Peruano de Turismo Juvenil – CPTJ

Philippines
Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (The Freedom Foundation)

Russian Federation
BTL Products

Slovenia
Nature Protective Ecological Farm Co.

South Africa
AVR Power Systems Pty Ltd.
Connexity Publishing Pty Ltd.
Herbs for Africa magazine

Spain
Cris Bolívar Consulting
Gaia Education Services
Sánchez Torres Asesores, S.L.

Taiwan
Kavalann Arts & Humanities

United Kingdom
Aquarius Books
Conscious Development Ltd.
Nature's Own Ltd.

United States
Altitude. A Leadership Consulting LLC.
American Design Technology, Inc.
Arclark Publisher
Awakening Sanctuary, Inc.
Be Do Have Software, Inc.
Being and Living Enterprises, Ltd.
Berkshire Grown
Bidwell Illustration & Design
BigMindMedia
Calvert Group, Ltd.
Capoeira-shop.com
Childers Commercial Group
Clear Light Books, Inc.
Clinton Consulting Group
Context Consulting Inc.

Creole West Productions
Earth Rise Initiatives
EarthAlive Films
EarthLight Magazine
EarthPagan Books
Ecocity Builders, Inc.
Ecotourism Development, Inc.
Education for Peace, Inc.
Elizabeth City Glass Company Inc.
Environment News Service (ENS)
Fresh Market Company
Genesis Farm
Good Food Co-op
Good News Broadcast
High Mountain Meadow Music, Inc.
Holland Architects Ltd.
Imago, Inc.
Institute of Taoist Education and Acupuncture, Inc.
Investor's Real Estate Capital
Islands and Highlands Environmental Consultancy
Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.
Kestrel Tool Ltd.
Kevin Rafferty Executive Consulting
Londonderry Inn
Longoneil Enterprises, Ltd.
Love Foundation, Inc.
ManyOne Networks, Inc.
McVinney & Co.
Minnesota Zoo
Mojave Moon Marketing & Entertainment, Inc.
MorningStar Adventures, Inc.
Neighborhood Law Office
New Moon Productions
One World Inc.
Outstanding Renewal Enterprises, Inc. [aka Lower Eastside Ecology Center]
Personal Touch Enterprises
Phillies Bridge Farm Project, Inc.
Pioneer Valley Wetland Volunteers & Beaver Solutions Co.
Politics of Food Program, Inc.
Quail Hill Farm
Race Mountain Tree Services, Inc.
Rainbow Chiropractic
Rawleigh Woodworking, Inc.
Real Food Market & Deli, Inc.
Ross Chapin Architects
Ruffolo Design Ltd.
Rural Action, Inc.
Sane Aviation for Everyone, SAFE, Inc.
Serpentine Art and Nature Commons, Inc.
Shelburne Farms
Silverbell Trading
Spirit Rising Productions
Sprout House, Inc.
Step N2 Dlight Productions
Sterling Forest Partnership, Inc.
Strategies for Development, Inc.
Tirawa Consulting, Inc.
Tod Drescher Architecture
Total Success Coaching, Inc.
TransGlobal Ventures, Inc.
Transportation Research Assoc., Inc
Ursa Minor Arts & Media
Vermont Community Works, Inc.
Vox Sophia Publishing
Walkable Communities, Inc.
Wellspring House, Inc.
Whitewater Valley Land Trust, Inc.
Wild Rose House of Taste
William McDonough + Partners-Architecture and Community Design
Wolf Pine Farm
WorldWire: News on Global Issues
Zoo New England

Uruguay
Sherman & Company

Zambia
Longwe Clarke and Associates

Chapter XI
Selected Bibliography

This selected bibliography includes published resources that reference the Earth Charter and in some cases include the whole text of the Charter. The works cited are those that have come to the attention of the Earth Charter Secretariat and Steering Committee, and there undoubtedly are other publications that should be included. This bibliography includes some annotations that describe the relevance of the works cited. For a listing and in some cases the full text of unpublished speeches and essays on the Earth Charter, see the Earth Charter website, www.earthcharter.org/resources.

A. Books and Booklets

Barney, Gerald O. with Jane Blewett and Kristen R. Barney. *Threshold 2000: Critical Issues and Spiritual Values for a Global Age*. Grand Rapids, MI: CoNexus Press, 1999. Gerald Barney is president of the Millennium Institute. In this publication he brings together key reports and documents that address major contemporary issues. The Earth Charter is presented as a unique ethical vision that affirms the need for holistic thinking and collaborative, integrated problem solving.

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