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Earth Charter

STATUS REPORT



The Earth Charter International Campaign Secretariat,
The Earth Council

Earth Charter

Status Report 1999/2000

"The common underlying factor of conflicts today is the issue of insecurity prompted by the prospect of exclusion or the perceived threat of starvation for both people and communities. The circumstances for this feeling of insecurity are often brought about by degradation of the environment. An Earth Charter will make everyone of us conscious of this and help develop a culture of peace, care and solidarity."

–Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun,
Earth Charter Commissioner, Algeria.

*A report prepared by the Earth Council in collaboration with involved parties.
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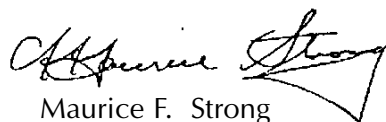
Foreword

We are pleased and encouraged at the momentum that the Earth Charter Campaign has gathered during the past year. Since 1998, the Earth Charter initiative has benefited from the involvement of over 45 countries and many national and international organizations and individuals. I want to extend my personal thanks to all of the individuals and groups who organized and participated in Earth Charter events and activities during the past year. This growing movement testifies to the beliefs of people throughout the world that the Earth Charter provides a unique, powerful instrument for expressing their common commitment to the ethical and moral values which must provide the foundation for a secure and sustainable future."

These organizations and groups have contributed greatly to the process of dialogue and consultations which have guided the drafting of the Charter and its broad dissemination throughout the world. The Earth Charter is becoming the focal point for a truly people's movement to which the work and commitment of each individual involved is a vital contribution. Events such as the Earth Charter On-Line Conferences have served to bring people of diverse backgrounds and cultures together in a global dialogue on issues such as "Global Ethics, Sustainability and the Earth Charter."

Thus, preparation of the Earth Charter is not merely a drafting exercise, but a process which seeks to put together and articulate the moral and ethical values, and to distill from these the basic common principles, which must motivate the conduct of people towards each other and the Earth. Many universities, schools and youth organizations have discussed the need to change the paradigm which threatens our future and to seek a new set of values which are based on sustainable decisions and life-styles which will determine our common future. As the New Year and the New Millennium begin, the focus now moves to the use of the Earth Charter as an educational tool in formal and non-formal education, and as the basis for business and professional codes of conduct and national development plans.

Looking to the future, we see a broadening horizon for the process of change to which the Earth Charter is devoted. This horizon is rooted in the values and ethics promulgated by the Earth Charter and through the commitment of people from different nations, cultures, communities and professional capacities. The Earth Charter Movement is clearly fostering a new sense of global community in which caring for the Earth's environment and respecting all life, provides the foundations for a more hopeful, secure and sustainable future. It is the strength of this movement, as a true people's process, which gives the Earth Charter the authority and influence to guide the world community towards the sustainable way of life which is the key to the future of our global civilization.



Maurice F. Strong
Founder of the Earth Council and
Co-Chair of the Earth Charter Commission
February 2000

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I. Introduction

To the Earth Charter Initiative

For over a decade, diverse groups throughout the world have endeavored to create an Earth Charter. Hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals have been involved in the process. Representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations worked to secure the adoption of an Earth Charter during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. However, the time was not right and a new Earth Charter initiative was launched by the Earth Council and Green Cross International in 1994.

An Earth Charter Commission was formed in 1997 to oversee the project and the drafting of the Charter. The Secretariat for the Commission is at the Earth Council in Costa Rica. In March 1997, at the conclusion of the Rio+5 Forum in Rio de Janeiro, the Earth Charter Commission issued the Benchmark Draft Earth Charter. The Commission also called for ongoing international consultations regarding the text of the document.

Since 1997, over forty national Earth Charter committees have been formed, and numerous Earth Charter consultations have been held. Comments and recommendations from all regions of the world were forwarded to the Earth Council and the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee. Guided by these contributions to the consultation process, the text of the Charter has been extensively revised. In April 1999, the Earth Charter Commission issued Benchmark Draft II, which was widely circulated in order to collect people's comments.

This was followed by the November 1999 Working Draft Revision of Benchmark Draft II, issued by the Earth Charter Drafting Committee based on comments and suggestions made on the April 1999 version. The Earth Charter Commission is scheduled to meet in Paris in mid-March 2000. The text approved by the Commission will be either a draft prior to the final or a final text.

Objectives of the International Earth Charter Campaign

- To promote a worldwide dialogue on shared values and global ethics;
- To draft an Earth Charter that sets forth a succinct and inspiring vision of fundamental ethical principles for sustainable development;
- To circulate the Earth Charter throughout the world as a people's treaty, promoting awareness, commitment, and implementation of Earth Charter values;
- To seek endorsement of the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for sustainable development by the United Nations General Assembly by the year 2002.

In addition this Campaign seeks to have the Earth Charter:

- Adopted by professional organizations and associations;
- As part of the curricula of formal and informal educational institutions;
- As taught by religious and spiritual groups;
- As a framework for national sustainable development plans;
- As a major consideration in intergovernmental negotiations and the activities of transnational organizations;

A Declaration of Interdependence and Principles for Sustainable Development

As indicated in the Preamble of Benchmark Draft II, the Earth Charter is a declaration of interdependence and responsibility and an urgent call to build a global partnership for sustainable development.

The principles of the Earth Charter are closely interrelated. Together they provide a concept of sustainable development and set forth fundamental guidelines for achieving it. These principles are drawn from international law, science, phi-

osophy, religion, recent UN Summit meetings, and the international Earth Charter dialogue on global ethics.

The goal of sustainable development is to maximize human development and ecological protection. The Earth Charter recognizes that humanity's environmental, economic, social, cultural, ethical, and spiritual problems and aspirations are interconnected. It affirms the need for holistic thinking and collaborative, integrated problem solving. Sustainable development requires such an approach. It is about freedom, justice, participation, and peace as well as environmental protection and economic well-being.

The Global Process of the Earth Charter Initiative

The Earth Charter initiative is a global process based on the participation and involvement of various organizations and groups worldwide. Earth Charter activities are promoted through Earth Charter National Committees and affiliated groups.

The initiative strives to incorporate the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for sustainable development into all sectors of society, emphasizing the articulation of the behaviors and attitudes necessary for sustainability.

Each organization and group involved in the initiative brings a different perspective and approach to the implementation and dissemination of the Earth Charter in national, regional and local sectors and communities. It is the constant involvement, energy and enthusiasm of these groups that fuel the Earth Charter initiative and make it a true civil society process for social change.

II. Executive Summary

Developing a framework of ethical values for sustainable development

As Secretariat of the Earth Charter Commission, the Earth Council, together with partner organizations, has been promoting the Earth Charter Millennium Campaign. This campaign has focused on a valuing process in conjunction with the Earth Charter drafting process. This process has elicited the expression of people's personal values, translating them into work and organizational ethics, teaching curricula and religious instruction, as well as into a framework for local and national sustainable development plans.

I. National and Regional Activities

This effort has resulted in an increasing number of activities by national Earth Charter committees in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and North America, and many major international and regional partner organizations.

In 1999, several new national Earth Charter committees were formed, and existing committees continued to prosper. Currently there are over 40 national committees worldwide.

Africa and The Middle East

During 1999, the Earth Charter activities in Africa proceeded along two main lines: consulting with National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSO) secretariats and Earth Charter Committees in Burkina Faso, Senegal and Uganda, to explore better ways to integrate their work within the NCSO processes, and consolidating the results of the consultations through an African workshop, held in December 1999. This regional meeting of African and The Middle Eastern national Earth Charter committees was convened in Capetown, South Africa and brought together representatives from Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Niger, Ghana and Jordan. In late 1999, negotiations were initiated with key stakeholders in South Africa and Mozambique to form Earth Charter committees in those countries. Throughout 1999, the Earth Council also initiated and supported Earth Charter consultation activities in Niger, Ghana and Zimbabwe.

Asia and the Pacific

The Earth Council supported and participated in a variety of Earth Charter events in the Asia-Pacific region in 1999. In January, a forum on "Global Movement of the Earth Charter Campaign and Indigenous Peoples' Spirituality, Traditional Culture and Links with the Motherland" was convened in Tokyo, Japan. In February, the Inaugural Australian National Earth Charter Forum brought together leaders of diverse sectors of Australian society to share and debate Australian perspectives of the Earth Charter. In the Philippines, indigenous community theatre artists presented a production entitled "Seven Rituals of Mother Earth" throughout the islands, interpreting the Earth Charter in the context of local cultures and environmental issues. 1999 also saw the strengthening of nascent Earth Charter campaigns in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, South Korea, and Thailand.

In January 2000, an Asian tour took place and was organized by Soka Gakkai International holding Earth Charter meetings in the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

In June 1999, a regional workshop in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan for five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan) was convened, about the Earth Charter and the role of NCSOs in putting the Earth Charter into operational terms. Among the outcomes of this meeting were: an agreement to create a Central Asia Earth Charter Council or Institute; suggestions for wider dissemination of the Earth Charter in Central Asia and globally; proposals to incorporate Earth Charter principles in Central Asian educational textbooks; and plans to appeal to the peoples and governments of the region to initiate concrete actions in support of the Earth Charter as a moral basis for sustainable development in Central Asia.

In late November '99, the Earth Council convened a National Earth Charter Consultation in

Tashkent, Uzbekistan. During this meeting, participants supported a proposal raised by the Central Asian Earth Charter Council to convene an international forum on "Youth and the Earth Charter" in Uzbekistan in September 2000. The meeting also reaffirmed the role and work of the Central Asian Earth Charter Council and arranged to reconvene the Council during National Earth Charter consultations in Kazakhstan in February 2000.

1999 also saw the emergence of a strong and active Earth Charter committee in Armenia. Preparations are currently underway and funding has been secured for an Earth Charter round table in Armenia in February 2000, as well as in Estonia and Belarus in March, 2000.

Europe and North America

In 1999 the Earth Charter process was initiated in Sweden, Norway and Holland and Earth Charter dialogues took place in Italy, Germany and Austria. The United States Earth Charter initiative has expanded its network during 1999, organizing an Earth Charter training workshop in June and various sub-committee meetings throughout the year. The second Annual Earth Charter US National Conference, will occur on Earth Day in April, 2000.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Earth Council promoted the creation of new national Earth Charter campaigns in Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, and Colombia.

Ongoing activities in countries with existing Earth Charter initiatives progressed in many respects in 1999. Focus was given to identifying and developing the Earth Charter as an educational tool, further incorporating indigenous groups and increasing relationships and connections with key governmental offices.

From July to November 1999, the Earth Council provided training and technical support to the Municipality of San Jose to train 1,800 public employees on the concept and principles of sustainable development and the Earth Charter. Members of the Dominican Republic Committee organized a series of significant events involving media and many groups.

The success of the Earth Charter Campaign in 1999/2000 has been due to financial and personal support and commitment from many sources. In particular, the local Earth Charter committees should be credited for initiating and self-funding numerous and innovative activities.

II. Global activities

An on-line discussion forum took place in October in which delegates from national Earth Charter committees, and representatives of key constituencies, engaged in a dialogue with members of the drafting team on the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II. This forum proved extremely valuable in highlighting areas of consensus as well as of conflict in relation to the structure and phrasing of the Benchmark Draft.

Key achievements of 1999 at the global level include engaging different constituencies more deeply on the concept of an Earth Charter. Two internet-based forums on "Global Ethics, Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter" were held first in English and then in Spanish and Portuguese. The forums encouraged interactive dialogue between university students and professors, as well as a variety of presentations on sustainable development/Earth Charter themes.

In May, with financial support from the Fetzer Institute, the Earth Council brought together participants from Latin America, Asia, and North America for a workshop on the integration of Earth Charter principles and values.

In August, the Paulo Freire Institute organized an international gathering of 150 educators to explore educational perspectives of the Earth Charter.

During 1999, the Earth Charter was featured at a variety of international fora, including the Parliament of the Worlds Religions, the State of the World Forum, the International Community Education Associates (ICEA) World Assembly, the Assisi Spirituality and Sustainability conference, and the World Council of Churches.

In 1999, the Earth Charter secretariat also began to focus in greater depth on involving the popular media in the campaign. The Earth Council collaborated with Radio Netherlands to prepare a series of radio scripts on the Earth Charter. These scripts will be broadcast in early 2000 as weekly interactive radio magazines throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

III. Future activities

Earth Charter Communications Strategy

A public relations firm, Ruder Finn of New York, joined the Earth Charter Campaign to expand its media profile and activities, and include a global television public service announcement.

Participation in International Events

The Earth Charter is expected to be present at several key international events in 2000 including: the Earth Awards Dinner, the Hanover Expo, World Earth Day, the World Conservation Union - IUCN General Assembly, the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives -ICLEI

World Congress, the Summit of Religious Leaders, the INES Forum of Engineers, the Spirituality and Sustainability Conference, the State of the World Forum, the NCSO Millennium Global Forum, and other events.

Earth Charter Commission

A meeting of the Earth Charter Commission will take place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on March 12 - 14, 2000. The purpose of this important meeting will be to review the progress and results of the Earth Charter Campaign; to discuss and approve the future strategy of the Campaign; to reach consensus on the Earth Charter document.

III. STATUS OF EARTH CHARTER CAMPAIGN (1997- 2000)

Africa and the Middle East	Initial Meeting and/or Contact	Initial Consultation held or in process	National Committee Established	Valuing/Education Process
Burkina Faso	1998	1998	1998	1999
Ghana	1998	1999	1999	
Jordan	1998			
Kenya	1998	1998/1999		
Mauritius	1998	1998	1998	
Mozambique	1999			
Niger	1998	1999	1999	
Senegal	1998	1998	1998	
South Africa	1999			
Uganda	1998	1998	1998/1999	
Zimbabwe	1998	1999	1999	
Asia and the Pacific	Initial Meeting and/or Contact	Initial Consultation held or in process.	National Committee Established	Valuing/Education Process
Australia	1996	1997	1997/1998	1999
Bangladesh	1999			
Hong Kong/China	1999	1999		
India	1998	1998	1998	1999
Indonesia	1999			
Japan	1998	1998	1999	
Malaysia	1999	1999		
Nepal	1998	1999	1999	
New Zealand	1999	2000	2000	
Singapore	1999	1999		
South Korea	1998	1998/1999	1999	
Thailand	1999	1999	1999	
The Philippines	1994	1998	1998/1999	1999
Europe and Central Asia	Initial Meeting and/or Contact	Initial Consultation held or in process.	National Committee Established	Valuing/Education Process
Armenia	1999	1999	1999	
Austria	1998	1998/1999	1998	1999
Belarus	1999	1999		
Estonia	1999	1999		
France	1999	1999/2000	Local com.	2000
Germany	1998	1999		
Iceland	1998/1999			
Ireland	1997			
Italy	1998	1998/1999	1999	1999/2000
Kazakhstan	1999	1999	1999	1999/2000
Kyrgyzstan	1999	1999	1999	
Norway	1998	1999/2000	1999	1999/2000
Russia	1996	1997	1998	
Sweden	1999	1999		
Tajikistan	1999	1999	1999	1999/2000
The Netherlands	1998	1999/2000	2000	
Turkmenistan	1999	1999	1999	
Uzbekistan	1999	1999	1999	
Latin America and the Caribbean	Initial Meeting and/or Contact	Initial Consultation held or in process.	National Committee Established	Valuing/Education Process
Argentina	1997	1998	1998	
Bolivia	1998	1998	1998	1998
Belize	1999			
Brazil	1997	1998	1998/1999	1998/1999
Colombia	1998	1998/1999	1999	
Costa Rica	1994	1998/1999	1998	1998/1999
Cuba	1998	1998	1998	
Dominican Republic	1998	1998/1999	1998	1999
Ecuador	1999			
El Salvador	1997	1998	1998	
Guatemala	1998			
México	1998	1998/1999	1998/1999	1999
Nicaragua	1998	1998		
Panama	1998	1998/1999	1998/1999	1999
Paraguay	1998	1998/1999	1998	1998/1999
Peru	1998			
Trinidad & Tobago	1999	1999/2000	1999	
Uruguay	1998	1998	1998	
Venezuela	1998	1998	1998	
North America	Initial Meeting and/or Contact	Initial Consultation held or in process.	National Committee Established	Valuing/Education Process
Canada	1998	1998/1999		
U.S.A.	1997	1998	1998	1999

IV. Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II

April 1999

Preamble

In our diverse yet increasingly interdependent world, it is imperative that we, the people of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations. We are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny.

Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. The well-being of people and the biosphere depends upon preserving clean air, pure waters, fertile soils, and a rich variety of plants, animals and ecosystems. The global environment with its finite resources is a primary common concern of all humanity. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.

The Earth community stands at a defining moment. With science and technology have come great benefits and also great harm. The dominant patterns of production and consumption are altering climate, degrading the environment, depleting resources, and causing a massive extinction of species. A dramatic rise in population has increased the pressures on ecological systems and has overburdened social systems. Injustice, poverty, ignorance, corruption, crime and violence, and armed conflict deepen the world's suffering. Fundamental changes in our attitudes, values, and ways of living are necessary.

The choice is ours: to care for Earth and one another or to participate in the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life.

As a global civilization comes into being, we can choose to build a truly democratic world, securing the rule of law and the human rights of all women, men, and children. We can respect the integrity of different cultures. We can treat Earth with respect, rejecting the idea that nature is merely a collection of resources to be used. We can realize that our social, economic, environmental, and spiritual problems are interconnected and cooperate in developing integrated strategies to address them. We can resolve to balance and harmonize individual interests with the common good, freedom with responsibility, diversity with unity, short term objectives with long term goals, economic progress with the flourishing of ecological systems.

To fulfill these aspirations, we must recognize that human development is not just about having more, but also about being more. The challenges humanity faces can only be met if people everywhere acquire an awareness of global interdependence, identify themselves with the larger world, and decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life will be strengthened if we live with reverence for the sources of our being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in the larger scheme of things.

Having reflected on these considerations, we recognize the urgent need for a shared vision of basic values that will provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. We, therefore, affirm the following principles for sustainable development. We commit ourselves as individuals, organizations, business enterprises, communities, and nations to implement these interrelated principles and to create a global partnership in support of their fulfillment.

Together in hope, we pledge to:

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Respect Earth and all life,**
recognizing the interdependence and intrinsic value of all beings;
affirming respect for the inherent dignity of every person and faith in the intellectual, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.
- 2. Care for the community of life in all its diversity,**
accepting that responsibility for Earth is shared by everyone;
affirming that this common responsibility takes different forms for different individuals, groups, and nations, depending on their contribution to existing problems and the resources at hand.
- 3. Strive to build free, just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful societies,**
affirming that with freedom, knowledge, and power goes responsibility and the need for moral self-restraint;
recognizing that a decent standard of living for all and the quality of relations among people and with nature are the true measure of progress.
- 4. Secure Earth's abundance and beauty for present and future generations,**
accepting the challenge before each generation to conserve, improve, and expand their natural and cultural heritage and to transmit it safely to future generations;
acknowledging that the benefits and burdens of caring for Earth should be shared fairly between present and future generations.

II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

- 5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain and renew life.**
 - 1 Make ecological conservation an integral part of all development planning and implementation.
 - 2 Establish representative and viable nature and biosphere reserves, including wild lands, sufficient to maintain Earth's biological diversity and life-support systems.
 - 3 Manage the extraction of renewable resources such as food, water, and wood in ways that do not harm the resilience and productivity of ecological systems or threaten the viability of individual species.
 - 4 Promote the recovery of endangered species and populations through in situ conservation involving habitat protection and restoration.
 - 5 Take all reasonable measures to prevent the human-mediated introduction of alien species into the environment.
- 6. Prevent harm to the environment as the best method of ecological protection and, when knowledge is limited, take the path of caution.**
 - 1 Give special attention in decision making to the cumulative, long-term, and global consequences of individual and local actions.
 - 2 Stop activities that threaten irreversible or serious harm even when scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive.
 - 3 Establish environmental protection standards and monitoring systems with the power to detect significant human environmental impacts, and require environmental impact assessments and reporting.
 - 4 Mandate that the polluter must bear the full cost of pollution.
 - 5 Ensure that measures taken to prevent or control natural disasters, infestations, and diseases are directed to the relevant causes and avoid harmful side effects.

- 6 Uphold the international obligation of states to take all reasonable precautionary measures to prevent transboundary environmental harm.
7. **Treat all living beings with compassion, and protect them from cruelty and wanton destruction.**

III. A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC ORDER

8. **Adopt patterns of consumption, production, and reproduction that respect and safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.**
 - 1 Eliminate harmful waste, and work to ensure that all waste can be either consumed by biological systems or used over the long-term in industrial and technological systems.
 - 2 Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy and other resources, and reduce, reuse, and recycle materials.
 - 3 Rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as the sun, the wind, biomass, and hydrogen.
 - 4 Establish market prices and economic indicators that reflect the full environmental and social costs of human activities, taking into account the economic value of the services provided by ecological systems.
 - 5 Empower consumers to choose sustainable products over unsustainable ones by creating mechanisms such as certification and labeling.
 - 6 Provide universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.
9. **Ensure that economic activities support and promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.**
 - 1 Promote the equitable distribution of wealth.
 - 2 Assist all communities and nations in developing the intellectual, financial, and technical resources to meet their basic needs, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life.
10. **Eradicate poverty, as an ethical, social, economic, and ecological imperative.**
 - 1 Establish fair and just access to land, natural resources, training, knowledge, and credit, empowering every person to attain a secure and sustainable livelihood.
 - 2 Generate opportunities for productive and meaningful employment.
 - 3 Make clean affordable energy available to all.
 - 4 Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and respect their right to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.
 - 5 Relieve developing nations of onerous international debts that impede their progress in meeting basic human needs through sustainable development.
11. **Honor and defend the right of all persons, without discrimination, to an environment supportive of their dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being.**
 - 1 Secure the human right to potable water, clean air, uncontaminated soil, food security, and safe sanitation in urban, rural, and remote environments.
 - 2 Establish racial, religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic equality.
 - 3 Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources and to their related practice of traditional sustainable livelihoods.
 - 4 Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and judicial procedures, including redress and remedy, that enable all persons to enforce their environmental rights.
12. **Advance worldwide the cooperative study of ecological systems, the dissemination and application of knowledge, and the development, adoption, and transfer of clean technologies.**
 - 1 Support scientific research in the public interest.

- 2 Value the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- 3 Assess and regulate emerging technologies, such as biotechnology, regarding their environmental, health, and socioeconomic impacts.
- 4 Ensure that the exploration and use of orbital and outer space supports peace and sustainable development.

IV. DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

- 13. Establish access to information, inclusive participation in decision making, and transparency, truthfulness, and accountability in governance.**
 - 1 Secure the right of all persons to be informed about ecological, economic, and social developments that affect the quality of their lives.
 - 2 Establish and protect the freedom of association and the right to dissent on matters of environmental, economic, and social policy.
 - 3 Ensure that knowledge resources vital to people's basic needs and development remain accessible and in the public domain.
 - 4 Enable local communities to care for their own environments, and assign responsibilities for environmental protection to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively.
 - 5 Create mechanisms that hold governments, international organizations, and business enterprises accountable to the public for the consequences of their activities.
- 14. Affirm and promote gender equality as a prerequisite to sustainable development.**
 - 1 Provide, on the basis of gender equality, universal access to education, health care, and employment in order to support the full development of every person's human dignity and potential.
 - 2 Establish the full and equal participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political, and social life.
- 15. Make the knowledge, values, and skills needed to build just and sustainable communities an integral part of formal education and lifelong learning for all.**
 - 1 Provide youth with the training and resources required to participate effectively in civil society and political affairs.
 - 2 Encourage the contribution of the artistic imagination and the humanities as well as the sciences in environmental education and sustainable development.
 - 3 Engage the media in the challenge of fully educating the public on sustainable development, and take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by advanced information technologies.
- 16. Create a culture of peace and cooperation.**
 - 1 Seek wisdom and inner peace.
 - 2 Practice nonviolence, implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict, and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve conflict.
 - 3 Teach tolerance and forgiveness, and promote cross cultural and interreligious dialogue and collaboration.
 - 4 Eliminate weapons of mass destruction, promote disarmament, secure the environment against severe damage caused by military activities, and convert military resources toward peaceful purposes.
 - 5 Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by balanced and harmonious relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.

A New Beginning

As never before in human history, common destiny beckons us to redefine our priorities and to seek a new beginning. Such renewal is the promise of these Earth Charter principles, which are the outcome of a worldwide dialogue in search of common ground and shared values. Fulfillment of this promise depends upon our expanding and deepening the global dialogue. It requires an inner change—a change of heart and mind. It requires that we take decisive action to adopt, apply, and develop the vision of the Earth Charter locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Different cultures and communities will find their own distinctive ways to express the vision, and we will have much to learn from each other.

Every individual, family, organization, corporation, and government has a critical role to play. Youth are fundamental actors for change. Partnerships must be forged at all levels. Our best thought and action will flow from the integration of knowledge with love and compassion.

In order to build a sustainable global community, the nations of the world must renew their commitment to the United Nations and develop and implement the Earth Charter principles by negotiating for adoption a binding agreement based on the IUCN Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development. Adoption of the Covenant will provide an integrated legal framework for environmental and sustainable development law and policy.

We can, if we will, take advantage of the creative possibilities before us and inaugurate an era of fresh hope. Let ours be a time that is remembered for an awakening to a new reverence for life, a firm commitment to restoration of Earth's ecological integrity, a quickening of the struggle for justice and empowerment of the people, cooperative engagement of global problems, peaceful management of change, and joyful celebration of life. We will succeed because we must.

V. Summary of Earth Charter Initiatives and Activities

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

"Environment conservation and sustainable development cannot succeed without good political will and strong support of the local people."

—Joseph Obua, Makerere University, Uganda

Africa and Middle East Earth Charter Meeting - Cape Town, South Africa **1-3 December 1999**

Some twenty five participants gathered in Cape Town to add value by contributing their perspectives to the growing Earth Charter movement. The three day meeting focused on the Earth Charter Draft and the International Campaign from the African perspective. The participants represented various cultural regions of Africa and the Middle East and came from: Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Senegal, Niger, Ghana and Jordan. In addition, the meeting benefited from the active participation of Dr. Kamla Chowdhry, Earth Charter Commission Co-Chair; Mrs Sithembiso Nyoni, Minister of State for Economic Ministries of Zimbabwe and Community leader; Professor Steven Rockefeller, Chair of the International Drafting Committee, Ms. Mirian Vilela, Coordinator of the Earth Charter Project and Dr. Brendan Mackey, President of the Australian Earth Charter Committee and member of the Drafting Committee.

Main Objectives and outcomes of the Meeting:

- *To provide an added opportunity for groups in Africa and the Middle East to contribute to the Earth Charter drafting process.*

Each principle of the draft was reviewed in depth with regards to its implication within African cultures and contexts. The following issues were addressed during the meeting, among others:

- The need to ensure human rights and basic needs, including access to knowledge and information;
- The need to highlight the value of cultural

diversity, and ensure that the principles are relevant to the realities of each group.

- As expressed by the participants, the term "Indigenous Peoples" is often not used in Africa and can be very misleading, in particular within the French speaking countries, where it has a negative connotation.

- The need to understand and respect the traditions of certain African religions was emphasized, with relation to the Principle on 'Treat all living beings with respect and consideration'.

- The use of the term "sustainable development", was questioned, and agreement was to continue using the term.

- *To promote dialogue and collaboration among African and the Middle Eastern Earth Charter groups.*

The participants stressed the need to expand the Campaign to other countries, to seek new partners and improve networking within each sub-region by designating a sub-regional coordinator, thus to considerably strengthening the process and increasing available resources.

- *To strengthen the International Earth Charter Campaign in African and the Middle Eastern regions and worldwide.*

The gathering focused on developing links within Africa and internationally, and furthering the integration of the Earth Charter principles within each country by initiating the involvement of their respective governments in the Earth Charter process.

Burkina Faso

Three groups have been active in Burkina Faso: The National Council for



Sustainable Development (CONAGESE), the Green Cross and the Volunteer Association for Development (AVD).

The CONAGESE brings together groups through specialized agencies and departments. CONAGESE is under the umbrella of the government of Burkina Faso and is a multi-stakeholder council. Starting in mid-1998, they have disseminated and promoted the Earth Charter throughout their network. They are playing a key role in the MISP Project (Multi-stakeholder Integrated Sustainability Project), which features the Earth Charter among other things.

The Green Cross Burkina Faso has formed an Earth Charter Committee, chaired by Dr. Some Philippe, the Former Minister of Higher Education. It includes the participation of several key people and organizations in the country, such as delegates from the University of Ouagadougou, the IUCN and CONAGESE. This group is interested in expanding and reinforcing the Earth Charter process in Burkina Faso. Since 1998 this group has worked on an educational program to implement the Earth Charter principles and values in schools through an International Youth Art Contest that has involved a significant number of children from various countries. A young boy from Burkina Faso won the first prize of the international contest. The Youth Art Contest on the Earth Charter has been extremely effective in disseminating the ideas of the Charter throughout the country.

The Burkina Green Cross and the Green Cross International headquarters have a common project entitled: "A Practical guide towards the drafting of an Earth Charter," which seeks to translate common ideas and values into the reality of the Burkina Faso context. They are convinced that the Earth Charter should highlight differences that make diversity possible and base the Earth Charter on their day-to-day reality.

The AVD has 20 years of experience promoting participation and development in various communities and they are incorporating the Earth Charter in their activities. The AVD is related to several networks in Africa and also plans to introduce the Earth Charter to these networks.

Ghana

A National Committee was established by the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology to work on the validation of the Earth Charter in Ghana. This committee consists of representatives of the University of Ghana, the National Commission on Women and Development, Friends of the Earth, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology.

The committee held four meetings on preparatory activities for the national consultation forum. Topics discussed included identifying key interest groups relevant to the process, budget, and program. Committee members also initiated individual consultations within their organizations to make suggestions and proposals for the initial review of the Benchmark Draft II.

Two meetings focused on reviewing the Draft and proposing changes for consideration at the National Forum. The committee also circulated its initial comments to a group of 35 selected organizations for study and comments. These were subsequently used by the national committee in offering suggestions for the Benchmark Draft.

Under the auspices of the Ministry, a one-day national consultation forum was held in late 1999 to discuss the Benchmark Draft. The objectives of the National Forum were the following:

- To open a space for the involvement of all sectors of society to integrate and bring the ongoing international consultation closer to interest groups and other social actors in Ghana.
- To review in detail the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft and propose changes in the context of national realities and aspirations.

Major outcomes:

The general feeling of participants was that the content of the Benchmark Draft coincides with the aspirations of the people of Ghana. They recommended the introduction of a new chapter dealing with Knowledge and Information, and reordering the principles of the Draft under this section.

The country had the opportunity to make its contribution to the global discussions on the Benchmark Draft at the regional meeting of the



African National Earth Charter Committees, which took place in Capetown, South Africa in early December 1999.

On the basis of the outcome of Ghana's participation in the regional meeting, the following activities have been proposed for the immediate future:

- Incorporation of the Principles in programs for implementing Ghana's obligation under Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biodiversity;
- Developing educational curricular material based on the revised draft Earth Charter;
- Organizing public awareness programs to acquaint the society with the Charter.

Mauritius

The Council for Development Environmental Studies and Conservation (MAUDESCO) coordinates the Earth Charter consultation process in Mauritius with the Environmental NGO Network, the Society for International Development (SID) and the Small Farmers' Movement of Mauritius. After the first consultation meeting that took place in June 1998, they have continuously renewed their involvement and commitment to the process. This group gathered in October of 1999 to discuss and prepare their contributions to the Benchmark Draft II. They have actively participated in the October on-line discussion forum on the Charter. Together they have evolved to become the Earth Charter organizing committee for Mauritius and conducted a series of workshops and consultations among the local population, grassroots NGOs, community and NGO leaders, teachers, students, local authorities, municipal councilors, parliamentarians, professionals, academics, women and youth. They have identified the importance of needs, such as knowledge, information, communication, lobbying and mass awareness in enabling people to make informed choices in relevant sustainable development issues.

Future planned activities of the Earth Charter organizing committee are being designed, to address the current level of awareness in various target groups of the population concerning global society, sustainability, and patterns of production and consumption. The following Earth Charter activities will be carried out in 2000, dependent upon the availability of resources and funding:

- Seminars and consultations for the representatives of local grassroots NGOs.
- Seminars and consultations for primary school students and teachers.
- Printing and distribution of 10,000 copies of an abridged version of the Earth Charter.

As a result of the regional meeting held in December 1999, MAUDESCO will play a key role coordinating the Earth Charter activities in neighboring islands.

Mozambique

During the first week of December 1999, Mr. Ron Leger, Earth Council Area Manager for Africa, held some initial meetings with key organizations in Maputo with the objective of exploring possibilities of collaboration both within the Government as well as within broad-based civil society organizations. This collaboration is expected to prosper during the year 2000.

Niger

The National Council of the Environment for Sustainable Development (NCSO) in Niger initiated an Earth Charter process in early 1999. They have promoted Earth Charter documents among members of their network, key individuals and groups, and stimulated dialogue and feedback on the initiative. The Council, which is under the office of the Prime Minister, is now ready to further carry out this process by organizing multi-stakeholder meetings and workshops, and using their existing NCSO network to assist in this endeavor. The involvement of a NCSO in the organizing of an Earth Charter process in Niger represents a valuable avenue in the incorporation of Earth Charter principles into national development plans. In this respect, there is solid government support in the country.

Uganda

In October 1998, the Earth Charter consultation process started with a workshop bringing together key figures from different fields. Environmentalists, educators, agronomists, lawyers, doctors, representatives of NGOs, politicians, farmers, and other interested groups discussed the Benchmark Draft I, presented papers on sustainable development, contributed to the formulation of a plan of action and created a National Earth Charter Committee in Uganda.

This process was carried out under the coordination of Integrated Rural Development Initiatives (IRDI) and other NGOs. An "Awareness Creation Program" was designed to raise awareness on the present status of Mother Earth, the consequences of current trends, and the requirements needed to rectify the situation.

During 1999 greater efforts were made to integrate the Earth Charter with the MISP Project (Multi-stakeholder Integrated Sustainability Planning).

The Uganda Wildlife Society (UWS), the Wildlife Clubs of Uganda (WCU), the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and others joined forces to establish a broad based civil society group, and work together with the sustainable development task force. In September, an Earth Council representative met with the group to enhance this process. They addressed topics such as the need to pursue the consultation process by bringing in additional groups; going beyond consultation to a more "internalized" approach, and the need to articulate sustainable development principles that link in with the 'Uganda Vision 2025' document (yet to be formally released).

Zimbabwe



Zimbabwe's participation in the Earth Charter initiative is part of ongoing activities intended to diminish environmental deterioration and encourage the practice of sustainable development. Building upon the initiative launched in 1998, the Africa 2000 Network has organized and facilitated Earth Charter consultations during the first half of 1999. Three regional workshops were held in Masvingo, Mataberland and Manicaland, to articulate the diversity of views among certain regions. This process culminated in a national workshop in Harare on May 13th, 1999.

The objectives of this workshop were to increase national awareness of the global Earth Charter process and involve Zimbabwe's civil society in its formulation. The regional workshops were well attended by representatives of NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), community leaders, media, church organizations and youth. The input from these meetings formed the basis for Zimbabwe's contributions to the Earth Charter. Specifically, participants consensually agreed that access to education is critical in early life and should be considered a priority.

Different representatives of civil society who attended the workshops were encouraged to continue working on this process so that Zimbabwe's participation becomes both visible and meaningful. Dissemination of information to all the relevant stakeholders and civil society has been successful and made possible through the network of partnerships created by Africa 2000.

This network includes both central and local government, CBOs, NGOs, academic institutions, professional associations, the private sector, religious and spiritual organizations, cultural entities, women and youth groups, parliamentarians and prominent personalities.

During the workshop it was felt that every organization's mission should include a holistic approach toward sustainable development with focus on neglected aspects. Issues such as environmental degradation, poverty, societal values, commerce, industry, indigenous knowledge systems and involvement of civil society in development processes were addressed.

During the National Workshop in Harare in May, the following core values were identified:

- Education and awareness, including access to information and resource mobilization;
- Human rights, including access to basic needs (such as food, shelter, clothes, education, health);
- Corporate responsibility should involve social and environmental responsibility by industry and commerce, as well as industrial and commercial sectors' responsibility for the entire production process, from raw material to waste disposal;
- Priority should be assigned to vulnerable groups, such as youth, women, disabled people, etc.
- Globalization and international relations should ensure sovereignty of nations, and technology should promote sustainable development;
- Peaceful conflict resolution should be a priority, where all possible avenues of dialogue should be explored.

It was recommended that each of these core values be incorporated into the Earth Charter ethical principles.

The consultations collected the ideas and perspectives of the people of Zimbabwe in relation to the Earth Charter. This process promoted open

discussions and it is expected that future activities will have tremendous bearing on the transparency and partnership fostered during this initiative. The Earth Charter process in Zimbabwe recognized various conventions and protocols that relate to sustainable and human development, and it is influencing the establishment of the NCSD.

The Minister of State, Mrs. Sithembiso Nyoni, was also involved in the process later in the year. She is taking a leadership role in the creation of a multi-stakeholder NCSD, and is ensuring that the Earth Charter serves as the basis for it. In addition, her Ministry will soon organize workshops with women and youth, including the Earth Charter as part of the agenda.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

"The tension is ultimately about whether human beings and human society are at the center of everything or not. I would argue that if the natural world has intrinsic symbolic value in itself, then we are not the center of everything. Saying this implies considerable ethical re-alignment!"

—Rev. Dr. Paul Collins, Roman Catholic Church, Australia

Australia



The Australian National Earth Charter Steering Committee has been very successful in encouraging broad-based participation and involvement in the Australian Earth Charter process. The organizing committees are comprised of innovative partnerships between environmental NGOs, social justice organizations, local government, business and industry. Earth Charter activities are currently being planned for all Australian states.

1. Inaugural Australian National Earth Charter Forum

To start the 1999 activities, a National Earth Charter Forum was coordinated in the capital city of Canberra in February. This forum was designed to encourage public participation and included presentations by Sir William Dean, Governor-General of Australia; Mr. Maurice Strong, Chairman of the Earth Charter Commission; Mr. Steven Rockefeller, Chair of the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee; Mr. Maximo Kalaw, Executive Director of the Earth Council, as well as leading Australian public figures. The forum was held at the Australian National University's Center for Resource and Environmental Studies. Topics addressed at the forum included, "Does sustainable development mean business as usual?" "The role of Science in an Earth Charter," and "The Earth Charter: Does all life have intrinsic value?" Edited proceedings of the Australian National Earth Charter Forum are available on the university's web site: <http://cres.anu.edu.au/publications.html>



2. Schools project

The Australian Committee has also developed curriculum material on Earth Charter themes for

the Australian school system. This curriculum is designed to target the key learning areas in Australian schools and contains sets of exercises for these learning areas, which incorporate the core message of the Earth Charter. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government has agreed to try out this material in the ACT school system in 2000. The anticipated success of this trial will serve to establish the credibility of the curriculum material and the Earth Charter initiative.

3. State Committees

Regional Earth Charter committees have been established in Queensland, ACT, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. These committees are multi-sectoral, with many involved members from the private and business sectors, NGOs, educational institutions, community groups and the government. Various forums, organizational meetings and consultations have occurred in these regions and more Earth Charter related activities have been planned for the year 2000.

Highlights of the State Committees

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Two forums, sponsored by the ACT government, were held in 1999. A regional consultation forum was held in Canberra in August, sponsored by the ACT government with support from the Australian National University, the ACTEW Corporation, the South East Region and Canberra Conservation Council.

Queensland

A community forum was held at the Brisbane Town Hall in June, where Mr. Rod Welford, the Queensland Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources gave the opening address. The Committee is planning an Earth Charter meeting for early 2000 aimed at the business sector.

Victoria

Following a initial planning meeting, the DEBONO Institute in Melbourne has agreed to host an Earth Charter workshop for 100 people in early 2000 using the DEBONO method. The intention is to develop an Earth Charter implementation plan for Victoria. The Williamson Leadership Trust has agreed to examine how the Earth Charter can be incorporated into their leadership training curriculum, and how their Alumni can become involved in the consultation process.

South Australia

Two forums are being planned for the year 2000 - one for community groups and the other targeting the business sector.

Tasmania

The *Tasmanian Business Reporter*, a Tasmanian newspaper, published an article on a meeting of Tasmanian industry and community leaders at the offices of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized by Collex Waste Management.

Overall, the Australian response to the global consultation process has been overwhelmingly positive. Significant consultations and events have been held and future activities are being planned and organized.

Further information can be accessed via the Australian Earth Charter website at: www.eca.anu.edu.au

Bangladesh



On December 20-21, 1999, the IUCN and the Earth Council organized a "National Forum on Multi-stakeholder Sustainability Planning in Bangladesh" in Dhaka. There were approximately 40 participants representing different sectors of society at this event. The Forum agreed to undertake the following actions in order to initiate an Earth Charter campaign in Bangladesh:

1. Formulation of a National Earth Charter for Bangladesh in Bengali;
2. Review of progress of development and sustainability related projects or conventions that have been taken up or ratified in Bangladesh since the Rio '92 Conference;
3. Collection of all information regarding the

NCS D process and the building of a National consensus. This data base of successes, failures and experiences should be collected, synthesized, presented and made available as a basis for further development undertakings.

4. Creation of a national multi-stakeholder Coordination Committee, preferably through establishing a Bangladesh NCS D which can initiate the national campaign on the Earth Charter;
5. Adoption and integration of Earth Charter principles through the media and education both at the formal and the non-formal level;
6. Incorporation of Earth Charter principles in the SEMP (Sustainable Environment Management Program) and BEMP (Bangladesh Environment Management Program).

The local organizing group for the Forum, led by IUCN, was assigned to plan and coordinate the execution of the above agreements.

Hong Kong/China



The Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum has initiated activities on the Earth Charter and has established a taskforce on both the Earth Charter and Agenda 21. Research on the Earth Charter has been carried out at the City University of Hong Kong, under the coordination of Ms. Terri Mottershead. The main objective of the research is to review how the Earth Charter process is progressing worldwide and to determine whether Hong Kong should adopt a localized version of the Charter. This research involves interviews with people, particularly government officials, on the Earth Charter, and making them aware of this process. In addition, an Earth Charter event was organized by the Hong Kong office of Soka Gakkai International and involved members of the Task Force Group, among others.

India



In early 1999, the Environment Education Council for Children (EECC) of the Delhi Public School Society (DPS) held an evening of Vedic, Christian and Muslim Hymns as offerings to the Earth. Over 1500 students, teachers and parents gathered to give expression to an integrated ethical vision for our common future. Dr. Kamla

Chowdhry, Chairwoman of the EECC and Earth Charter Commissioner, gave an inspirational speech addressing environmental and ecological issues in local communities and praising the active participation of DPS students, who have formulated their own Earth Charter.

Dr. Chowdhry highlighted the catastrophic situation humanity has brought about, the challenges we all face for survival, and the need for profound changes in the way we think and act. This speech has been repeated several times to significant audiences of children and parents.

The Earth Charter initiative also benefited greatly from the active participation of Dr. Ashok Khosla and Dr. S.K. Sharma, from Development Alternatives, the organization that has been promoting the Earth Charter in India. Dr. A. Khosla participated in the April Internet On-line Forum on the Charter.

Based on the Indian Perspective of the Earth Charter, collected from consultations and Internet discussions, they have produced a document called "Soul Force for Sustainability." This is a proposal for the Earth Charter Campaign that aims to provide an institutional mechanism for promoting a social and decision-making structure to enforce sustainability.

Indonesia



In June 1999, an Earth Charter meeting was held to promote engagement to this initiative. This meeting was facilitated by Ms. Erna Witoelar, member of the Earth Charter Management Committee, which was active in 1995/96 and currently Minister of State.

In this meeting Mr. Maximo Kalaw, Earth Council Executive Director, presented the Earth Charter to key organizations and individuals. This was a tripartite gathering of government, NGO and business representatives, hosted by WALHI, The Indonesian Forum for Environment. This event was designed to stimulate an Earth Charter process linked with the NCSD.

Another meeting was hosted by DML (Friends of the Environment Fund) in which the majority of participants belonged to the private sector. Dr. Emil Salim, board member of DML, former Minister of Environment and member of the Bruntland Commission also participated and was very supportive. This group was interested in establishing a collaboration between the Earth Charter and the entrepreneurial sector.

These events were both very successful in attracting the interest of individuals and organizations. However, the country's political situation hindered the continuation of Earth Charter related activities of these groups.

It is hoped that these groups will soon be able to pursue this initiative.

Japan



Green Cross Japan (GCJ) has been actively involved in the Earth Charter process for several years. On June 4, 1999, GCJ organized an Earth Charter Committee meeting to which organizations were invited in an effort to make the Earth Charter process in Japan more broad-based and participatory. The purpose of the meeting was to involve representatives from all the major stakeholder groups in the country that have an impact on sustainable development. Maximo Kalaw, Earth Council Executive Director, and Maurice Strong, Earth Charter Commissioner, also took part in this event.

On January 23, 1999, an Earth Forum entitled "Global Movement of the Earth Charter Campaign and Indigenous People's Spirituality, Traditional Culture and the links with the Motherlands" took place in Tokyo. The Earth Forum Executive Committee, in cooperation with Green Cross Japan, were the organizers.

In addition, The Global Environmental Action (GEA) of Japan convened the "World Conference on Global Commons, Japan 1999" in June, in Tokyo. The conference was co-sponsored by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and was planned in conjunction with the World Environment Day Celebrations held on June 5, 1999, in Tokyo.

The conference provided the opportunity to examine concrete measures for resolving several threats in an internationally collaborative manner. A focus on increased environmental degradation and disasters was followed by a call to approach these threats together and seek new directions for proper management of the Global Commons. The Earth Charter was added as a reference to the 1999 Tokyo Declaration, produced as an outcome of this event. Programs such as the Earth Charter, Local Agenda 21, the National Council for Sustainable Development and the Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) were identified as playing important roles in finding innovative ways to build collaborative

capacity when approaching sustainable development issues. It was agreed that environmental problems cannot be addressed in isolation, rather they must be perceived through an overall framework of sustainability, which also includes social, economic, and financial aspects.

An Earth Charter presentation took place on August 13 at the Misono headquarters which is part of Shinji Shumeikai.

An Earth Charter gathering with participants from private companies, NGOs, academia and members of Parliament took place on January 24, 2000, at the House of Councillors. Mrs. Wakako Hironaka, Earth Charter Commissioner, convened the meeting, which included a presentation by Mr. Maurice Strong and had the purpose of engaging the participation of key Japanese individuals and organizations in the initiative.

Mrs. Hironaka has a website dedicated to Earth Charter topics

at: www.earthcharter.org/welcome/japanese/hironaka.htm

Malaysia



Two representatives from the Earth Council, Ms. Ella S. Antonio, Asia Pacific Area Manager and Dr. Cielito F. Habito, Special Advisor, were in Kuala Lumpur from December 16 - 17, 1999 for a series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss about the Earth Charter and the possible establishment of a National Council for Sustainable Development (NSCD) in Malaysia.

In this context, a briefing and dialogue session on the Earth Charter, organized by the Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM), was held at the SGM Culture Center to introduce Earth Charter to various institutions and organizations that are working on environmental and sustainable development issues in Malaysia. Mr. Lee Kok Kheng, the Vice General Director of SGM, chaired the dialogue session. Dr. Habito gave a presentation on how the Earth Charter can serve as an ethical framework for protecting and maintaining the environment and for ensuring a sustainable future.

It is anticipated that the Earth Charter process in Malaysia will be led by an organization from among those represented at the meeting. The participants discussed the need for an action agenda to complement the ethical framework, and the need to define targets to advance the Earth

Charter process in Malaysia. Eleven representatives from various organizations were present including the Institute of Environment and Development, World Wildlife Fund for Nature Malaysia (WWF), Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Global Environment Centre, Forest Research Institution Malaysia (FRIM), Treat Every Environment Special (TREES), Institute of Chemistry and the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (FOMCA).

As follow-up action, SGM organized a dialogue session on December 29, 1999 to introduce Earth Charter to its members. Membership of SGM consists of people from diverse backgrounds and professions, including medical, environment, business, law, media, education and arts. Approximately 110 participants attended this two-hour session, which included a brief presentation on the background of the Charter, as well as an overview of the respective sections of the Earth Charter. Participants were then invited to provide their comments on the different sections of the Charter.

Ambassador Razali, the former UN General Assembly President and a special adviser to the Prime Minister, provided some valuable comments and advice on steps to advance the Earth Charter and sustainable development agenda in Malaysia. He recommends to begin with civil society and suggests that contacts should be established with the Business Council for Sustainable Development Malaysia to advance the Earth Charter process in Malaysia.

SGM's bilingual monthly publication "Cosmic" with a circulation of more than 16,000 copies throughout the country featured a two-page commentary on the Earth Charter in its November 1999 issue, highlighting its importance and relevance to the future of all people.

In January 2000, a public forum organized by SGM and entitled "Earth Charter: Its contribution to Mankind in the 21st Century" took place with a total of 1200 participants.

Nepal



An Earth Charter process was initiated in Nepal under the auspices of the Center for Community Development and Environmental Research in Katmandu, a Nepalese NGO established in 1995. The mission of this organization is to facilitate the identification of problems related to social welfare and economic development in

underprivileged urban and rural communities. The Center encourages the participation of community members to solve problems such as creating ways of addressing their polluted environment and improving living standards.

As the first step in this process, CCDER distributed Benchmark Draft II to different individuals and organizations in Nepal, beginning in July 1999. Feedback on the draft was collected on a continuous basis. The process culminated in the organization of National Consultation Workshop on Earth Charter on December 29, 1999 in Kathmandu. Local NGOs, press reporters, social workers, political personalities, advocates, women activists, and private sector representatives attended the workshop, which was facilitated by a professional moderator from a reputable consulting firm.

A translated copy of the Draft Charter was distributed to the participants together with the invitation letter to attend the workshop. The workshop began with a welcome address by the secretary member of CDER and the Chairman of CDER giving a brief history of the Earth Charter movement. The participants worked in small groups, each group focusing on one section of the Charter. The groups then presented their ideas and suggestions at a plenary session. Consensus was reached among the participants on most of the issues and principles. The workshop reorganized the national committee of the Earth Charter, which was formed in July 1999.

Overall, the workshop has contributed significantly to enriching dialogue on the Charter, and has resulted in the formation of a national committee to guide the movement in Nepal. The event stimulated intensive discussions on the preamble and principles of the Earth Charter from different perspectives based on the backgrounds of participants. Most of the participants agreed that the principles of the Charter were relevant and consistent with their currently values. Therefore, most of the suggestions of the workshop were simply additions or comments which could further strengthen the principles. Quite a number of participants suggested that the current section entitled "Democracy and Peace" should be changed to "Good governance and Peace." They pointed that the word "Democracy" has different meanings to different people, and that it has strong ideological connotations.

New Zealand/Aoteroa



The New Zealand Center for Environmental Law took on the role of coordinating the New Zealand National Earth Charter Campaign. This has been planned since mid-1999. The establishment of six national working groups is being planned for the first part of 2000. A conference tentatively named "Multicultural Gathering 2000" is currently being organized for June 2000 in Auckland. This conference intends to bring together European and Indigenous Peoples from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands to adopt a manifesto in support of the Earth Charter.

In addition, Pauline Tangiora, member of the Earth Charter Commission has widely distributed Earth Charter materials at various events in which she has participated.

Singapore



An Earth Charter process in Singapore was initiated in 1999. The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) has taken an organizational role in the coordination of an Earth Charter process in Singapore. SEC is an independently managed environmental organization that aims to nurture, facilitate, and coordinate environmental causes and groups in Singapore. The mission of SEC is to educate, inspire, and assist individuals, businesses, and environmental groups in caring for and protecting the environment. SEC invited a cross-section of Singapore's environmental groups to provide feedback and share their views on the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II. This group, consisting of five members from Singapore's environmental community, discussed and proposed changes to the text of the Benchmark Draft II in a meeting held on October 14th. Two members of this group participated in the October Earth Charter On-Line Global Forum, on behalf of others involved.

The Earth Council conducted a series of meetings in November and December with SEC, NGO representatives and Ministry of Environment officials, led by Permanent Secretary Mr. Tan Gee Paw, in order to prepare the ground for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder mechanism and to introduce the Earth Charter. The meetings led to plans for more discussions and proposals to conduct sustainability projects.

A brainstorming session was held with a group of young persons connected with the Nature

Society of Singapore, Necessary Stage, Straits Times, Green Volunteers Network, and the Institute of Policy Studies. The participants decided to join together, calling themselves, "Our Common Future". They also decided to jointly work on a pilot educational project that introduces the concept of sustainability via the Earth Charter to students in Singapore. The idea of using theatre as a vehicle of communication and education will also be explored. This project may be structured as an educational module for presentation during the pastoral care or moral education class in schools.

The Singapore Soka Gakkai Association with endorsement by SEC, prepared for a seminar-workshop on the Earth Charter held on January 15, 2000. The seminar-workshop involved grassroots organizations in arts and cultural movements, youth and women interest groups, environmental associations, religious groups, and voluntary organizations. The workshop topics included "Civil Society and the Earth Charter," "Spiritual Perspectives on the Earth Charter," and "Youth and the Earth Charter-The Role of Education."

South Korea



The Earth Charter process in Korea was reactivated under the leadership of Mr. Sungnok Andy Choi, Chairman for the Youth Forum Committee, during the 1999 International NGO Conference, with the collaboration of Ms. Choony Kim, from the Korean Federation of Environment Movement. They have joined efforts to bring together a significant group of individuals and organizations in Korea to define their viewpoints with regard to the Earth Charter and to raise public awareness on related issues. In August, they started to promote the Earth Charter among youth. In September, Maurice Strong, Earth Charter Commission member, met with these active individuals of the Korean Earth Charter initiative.

On September 21, at the opening ceremony of '99 Hanam International Environment Expo, Mr. Maurice Strong, representing the United Nations and the Earth Council, gave a speech inviting the audience to join the Earth Charter Campaign and to integrate it as a central theme in Hanam's own version of Agenda 21.

The groups involved in the Korean initiative have sent information to various NGOs and host-

ed a Korean National EC Campaign Training Conference, on October 4-6, in order to provide a general explanation and discussion of the Earth Charter Campaign. Specific goals for the Korean campaign, such as strengthening the role of media and developing connections to NGOs and governmental organizations, were agreed upon.

Other topics discussed at this event have resulted in the following comments:

- Considering the scope of influence of this campaign, it is highly recommended that campaign advertisement be intensified.
- Simpler messages regarding concepts should be prepared for the common people.
- Difficulties are expected because a well-developed spirit of civil participation in Korea does not yet exist.

A search is currently underway to find an appropriate chairperson and headquarters for the national committee. Members of the Earth Charter process in Korea attended a National Conference of NGOs in Seoul and submitted a proposal to establish a Korean Earth Charter with the collaboration of various Korean NGOs. Several steps have been taken towards establishing this committee.

The Earth Charter initiative also benefited from the active participation of Sungnok Andy Choi in the October On-line Conference on Benchmark Draft II. In addition, in December 1999 the EC Campaign was introduced to the Division of Global Environment of the Ministry of Environment, who have assured their cooperation. E.C. documents were sent to some 130 Korean NGOs and 20 representative groups of Local Agenda 21.

Thailand



In 1999, the Grassroots Action Program of the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) catalyzed a diverse group of stakeholders to begin a process to define what the Earth Charter means for communities, municipalities and other groups in Thailand. In mid-1999 a program was developed to address the following three main areas: networking, discussion forums and national consultation.

During World Habitat Day, on October 4th, participants announced a commitment to Local Agenda 21 and to the Earth Charter. A Habitat

Day Manifesto was read aloud to hundreds of people at the end of the celebration which included a reference to the Earth Charter. This group is planning to organize a meeting in the year 2000 to advance the Thai NCSD and to discuss the Earth Charter, with support from the Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE).

The Thai initiative is focusing on the idea that the Earth Charter is a means to support both Agenda 21 and Local Agenda 21. They have formed a Local Agenda 21 Task Force with the goal of having at least five municipalities active in implementing it by the end of the year 2000, and Agenda 21 by the year 2002.

To date, in addition to facilitating the creation of a Thai NCSD and a local Agenda 21 task force, TEI has used its existing networks and relevant project activities to advance Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter Campaign. They have also been working on the development of an Internet web-site for Sustainable Development in Thailand, in which the Earth Charter will be featured.

Two Thai representatives actively participated in the October On-line Earth Charter forum.

In late 1999, TEI and The Thai Society of Value Creation and the Japanese Buddhist Society, in a collaborative effort, started to organize an Earth Charter event held on January 11, 2000.

The Philippines



The Earth Charter Core Group in the Philippines has focused its approach in popularizing and promoting sustainability values of the Earth Charter. This represents a shift to building upon local initiatives rather than on national programs. This decision was based upon a study on how far-reaching the national initiatives and programs have been in the past. The study showed that there was an almost immediate acceptance of the programs and commitment to implement them. However, the actual motivation to implement and monitor these programs decreased for a myriad of factors. It is expected that the new approach will produce better results at the local level, which in turn will promote actions at the national level.

Cora de Leon, Chairwoman of the Civil Service Commission, officially declared the Kabuan Series of Training, entitled "Organizational Transformation Seminar for the Internalization of the Earth Charter Principles and Values," as the Millennium Project of the Civil

Service Commission. This represents a great achievement for the Earth Charter initiative in the Philippines, as it requires individuals who are joining the government as civil servants to undertake this training.

Ella Antonio, Earth Council Area Manager for Asia, and The Filipino Institute for Alternative Future (PIAF), the Earth Charter focal point organization, have initiated discussions with potential partners (e.g., UNICEF and a school) on developing a series of activities that will allow children to understand and appreciate the Earth Charter.

Earth Council and PIAF forged an agreement with the organizers of the national Earth Day 2000 celebration to make the Earth Charter the guiding framework for their activities. This agreement is expected to strengthen the Earth Charter movement in the Philippines, particularly because more than 200 organizations have already enlisted specific activities for Earth Day. Earth Council and PIAF have thus been introducing the Charter to these organizations.

Together with the Earth Charter Core Group, the Earth Council and PIAF also planned and prepared for the setting up of an Earth Charter booth in the Earth Day celebration site. The booth shall present the full text of the Earth Charter in a form that will encourage people to read it. In addition, leaflets will be distributed and on-site briefings will be conducted.

Earth Council and PIAF also collaborated with the Jaycees for the conduct of an Earth Charter song writing contest. The plan is to launch the winning song on Earth Day.

The Philippines also participated actively in the Earth Charter On-line Forum with comments from three representatives.

In addition, a nationwide tour of the Indigenous Peoples' Theater Earth Charter production, entitled "Seven Rituals of Mother Earth," took place throughout September 1999. The play revolves around the myth of a man whose soul is stolen by an evil spirit. The allegory portrays indigenous peoples' struggles for self-determination. The Earth Charter is interpreted within the context of local cultures and environmental issues. After each performance there is a participatory forum where issues are clarified as a result of interaction.

This is part of a Filipino Earth Charter initiative that is a pilot project of the Asian Council for People's Culture Theatre for the Environment

Network, a national organization of cultural workers and educators. Their belief is that culture plays a vital role in determining both the present and the future of our environment.

For more information on this initiative about promoting the Earth Charter by means of popular culture, please access the following website <http://www.shaman.drak.net.acpc>

EUROPE

Western Europe

"The Earth Charter is a unique instrument, promoting the empowerment and global sovereignty of the peoples to achieve a just, sustainable and participatory society".

—Ruud Lubbers, Former Prime Minister of The Netherlands and Earth Charter Commissioner

Austria



The International Institute for Global Ethics, under the leadership of Ing. Jacqueline Wagner, is working with business leaders, artists, various religious groups, scientists and NGOs to implement the Earth Charter into daily life. They are also exploring the possibility of an agreement that will involve more than 200 managers in industry in the process of integrating the Earth Charter within industries' activities.

This fall, a program for the Q1-Internet TV was devoted to the Earth Charter initiative. It was an opportunity to present the Earth Charter to thousands of individuals. The report on global networking and the Earth Charter, in German and English, can be found at www.webfreetv.com, channel 4.

The following is an outline of activities undertaken:

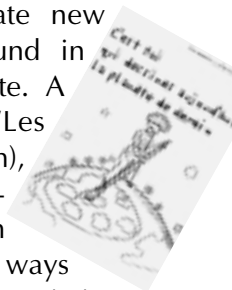
- Education: A group formed by individuals from Austria, Finland, and other places, are working on the preparation of a curriculum about global ethics for use in education which is based on the Earth Charter principles.
- University: Presentations on the Earth Charter to guest-lecturers took place. The presentation was on "The Implementation Process of the Earth Charter in Business and Education".
- Business: Meetings with department heads of the United Nations in Vienna to arrive at a common ground for Austrian companies on "values and principles" in business. Also, an introduction of a summary sheet about the Earth Charter for companies, explaining its meaning and purpose.
- Media: Meeting with two department heads of national Austrian TV and presentation of the Earth Charter.
- Presentation on the Earth Charter at a Conference in Salzburg .
- Founding the non-profit organization "International Institute for Global Ethics", which has Earth Charter activities as its priority. The emphasis is and will continue to be the

promotion of the implementation of the Earth Charter within industries.

France



In Toulouse, France, two enthusiastic individuals, Josiane Trolliet and Telia Djamila, have created a support committee to work locally with the Earth Charter project. Their first step was to do a study on the Alliance for a United and Responsible World's approach to the Earth Charter. The study was designed to present a coherent document detailing these different perspectives to various NGOs in France. They have used the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II as the basis upon which they incorporate new ideas. This document can be found in French at the Earth Charter website. A meeting was coordinated with "Les Amis de la Terre" (Friends of the Earth), a national organization whose members are very interested in the Earth Charter project. They are exploring ways to involve a federation of 750 associations working for ecological issues in France. This federation will hopefully serve as a network for future work on disseminating and introducing the Earth Charter initiative in France. They have scheduled a planning meeting for early 2000.



Germany



German Earth Charter initiatives were in part inspired by the Conference in Assisi, Italy, on "Spirituality and Sustainability," held in July 1997, 1998 and 1999. In conjunction with the Hamburg Evangelical Academy and INES (International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility), a number of speeches have been given and conferences and seminars have been organized addressing the theme of "Spirituality and Sustainability and the Earth Charter." In preparation for the INES worldwide congress to be held in June 2000 in Stockholm, Sweden, the Earth Charter was published in the November newsletter of INES.

The *Ecumenical One World Initiative*, a German NGO, which has been focusing on ecology and development and promoting a sustainable lifestyle since 1976, published a German translation of the Benchmark Draft II, available at the Earth Charter Website. This NGO coordinated an Earth Charter workshop on 27th of November in Lauenburg, Northern Germany. At this workshop approximately 15 people discussed the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II and submitted suggestions.

The Netherlands



A project on Global Principles for the Earth Charter was launched at Tilburg University under the coordination of Professor Ruud Lubbers and Dr. Patricia Morales. Within this framework, several activities were held during 1998 and 1999 such as participation and organization of conferences, interviews with representatives of key institutions and research on global principles. This research consists of a 150-page glossary, which contains comparative elements of major documents of the UN, in particular the international instruments (soft and hard law); UN major reports, documents of the UN world conferences, and major NGO documents. The glossary has the following functions:

- To have a simple access to the global concerns for the drafting of the Earth Charter;
- To help to find materials for students and other interested people about the topics of the Earth Charter;
- To compare the approaches of global concerns between the Earth Charter and other documents;
- To facilitate exchange of ideas between groups dedicated to these issues;
- To improve consultation on the recent resources for the drafting process, and to contribute to a better understanding of the terms and language for the global community;

Additionally, the glossary is expected to stimulate participation in the formulation of the Earth Charter process, and to contribute to development of global documents and proposals.

The Globus Institute has also coordinated activities for the Earth Charter that have improved cooperation with other Universities, NGOs, UN Agencies and governments.

A Global Forum on "Appeal for Peace" took place at The Hague on May 11-15, 1999. Professor Ruud Lubbers, Earth Charter Commission Member and Dr. Patricia Morales, co-coordinator of the Globus Institute Project, led this event, in which 1500 copies of the Earth Charter were distributed.

In addition, some initial meetings have taken place with the purpose of consolidating an Earth Charter Committee in collaboration with NCDO, the National Committee for Sustainable Cooperation, and other organizations. Rabbin Awraham Soetendorp, who played an important role in the Earth Charter initiative in 1994 and 1995, joined the process again and has been very supportive, in particular with relation to educational activities.

On October 19-29, Dutch representatives H. Verheij, of the Ministry of Environment, and Patricia Morales, of Globus, participated in the on-line conference to discuss the Benchmark Draft. A document on global ethics, by R. Lubbers, was prepared for the Centrum Von Wittenberg, citing the Earth Charter as a source of reference in considering global ethics.

On November 24-26, the European Conference on Globalization, Ecology and Economy took place with the participation of Mikhail Gorbachev and Prof. Ruud Lubbers, both Earth Charter Commission members. Some 500 copies of the Earth Charter were distributed there and as a result, the Tilburg Manifesto that was produced featured the Earth Charter as a reference for global ethics. This Manifesto can be found at the Charter's website.

The SGI - Soka Gakkai Holland is also interested in joining the campaign and assisting in the translation of materials. They are organizing an Earth Charter meeting to take place in March 2000.

Iceland



Iceland's interest and involvement in the Earth Charter process is growing. This is largely due to the motivation and interest of The Peace 2000 Institute, an organization which has agreed to initiate contact with local groups to join the Earth Charter.

Although many Earth Charter type activities have taken place in Iceland, little has happened formally under the Earth Charter initiative. Some interest has been shown by the Humanist

Movement, and by several key people who might be encouraged to work on the Earth Charter initiative.

It is hoped that many organizations and educational institutions will become further involved in the Earth Charter process, either in the form of a national committee or as informal liaisons.

Italy



The Earth Charter Campaign in Italy gained momentum in 1999. Several organizations such as The Assisi Nature Council and Green Cross Italy have built upon Earth Charter efforts initiated by Elizabeth Ferrero, Professor of St. Thomas University in Florida. These efforts have taken many forms and enhanced Earth Charter activities in Italy.

These organizations were involved in the "Spirituality and Sustainability" meeting co-hosted by the Center for Respect of Life and Environment and the University of St. Thomas, USA. This event gathered leaders of the international movement for sustainable living - representing diverse backgrounds and professions - to discuss the Earth Charter process at national and international levels.

A major outcome of the Italian Earth Charter process in 1999 was further refinement of the Italian translation of the Earth Charter Benchmark II Draft. Ms. Elizabeth Ferrero, in her capacity as an early organizer of the Earth Charter process in Italy, and The Assisi Nature Council, under the leadership of Maria Luisa Cohen, worked on developing an accurate translation of the Earth Charter into Italian.

In December 1999, The Assisi Nature Council held a major consultation to gather comments and suggestions for the November 15, 1999 Working Draft of Benchmark Draft II. To further promote the Earth Charter process in Italy, participants in the event created an Italian Earth Charter Committee with the purpose of disseminating Earth Charter information throughout Italian society. In addition, The Assisi Nature Council has been developing an environmental education project, of related to the principles of the Earth Charter, for implementation in the local schools of Assisi, Italy. More information can be accessed at The Assisi Nature Council website: www.assisinc.ch/

To complement the activities of Elizabeth Ferrero and The Assisi Nature Council, Green

Cross Italy (GCI) has taken an active role in the Earth Charter process. During 1999, GCI organized an International Earth Charter Youth Art Contest. They have printed and distributed 60,000 posters and pamphlets containing information on the Earth Charter. Newspapers, magazines and other media have been informed of the initiative and have already demonstrated their support. Green Cross Italy is also organizing 30 conferences in 30 Italian schools that will take place between January and April 2000.

Please refer to page 59 for more information.

Norway



In 1999, an Earth Charter process was initiated in Norway under the auspices of the Norwegian Society of Chartered Engineers (NIF) in Oslo and the Environmental Center in Fredrikstad. These organizations created an Earth Charter National Committee in Norway and worked together on further promotion of the Earth Charter. This National Committee has the Norwegian Association of Engineers as its secretariat and contributors for this endeavor. Press releases have been sent to the most important media groups, and the Benchmark Draft II has been translated into Norwegian. In addition, the following activities occurred in 1999:

- The Norwegian translation of the Earth Charter has been published in the magazine "Alternativt Nettverk." This magazine also published an article describing the Earth Charter initiative and the process. It has been sent to all the members of the Norwegian parliament and the Norwegian government.
- A hearing on the Earth Charter with a group of organizations occurred on August 25, 1999.
- A public hearing was organized on September 29 with invitations extended to the public through Aftenposten, one of the largest newspapers in Norway. Approximately 3000 invitations (with copies of the Earth Charter enclosed) were sent to NGO organizations in Norway.
- The leader of the Norwegian National Earth Charter Committee was interviewed on a national radio broadcasting about the Earth Charter process.
- Various articles and interviews regarding the Earth Charter have been in national and local papers.

- Members of the Norwegian National Earth Charter Committee have participated in public meetings and given a number of speeches on the Earth Charter.
- A Norwegian Internet web page for the Earth Charter has been established at: www.earth-charter-norge.com/
- Contributions to the Benchmark Draft II have been solicited and sent to the Earth Council.
- The Norwegian National Earth Charter Committee has held a number of organizational meetings and participated in the Earth Charter on-line conference in October 1999.

Future activities include a conference on the Earth Charter, tentatively being planned for September 2000; intensification of work with schools and young people through distribution by Jubilee 2000 materials on the Earth Charter to all Norwegian elementary schools; and the involvement of local government institutions in the consultation process.

Sweden

A group has been exploring ways to carry out Earth Charter activities in Sweden. Initial discussions have taken place in order to see how the country can have an active participation in the Earth Charter campaign. The translation of Earth Charter documents into Swedish, as well as the identification of key organizations that should join this process, are the first steps to be fulfilled.

On May 17, a conference was held in Gothenburg. Highly regarded leaders from the business community and public sector addressed topics such as "Visionary Leadership, Steps into the 21st Century." The Earth Charter was promoted at this event in conjunction with various NGOs worldwide. Green Cross Sweden issued an invitation for the leaders of the business community and public sector to meet and discuss the Earth Charter. There was consensus that active participation to help develop strategies for promoting the Charter is very important. Green Cross Sweden will be promoting the Earth Charter Youth Art Contest among school children.

The Earth Charter process in this country is expected to make significant progress during the year 2000.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Eastern Europe

"I perceive the Earth Charter as a unique document... as a logical continuation of the Rio Declaration and the documents adopted during the Rio '92 process. I believe we are the witnesses and participants of a really 'New Beginning' in the civilization."

—Karine Danielyan, President of the Association "For Sustainable Human Development", Armenia

Armenia



During 1999, a valuable new partner, the Association for Sustainable Human Development, joined the Earth Charter Campaign. This Association works consistently to propagate the main ideas, principles and values of sustainable human development. They formed an initial group to disseminate and discuss Earth Charter information. An important accomplishment of this group was the Russian and Armenian translation of the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II. Both translations are included in the book "Towards Sustainable Development of Armenia," which was published in September 1999.

The Armenian translation of the Earth Charter was disseminated to participants of various seminars and events, organized by the Association between September and December 1999. Events occurred in several towns and in the capital city of Yerevan. The National Radio and TV stations broadcasted information on the Earth Charter, including three interviews with the President of the Association, Dr. Karine Danielyan, former Minister of Environment. Open discussions on the Earth Charter were coordinated at the Yerevan State University, with the participation of the Armenian Geography Society, the Armenian Botany Society and the faculties of Yerevan State University.

These activities were part of a project entitled, "Lobbying for the creation of Sustainable Development Policy in Armenia," which was implemented and supported by the Armenian Center for NGOs. They have focused on the Earth Charter as a key international document that must be valued and recognized by every society and country. The main goal of the project was to bring pressure to the national Parliament to organize hearings on the subject of sustainable development, and to secure their support to form a National Structure responsible for sustainable development issues.

On November 12, the Association organized a press conference about the Earth Charter.

Representatives of the national mass media, including newsletters, TV and radio stations and electronic information systems, were present. The Earth Charter gained public attention through the news coverage by the national radio station and four TV channels.

The Association for Sustainable Human Development is organizing a national preparatory workshop to take place on February 17 - 19, 2000. This will be in preparation for the NCSD Global Forum in April. A full day of the workshop will be dedicated to a national conference on the Earth Charter.

Belarus



In late 1999, meetings between Earth Council Area Manager for Eastern Europe, Marina Bakhnova, government officials and NGO members resulted in a commitment to organize Earth Charter National Hearings in Minsk, Belarus on March 23 - 24, 2000. Individuals attending the meetings came from the following organizations: the Cabinet of Ministers, the Belorussian National Committee for Assistance to UNEP, the International Ecological Academy in Belarus, the Women for Sustainable Development NGO, and the Council of Local Agenda 21. They are in the process of organizing a National Earth Charter Committee.

Estonia



People representing different organizations in Estonia have supported the idea of organizing an Estonian National Earth Charter Hearing. Tentative dates for this hearing have been set for March 20-21, 2000. Coordinators of this meeting include representatives from the following organizations: The Stockholm Environmental Institute office in Tallin, Capacity 21 Project, the Ministry of Environment, the Government Press Bureau, the Economic and Social Committee, the Estonian Parliament, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Biosphere Reserve Center, Green Cross Estonia and the Earth Council.

CENTRAL ASIA

The Earth Charter Central Asia Regional Workshop - Kyrgyzstan - June, 1999

This workshop, held June 20 - 23, was organized and sponsored by the Earth Council in cooperation with the Aleyne Ecological Movement of Kyrgyzstan and the Foundation for Survival and Development of Humankind of Russia. Approximately 30 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan representing National Councils for Sustainable Development, NGOs, governments, academia and the media gathered together. In general, National Councils for Sustainable Development (NCSDs) have functioned as Earth Charter National Committees within these countries. The meeting was a valuable opportunity to work on the adoption of the Central Asian Earth Charter Draft as an open national and regional process to voice inputs into the International Earth Charter. In addition, this meeting also presented the opportunity to define and adopt the Appeal of the Participants to the Peoples and Governments of the World.

APPEAL OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN WORKSHOP TO THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD

We, the representatives of five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), one of the most beautiful regions of the world struck by the ecological disasters of the Aral Sea Basin;

Confirming our responsibility for the future of our planet;

Acknowledging the threat of global ecological crisis, and;

With deep faith in good will of humankind:

APPEAL TO ALL PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS:

The new millennium should not repeat the errors of the previous ones, when the relationship between nature and humankind was built on a basis of thoughtless and brutal consumption.

We need fundamental changes in our priorities, values and lifestyles. Our civilization must follow the laws of a more general system to which it belongs: the biosphere.

We consider that there is no fatal confrontation between humankind and nature.

We believe that the wellbeing of humankind is strongly connected to the wellbeing of nature.

We believe that there is an acceptable alternative way for developing humankind, which can ensure high living standards without violating the harmony of the biosphere.

We hope for fruitful cooperation of peoples, institutions and states in achieving a necessary accord on the vital principles or relationships between humankind and nature.

We agree on and support the idea and main principles of the Earth Charter and call to all humankind to unite efforts to implement it as a guarantee for the future of our planet, and the wellbeing of all living entities on planet Earth.

The following are the major outcomes and decisions taken by the participants of the Regional Workshop:

- Create the Central Asian Earth Charter Institute/Council
- Promote a wider dissemination of the Earth Charter principles through:

1. Active involvement of the mass media;
2. Joint efforts and initiatives with local communities;
3. Strengthening the activities of NCSDs as multi-stakeholder participatory mechanisms in implementing Earth Charter principles in everyday life;
4. Recognition and strengthening of local traditional structures, such as councils of elders and other bodies of self-governance;
5. Holding permanent Earth Charter public hearings in Central Asian countries.

- Develop an electronic network for the Central Asian Earth Charter Council.
- Integrate Earth Charter principles into textbooks of all of the Central Asian Ministries of Education.
- Approve the proposal of the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan to convene an international conference entitled "Youth and the Earth Charter".
- Support the UNDP proposal regarding educational computer games for children based on Earth Charter principles.

Kazakhstan



School children (between the ages of 12-13 years old) of Ust-Kamenogorsk and Leninogorsk began to discuss the Earth Charter at the Annual Environmental Camp in July 1999. A special class was organized to allow students to express their thoughts and give suggestions on this document. A two-hour discussion class revealed students' general approval and support for the main ideas of the Earth Charter. Furthermore, the Earth Charter was considered to be the document of the future. Concerns and doubts about its approval and understanding by all people were manifested. However, students showed indifference with regards to the principle on 'consideration and respect for animals', being of the opinion that cruelty is constantly transferred to other species.



Students showed interest and concern, feeling that discussing the Charter at the camp was not enough. For this reason they have created a special exhibition at school entitled "Discussing the Earth Charter." This exhibition displayed their ideas and gave suggestions, to be analyzed and reviewed, on the Earth Charter. Among other activities, it is expected that students will share thoughts on the Earth Charter with students from other countries. The opportunity to discuss this topic at the camp catalyzed the involvement of other schools in further participating in the Earth Charter process. Inspired by this camp, an English language school decided to start introducing different parts of the Earth Charter in the lessons, as part of their curriculum.

From February 21-22, 2000 an Earth Charter meeting will take place, together with the preparation for the National Council for Sustainable Development Global Forum and the regular meeting of the Central Asia Earth Charter Regional Council.

Dr. Sergey Shafarenko, Chairman of the Cultural Ecological Union "Belovodye," and a member of Central Asia Earth Council, is undertaking the role of promoting the Earth Charter in this country and is very active in the region.

Kyrgyzstan



The Ecological Movement of Kyrgyzstan, under the leadership of its Director, Dr. Emil Shukurov, is playing an important role in promoting the Earth Charter in the country as well

as within the regional Earth Charter Central Asian Council, where the organization is in charge of education. The Kyrgyzstan Earth Charter group is involving various groups in the Earth Charter initiative and has also co-convened the regional workshop on the Earth Charter held on June 20-23, 1999. This gathering aimed to adopt a regional statement on ethical principles and moral values, in order to guide the conduct of peoples and nations of the Central Asian Region, with each other and the Earth, to ensure a sustainable future for the generations to come.

Tajikistan



In mid-1999 a significant process for the Earth Charter was initiated by the NGO Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives, under the leadership of Ms. Muazama Burkhanova, the Foundation Chairperson. This organization has disseminated the Earth Charter among key organizations in the country and has coordinated several local meetings.

As a follow-up to the Regional Central Asian Earth Charter meeting and the regional council, a National Hearing of the Earth Charter is proposed to take place in early 2000. This National Hearing will be coordinated by the Ministry of Economy and International Relations of Tajikistan and the Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives and will gather 30 - 35 representatives of different sectors of Tajikistan, including government, NGOs, youth, women leaders, and representatives from local communities.

The National Hearing aims to:

- Bring the principles and values of the Earth Charter to as many people as possible from different areas;
- Identify how the principles of the Earth Charter may be introduced into the National Government Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Uzbekistan



An *Uzbek National Preparatory Workshop* was held in Tashkent, in December, 1999. Logistics were handled by the National Commission for Sustainable Development of Uzbekistan. More than 50 representatives from government institutions, NGOs, business, local authorities, youth and scientific organizations

around the country participated in the two-day workshop. The Earth Council Area Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia participated in this event. The workshop also enjoyed wide media coverage - information about the event was publicized through national and regional TV channels and was broadcasted live by the national radio station. Several interviews both in English and in Russian were given to national TV, radio and newspapers.

The Earth Charter national conference was held on the second day of the workshop with the participation of the members of the Central Asian regional Earth Charter Council, which has been

highly active since its creation at the Regional Earth Charter meeting, in June 1999 in Kyrgyzstan. All the participants of the conference unanimously proposed to convene an international forum entitled, "Youth and the Earth Charter" in September-October 2000 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. After discussions on the second day of the workshop there was a two-hour meeting of the six members of the regional Central Asian Earth Charter Council from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and the Earth Council. Members approved a working plan for the year 2000 and discussed the role and input of every member of the Council.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

"Everything that exists and lives needs to be taken care of to continue to live: a plant, an animal, a child, an elder, our Planet Earth. According to an old saying, the essence of being human resides in caring."

—Leonardo Boff, Saber Cuidar, Brazil

Argentina



The National Earth Charter Project, initiated in December 1997, has divided provinces of Argentina with similar characteristics into five regions, each requiring a different strategy and approach to the Earth Charter process. Given this diversity and the extensive contributions and participation of individuals, groups and institutions representing the whole spectrum of society, the Earth Charter process in Argentina has great potential. Following significant activities undertaken in 1998, in January 1999, a meeting was organized to collect Argentina's vision of the Earth Charter. Additionally, representatives from Acuario XXI, the NGO leading the promotion of the Charter in Argentina, participated in the Earth Charter Value Training Workshop, held in May 1999 in Costa Rica. At this time, Earth Charter activities in Argentina have slowed due to a lack of funding.

Belize



In 1999, the creation of a National Council for Sustainable Development has been initiated. After a meeting in November, convened by the National Committee of the Audubon Society and the Earth Council, the first steps were taken to create an NCSD as well as a committee to work with the Earth Charter in the year 2000. Earth Council Area Manager for Latin America, Lorena San Roman, and representatives from several sectors of society (government, universities, NGOs and private enterprise) were in attendance at the meeting.

Bolivia



The League For The Defense of The Environment (LIDEMA) spearheads the national Earth Charter initiative to integrate the values and principles of sustainable development into national policies. Utilizing processes of consulta-

tion, education and support, LIDEMA has encouraged the participation of diverse sectors of Bolivian civil society, government and legislative bodies in the Earth Charter process. They have emphasized that shared responsibility is essential to effect changes in the attitudes, values and behavior of peoples and nations towards the care of and respect for the Earth. Planned activities for the future, dependent on the availability of funds, consist of the following:

- Composing and publishing a document to serve as reference for the Earth Charter general consultation and internalization processes, based upon the Benchmark Draft II and the Latin American document;
- Consolidating the operation of the Earth Charter National Committee with organizations involved in sustainable development activities within social, academic, public and governmental sectors;
- Developing workshops for the presentation, debate, evaluation and contribution to the Global Earth Charter and the Latin American document, as well as the definition of principles for a national Earth Charter;
- Defining a 'valuing' consultation strategy of the Earth Charter to be implemented within LIDEMA's frame of activities, member institutions and other networks.

Veronica Lopez, national coordinator of the Earth Charter initiative representing the LIDEMA, participated in the Earth Charter Value Training Workshop, held in Costa Rica in May '99. Her professional insights and experience greatly enriched the meeting.

Brazil



In 1998, the Earth Charter was launched in Brasilia with the participation of the Governor of Mato Grosso State, Mr. Dante de Oliveira and

Mr. Maurice Strong, Co-Chairman of the Earth Charter Commission. This was followed by a series of preparatory events for the Earth Charter Continental meeting of the Americas held in December 1998. Participants from all over the American Continent were present. The closing ceremony, at *Chapada dos Guimaraes* in Mato Grosso, included 4,000 children holding hands, symbolizing a human chain in support of the Earth Charter.

In January 1999, the Brazilian Earth Charter committee met in Brasilia to discuss the organizational structure for this process in Brazil. The group agreed to take the lead in articulating and conducting the process. There were suggestions to create sub-regional and thematic committees for education, gender and justice, among others. A smaller group met in July to carry on the plan to promote the Earth Charter Campaign in the country. However, due to the size of the country and limited financial resources it was not possible to undertake everything that was planned.

The Paulo Freire Institute, with offices in Sao Paulo, is engaged in promoting the Earth Charter through an educational perspective. This promotion involved several individuals and groups and culminated at the International Earth Charter meeting held in August, 1999. (for more information see page 47).

Abrevida, the Afro-Brazilian Association for the Education and Preservation of Life - has promoted the Earth Charter throughout many activities. One of them has been organizing Earth Charter Workshops with local communities around the city of Sao Paulo. They also launched a project entitled "The Youth Earth Charter - We are Educators for Peace", designed by a team of youths.

The general purpose of this project is to express Earth Charter principles and to use them as educational tools, with messages for reflection followed by transformed action. This seeks to engage young people in a "theory/practice" process so that they internalize and disseminate Earth Charter values and produce concrete actions that promote change towards common good. The purpose has been to stimulate youth to reflect and write about the country's situation, the kind of country they want to see in the future, and their contribution, using the Earth Charter as the basis for their reflection.

To promote the Earth Charter Youth Project, music was chosen as a medium to express and

involve young people. A musical contest/festival was organized entitled "Singing the meaning of life", where music was composed to address the Earth Charter principles and concept.

On December 12, the first phase of the festival took place with musical performances from 14 groups; the second and third phases will take place in the year 2000. Once the festival is over, in late 2000, a compact disc is expected to be produced containing the best performances.

Colombia



For a number of years in Colombia, diverse sectors of society have expressed concern about pressing environmental and social problems. However, as in many countries, there is a great gap between the written law and actual practice. Overriding national issues with disastrous environmental repercussions exacerbate this situation, including civil conflict, widespread corruption and violence, national debt and the illicit drug industry. Consequently, there has been little evidence of broad collective participation in the Earth Charter process. Nevertheless, there have been many positive experiences which, contribute to the resolution of national problems.

Following the Mato Grosso Continental Meeting of Americas (Dec. '98), a presentation on the Earth Charter was held at the University of Bogota, in the first half of 1999. There, a three-tiered strategy was developed consisting of: intensification of promotional work via the mass media; reaching out to other universities in Bogota, Cali and Medellin to raise awareness and encourage dialogue on environmental issues; disseminating information regarding the Earth Charter initiative; and heightening the level of knowledge within the organizing group. These actions will lead to a National Forum in the near future.

The "Promotion and Consultation Group for the Earth Charter" was formed with 18 members from the Javeriana University of Bogota. The objective of this group is to include the Earth Charter within public debates in Colombia, especially in universities around the country. This group is using the Benchmark Draft and the Latin American Earth Charter, developed during the Continental Conference of the Americas, to introduce the concept and themes of the Earth Charter. One of its main goals is to present an Earth

Charter project to the Ministry of Environment to initiate national action regarding ecological issues. They have organized an event involving the academic community of the Political Science Faculty which included presentations and dialogue on this initiative.

Additionally, a study of the Earth Charter was integrated into several courses of the faculty of Economics at the Central University of Bogota. Collaboration to promote this initiative began between Central University (Universidad Central) and Javeriana University, in the Faculty of Political Science and Economics.

There is a need to multiply and extend these kinds of experiences in the process of making people aware of ecological principles and the Earth Charter as a whole. This small group promoting the Earth Charter in Colombia, from the university field, have designed the following objectives for their campaign, subject to availability of funds:

- To organize and carry out events, forums, seminars etc., aiming to inform, discuss, and study the principles of the Earth Charter.
- To create the atmosphere necessary for setting up networks of citizens in favor of the recovery and conservation of a healthy environment.
- Contacts with the mass media to publicize the principles, objectives and activities of the Earth Charter.
- Forums at universities in Bogota and the provinces.
- Expository meetings at high schools in Bogota and the provinces.

In December, 1999, a multi-stakeholder meeting occurred to create a National Council for Sustainable Development, convened by the Centro de Accion y Debate. Other groups have been identified as willing to initiate Earth Charter activities with other sectors of society as well.

Costa Rica



The Costa Rican National Committee draws its membership from individuals in the academic, environmental, NGO, student and religious sectors and has worked within the Earth Charter initiative since 1995. A steering committee made up of several Costa Rican organizations has met every two months to design a strategic

and conceptual framework to promote the Earth Charter in national and sectoral affairs.

On World Environment Day, June 5, the Earth Council and the Costa Rican Cultural Association of Artists gathered 68 children from different Costa Rican provinces to paint a mural in the Peace Park based on the Earth Charter.

Ministry of Public Education

The Ministry of Public Education is undertaking Earth Charter workshops with educators in primary and secondary schools to raise awareness on the Earth Charter initiative and promote Earth Charter values and principles in their daily work activities. A workshop was organized, from February 3 - 5, for teachers and regional and national education assessors entitled, "The Earth Charter: Didactic Proposal of Class Application." Strategies and methodologies of applying the Earth Charter in the classroom setting were discussed.

In addition, Advisors of Religious Education held an Earth Charter Workshop in April. The goal was to evaluate the need for a change in attitudes in order to adopt the fundamental principles of sustainable development and to improve the lifestyle of Costa Ricans. These religious educators also provided their comments to the Earth Charter Draft.

On September 23, 1999, the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) gathered educators of environmental education of SINAC, in a seminar on ethical values and living the Earth Charter principles.

University students

In September, the National University (UNA) Students' Federation organized a three-day event that was a great success. Publicity, workshops and surveys were carried out to obtain information about the students' values. Final results of this research was analyzed and compiled in a document entitled "The Earth Charter and the Students of the National University (UNA)".

In addition, a group from UNA worked with local communities, under the coordination of Professor Elizabeth Ramirez. These activities consisted of three workshops in different parts of the country which a total of 250 persons attended. Children were included with the purpose of creating a Children's version of the Earth Charter. Different means of expression, like songs, poetry,

theater and painting, brought together two generations: adults and children.

An inspiring presentation was also given by Professor Elizabeth Ramirez to a group of students from UNED (State University for Distance Education), who are interested in ecology and environmental studies.

Children and the Radio

The Earth Council, Radio National of Costa Rica and the Costa Rican Ministry of Education organized a national linkage with children from various Costa Rican schools (two children from each of the eight provinces) in order to celebrate World Earth Day, on April 22, 1999. This activity took the form of a radio program entitled "Children Linked with the Earth," which highlighted the importance of Earth Day amongst the children and educators of Costa Rica. Children and teachers from different classrooms around the country connected via *Radio Nacional* (the national radio station of Costa Rica), and had the opportunity to share their experiences, thoughts and wishes on how to preserve our planet in harmony with the Earth Charter principles and values. Messages from children from other countries such as the Dominican Republic and the Philippines were also part of this program.

Local Government Initiative

The Municipality of San José developed an innovative project aimed at formulating its own vision of the Earth Charter, in order to integrate ethical principles and values into everyday work activities. This is part of a training program on sustainable development.

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. The Earth Council was called upon for guidance in developing training for municipal middle management to encourage greater awareness and more personal commitment at the community level. As a result, the document, "The Municipal Community En-route to Sustainable Development" was developed.

Over the six-month duration of the project, fifteen training sessions were held, attended by the majority of municipal personnel, to define desirable strategies towards the implementation of sustainable development. In addition to the pre-

sentation of the initiative, an exercise was completed to ascertain the opinions of the participants regarding the moral attitudes which should be shared by the personnel of the city government on sustainable development. Participants also pointed out the obstacles they normally find within the municipality and the community to implementing sustainable development.

A code of ethical behavior based upon twenty-one desirable virtues was adopted by seminar participants in mid-1999. Among the benefits perceived were a general appreciation of, as well as personal commitment to, the cultivation of qualities such as moral awareness, courage, tolerance, discipline, responsibility, loyalty and honesty. Naturally, the success of the project depends upon perseverance as well as continued training and orientation.

In early 2000, the Mayor of San Jose will convene a public meeting to present the results of their Earth Charter process, the Municipality of San Jose's version of the Earth Charter, and their commitments to the initiative.

Cuba



In 1999 the development of the Earth Charter process in Cuba included the following activities:

- The formation of National and Provincial Earth Charter Councils.
- Discussion in educational institutions and workplaces on the Latin American and Caribbean Draft of the Earth Charter. These discussions led to the following conclusions:
 1. In order to truly achieve sustainable development, it is necessary to change how we live and consume.
 2. Environmental education, community healing, recycling, proper disposal of industrial waste and reforestation are priorities to be carried out by different sectors of Cuban society in order to resolve the country's main environmental problems.
 3. It is necessary to organize several events (workshops, forums, recycling drives, camps, art exhibitions etc.) to discuss and address current environmental problems.
- The National Conference of Young Technicians' Brigades (BTJ), an organizing group for the Earth Charter process in Cuba of young Cuban technicians and professionals,

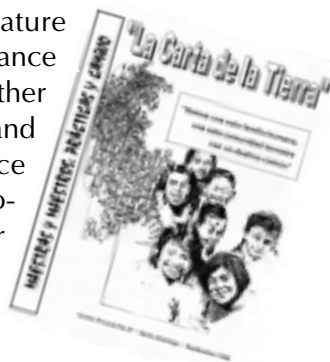
held their five-year conference in 1999, where they contributed their perspectives to the existing vision of the Earth Charter.

Dominican Republic



In 1999, more organizations have joined forces to raise awareness of the Earth Charter, particularly in schools and rural communities. A wide process of dissemination and consultation on Benchmark Draft II took place with the support of media, Cooperation Agencies, Program of Small Subsidies and the National Earth Charter Committee.

The Fund for Nature (PRONATURA) is an alliance of NGOs working together with other civil society and state organizations, since the Rio +5 Forum, to promote the Earth Charter principles and values. In April, PRONATURA, in collaboration with the Poveda Cultural Center, an NGO working with educators and the public sector, coordinated an Earth Day celebration in three regions of the country. This activity was aimed at promoting an understanding of the Earth Charter process not only at the global level, but also within the Latin American context. It encouraged the identification of cultural community values relating to the Earth Charter. Singing, painting and theatrical expressions were presented in a public celebration on Earth Day.



The Poveda Center published a special bulletin on the Earth Charter, with the financial support of the Presidential Commission on Reform and State Modernization. This bulletin was distributed among educators, students, journalists, project coordinators, community groups and NGOs.

In August, PRONATURA, with an alliance of six organizations and institutions, re-launched the National Earth Charter Campaign, by organizing and scheduling a number of activities.

Five consultation processes took place between November and December, in different regions of the country. Consultations included an introduction to the Earth Charter and a speech on the national reality and its link with the Earth Charter. These were followed by workshop activities on Benchmark Draft II.

On August 26, the abbreviated version of the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II was published in HOY (Today), a local newspaper. Messages of support transmitted through radio programs, newspapers, magazines and TV were critical in placing the Earth Charter among the most interesting topics and promoting this initiative. On September 9, a press conference was organized to announce a series of workshops planned between September and December.

To encourage the active participation of young people, a national contest entitled, "The Earth is our home. Are we looking after it?" was launched. Approximately one thousand 6-18 year-olds took part by creatively expressing their concepts of our planet and ideas on their role in its future. In addition on November 16, a presentation and discussion on the Earth Charter was held for the personnel of the Presidential Commission for Reform and Modernization.

No new principles were suggested to the Earth Charter Draft as a result of this consultation. There was a general satisfaction with the present document. The only suggestion was to make the document more accessible to a wider range of people by simplifying the language.

PRONATURA proposes to develop a program of activities to promote the broader participation of civil society in the processes of reflecting on and applying Earth Charter principles and values. These activities will also present the Earth Charter as a valuable educational tool.

El Salvador



The Salvadorian Institute for Indigenous Ancestral Rescue (RAIS) has carried out various activities since 1996, with the support of the Earth Council's Indigenous Peoples Program. RAIS continued with its initiatives in 1999, gaining consensus for the Charter and establishing values and codes of conduct, providing a strategic framework for the next three years. There is a strong commitment to encourage reflection on and promotion of Earth Charter principles and contents. Activities in 1999 included: circulating the Earth Charter among the private and public sectors, NGOs and groups for youth and children; forming a National Earth Charter Committee; studying the Earth Charter with the Salvadoran National Council for Sustainable Development, Indigenous Peoples, religious groups and students at various universities; orga-

nizing celebrations of World Earth Day; and preparing, evaluating and distributing Earth Charter materials to children, along with a weekly newsletter.

The following future activities and objectives have been planned:

- To fundamentally change people's attitudes and behavior by transforming the values of Earth Charter principles into codes of conduct. Thus, using a multiplier effect, sustainable behavior can emanate from local to higher levels of civil society in El Salvador.
- To develop a proposal for the understanding of Earth Charter principles and their application to the current situation of El Salvador.
- To create a strategic unit within RAIS to follow up the implementation of Earth Charter principles.
- To enable the outcome of the processes proposed to be applied at local and community levels.
- To strengthen children and young people's integration of Earth Charter principles by the distribution of a weekly newsletter.
- To encourage discussion among participating sectors and organizations to aid in the formulation of codes of conduct and application of the contents of the Earth Charter.
- To consolidate the participation of local government bodies and local branches of national organizations so that consultations and the implementation of Earth Charter principles are effective locally.
- To produce interactive radio programs and debates on the principles of the Earth Charter
- To prepare educational tools using the Earth Charter.

Mexico



In Mexico, the Earth Charter is regarded as a wonderful initiative, combining a number of different relevant values needed to truly bring about change. The Earth Charter initiative is being coordinated by the Consultative Council for Sustainable Development (NCSO) and a network of NGOs. The Mexican Consultative Council for Sustainable Development is made up of one national and four regional councils, including representatives from different sectors of society, such as the private, legislative, academic, governmental and non-governmental sectors. The Mexican National

Earth Charter Committee is made up of the four presidents of the regional councils and the secretary of the Mexican National Council for Sustainable Development. This group has the support of the NCSO Secretariat, which has strong links with the Sustainable Development Network and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In the initial phase of the initiative in Mexico in 1998, Ecological Action and Development, an NGO of the National Council for Sustainable Development, took the lead in initiating Earth Charter consultations in Mexico. Reactions from the public reinforced the hope that the Earth Charter principles go beyond mere words, and emphasized that any change must originate from within human beings.

The work carried out has made a significant impact on the development of the Earth Charter initiative. However, consensus is that it is now time for Mexican society to channel its efforts into deeper reflection, to give real meaning to the contributions received from the process of the consultation on sustainable development. The Mexican coordinators started to carry out a concerted campaign on the Earth Charter principles and values involving all social strata and perspectives. The different stages of this campaign rely on the active support of the network of the Councils for Sustainable Development as the legitimate and most representative entity to express the participation of various sectors of Mexican society.

In this respect, The Mexican Council for Sustainable Development is developing an Earth Charter project entitled "Mexican Moral & Ethical Commitment to Achieve Sustainability" which will take place in four stages. These stages are:

1. Dissemination of the Benchmark Draft II;
2. Organization and coordination of consultation processes;
3. Workshops for the internalization of the Earth Charter principles;
4. The development of indicators of sustainability.

The first stage took place during the planning sessions of the Councils' regional meetings. To initiate the second phase, several preliminary actions are being addressed in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Network. This includes disseminating information via Internet

and the webpage; and calling a public meeting open to all citizens of the country. This consultation will include a questionnaire that will allow the Council to develop and obtain significant data on the principles and values of the Earth Charter.

At present, all members of the Council are familiar with the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II and have disseminated it in their respective sectors.

Panama



Since 1996, intense and fruitful work on the Earth Charter process has been accomplished by the Koskun Kalu Investigation Institute.

A first consultation was held in November 1998, and following the successful response to this process, the Koskun Kalu Institute has developed a series of activities to promote and disseminate the Earth Charter Draft II throughout 1999, with the support of the Indigenous Peoples Program of the Earth Council.

Following the objectives defined for this phase, several meetings were held with the research team, whose goal was to develop a proposal for financial resources to help with the committee operation, in accordance with the objectives defined in the Follow-up Project.

Contact was established with various ministries such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and the National Authority of Environment (ANAM), in order to present the proposal for a Consultation with Children and Adolescents in Panama on the Earth Charter. The director of the Metropolitan Regional office of the Ministry of Education demonstrated her interest in cooperating and supporting the Consultation, and assigned a teacher to follow-up on this activity.

During the months of September and November, several other meetings took place with the Ministry of Education and ANAM to plan a Children's Consultation on the Earth Charter. ANTEPCA, an NGO dedicated to environmental projects in rural communities, has joined the consultation process and assisted with the coordination of this event.

To have the most effective consultation, the

Ministry of Education expressed the need to invite teachers to participate in the programming of the event. Accordingly, various preparatory meetings took place to evaluate important aspects of the consultation. The following outcomes resulted from these meetings:

1. The selection of schools to participate in the consultation (25 schools and at least two students from each fifth or sixth grade were invited);
2. An invitation to teachers from the Ministry of Education;
3. Recognition of the need to train teachers on Earth Charter issues;
4. Development of a plan in conjunction with teachers for this event.

On November 25, the Children's Consultation was held in Caminos de Cruces National Park, with previous permission having been given by the National Authority of Environment (ANAM) to hold the event at this beautiful location. Invitations to the schools and transportation of the children to the Park were organized by the Ministry of Public Education.

Several radio stations announced the event and highlighted the importance of the Earth Charter. Some of the transmissions incorporated Kuna speakers in order to consider outreach to the Kuna Yala indigenous community.

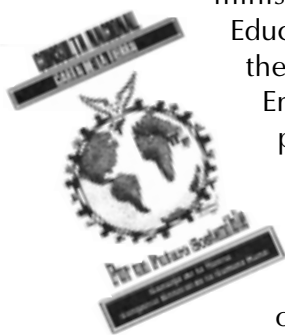
Dissemination of written media and newspapers was led by ANAM and the Koskun Kalu Investigation Institute. Both institutions worked on the organization of this event, compiling and preparing educational materials to be distributed during the Consultation. The Earth Charter Committee was involved with the production of educational materials. Children's t-shirts for the event were financed by ANTEPCA.

In addition, the Koskun Kalu Investigation Institute has published the first Bulletin on the Earth Charter, including the text of the Charter, its function and highlights of international activities.

Paraguay



The Ecological Movement of Paraguay has continued to endorse the Earth Charter consultation process and promote it through the media in the form of radio programs and interviews. Their efforts have inspired a Paraguayan singer, Alfredo Estigarribia Lopez, to compose and record an "Earth Hymn" in homage to the



Earth Charter (please refer to lyrics below). 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.

Additionally, Earth Charter painting and poetry exhibitions were held. The "Hymn of the Earth" was performed for the closure and public reaction was favorable. This event was possible with support from the National Commission of Defense of the Natural Resources and the National Congress.

Great efforts have been made to carry out a wide range of activities with minimal financial support. The process of Earth Charter consultations was initiated with the distribution of the Benchmark Draft and the Latin America document to different sectors of society such as institutions, the private sector, government, NGOs, Indigenous groups, religious associations and cultural groups, among others. A consultation on the text of the Charter took place between May and November 1999.

Several metropolitan radio stations broadcast interviews on the Earth Charter. These stations included Radio Uno, Radio Fem, Radio Libre and the national radio station of Paraguay. In addition, workshops were organized at the university level to analyze the Benchmark Draft II.

Oral transmission in Guarani "Radio So'ó" has proved to be particularly fruitful, inspiring individual reactions to the Earth Charter.

These activities revealed Paraguayans' appreciation for values of respect, solidarity, honesty, and generosity. The search for gender equality and the importance of being, over that of having, was demonstrated.

In relation to the document (E. C. Draft II), the preamble and the conclusion were supported. It was agreed that the four divisions of general principles, ecological integrity, just and sustainable economic order and peace and democracy should not be separated. According to these results, the best way to integrate them would be to classify the divisions into primary and secondary objectives.

The steps to implement these principles are: to raise awareness, and to be good examples. Education of these values to children and young people should follow, along with respect and integration of specific cultural attitudes.

As of February 1999, after being approved by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Latin

American version of the Earth Charter has been included in a new course entitled Social Communication, for 7th graders from schools all over the country.

The following is a liberal translation of the lyrics to the "Hymn to the Earth":

Fly with my thoughts,
An Earth Charter,
Calling out to mankind;
Let there be joy!

Kiss the green pastures
Where simple peasants
Sow the seeds
Of their destiny.

Let the fresh air
Of my planet be felt
In the laughter of children
As windward they
steer their kites

Drink from the clear brook
Which flows from the hills
And high mountains
Of our lovely land.

Fly to the Pyrenees,
Explore the Caucasus,
Brush lightly the Andes,
Under a clear sky.

Sing to the world
That our Earth is life,
And that we are hers
Forevermore.

Earth, my Earth,
My very own...

Song and lyrics by Alfredo Estigarribia Lopez,
Inspired by the Paraguayan Earth Charter
Campaign.

Trinidad and Tobago

In late 1999, the Tropical Re-Leaf Foundation accepted an invitation to establish an Earth Charter National Committee in Trinidad and Tobago, to initiate a process to promote the Charter. This will occur in conjunction with the establishment of a National Council for Sustainable Development, which will incorporate the Earth Charter initiative. Significant activities regarding this process are anticipated for the year 2000.

Uruguay



Soka Gakkai International of Uruguay organized a two-day Earth Charter forum in Montevideo on June 11-12, 1999. Approximately 150 people attended this forum. The event greatly benefited from the valuable contributions of the speakers and the support of different organizations and institutions. The audience demonstrated a deep interest and sensitivity to Earth Charter principles. All participants agreed to join efforts to disseminate the Earth Charter movement among the Uruguayan population. Although from different professional and social backgrounds, everyone accepted the challenge of raising awareness of the Earth Charter values among the people of Uruguay and to act accordingly.

The forum objectives were to reach a consensus to promote the ethical principles of the Earth Charter within the Republic of Uruguay. The themes of the forum included:

- How to commit ones institutions to the Earth Charter process so that the process becomes widely known and supported.
- How to support the ecological principles through ones professional field.
- How to improve our daily activities and harmonize our professions with the Earth Charter ethical principles.

Venezuela



The Society of Friends of the Tree (SADARBOL), an NGO in Venezuela, distributed copies of the Rio Declaration, the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II and Earth Charter background information to the 131 newly elected members of the Venezuelan National Assembly as well as members of the mass media in June 1999.

A letter from SADARBOL accompanied the information highlighting the importance of the Earth Charter initiative and encouraging them to incorporate Earth Charter principles and values in their work. The following is an excerpt of this letter:

"We wish all members of the National Assembly to know the content of the Earth Charter since it affects all life on the planet. Above all, when talking of sustainable development, it must be understood as environmental and ecological and not only economic sustainable development.

Simon Bolivar, the founding father of the country, distinguished himself as a great conservationist by issuing Decree No. 12 in Chuquisaca on December 19, 1825. He declared:

'A plantation will be started wherever the land is promising for a particular species of plant to thrive. The State will cover the cost of planting up to one million trees preferably in places where the need is greater...The General Director of Agriculture is to propose to the Government the decrees judged necessary for the creation, success and location of forests in the territory of the Republic'.

This letter and the accompanying information is hoped to spark concerted interest and participation of governmental agencies in the Earth Charter process in Venezuela.

NORTH AMERICA

"There is a profound sense emerging around the globe that we are at a critical moment of transition and transformation... How to realign our priorities and values within the human community and the earth community remain our fundamental challenge."

—Mary Evelyn Tucker, Bucknell University, USA

Canada



During 1999, several Earth Charter activities took place, primarily occurring in the province of Québec and promoted by Ms. Paulette Vigeant, from Global Education Associates, who has disseminated the Earth Charter within her area of activity. Earth Charter activities in 1999 included the following:

- A proposal regarding a "culture of peace" was developed during an education meeting on the Earth Charter in May 1999. This proposal can be viewed via the Earth Charter website. A summary of this report has been prepared to sensitize the National Working Group for the Culture of Peace, a group involved with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, to prepare for the United Nations International Year for a Culture of Peace in 2000. In October, this message was sent to the 15 members of this group who are involved in many educational, non-governmental and private sector organizations in Canada.
- Representatives from Canada participated in the On-line Global Forum on the Earth Charter, from October 19 to 29th, 1999. These individuals represented the Stockholm Environment Institute, York University and Global Education Associates.

United States



The Earth Charter USA Campaign has continued to grow and develop throughout 1999. The Earth Charter USA (www.earthcharterusa.org) is made up of people from all walks of life, who embrace the values in the Earth Charter and seek to make these values a blueprint for a sustainable way of life in this country. An Earth Charter USA Network advances the Campaign in cooperation with the national secretariat, which is based at The Center for Respect of Life and Environment in Washington, DC. The Network recruits individuals who volunteer their time as

Earth Charter Facilitators. The Campaign then relies on this network of Facilitators and Regional Coordinating Teams to introduce the initiative to their communities and organize participation on a regional basis.

The efforts of these involved and committed individuals aim to popularize and build support for the Earth Charter as a guide towards a sustainable future. The Earth Charter USA Network is comprised of individuals who represent key sectors of American society and who have committed themselves to the advancement of this movement. Mr. John A. Hoyt, member of the International Earth Charter Commission, Chairs the USA Network.

Members of the Network come from the following sectors:

- Citizen's organizations and grassroots groups;
- Religious and spiritual groups;
- Professional associations;
- Labor and workers groups;
- Academic and educational community;
- Business groups;
- Politics and government;
- Media.

The Earth Charter USA Network has grown to include hundreds of members who work with the national secretariat to implement the USA Campaign.

A noteworthy event was the *Symposium on the Theology of the Earth Charter* held in June 4, 1999, at the University of Chicago, Illinois, which was sponsored by the Meadville/Lombar Theological School, and The University of Chicago Divinity School. Steven Rockefeller, in his capacity as head of the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee presented a paper addressing theology, world ethics and the Earth Charter.



From June 20 to 21, 1999, the USA Secretariat organized a National Earth Charter Training Conference, designed to provide facilitators with training and resources in order to assist in building the community and networks necessary to make the campaign successful. As a result, Earth Charter Facilitators and Regional Coordinating Teams were trained to take on the responsibility of organizing Earth Charter efforts in specific regions and communities around the United States. Facilitators help community members in the process of analyzing how their lives, professions, institutions and society at large can improve if Earth Charter values are fully embraced.

Earth Charter Working Groups were organized to address key components of the US Campaign such as: business and labor, media and communications, youth, civil society, pedagogy, government, religious and spiritual groups and educators. Each of these Working Groups developed and implemented plans for promoting the campaign and values within a key sector of the United States. Some Working Group members are leaders within their sector or profession and often have unique access to forums, which provide the opportunity to speak and teach about the Earth Charter to their peers and colleagues. The Pedagogy and Youth Working Groups have been particularly active, holding consultations on models for teaching and learning the Earth Charter, and the Youth Working Group focusing on inter-

facing with other national youth activities. They first met on October 8, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Earth Charter USA has also spent a considerable amount of time in 1999 organizing and preparing for Earth Charter events culminating on Earth Day 2000 (April 22). The Earth Charter USA National Conference is planned for April 20-22, 2000 with the purpose of celebrating and publicizing the Earth Charter and the progress made by the National Campaign. These events will occur in the Washington, D.C. area and will conclude with Earth Charter USA participation in a rally at the Mall on Earth Day.

In addition, the Center for Respect of Life and Environment has made the Earth Charter a focus of several of the "Spirituality and Sustainability" conferences in Assisi, Italy. This annual event, originating in 1995, gathers leaders of the international movement for sustainable living and sustainable communities, and is co-sponsored by the Center for the Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE) and St. Thomas University in Miami, FL. The Earth Charter was part of the agenda of the 1996, 1998 and 1999 meetings. A majority of the participants who attended the '99 event were also active in national Earth Charter campaigns, thus the event created the opportunity for these individuals to work together to enhance the campaign at both international and national levels.

Earth Charter Partners and Affiliated Groups

AIESEC

The International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC) is the world's largest student organization facilitating international exchanges with over 50,000 current members and one million alumni from 740 universities in 84 countries. During the AIESEC Alumni International Congress held in San Jose, Costa Rica on October 21-24, 1999, participants considered to be leaders of today's generation, explored how they can promote the Earth Charter initiative through their work and further define their own vision. AIESEC is expected to continue promoting the Charter in various ways.

The following is a summary of the questions and answers during the Earth Charter Workshop:

- *What is the main value regarding your own life?*
Virtues of Tolerance, Peace, Respect and Responsibility were largely identified.
- *What is the main principle that should guide life in the world?*
Many groups identified Respect and Responsibility as important components needed for a main principle to guide life in the world today. The simple wording of "Treat others the way you wish to be treated" was articulated as encompassing the idea of respect and responsibility.
- *What are the main values and principles which should be incorporated into the Earth Charter?*
Several main values were identified as needing to be part of the Earth Charter. The following is a list of these values:
 - * Social responsibility * Respect * Awareness
 - * Understanding * Conscious approach to population growth * Environmental responsibility * Accountability.
- *How can we bring the main values and principles of the Earth Charter into our daily lives?*

* It was identified that through education, creating a social consciousness, questioning elected leaders and taking initiatives, the Earth Charter could be incorporated into our daily lives.

- *How can we help and support the Earth Charter movement in our own countries and our professional lives?*

The following ways to help and support the Earth Charter movement were addressed:

* Taking actions in all fields of sustainable development * Civil participation * Believing in what we are doing * Setting an example * Sharing the values of Earth Charter with others * Volunteering for activities * Joining a political party and lobbying for environmental issues * Including environmental issues in education.

Alliance for a Responsible and United World

The Alliance for a Responsible and United World, based in Paris, France, has been very active promoting the concept of an Earth Charter. After the Rio + 5 meeting in March 1997, two stages took place to frame a proposal for the development of an Alliance version of the Earth Charter.

The first stage was a quest for unity during 1994 to 1998. Work on the Alliance's Charter during the first stage was initiated by Mr. André Levesque and his team, with an international process of dialogue carried out in 1995 and 1996 in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe with the assistance of Mr. Pierre Calame, President of the Alliance. The Alliance's Charter was developed through thematic workshops entitled "Can We Identify Common Values?" This identification of values was formulated around the seven "principles" articulated in the Platform for a Responsible and United World, constituting the essential fixation points for humankind in the century to come.

These principles are the following : conservation, humanity, responsibility, moderation, caution, diversity, and citizenship.

As a result, the proposed Alliance Charter gradually took shape around five major relations, linking together dualities such as: unity and diversity, myself and others, freedom and responsibility, being and having, moving and unmoving. These major relations address the need to identify ways of working with problems and issues versus identifying short-term solutions to the problems, thus having no long-term effects.

The second stage of the development of the Charter attempted to balance unity and diversity with a series of initiatives by cultural and thematic groups within the Alliance. These initiatives consisted of drafting principles applicable to world governance, academia, scientific activity, and business and illustrating how the general principles of the proposed Charter might apply to specific fields or actors.

Specifically, in September 1998, on the occasion of the World Conference on Higher Education and in September 1999, on the occasion of the World Conference on Science, two events organized by UNESCO, a "Call to the Academics" and a "Manifesto for a Responsible and United Citizen's Science" were developed, based upon the proposed Earth Charter principles of the Alliance. Additional Charters drafted by allies in South Asia and Africa illustrate the universal principles elicited from those respective societies and contributed to the drafting of the Alliance Charter.

The Alliance and the Earth Council are exploring ways of working together to have these two processes mutually enriching.

The distinction of this process is its vision, aim and scope. The Alliance is very keen in clarifying these three issues and seeing the Earth Charter addressing the main challenges of humankind in the next century. They agree that the Earth Charter must be a basis for building a new legal, political, institutional, social system, creating new rules for our societies. And that the Earth Charter must enshrine universal principles. Consequently the Alliance recommends the need to clarify the structure and scope of the Charter and to ensure that the translation of the principles be articulated in different fields of human activity and for different stakeholders.

Green Cross International

Nearly a half million students and teachers, from the eighteen countries where Green Cross organizations have offices, took part in the

Second Annual Earth Charter Youth Art Contest. (see page 59). From October 1-3, 1999 a final prize ceremony was held in Venice, Italy. This ceremony included a multisectoral international round table on the world's environmental problems, education, peace, and rights of future generations. There was also a visit to the environmental site on the Island of San Giacomo, and an inauguration of youth art works. Participants included nearly 200 Italian students and winners of the 1st and 2nd international art edition from Argentina, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Switzerland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia and South Korea.

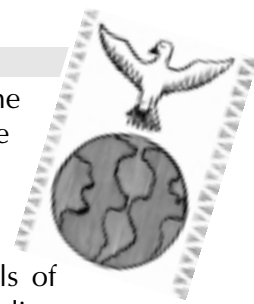
Additional information can be found at the Green Cross International website at: <http://www.gci.ch>

Indigenous Peoples' Campaign

Under the coordination of the Indigenous Peoples Program of the Earth Council, a wide range of Earth Charter activities have been carried out and more are being planned for the future. Full details of these and other issues related to indigenous participation in the Earth Charter initiative are available in "Life, Wisdom and Future," the newsletter of the Indigenous Peoples Program of the Earth Council. The Earth Charter consultation process has greatly benefited from various reflections on the Earth Charter from different indigenous perspectives.

Indigenous focal points have emerged as National Committees, for example in El Salvador and Panama. In other countries, Indigenous Peoples have contributed substantially to National Earth Charter initiatives either by conducting consultations among their constituencies and/or by participating in the National Committees.

In 1996, members of the Indigenous Peoples Spiritual Consultative Council participated in the International Earth Charter process by discussing the draft and presenting their findings to the Drafting Committee. This effort continued during Rio + 5 in 1997, when an important group of Indigenous representatives presented the results of their work. Then, in 1998, further contributions were made to both the International and the Latin American Earth Charter initiatives at the Third "Indigenous Peoples, Mother Earth and Spirituality" Meeting on Education, Traditional



Knowledge and Sustainable Practices in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina; the Meso-American Encounter “Indigenous Peoples and Decision-Making Mechanisms” in La Ceiba, Honduras; and the Continental Meeting of the Americas in Cuiabá, Matto Grosso, Brazil, held in December 1998.

International Community Education Associates (ICEA)

The Earth Charter was the focus of activity during the World Conference of International Community Education Associates (ICEA), on August 15-20, 1999 in Oxford, England. Approximately 250 participants attended the World Conference, which presented a valuable opportunity for the Earth Charter initiative to play a prominent role. Mr. Jürgen Zimmer, president of ICEA, stressed the need to extend networks and international cooperation beyond ICEA’s membership.

Discussions in the panel dedicated to the Earth Charter focused on the correlation between community education, environmental education and the Earth Charter. ICEA members agreed to join forces in stimulating the development of an Earth Charter education network and share their experiences in using the Earth Charter as an instrument for teaching and inspiring groups. They also made the commitment to contribute to the Earth Charter Initiative in their specific fields of work.

In his speech on Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter, Mr. Máximo Kalaw, Executive Director of the Earth Council, considered the pedagogical task a way to learn and teach norms to improve present relationships and processes. “The Earth Charter proposes an educational ethic that makes people responsive to the claims of community upon their lives, instead of competing for scarce resources as isolated individuals. Within this vision, we should create communities of abundance in our lives as multi-level citizens”. He further stated that the Earth Charter process is a deeply ethical educational process.

To facilitate the Earth Charter educational network, the Earth Council is attempting to provide space on the website www.earthcharter.org for the exchange of information, resources and experiences related to the pedagogy of the Earth Charter. Various education networks will be able to contribute to the Earth Charter process, and share information.

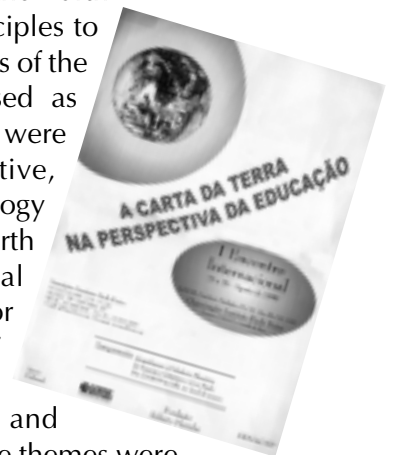
Inuit Circumpolar Conference

Since 1998, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) has been in a debate concerning the wording of the Charter text, in particular with regards to Principle # 7 of Benchmark Draft II “Treat all living beings with compassion”. With the presentation of November 15th, 1999 Working Draft Revision of Benchmark Draft II, the ICC fully supports the current rephrasing of Principle #7 and is in the process of translation of the text into Danish and the Greenlandic Inuit language. This task is being undertaken by the Committee of Nature and Peoples of the North, two organizations based in Copenhagen, Denmark. Once the translation is finished this group plans to engage in a campaign to raise public awareness of the Earth Charter throughout the Arctic region.

Paulo Freire Institute (IPF)

From August 23-26, 1999 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the Paulo Freire Institute organized an international gathering of 150 educators to explore educational perspectives on the Earth Charter. Previously, participants were asked to prepare papers on the relevance of the Earth Charter initiative and its principles to their fields of work. Summaries of the 75 essays received were used as workshop materials. Themes were both diverse and imaginative, such as: “Creating the Pedagogy of the Different,” “The Earth Charter in its Educational Perspective: A Challenge for the Third Millennium,” “Childhood Literature: A Path to Constructing Values,” and “Learning with Nature.” These themes were presented to four panels: Education; Ecology and the Environment; Prospective Educational Systems; and Education for World Citizenship. Discussions on the Earth Charter followed with various contributions to the Benchmark Draft II.

An important aspect of the meeting was the creation of the “Declaration of Ecopedagogy”. This declaration is based on the core message of the Earth Charter with education as the primary focus. The ten components of this Declaration address the importance of promoting and integrating ecopedagogy into educational settings and the daily lives of people everywhere.



To complement the development of the Ecopedagogy Declaration, the final session of the meeting adopted an "Outline of Commitments" for its promotion. The twenty commitments address the strategies needed to promote the Declaration. The Earth Charter was specifically integrated in nine of these items. Following are extracts of this commitment:

- To create and stimulate the Ecopedagogy Movement, disseminating the Earth Charter and the Ecopedagogy Declaration in the action areas;
- To promote networks of interaction and communication regarding these themes;
- To create groups that construct networks of interaction concerning concrete ecopedagogical experiences/initiatives/projects/proposals.
- To take advantage of Earth Day celebrations (April 22, 2000) to develop practical elements of ecopedagogy based on the Earth Charter.
- To enable the effective participation of all citizens in this process.
- To distribute the Ecopedagogy Declaration and Earth Charter to all possible places and groups, using it in all possible strategies, employing all available means of communication.
- To use the Earth Charter as the primary reference for educators to think and construct the future of the society in which we live.

The Paulo Freire Institute is also involved in incorporating the dimension of education into the evolution of the Earth Charter.

The Institute has initiated a training project, which aims to promote changes in attitudes needed to achieve a new ethic for sustainability and for the establishment of non-violent societies. Initially the project will target schools, other educational institutions and interested groups, such as journalists who play an important role in the dissemination of the Earth Charter process and principles.



Soka Gakkai International

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is a Buddhist movement that promotes peace and individual happiness based on the philosophy of the Nichiren school of Mahayana Buddhism. SGI is headquartered in Japan and has a membership of

several hundred groups worldwide. Since 1997, SGI has been very involved in the Earth Charter campaign, holding numerous consultations on the different drafts of the Charter as well as coordinating and supporting a variety of Earth Charter activities. The president of SGI, Daisaku Ikeda, a strong early supporter of the Earth Charter campaign, has given the full support of SGI to this initiative calling the Earth Charter a true People's Charter, "based on inclusiveness, an encompassing respect for living beings, and the need to make our continued existence sustainable."

During 1999, SGI-USA, the United States division of SGI, coordinated many different consultation processes in this country. They have held over 25 consultations since 1997. These consultations involved hundreds of individuals and were designed to address the core message of the Earth Charter and gather helpful suggestions and comments for the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee. Consultations were held in Denver, New York, and at the University of Florida at Gainesville, as well as in several communities on the west coast and in the southwestern states. Many of these consultations involved local grassroots organizations and speakers on environmental and spiritual issues. Several consultations involved young people, such as having a Children's Room, where children could see and relate with crafts inspired by environmental issues and participate in projects, as well as attend a SGI-USA youth division's exhibit entitled, "Victory Over Violence."

The Boston Research Center, an SGI-affiliated body, has likewise mounted consultations meetings prior to '99 as well as published "The Buddhist Perspectives on the Earth Charter"; "Women's perspectives on the Earth Charter"; "Human Rights, Environmental Law and the Earth Charter".

In addition, SGI organized a January 2000 Earth Charter Asia Tour, which has been designed to host Earth Charter consultations in several major cities in Asia. These events were linked to the on-going activities of National Committees in those countries on the Tour. During the month of January 2000, significant consultation dialogues and events took place in The Philippines, Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. These events were designed to introduce the Earth Charter to SGI members in those countries, facilitate a consultation dialogue and

present several Earth Charter events, such as the "Before It Is Too Late" youth environmental exhibit which is based on the Earth Charter. These events were a wonderful opportunity to promote the Earth Charter to key individuals and organizations in these countries.

More information on Soka Gakkai International can be obtained via their website at: www.sgi.org/home/htm

Trees for Life Foundation

Trees for Life is an award-winning conservation charity (i.e. non-profit organization) which is working at helping restore the Caledonian Forest in the Highlands of Scotland. After centuries of human exploitation, this forest has been reduced to 1% of its original extent, and all the large species of mammals native to it. The goal of Trees for Life is to restore the Caledonian Forest, as a wild natural ecosystem, to a substantial part of its former range, and to reintroduce the missing species of wildlife, recognizing that their presence is essential for the health of the forest community.

Trees for Life has also launched an initiative calling on the United Nations, as the global representative of the peoples of the world, to declare the 21st Century as the Century of Restoring the Earth. Such a declaration will act as a beacon of hope for all humanity, providing a positive vision for the future in which we once again live in harmony with the rest of Nature.

Having restoration as one of the elements of the Earth Charter, both projects have much in common. Therefore they are exploring ways of working closely with the Earth Charter initiative to ensure cooperation. For more information about this project, please see the Trees for Life's website at:

<http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/tfl.intnl.html>

World Federation of Engineering Organization WFEO

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) at its November 1999 General Assembly in Madrid, Spain, adopted four resolutions addressing the Earth Charter. They consist of the following:

WFEO Earth Charter Actions

1. The WFEO is to submit constructive comments on the Benchmark Draft II by the end of 1999.

2. The WFEO should support the continuing development and use of the principles having engineering implications as published in Benchmark Draft II.
3. They will bring the full Earth Charter, as finalized by the United Nations, before the WFEO General Assembly in 2003.
4. Recognizing that the Earth Charter is being defined as the "Principles of Sustainable Development," the WFEO supports incorporating a reference to engineering codes of ethics which indicate that engineers shall follow the Principles of Sustainable Development and that these principles are as defined in the Earth Charter.

This group has played a very important role in this campaign, demonstrating how the Earth Charter can be incorporated in a professional code of conduct and how the Earth Charter can be used to promote awareness and action towards sustainability. They have disseminated the Earth Charter throughout their network.

During the WFEO Biennial General Assembly held in November, 1999, they also adopted a resolution revising its Model Code of Ethics, by incorporating Sustainable Development, and recommending its use by the 80 member nations.

A Workshop on Engineering Implications in the Earth Charter took place during the World Congress on Sustainable Development, entitled "Engineering & Technological Challenges of the 21st Century" held in Calcutta, India, January 21, 2000.

Herewith are extracts of the speech by Mr. Jim Poirot, Vice President of the WFEO, presented on this occasion:

"What will be the engineering profession's legacy in year the 2100, as to engineering involvement in shaping the Principles, Ethics and Policies of how humanity will live harmoniously with the earth?"

Among many environmental groups, non-government organizations of volunteer groups, and other global and local groups, engineers are the cause of the world's environmental problems. After all, the sewer systems that collect raw sewage and discharge it into open waters, with minimal treatment if any, the coal-fired electric power plants that discharge pollutants into the atmosphere, the hydro-electric dams that diminish fish migration and the highways that have constant traffic congestion are all products of engineers...

Engineers will be expected to be knowledgeable of and use the Earth Charter principles in their work. Individuals should become aware, and engineering associations should provide training, guidelines, standards and codes of

ethics, to help practicing engineers. The Sustainable Development Guidelines developed by numerous associations should be updated to address the Earth Charter Principles.”

Calendar of International Events

Earth Charter Drafting Committee meeting

January 4 - 6, 1999

(see page 53)

The Earth Charter: A Common Language for the III Millennium

March 1-3, 1999

* This event was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France and was a consultative meeting of experts with European members of the Earth Charter Commission. (see page 53)

The World Council of Churches (WCC)

April 24, 1999

* A group of fifty Christian scholars, theologians, and ministers from around the world met at the Ecumenical Institute of the WCC in Geneva, Switzerland. Two and a half days were devoted to lectures and discussions on the Earth Charter, its significance and role in the emerging global community. The response was very positive and many participants in the conference pledged their support and intention to promote the Earth Charter consultation process.

Internet On-line Conference

April 6-16, 1999

* The first Earth Charter On-line Conference entitled, "Global Ethics, Sustainability and the Earth Charter" involved individuals from over 500 different colleges, universities and organizations from 73 different countries. Participants engaged in an international discussion on global ethics, sustainability and the Earth Charter based on the presentation of 17 university professors. (see page 60)

The Hague Appeal for Peace

May 11-15, 1999

* This event featured an Earth Charter Forum during which campaign materials were widely distributed. This Forum was organized by the Tilburg University and GLOBUS Program under the leadership of Dr. Ruud Lubbers, member of the Earth Charter Commission and Chair of GLOBUS. (see page 54)

The Earth Charter Training Workshop - A Means to Internalize Values and Principles

May 13-15, 1999

* The Earth Council, in collaboration with the Fetzer Institute, organized a training workshop for the integration of the Earth Charter's principles and values. The meeting represented a valuable opportunity for participants to share experiential learning exercises and training methods used by different groups, especially from Latin American countries. This gathering took place in San Jose, Costa Rica. (see page 55)

The Earth Charter and the IUCN Draft Covenant on Environment and Development

June 6-9, 1999

* The Working Group on Ethics and Jurisprudence, which is part of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, met with the Earth Charter Drafting Committee for a three-day meeting at the Hastings Center in Garrison, New York. This Work Group is chaired by Parvez Hassan, who formerly headed the IUCN Law Commission. International lawyers from ten different countries, as well as several scientists and philosophers attended the meeting. Its purpose was to conduct a careful comparative analysis of the Earth Charter and the IUCN Draft Covenant on Environment and Development and to ensure that these two documents are well coordinated.

The Law Commission has been very supportive of the Earth Charter initiative over the past three years, and it views the Earth Charter as providing an ethical foundation for the IUCN Draft Covenant. Deliberations at the Hastings Center meeting involved a very productive review of the principles in the Earth Charter, which has led to many improvements in wording and a strengthening of the document. In addition, there were discussions about how best to promote the Earth Charter in IUCN and at the United Nations.

Spirituality and Sustainability Conference

July 9-15, 1999

- * At the 4th and 5th annual Spirituality and Sustainability conferences, held in July 1998 and 1999 in Assisi, Italy, the Earth Charter initiative was a central theme of discussion. These events brought together representatives from Earth Charter National Committees and were organized by the Center for Respect of Life and Environment together with St. Thomas University and the support of the Earth Council. These conferences provided an appropriate setting for dialogue and reflection on the relationship between spirituality and the movement towards more sustainable practices and policies.

International Community Education Associates (ICEA)

August 15-20, 1999

- * Some 250 participants attended the International Community Education Associates 1999 World Assembly in Oxford, England. This event represented a valuable opportunity for the Earth Charter initiative to play a prominent role. (see page 47)

International Conference of Educators for the Earth Charter

August 23-26, 1999

- * In Sao Paulo, Brazil, the Paulo Freire Institute organized an international gathering of 150 educators to explore educational perspectives on the Earth Charter. (see page 47)

State of the World Forum

October 1-6, 1999

- * The Earth Charter was featured at the October 1999 State of the World Forum in San Francisco, California. The State of the World Forum is an annual gathering of world leaders to promote intensive debate and round table discussions about the future of global civilization. The Earth Charter was the topic of the first day plenary session and is expected to be featured again at their gathering on 8 September 2000, in New York.

International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC)

October 21-24, 1999

- * The International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC) is the

world's largest student organization. At the AIESEC Alumni International Congress held in San Jose, Costa Rica. Participants explored how they can define their own vision of the Charter through their work and promote it effectively.

Internet On-line Global Discussion Forum

October 19-29, 1999

- * An On-line Global Forum was held on the Earth Charter Campaign website. This forum involved approximately 74 representatives of Earth Charter National Committees and affiliated groups as well as participants of Earth Charter Drafting Committee meetings from 1997-1999. It was designed to facilitate dialogue on the text of the Benchmark Draft II.

Internet On-line Conference

November 2-12, 1999

- * Presentations and discussions for this forum addressed the conference title, "Global Ethics, Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter," and were conducted in both Spanish and Portuguese, providing the opportunity to enrich the worldwide dialogue on the Earth Charter with emphasis on Spanish-Portuguese-speaking regions. This forum gathered individuals from over 250 colleges, universities and organizations from 40 countries.

Africa and The Middle East Earth Charter Regional meeting

December 1 - 3, 1999

- * This gathering brought together over twenty participants from various countries in the region. (see page 13)

Parliament of the World's Religions, Cape Town, South Africa

December 1-8, 1999

- * The Earth Charter was presented during a full-day symposium on December 4, organized by the Center for Respect of Life and Environment and the Interfaith Center of New York. This symposium included a morning and an afternoon session, each involving over 200 individuals. An outstanding ceremony to present the Earth Charter as a "gift of service" to an audience of approximately 5,000 people took place on Sunday evening, December 5. Mr. Nelson Mandela was present and participated in the ceremony. (see page 56)

Special Events and Initiatives

Earth Charter Drafting Committee *January, 1999*

From January 4-6 1999, members of the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee met at the Pocantico Conference Center in Tarrytown, New York. This meeting was convened by Steven Rockefeller, in his capacity as Chair of the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee. Participants in this meeting represented a variety of countries and groups.

The meeting was designed to review the results of the consultation process of 1998, to address key issues identified during this consultation process, and to prepare a revision of the draft for submission to the Earth Charter Commission.

The drafting committee meeting provided the opportunity to digest different comments and suggestions received during the consultation process, as well as a forum to initiate further dialogue regarding the key components of the drafting process of the Charter. At the start of the meeting, participants worked to clarify the way in which the Earth Charter and the IUCN Draft Covenant related to each other, and ways in which the Earth Charter principles could provide an ethical foundation for this Covenant.

The drafting committee also discussed four alternative models for the structure of the Earth Charter, to determine which model could adequately communicate the interrelation and interdependence of all the principles. In addition, the importance of highlighting the need for the document to clearly address equitable and sustainable human development, deemed important by many groups during the consultation process, was examined.

The prose style of the document was discussed in relation to the more formal style used by most UN declarations. Questions surrounding the imperative style of the main principles were addressed, as well as the need for the Earth Charter to emphasize action and responsibility.

During the meeting, substantial time to discuss the language and phrasing of the Preamble, Main Principles, supporting principles and concluding paragraphs, was allotted. Specific comments and suggestions from the varied consultation processes were addressed, such as: the use of the word-

ing "gender equity" versus "gender equality", the use of the word "compassion" in the principle addressing the treatment of all living beings; reference to the "transfer" of knowledge and technology; and use of the wording "reproductive health" versus "reproductive health care."

These issues and others were carefully considered. The drafting committee meeting culminated with specific recommendations for changes to the working draft, which resulted in the release of the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II by the Earth Charter Commission in April 1999.

European Earth Charter Commission Members Meeting *March 1 - 3, 1999*

The consultative meeting of the European group of Earth Charter Commission was convened by UNESCO, Green Cross International and the University of Tilburg, and was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. This meeting offered the opportunity for significant discussions on the place and purpose of the Earth Charter. The meeting offered three roundtable discussion with the following themes: 1) The role, objectives and structure of the Earth Charter in modern society; 2) Integrating approaches for the Earth Charter; 3) Earth Charter: Strategy and III Millennium Campaign.

Discussions addressed the need to identify the role of the Earth Charter in the contemporary international legal sphere, and the place the Earth Charter can occupy among major existing documents. Meeting participants agreed that consideration of the role the Charter can play, as mutually linking and complementing other international documents, should help to refine the mission of the Earth Charter. It was mentioned that the Earth Charter could act as the third pillar complementing both the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Dr. Federico Mayor, Former Director General of UNESCO and member of the Earth Charter Commission, referred to the Earth Charter as the "crown on all international documents."

In addition, the following items were part of the meeting's agenda:

- Benchmark Draft discussions took place following a presentation by Steven Rockefeller in his capacity as Chair of the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee. These discussions resulted in significant contributions being made to the text of the Charter.
- Mr. Federico Mayor, Former Director General of UNESCO, shared with the participants the relevance of the Earth Charter for the III Millennium and expressed support in linking this initiative with UNESCO activities. Representatives of UNESCO programs offered a summary of their projects and ideas for future cooperation with the Earth Charter Project.
- Discussions surrounding the promotion of an Earth Charter awareness and education campaign occurred. Participants expressed concern that the drafting process be completed in the near future so an awareness and education campaign could become the focus of international, national, regional and local initiatives.
- Participants suggested the creation of “an International Liaison Group” to support the Earth Charter as well as act as a structure to help with fundraising for the Campaign.

The Hague Appeal for Peace Conference-Holland

May 11 - 15, 1999

This conference was part of the activities of *The Hague Appeal for Peace*, a civil society campaign for peace and justice. The conference brought together some 10,000 participants from over a hundred countries and a thousand different organizations. Participants included Mr. Kofi Annan (UN Secretary General) and Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Desmond Tutu and Rigoberta Menchú.

During the Conference, a forum entitled *Global Documents for Peace: the Earth Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Duties and Responsibilities*, was organized by Tilburg University's Globus Project, headed by Professor Ruud Lubbers, who is a member of the Earth Charter Commission. The Forum brought together representatives from different institutions such as Soka Gakkai International, the Millennium People's Assembly Network, the World Federalists, and other interested groups and individuals, including university students and youth representatives from Australia, Mexico and Jamaica.

The event was opened and presided over by Professor Lubbers and included an explanation of the formulation process of these global documents. This was a valuable opportunity for participants to establish a fruitful dialogue that included questions and reflections about the meaning of these documents for a number of sectors of society, and in particular civil society, NGOs, the private sector and youth. The forum ended with general recommendations on how to exchange information and comments regarding these global documents, between participants and other interested groups and individuals.

The Hague Appeal for Peace shares with the Earth Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Duties and Responsibilities the fundamental goals of peace and security, care for the environment, development, and the respect for all human rights in the world community. Mutual cooperation of these global initiatives is not only needed, but also stimulating for the development and improvement of their proposals and goals. The documents discussed at the conference offer moral guidance in the 21st century. The roles of the following document were compared and discussed:

- * The **Earth Charter** is being formulated for and by civil society, integrating multi-cultural visions, science and tradition. The message of this document is summarized as follows:

“We the peoples of the Earth, join together in a global partnership and pledge to respect Earth and all life; care for the community of life in all its diversity; strive to build free, just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful societies; secure Earth's abundance and beauty for present and future generations”

- * The **Declaration of Human Duties and Responsibilities** reaffirms that human rights and fundamental freedoms are universally significant, inalienable and indivisible. This document states that fulfillment of human rights depends upon the assumption of political, moral, ethical and legal duties and responsibilities which arise from the Charter of the United Nations (1945). It proclaims that the global community has a collective duty to cooperate to achieve a secure human existence and to promote global peace. The Universal Declaration of Human Duties and Responsibilities also proposes a global ethics,

determining duties and responsibilities for the realization of human rights.

The ***Hague Appeal for Peace*** focused on prevention, resolution and transformation of violent conflicts; disarmament and human security; international humanitarian and human rights law, and institutions and root causes of war and culture of peace. The Hague Appeal for Peace is also an invitation to institutions and individuals to find consensual ways to achieve global peace, empowering all actors of society for this mission.

Values Training Workshop - Costa Rica May 13 - 15, 1999

The Earth Council, in collaboration with the Fetzer Institute, organized a training workshop for the internalization of the Earth Charter's principles and values. The meeting presented an opportunity for participants to share experiential learning exercises and training methods used by different groups, especially from Latin American countries.

One of the main objectives of this workshop was to design a common training program for the Earth Charter initiative, to be used by several groups when promoting the internalization of the principles and values expressed in the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft. During the workshop, participants discussed the meaning of the concept of "internalization of values" and how it can be achieved.

The participant from the Philippines shared some exercises used in their country based on the Earth Charter Kabuuan manual of 'valuing' training. This included, identifying the "self" and reflecting how the "I" relates in all dimensions of life, with family members, friends, and in the work place. Questions such as, "How can I improve my attitude with others?" were addressed with the purpose of raising awareness on the role each one can play in promoting change.

The participant from the University for Peace in Costa Rica also shared with the group an exercise used in their program entitled, "Culture for Peace, and Democracy", which invites participants to feel the connection between the self/being (the internal world) and the external world, which encompasses all our surroundings. The purpose of this exercise is to improve con-

sciousness and identification with the environment and all living beings.

Representatives from Argentina and Mexico shared examples of the exercises being used within their own countries to internalize the values and ethics represented in the Earth Charter.

In addition, the workshop contributed to the elaboration of basic strategic lines for an Earth Charter's training program, especially regarding the following issues:

- ⇒ The pedagogical action of these training workshops should guide the change of attitude needed to harmonize personal and collective interests. This includes the search for the balance between individual aspirations and those belonging to the entire community.
- ⇒ The work initiated with the Earth Charter process should analyze and educate people in the responsibility of human beings to achieve common good.
- ⇒ The importance of it being an interactive process with continuous reflection of our own attitudes and the principles contained in the Charter.

Participants also stated that an objective of pedagogical activities in training workshops should be the integration of the body, mind and spirit of individuals when internalizing these values and principles to determine his/her life and decisions.

Finally, it was suggested that, in order to implement this kind of workshop, there is a need to develop the following aspects:

- ⇒ Each specific group that participates in these workshops needs to be put in the right context with regard to the Earth Charter process. This must include elements such as the purpose of the Earth Charter initiative, its historical background, the need for an ethical commitment and fitting this process into the group's reality.
- ⇒ Clarify the conceptual meaning of *values, principles, ethics and sustainable development*, which can be achieved by going beyond a simple definition and bringing these concepts to the reality of communities and peoples.
- ⇒ Identify personal and collective values of specific groups toward a sustainable living and relate these values with their daily life reality and decisions.

- ⇒ Provide space to reflect upon the meaning of those values identified and their relationship with those established and included in the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft.
- ⇒ Visualize these values in order to put them into practice.

**Caretakers of the Environment International
13th Annual Conference - Costa Rica
June 27 to July 4, 1999**

Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI) is a non-profit international organization dedicated to educating secondary school students about environmental issues. CEI, was established in the Netherlands in 1989. Today there are over 69 countries that have CEI programs.

Some 150 representatives met in San José, to share their concerns, ideas, strategies, actions and projects on developing responsible educational practices for sustainability. The Earth Charter Secretariat and the Costa Rican Earth Charter Committee played a vital role in the Conference by facilitating a two-day field workshop and forum. These activities aimed at promoting a process of reflection on and analysis of the relationship between principles which guide people and their perceptions of reality.

The first day of this encounter was dedicated to a visit to Laguna Hule, 2 hours from San José, in order to experience the tropical rainforest, and the role of the local community in the recovery of their lake. Through reflection and analysis, participants were encouraged to discover how the values and principles of sustainability, in particular, solidarity, cooperation, joint responsibility and respect for the surroundings- are translated into everyday local reality. Information on the characteristics of this unique habitat was combined with a walk by the lake where participants had the opportunity to meditate on and internalize the ethics of the Earth Charter and become more aware of how their actions and lifestyles impact both the environment and relations between human beings.

On the second day of the forum, the group had the opportunity to consider the relationships between past and present values and between rural and urban environments. To achieve this, they followed a river from its pure source in the mountains down to the lowlands and the city where current problems of pollution, erosion,

drought and flooding are manifested. The group then visited the municipal garbage dump to see the damage inflicted when people fail to care for the environment. For more information about the Caretakers, please visit their website:
<http://www.reli.org/cei99/>

**International Community Education Associates (ICEA) - England
August 15-20, 1999** (see page 47)

**Earth Charter in the perspective of Education - Brazil
August 23-26, 1999** (see page 47)

**Parliament of the World's Religions - South Africa
December 1-8, 1999**

At this event, people from around the world - teachers, scholars, leaders, believers and practitioners- came together to exchange insights, share wisdom and celebrate their unique identities. At the same time, participants wrestled with the critical issues facing the global community, learning about the world situation and seeking the moral and ethical convergence that leads to shared commitment and action.

The Earth Charter was presented during a full day symposium on December 4, organized by the Center for Respect of Life and Environment and the Interfaith Center of New York. This symposium included a morning and afternoon session, each involving over 200 individuals. Several highly regarded philosophers, spiritual ecologists, religious leaders and individuals spoke on behalf of the Earth Charter at these sessions addressing the issue of religion and the Earth Charter.

Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India and Dr. Karan Singh from India addressed the morning session with suggestions to add "non-violence" to the text and to have stronger statements to this effect. A dialogue with the purpose of comparing the documents and process of elaboration of "Towards a Declaration of Global Ethics" (from the Parliament) and the Earth Charter, between Professor Hans Kung and Professor Rockefeller, was facilitated by Mr. Jim Kenney and Bawa Jain, organizers of the Conference and this session.

A special moment for the Earth Charter initiative took place on December 5, when the Earth Charter was presented to the Conference participants as a Gift of Service by Professor Steven Rockefeller, in his capacity as head of the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee, and Dr. Kamla Chowdhry, Earth Charter Commission Member, during an evening plenary session. This presentation was centered on the Earth Charter as an integrated vision for our future, and extended an invitation to the world community to embrace it, share it, use it and contribute to the Earth Charter process. This presentation was attended by 5,000 people, including the honorable Nelson Mandela.

Words by Dr. Kamla Chowdhry during the Gift of Service ceremony. December 5, 1999

"The Earth Charter reflects the voice of millions who would like to reverse the trends of development happening in the world. We would like to see the Earth treated in a different way -in a more humane way, a more compassionate way, in a sacred way, in a more equitable and just way, in a spiritual way.

The Earth Charter helps individuals and communities to move in this direction of respect and caring for the Earth.

Gandhi came to South Africa as a young lawyer, but his experience at the Petermaritzberg station, of being thrown out of his first class compartment, was the beginning of the change in him, the beginning of his being a 'Mahatma' - the Great Soul. Gandhi felt on that night less than the dust in which he was thrown. And he said, if you want to change the world you must learn to be a zero, which will make you fearless and moral.

To change the world, as we must, as it is today, we must start with oneself, as Gandhi did, and as you did Mr. Nelson Mandela - and in the process have changed the map of the world.

The Earth Charter too wants to change the map of the world, and with your help and support we shall do so. With this lighted candle I hope we will usher with your blessings, a new beginning of the kind of world we want to live in, the kind of Earth we want in the new millennium. This candle Sir, is an expression of a new light, a new life, a new beginning in our social, economic, political, spiritual and moral life on Earth, a new beginning in the new Millennium.

We present the Earth Charter, with this candle to you, as our Gift of Service to humanity. We need your support and your blessings."

Earth Charter Initiatives

Radio Programs for Latin America

Since October, 1999, The Radio Netherlands in collaboration with the Earth Council has been producing programs on the Earth Charter that will be broadcast by 552 radio stations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Radio Netherlands is in the process of producing two weekly interactive radio magazines on the Earth Charter entitled "***Voice of the Earth***", which will be transmitted in early 2000. The aim of this project is to establish a process of awareness building, information, education, and mobilization of civil society for the promotion of sustainable development and the approval and implementation of the Earth Charter.

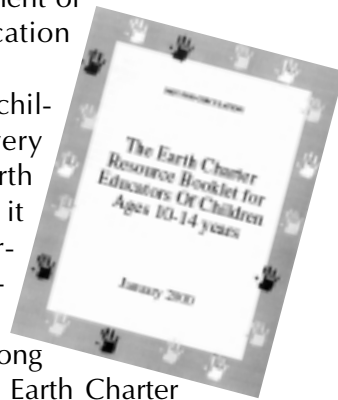
Each 24-minute program focuses on a specific Earth Charter principle. The content includes an explanation of environmental and social values and a dramatized segment about the general principles of the Earth Charter.

Radio programs on the Earth Charter will also be produced and broadcast for children, in early 2000. This project includes a cartoon booklet that will be distributed in schools throughout Latin America and the Caribbean

The Earth Charter Resource Booklet for Educators and Children

The development and preparation of an Earth Charter Education Resource Booklet for Educators of Children ages 10 - 14 was undertaken in late 1999. This booklet is undergoing several draft phases, based on the comments and suggestions of educators from various countries, who are assisting in the development of this important education resource.

The involvement of children and youth is very important to the Earth Charter process as it encourages an understanding and internalization of the Earth Charter's principles among young generations. The Earth Charter Booklet for Children and Educators is designed to



assist educators and children in teaching and learning about the Earth Charter. This booklet brings together suggestions of Earth Charter activities and exercises as used by individuals and Earth Charter national committees. The booklet contains the following components:

- A question and answer page about the Earth Charter;
- An abbreviated version of the Preamble as an introduction;
- The General and Main Principles;
- A glossary of terms for each principle; (examples and sentences to clearly illustrate the definitions are provided);
- Artwork and stories that children around the world have created as a result of Earth Charter workshops;
- An abbreviated format of the conclusion of the Charter;
- Earth Charter activities and workshop ideas, addressing key learning areas which are designed to be useful in educational or workshop settings.

The Earth Charter Mandala

The word "mandala" is Sanskrit meaning "whole world" or "healing circle." Traditionally, mandalas have been used as symbols of meditation, protection, healing and unity in many cultures and spiritual practices. A mandala is a geometrically perfect circle that contains patterns of similar shapes radiating in outer circles around an inner circle. An Earth Charter Mandala was initially created by a youth group at the 1999 State of the World Forum in San Francisco, California as a way to artistically express the Earth Charter. The components of this mandala were based on the core message of the Charter and represent the different parts and principles of the Charter. The Earth Charter mandala has been displayed at the State of the World Forum and at the 1999 World Trade Organization's meeting in Seattle, Washington. It is hoped that youth around the world will continue to create other mandalas based on the values represented in the Earth Charter.

The Earth Charter Art Youth Contest - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies

Green Cross International organized the second annual Earth Charter Youth Contest featuring an International Environmental Drawing Competition. Booklets containing a draft of the Earth Charter were distributed to teachers and Earth Charter principles were explained to the students.

By choosing "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies" as the 1999 theme, Green Cross International aimed to raise public awareness and educate students, their parents and teachers about global climate change and the role of the Earth Charter in achieving a sustainable future for the planet. Almost half a million students and thousands of teachers from 8 countries participated: Argentina, Burkina Faso, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Russia, and South Korea. Each country held a national contest and the winners then entered the international competition. Each national Green Cross Organization announced outstanding and inspirational results as the young artists shared their discoveries about sustainable development and incorporated Earth Charter principles in their art work. Their drawings highlighted the need to adopt the widespread practice of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

The competition also provided each national Green Cross Organization opportunities to intensify and broaden the base of their Earth Charter initiatives. Since all of the students and teachers have been inducted into the Earth Charter process, they are now ready to develop and participate fully in further activities. Also openings have been created and working relationships established with important government institutions, various NGOs, sponsors from the private sector, prestigious art and science institutions and numerous individuals.

A prize-winning ceremony was held in Venice, Italy on October 1 - 3, 1999 (to coincide with International Teachers' Day). More information can be found at the Green Cross International website : www.gci.ch

Earth Charter On-Line Survey of Benchmark Draft II

The Earth Charter secretariat provided an on-line survey of the Benchmark Draft II in the effort to encourage interested individuals to voice their comments and suggestions to the draft in a timely and efficient manner. Since the presentation of the Benchmark Draft II in April of 1999, over 40 individuals have taken the survey and voiced their input on the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II. The following are a cross-section of the comments received from this survey:

- In the Preamble, I would mention the finality of the Charter, which is to contribute in the building of a Culture of peace by proposing a global ethic. So, here is my suggestion: 6th paragraph, 3rd line: The challenges humanity faces can only be met if people everywhere acquire an awareness of global interdependence and the spirit of a culture of peace which is a vision and a process. A culture of peace aims to build trustful relationship and cooperation between persons and peoples.
- In Principle #1, respect is of the utmost importance; it goes beyond 'very important'; it is the essence of a dynamic relationship characterized by justice.
- In terms of Principle #4, care must be taken here to ensure that there are other reasons why we are protecting the Earth. Let's get away from this anthropocentric environmentalism and into more deontological perspectives, with more respect given to things simply because they are, and their participation in our biosociety, rather than their uses as resources or objects to behold.
- Principle #6 seems to put only the environment at the center of our worries. If we could link it to the relationship between environment and humans it might work better - the welfare of the environment can go hand by hand with the welfare of humans.
- Not only to take the path of caution as mentioned in Principle #6, but also use our intelligence, science, and intuition to enhance the knowledge available and thus make better informed decisions. It's not enough to say

'take the path of caution'; it's weak and can be overrun by short term 'vital interests'. Additionally, more knowledge can often show that a particular line of action is detrimental to the health of humans and the environment, which is sometimes a situation that developers would prefer, remained hidden.

- I would also like to see a new principle, or a sub-principle, which states that economic enterprises above a certain size need to be organized on cooperative lines. I would like to see a statement that multinational organizations such as the World Trade Organization, and the agreements which the WTO and other similar bodies implement, should again be brought under democratic control, rather than being unelected and unaccountable as they are at present.
- In Principle #10, we must address access to training and technologies as well as begin to instigate significant productive types of employment not only from a cultural point of view, but also that of environmental and health concerns.
- Within Principle #12.3: It is urgent to include the precautionary principle while evaluating and regulating impacts because this will take a lot of time.

Internet on-line Conferences

Three on-line conferences on the Earth Charter were held in 1999. These conferences were organized to be interactive and included presentations by various speakers and the opportunity for dialogue through on-line discussion forums. In this respect, the Earth Forum pioneered components of on-line interactive conference technology for the purposes of promoting social change and dialogue over the Internet. The Earth Charter International Secretariat moderated all conferences.

April 1999 - Academic Conference "Global Ethics, Sustainability and the Earth Charter"

The first of these conferences entitled, "Global Ethics, Sustainability and the Earth Charter" occurred April 6-16, 1999 and involved individuals from over 500 different colleges, universities and organizations from 73 different countries. Participants engaged in an international discussion on global ethics, sustainability and the Earth Charter. This conference featured 17 presenters from different universities and organizations worldwide and welcoming remarks from Maurice Strong, founder of the Earth Council. Each presenter addressed a core issue in the dialogue on ethics, sustainability and the Earth Charter. The presenters were invited to give papers and contribute to discussion forums addressing the topics of their papers. Following is the list of presenters and the topics of their papers:

- **Dr. Consolacion R. Alaras:** "Dambana ng Bayan: A Nation's Sacred Covenant with the People's Earth Charter" (University of the Philippines, The Philippines)
- **David Bernard and Ian Benson:** "A dialogue on the Earth Charter, Nation States and People" (Capilano College and The Center for Renewal in Public Policy, Canada)
- **Charlotte Elton:** "Panama, A Unique Example" (CEASPA, Panama)
- **Vittorio Falsina:** The Earth Charter: "A Philosophical Appraisal" (Harvard University, USA)
- **Willis S. Guerra F.:** "On Environmental Rights and the Earth Charter" (Federal University of Cear, Brazil)

- **Ashok Khosla:** “Empowering People / Innovative Technologies” (Development Alternatives, India)
- **Kim S. Losev:** “From Technological to Environmental Ethics” (Moscow State University, Russia)
- **Ruud Lubbers:** “Globalization, Civil Society and the Earth Charter” (University of Tilburg, The Netherlands)
- **Brendan Mackey:** “Science - Friend or Foe to an Earth Charter?” (Australian National University, Australia)
- **Alejandrina Mata:** “Everyone is a Teacher” (University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica)
- **Bedrich Moldan:** “The Strength of Civil Society” (Charles University, Czech Republic)
- **Robert Muller:** “The Absolute, Proper Need For Proper Earth Government” (University for Peace, Costa Rica)
- **Steven Rockefeller:** “An Introduction to the Text of the Earth Charter” (Middlebury College, USA)
- **Duncan Taylor:** “The Earth Charter: Subverting the Expansionist World View” (University of Victoria, British Columbia)
- **Mary Evelyn Tucker:** “Reflections on the Earth Charter” (Bucknell University, USA)
- **Saskia Weiringa:** “Gender Dimensions of the Earth Charter” (Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands)
- **Soon Young Yoon:** “A Healthy Self, a Healthy Society, a Healthy Planet” (Earth Times, USA)

Invitations for the on-line conference were sent to students and professors from universities and colleges around the globe. The conference provided the opportunity for individuals and groups to engage in an interactive discussion about such issues as the Earth Charter and human responsibility, civil society action, sustainable living versus sustainable development and global principles and values. The conference lasted approximately ten days, during which students were able to view all presentations via RealVideo format, and to pose questions as well as comment and initiate dialogue surrounding key points of presenters’ topics.

All presentations and discussion forums can be viewed at: www.earthforum.org

October 1999 - Global Discussion on Benchmark Draft II

From October 19-29, 1999 a second On-line Global Forum was held via the Earth Charter Campaign website. This forum involved approximately 74 representatives of Earth Charter National Committees and affiliated groups as well as participants of Earth Charter Drafting Committee meetings from 1997-1999. This forum was designed to facilitate dialogue on the text of the Benchmark Draft II and bring together participants of Drafting Committee meetings, National Committees and key groups to discuss the content and structure of the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II.

Two representatives from each country and one from each key group were selected to participate in this conference. These participants were responsible for asking questions, making suggestions and commenting on issues raised by their committee/group in relation to the Benchmark Draft II. In addition, participants of the drafting committee meetings were available to answer these questions and facilitate an open dialogue on the content and structure of the document.

During the ten-day conference, the agenda was designed to address specific parts of the text of the Earth Charter each day. This allowed all related comments and suggestions regarding certain portions of the text to be viewed and responded to within the same timeframe. In addition, considerable time for open discussion was allotted.

The forum gave all involved contributors the opportunity to share concerns, comments and suggestions relating to the Benchmark Draft II document. In addition, it provided a space for representatives of Earth Charter National Committees and key groups to gain an understanding of the perspectives and concerns of other countries and groups. The conference was a large success and many important comments and suggestions were culled from the results to further assist the drafting committee in the refinement of the Earth Charter. While the conference was not open to public participation, all discussions could be viewed during the form and can still be found at: www.earthcharter.org/forum

November 1999 - Academic Conference in Spanish and Portuguese

From November 2-12, 1999 a third On-line Global Forum was held via the Earth Forum website. Presentations and discussions for this forum addressed the conference title, "Global Ethics, Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter," and were conducted in both Spanish and Portuguese, providing the opportunity to continue to enrich the worldwide dialogue on the Earth Charter. This forum gathered individuals from over 250 colleges, universities and organizations from 40 countries. Twelve speakers were invited to present papers related to the conference theme with welcoming remarks by Francisco Mata, Deputy Executive Director of the Earth Council. All presentations were accessible through RealVideo format during the conference. In addition, presenters were available to answer questions and respond to comments through individual discussion forums for each different presentation.

The following individuals presented papers during the November on-line conference:

- **Graciela Andrade:** "Toward a People's Earth Charter" (University of Michoacan, Mexico)
- **Abelardo Brenes:** "The Values That Sustain the Earth Charter as Fundamental for an Integrated Educational Philosophy" (University for Peace, Costa Rica)
- **Jordi de Cambra:** "Human Development and Sustainability" (University of Vic, Spain)
- **Tomas Concha Sanz:** (Central University of Bogotá, Colombia)

- **María Dávila:** "Solidarity and the Earth Charter" (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- **Charlotte Elton:** "Panama, A Unique Example" (Panamean Center of Research and Social Action- CEASPA, Panama)
- **Moacir Gadotti:** "The Movement of Eco Pedagogy and The Earth Charter" (Sao Paulo University / Paulo Freire Institute, Brazil)
- **René Ledesma:** "Global Ethics, Sustainable Development and The Earth Charter" (Pedro Henríq. Ureña National University, Dominican Republic)
- **Alejandrina Mata:** "The Educative Role of Members of Society in the Structure of an Environmental Culture" (University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica)
- **Rosendo Pujol Mesalles:** "The Earth Charter: An Important Medium for a Transcendental Goal" (University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica)
- **José Antonio Quiroga:** "The Earth Charter and A New Beginning" (San Andrés University, Bolivia)
- **Josep Xercavins:** "Globalization, Sustainability and World Governance" (Catalunya Polytechnic University, Spain)

This conference provided the opportunity to further enrich the on-going international dialogue of global ethics, sustainable development and the Earth Charter, reinforcing the importance of establishing international forums like this one.

All papers and discussions can be accessed at: www.earthforum.org

ANNEX 1

THE EARTH CHARTER

REVISION OF BENCHMARK DRAFT II

Working Draft, Fall, 1999

PREAMBLE

In our diverse yet increasingly interdependent world, it is imperative that we, the people of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations. We have entered a critical stage in history when we must join together to bring forth a new global order founded on respect for life, environmental protection, freedom and justice, sustainable human development, and a culture of peace. We are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny.

Earth, Our Home

Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. The forces of nature make existence a demanding and dangerous adventure, but Earth has provided the environmental conditions essential to life's evolution. The well-being of the community of life, the enjoyment of human rights, and the development of culture depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere, in particular clean air, pure waters, fertile soils, and a rich variety of plants, animals and ecosystems. The global environment with its finite resources is a primary common concern of all humanity. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.

The Global Situation

The Earth community stands at a defining moment. The dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental devastation, including global warming, extensive pollution of air, land, and water, a massive extinction of species, and the depletion of resources. This harm is done in the name of economic growth, but while the growth greatly benefits some, it is inequitable as well as unsustainable. Injustice, poverty, hunger, ignorance, corruption, crime and violence, and armed conflict are widespread and the cause of great suffering. An unprecedented rise in human population has increased the pressure on ecological systems and overburdened social and economic systems. The foundations of global security are threatened. Fundamental changes in our attitudes, values, ways of living, and systems of governance are necessary.

The Choice Before Us

The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another or participate in the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life. We have the knowledge and technology to create healthy economies that provide for the needs of all even as we reduce our impacts on the environment. The emergence of a global civil society is creating new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world that secures respect for human rights and promotes biological and cultural diversity. Let us resolve to harmonize freedom with responsibility, diversity with unity, individual interests with the common good, short term objectives with long term priorities. Our environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual problems are interconnected, and we can cooperate in developing integrated strategies to address them.

Universal Responsibility

These aspirations will be realized only if people everywhere decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying themselves with the whole Earth community as well as their local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human fam-

ily and the larger living world. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature. We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more.

In the light of these considerations, there is an urgent need for a shared vision of basic values that will provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for sustainable development as a common standard of achievement by which the conduct of all persons, groups, businesses, and nations is to be guided and judged.

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.

- a. Recognize that all beings are interdependent and worthy of respect regardless of their value to humanity.
- b. Respect the inherent dignity of every person and maintain faith in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.

2. Care for the community of life with understanding, love, and compassion.

- a. Affirm that with every right comes a responsibility and that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility for protecting nature and promoting social well-being.
- b. Accept that with the right to own, control, and use natural resources comes the duty to refrain from and prevent use that violates the rights of people or causes serious harm to the community of life.

3. Build societies that are free, just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.

- a. Create communities and a world order that respect human rights and the rule of law and that provide each person an opportunity to realize his or her full potential.
- b. Recognize that the quality of life, especially the ethical and spiritual quality of our relationships with other persons and nature at large, is the true measure of human development.

4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

- a. Develop, rectify, and transmit to future generations economic, political, social, and cultural systems that sustain the flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities.
- b. Share equitably between present and future generations the burdens of caring for Earth and the opportunity to benefit from natural resources.

In order to realize these interrelated ethical ideals, it is necessary to:

II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.

- a. Make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to the planning and implementation of all social and economic development.
- b. Establish and safeguard viable interconnected nature and biosphere reserves, including wild lands and marine areas, that are sufficient to maintain Earth's biological diversity and life-support systems.
- c. Manage the use of renewable resources such as water, soil, air, forests, and fisheries in ways that preserve the resilience, diversity, and productivity of ecological systems.
- d. Promote the recovery of endangered species and populations through in situ conservation, including habitat restoration, and, when necessary, through ex situ propagation.

- e. Prevent introduction into the environment of non-native or genetically modified species which are likely to cause harm to native species and the environment, and control and eradicate harmful non-native or modified species.
 - f. Manage the extraction of non-renewable resources such as minerals, oil, and gas in ways that do not cause serious or irreversible environmental damage, and minimize the depletion of these resources.
- 6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection, and when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.**
- a. Prevent activities that threaten serious or irreversible environmental harm even when scientific knowledge is incomplete or inconclusive.
 - b. Establish that when the environmental consequences of an activity are in question, the burden of proof rests with the proponents who argue it will not cause significant harm.
 - c. Ensure that decision-making addresses the cumulative, long-term, indirect, long distance, and global consequences of individual and local actions.
 - d. Create and adopt local and national sustainable development plans (Agenda 21s).
 - e. Mandate that the responsible parties shall pay the full cost to society of environmental harm.
 - f. Ensure that measures to prevent or control diseases, infestations, and natural disasters are directed to the relevant causes and avoid harmful side effects.
 - g. Comply with national and international obligations to prevent environmental harm, particularly in the transboundary context.
- 7. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration, and protect them from cruelty and wanton destruction.**
- a. Minimize the suffering of the animals kept in human societies for companionship, use, and consumption, and maintain them as far as possible in conditions that meet their basic needs and allow for their natural activities.
 - b. Limit biomedical research on animals to experiments addressing basic human and animal needs and to situations where alternative forms of research are not possible, and work to eliminate the need for research that causes harm to animals.
 - c. Protect wild animals from methods of hunting and fishing that cause extreme, prolonged, or avoidable suffering or that involve the taking of non-targeted species.
- 8. Advance worldwide the study of ecological systems and the dissemination and application of knowledge that enables communities to care for Earth.**
- a. Support scientific research that contributes to environmental protection and restoration and a better quality of life for all.
 - b. Promote international scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of environmental conservation and sustainable resource use with special concern for the needs of developing nations.
 - c. Respect and protect the traditional knowledge in all cultures that contributes to environmental protection and human well-being.
 - d. Ensure that information generated by research on human genes and other subjects of vital importance to human health and environmental protection remain freely available in the public domain.

III. A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ORDER

- 9. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.**
- a. Prevent pollution of any part of the environment, especially from radioactive, toxic, or other hazardous substances.

- b. Reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used in production and consumption systems, and ensure that any residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems.
- c. Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as the sun, wind, and biomass.
- d. Promote the development and adoption of environmentally sound technologies.
- e. Internalize in market prices the full environmental and social cost of human activities, taking into account the economic value of the services provided by ecological systems.
- f. Create financial incentives and markets for those who produce goods and services in a sustainable fashion, and enable consumers to choose such products by creating the necessary international standards and by providing relevant information.
- g. Provide universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.

10. Ensure that economic activities, including world trade, support and promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.

- a. Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations.
- b. Support international efforts to assist developing nations in building the intellectual, financial, technical, and health care resources required to meet their basic needs, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life.
- c. Cooperate in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing nations.
- d. Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use and environmental protection systems.
- e. Create mechanisms that hold transnational corporations and international financial organizations accountable to the public for the consequences of their activities.
- f. Assess emerging technologies, such as biotechnology, regarding their environmental, health, socioeconomic, and cultural impacts, and regulate and monitor those technologies that are likely to have adverse effects on the environment and people.
- g. Relieve developing nations of onerous international debts that impede their progress in meeting basic human needs through sustainable development.

11. Eradicate poverty, as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.

- a. Support the right of every person and all peoples to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy equitable and sustainable economic, social, cultural, and political development.
- b. Secure the right to potable water, clean air, uncontaminated soil, food security, shelter, and safe sanitation in urban, rural, and remote environments.
- c. Provide fair and just access to education, health care, land, natural resources, affordable clean energy, and affordable credit, providing every person with the opportunity to attain a secure and sustainable livelihood.
- d. Promote full and meaningful employment as a basic goal of economic and social policies.
- e. Establish social protection systems that provide social security for all and safety nets for those who cannot support themselves.

12. Affirm and promote gender equality as a prerequisite to sustainable development.

- a. Provide, on the basis of gender equality, universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity in order to support the full development of every person's human dignity and potential.
- b. Promote the active engagement of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal participants, leaders, decision makers, and beneficiaries.

IV. DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

13. Establish transparency and accountability in governance, and provide access to information, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.

- a. Promote democratic principles and practices and strengthen democratic institutions, ensuring full participation in the development process.
- b. Protect the right to freedom of communication, including the right to express dissent on matters of environmental, economic, and social policy.
- c. Enable local communities to care for their own environments to the full extent possible, and assign responsibilities for environmental protection to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively.
- d. Secure the right of all persons to receive in a timely fashion information about environmental matters and all economic and social plans and activities which are likely to affect them or in which they have an interest.
- e. Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.

14. Honor and defend the right of all persons, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of their dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being.

- a. Respect, ensure and promote the right to equal treatment and eradicate discrimination in all its forms, preventing discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, and national, ethnic or social origin in connection with decisions and actions that affect the environment.
- b. Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources and to their related practice of sustainable livelihoods.
- c. Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and respect their right to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.

15. Integrate the knowledge, values, and skills needed for promoting sustainable development into universal education and life-long learning.

- a. Provide all citizens, particularly youth, with the training and resources required to participate effectively in civil society, economic development, political affairs, and environmental protection.
- b. Encourage the contribution of the artistic imagination and the humanities as well as the sciences in environmental education and sustainable development.
- c. Enhance the role of the mass media and advertising in promoting environmental awareness and sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

16. Create a culture of peace and cooperation.

- a. Seek the wisdom necessary to live well and to be an instrument of peace.
- b. Speak and act truthfully, and deal with one another honestly and fairly.
- c. Practice nonviolence, implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict, and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve conflict.
- d. Promote mutual understanding, tolerance of pluralism, reconciliation, and solidarity among all peoples and within and among nations, and support cross cultural and interreligious dialogue and collaboration.
- e. Eliminate nuclear weapons and all other weapons that produce indiscriminate or non-targeted destruction.
- f. Demilitarize national security systems to the level of a non-provocative defense posture, and convert military resources for peaceful purposes.
- g. Protect the environment against widespread, long-term, or severe damage caused by military activities.
- h. Ensure that the exploration and use of the global commons and orbital and outer space support environmental protection, sustainability, and peace.
- i. Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by balanced and harmonious relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.

A NEW BEGINNING

As never before in human history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. Such renewal is the promise of these Earth Charter principles. To fulfill this promise, we must commit ourselves as individuals and in our associated life to implement, teach, and promote the values and ideals of the Earth Charter.

This commitment requires of each of us a change of mind and heart and a new sense of universal responsibility. It requires that we rededicate ourselves to the particular places where we live and work and to Earth as a whole. We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of the Earth Charter locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Different cultures and communities will find their own distinctive ways to express the vision. 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.

Every individual, family, organization, and community has a vital role to play. Youth in particular are fundamental agents for change. The arts, the sciences, the religions, the schools, non-governmental organizations, the media, business, and government are all called at this critical time of transition to offer creative leadership. A spirit of mutual support is essential. The opportunities are great. The countless individuals and groups throughout the world who are leading the way are a source of inspiration and hope.

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 implement the Earth Charter principles through a legally binding treaty on Environment and Development. The objective of such an international agreement should be an integrated legal framework for all conservation and sustainable development law and policy.

Let ours be a time that is remembered for an awakening to a new reverence for life, a firm resolve to preserve Earth's evolutionary potential, a quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

ANNEX 2

Selected Comments from the 1999 Consultations and Contributions to the Earth Charter

During 1999, the Earth Charter campaign received a significant number of comments, suggestions and feedback on the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II of April 1999 and the Revised Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II Working Document of November 15, 1999. These comments and suggestions came from numerous groups, organizations and individuals, representing over 45 countries in all five continents. All input received has been reviewed and forwarded to the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee. Please find below a selection of the comments received, with their corresponding country of origin and association, showing the diversity of content and participation in the 1999 Earth Charter consultation process.

PREAMBLE

Issue Raised	By Whom
Add, ACCEPTING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH GENERATION TO PERFORM AS A TRUSTEE OF ITS NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ORDER TO TRANSMIT IT SAFELY TO THE NEW GENERATION, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT BENEFITS AND BURDENS OF THAT CARING SHOULD BE SHARED FAIRLY.	Green Cross Holland , supported by the Earth Charter National Committee- Nepal
More weight should be given to the potential benefits of humane science and technology, and the unparalleled opportunity to use science and technology to alleviate human suffering.	Canada
Emphasize the relationship between and meanings of “sustainable development” and “human development.”	GLOBUS Project, The Netherlands
Is the Earth Charter correct in assuming that ‘sustainable development’ is one of humanity’s shared values, giving it a central focus of the Charter or is there a larger goal of “sustainable living” being addressed, in which case the term “sustainable living” should be used rather than “sustainable development.”	University of Victoria, Canada

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Principle #1

Issue Raised	By Whom
Add "SCIENTIFIC" after "ethical."	Earth Charter Consultation- Nepal
Change to read, "RESPECT EARTH, NATURE AND LIFE IN ALL ASPECTS."	Assisi Nature Council, Italy
Suggests the addition of NATURE and HUMANITY in the main principle.	GLOBUS project, The Netherlands

Principle #2

Issue Raised	By Whom
Principle two, delete [care for] and substitute "RESPECTFULLY CO-EXIST WITH."	Indigenous group USA
Additional sub-principle, "RESPECT AND PROTECT CULTURAL DIVERSITIES, FAVOUR THEIR FLOURISHMENT AND CONSIDER THEM PART OF THE HUMAN HERITAGE."	Assisi Nature Council, Italy

Principle #3

Issue Raised	By Whom
Address the issue of developing a culture of peace. Change to read, "STRIVE TO LIVE TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF A CULTURE OF PEACE IN BUILDING free, just, participatory, sustainable and DEMOCRATIC societies."	Global Education Associates, Canada , supported the Earth Charter National Committee, Korea
Add reference to adequately diffusing and spreading information.	Earth Charter National Committee- Paraguay

Principle #4

Issue Raised	By Whom
Rewrite 4a to read, "INSPIRE COMMUNITIES IN THE APPRECIATION AND DEFERENCE OF THEIR NATURAL PATRIMONY, TRUE EXPRESSION OF THEIR IDENTITY, WITH THE RECOGNITION THAT BEAUTY IS AN UNIVERSAL VALUE NECESSARY FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL AND MORAL HUMAN POTENTIAL." Add additional sub-principle 4c, "CONSIDER THAT NATURE AND THE HUMAN-MADE LANDSCAPE IS THE CONTEXT AND THE END OF EVERY HUMAN ACTIVITY, WHICH WILL RESPECT THE GENIUS OF THE PLACE."	Assisi Nature Council, Italy
Rewrite to read, "ACCEPT WITH JOY THE WORK OF CARING FOR THE EARTH AND ITS RESOURCES AS A SHARED COMMON HERITAGE OF ALL GENERATIONS, PRESENT AND FUTURE."	The People-Centered Development Forum, USA

II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Principle #5

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>In 5.e, warns that the wording “prevent the human-mediated introduction of alien species” may prevent the use of genetic engineering.</p>	<p>World Federation of Engineering Organizations, International</p>
<p>Suggests for 5b, the words ‘MARINE PARKS’ be added immediately after the word “including wild lands.” Suggests for 5c, that the word “NON-RENEWABLE” be added immediately after the word “renewable.”</p>	<p>Earth Charter National Committee-Mauritius Supported by the Kuna Council of Panama</p>
<p>* Ethical practices in trading material that harm human health and endanger living species. * Implementation of uniform standards around the globe regarding material that harm life.</p>	<p>Earth Charter Committee-Austria</p>
<p>5.3. JUDICIOUS USE AND EXTRACTION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES and include stopping the extraction of these resources.</p>	<p>Philippine Institute for Alternative Futures, The Philippines</p>
<p>Add a supporting principle to say, “RECOGNIZE THE EFFECTS THAT HISTORICAL OPPRESSIONS AND EXPLOITATIONS AND THEIR RESULTING DISPARITIES HAVE INCURRED IN THE EXISTING GLOBAL CONDITIONS, AND PLEDGE NOT TO PERPETUATE OR REPEAT SUCH OPPRESSIONS AGAIN.”</p>	<p>Princess Basma’s Women’s Resource Center, Jordan</p>

Principle #6

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>Insert ESTABLISH AND ENSURE THE ENFORCEMENT OF environmental protection standards</p>	<p>Kazakhstan</p>
<p>Suggest adding the following to paragraph 6c: “Establish environmental protection standards...and required environmental impact assessments and reporting BY CREDIBLE AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES.”</p>	<p>Singapore Environment Council Singapore</p>
<p>6d: States and the United Nations should be encouraged to regulate and enforce environmental laws.</p>	<p>Soka Gakkai International-USA</p>
<p>Not only to take the path of caution, but also use our intelligence, science, and intuition to enhance the knowledge available and thus make better informed decisions.</p>	<p>Earth Charter on-line survey, International</p>

Principle #7

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>7a: Substitute "ELIMINATE" for minimize. 7b: "LIMIT ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION TO RESEARCH REQUIRED TO MEET BASIC HUMAN AND ANIMAL NEEDS..."</p>	<p>The Humane Society of the United States, USA</p>
<p>7d: Reword to say, "Protect plants and other organisms of cultural and other values."</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Ghana</p>
<p>The wording of this principle as of the 11/15/99 draft now fully meets the concerns of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic.</p>	<p>Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Greenland</p>

Principle #8

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>Suggests adding ALL before knowledge and AS APPROPRIATE after knowledge, to re-enforce that there is a place for traditional knowledge.</p>	<p>Indigenous group, USA, supported by the Kuna Council of Panama.</p>
<p>Suggests the addition of "compassion," to read, "TREAT ALL LIVING BEINGS WITH COMPASSION, RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION..."</p>	<p>Assisi Nature Council, Italy</p>
<p>Addition sub-principle: "GIVE EMPHASIS TO MOBILIZING LOCAL RESOURCES (WATER, MINES), ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT, SKILLS ENHANCEMENT, RETENTION OF SKILLED WORK FORCE, ALTERNATE SOURCES OF EMPLOYMENT, COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT."</p>	<p>Earth Charter consultation-Nepal</p>

III. A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ORDER

Principle #9

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>Suggests modifying 8b, replacing “restraint” with MODERATION.</p> <p>Suggests in Principle 8d that social indicators should be included as well as economic indicators.</p> <p>Suggests that market prices might reflect some of the social costs, but they are certainly not capable of capturing the full social costs. Suggests separating 8d into two sub-principles: one focusing on social and economic indicators, the other on market prices.</p> <p>Suggests a reference to reduced consumption of high-protein (animals), which are very land and resource intensive, degrade the environment, and make so much waste.</p> <p>Criteria for of good governance should be stated, addressing the release of debts and the way debts are granted.</p>	<p>Baha’i International Community, supported by Armenia</p> <p>Thailand Environment Institute, Thailand</p> <p>Earth Charter National Committee-Burkina Faso supported by Earth Charter National Committee-Zimbabwe</p>

Principle #10

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>Add, “TO ENCOURAGE RELATIONSHIPS THAT PRODUCE CHANGE IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER, WHOSE OVERFLOW WOULD LARGELY BENEFIT OTHERS.”</p> <p>Add, “SOCIAL” after “technical” and before “health care.”</p> <p>Under Principle 10a add: FACILITATE THE ALLOCATION OF LAND TO THE USES THAT PROVIDE THE GREATEST SUSTAINABLE BENEFITS. (Dept. of Agrarian Reform)</p>	<p>Earth Charter National Committee-Paraguay</p> <p>Baha’i International Community, International</p> <p>Philippine Institute for Alternative Futures and Earth Charter National Committee - The Philippines</p>

Principle #11

Issue Raised	By Whom
We must address access to training and technologies as well as begin to instigate significant productive types of employment not only from a cultural point of view, but also that of environmental and health concerns.	Earth Charter on-line survey, International
11b: other basic human rights should be included in this sub principle so that it reads "secure the human right to portable water, clean air, SAFE ENERGY, uncontaminated soil, food security, DECENT HABITATION, safe sanitation and SECURITY in urban, rural, and remote environments."	Earth Charter National Committee- Zimbabwe

Principle #12

Issue Raised	By Whom
Open access and transfer of knowledge and information, in that it belongs to the whole race of humans and can be used for the welfare of all instead of the advancement of a few.	Earth Charter on-line survey, International.
Add two more sub-principles, 12c: "PREVENT THE RESEARCH, TESTING AND USE OF BIOLOGICAL AND ATOMIC WEAPONS." 12d: "PROMOTE TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES AND NATIONS TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."	Earth Charter Consultation- Nepal

IV. DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

Issue Raised	By Whom
Change IV. Title to, "GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PEACE," as democracy has different connotations and outlying principles are more applicable to good governance.	Earth Charter Consultation- Nepal

Principle #13

Issue Raised	By Whom
13a, add ENABLE AND PROMOTE DECENTRALIZED MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE AND SUPPORTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.	Earth Charter group - Australia
13e: Enterprises should not only be "accountable to the public for the consequences of their activities," but should also redress any damage or rehabilitate the environment.	Earth Charter National Committee- Zimbabwe

Principle #14

Issue Raised	By Whom
Add: "Affirm the right of indigenous AND TRADITIONAL people."	Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Ghana

Principle #15

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>Re Principle 15, Suggests phrasing as: "MAKE THE KNOWLEDGE, VALUES, SKILLS, AND INNER CAPACITIES NEEDED TO BUILD..."</p> <p>Re 15b, suggests extending: "ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL."</p> <p>In 15a, replace "youth" with 'ALL PERSONS.'</p>	<p>Earth Charter National Committee-USA</p> <p>Earth Charter National Committee-Norway</p>

Principle #16

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>In 16.3, after "teach tolerance and forgiveness" add 'PRACTICE RECONCILIATION'.</p> <p>Suggests replacing "tolerance" with 'MUTUAL FORBEARANCE'.</p> <p>In 16.2, the issue of discrimination and injustice needs to be addressed. Minority rights and interests need to be specifically addressed and protected even in the best democracies.</p> <p>Needs some reference to promoting the arts.</p> <p>Important to include "NON-VIOLENCE" in this principle.</p>	<p>Earth Charter National Committee-USA, supported by University of Bogotá and Earth Charter National Committee-Colombia</p> <p>Soka Gakkai International, Japan</p> <p>SGI</p> <p>India</p>

A NEW BEGINNING

Issue Raised	By Whom
<p>The issue of respect for cultural diversity should be addressed in the conclusion.</p> <p>3rd paragraph, 3rd sentence: "A spirit of mutual support AND AN ETHIC OF SERVICE is essential."</p>	<p>Kuna Council, Panama</p> <p>Baha'I International Community, International</p>

ANNEX 3

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LIST OF CONTACTS

COUNTRY CONTACTS

Africa and the Middle East

Burkina Faso

Mr. Dakar Djiri
SP/CONAGESE
Fax: (226) 316 491
E-mail: djiri@fasonet.bf

Mr. Ousséni Diallo
Green Cross Burkina Faso
E-mail: greencross.burkinafaso@fasonet.bf

Ghana

Mr. E.P.D. Barnes, Chief Director
Ministry of Environmental Science & Technology
Accra, Ghana
Fax: (233) 21 666 828

Jordan

The Jordan Environment Society
Fax: (9626) 695 857
E-mail: jes@ago.com.jo

Mauritius

Mr. Rajen Awotar
MAUDESCO
Fax: (230) 424-8500
E-mail: maudescos@intnet.mu

Niger

Mr. Hassane Saley
CNEDD
Fax: (227) 72 29 81 / 73 58 59
E-mail: biocnedd@intnet.ne

Senegal

Mr. Amadou Mociar Niang
Centre De Suivu Ecologigue
Fax: (221) 825-8168
E-mail: niang@cse.sn

Mr. Mbaye Mbengue Faye
CONSERE - National Commission for Sustainable
Development
E-mail: faye@cse.sn

Uganda

Mr. Samuel Bagabo
Integrated Rural Development Initiatives
Fax: (256) 41 533-574
E-mail: irdi@uol.co.ug

Mr. Moses Isooba,
Uganda Wildlife Society
Fax:+256-41-342298
E-mail: uws@imul.com

Zimbabwe

Ms. Kate Mhlanga
National Coordinator
Africa 2000 Network
Fax: (263) 4 728-695 / 4 700-946
E-mail: khethiwe@af2n.icon.co.zw

Asia and the Pacific

Australia

Dr. Brendan Mackey
National Earth Charter Committee
The Australian National University
Fax (616) 249-3770
E-mail: brendanmackey@anu.edu.au

Hong Kong/China

Ms. Terri Mottershead
Associate Professor and Associate Dean
School of Law, City University
Fax.: (852) 2788 7363
E-mail: lwtlmott@cityu.edu.hk

India

Dr. Ashok Khosla & S.K. Sharma
Development Alternatives
Fax: (9111) 686-6031
E-mail: tara@sdalt.ernet.in

Japan

Mr. Yoichi Shibata
Coordinator, Green Cross
Fax: (8148) 855-9832
E-mail: yoichi@eo.gcj.or.jp

Malaysia

Looi Chee Choong
Global Environment Network
Fax: +60 3 757 7003
E-mail: cclooi@genet.po.my

Nepal

Mr. Ramesh Man Tuladhar
Center for Community Development
and the Environment
Fax: (9771) 247 890

New Zealand/Aoteroa

Prof. Klaus Bosselmann
New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law
Faculty of Law
University of Auckland
Fax +64 9 373 7471
E-mail: k.bosselmann@auckland.ac.nz

Singapore

Karen Khor
Singapore Environment Council
Fax: (65) 337 6035
E-mail: secnet@singnet.com.sg

South Korea

Mr. Andy Choi
Fax: (82) 346-570-7156
E-mail: hmaker@gip.kyunghee.ac.kr
www://gip.kyunghee.ac.kr/~hmaker

Ms. Choony Kim
Fax: (82) 2 722 38 53
E-mail: kimchy@kfem.or.kr

Thailand

Dr. Chamniern P. Vorratnchaiphan,
Director, Grassroots Action Program
E-mail: tuk@tei.or.th

The Philippines

Ms. Inés Basaen & Ms Emy Perez
Philippine Institute of Alternative Futures
Fax: (632) 922-0023
E-mail: apncsd@netasia.net

Europe and Central Asia**Armenia**

Ms. Karine Danielyan
Association for Sustainable
Human Development
E-mail: ashd@freenet.am

Austria

Ms. Jacqueline Wagner
International Institute for Global Ethics
Fax: (43) 2236 24048
E-mail: global.ethics@netsurf.at

Germany

Ecumenical One World Initiative
Fax: (49 56) 94 15 32

INES office

Fax. (49 231) 57 52 10
E-mail: INES_NAT@t-online.de

Mr. Frank Meyberg
Tel/Fax. (49 4) 65 29 475
E-mail: meyberg@ac.chemie.uni-hamburg.de

Italy

Ms. Elizabeth Ferrero
St. Thomas University
E-mail: e4ferrero@aol.com

Mr. Elio Pacilio
Green Cross Italy
Fax: (39 06) 68 300 857
E-mail: greencr@tin.it

Ms. Maria Luisa Cohen
Assisi Nature Council
E-mail: edet@assisinc.ch

Kazakhstan

Dr. Sergey Shafarenko
Chairman of Cultural Ecological Union
'Belovodye"
Tel/Fax. (3232) 21 7275
E-mail: belov@sigma-east.com

Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Emile Shukurov
Fax. (996) 312 213 465
E-mail: root@emil.cango.net.kg

Norway

Leif-Runar Forstch
Earth Charter Norge
E-mail: info@earthcharter-norge.com

Russia

Mr. Rustem Khairov
International Foundation for the
Survival and Development of Humanity
Fax: (7095) 230-2608
E-mail: gcinfo@space.ru

Sweden

Ms. Tonia Moya
Green Cross Sweden
tel/fax +46 31 146 111
E-mail: greenross@swipnet.se

Mr. Torsten Dalin,
E-mail: torsten.dalin@stockholm.mail.telia.com

Mr. Rolf Dackheden
E-mail: rolf.dackheden@telia.com

Tajikistan

Dr. Muazama Burkhanova,
Chairman of NGO "Foundation
to Support Civil Initiatives
Tel/Fax: (3772) 21-58-57
E-mail: root@fsci.td.silk.org

The Netherlands

Dr. Patricia Morales
Univesity of Tilburg, Globus
Fax: (31 13) 466-8018
E-mail: morales@skynet.be

Uzbekistan

Dr. Alexander P. Mironenkov
Fax. (371) 132 6319
E-mail: Alexmir@online.ru

Latin America & the Caribbean**Argentina**

Mr. Jorge Cohen,
Centro para la Armonización y el Desarrollo
Humano
Fax (54 1) 782-1052
E-mail: jcohen@acuarioppi.org

Bolivia

Ms. María Nella Curi & Ms. Verónica López
LIDEMA, La Paz, Bolivia
Fax: (59 12) 412322
E-mail: vlopez@mail.megalink.com

Brazil

Mr. Carlos Alberto Maldonado
Instituto Creatio
Tel/Fax: (55 65) 321-3061 / 623-6219.
E-mail: cmaldonado@zaz.com.br

Ms. Emilia Queiroga Barros
Núcleo de Integração das Ciências
Tel/Fax: (55 31) 285-3463
E-mail: emiliaqb@net.em.com.br

Mr. Othon Leonardos
Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentavel.
Fax: (55 61) 322-8473
E-mail: unbcads@hotmail.com

Colombia

Mr. Benjamin Herrera
University of Bogota
Fax: (571) 288 0830
E-mail: bherrera@javercol.javeriana.edu.co

Costa Rica

Ana Cristina Briceño
Grupo Promotor Carta de la Tierra
Museo del Niño
Fax: (506) 223-7154
E-mail: cbricenolobo@latinmail.com

Cuba

Mr. Raúl Bantroin
Presidente Nacional, Brigadas Técnicas Juveniles
Fax: (537) 335-282
E-mail: ri@ujc.org.cu

Dominican Republic

Mr. René Ledesma & Ms. Josefina Espailait
PRONATURA
Fax: 1 (809) 687-5766
E-mail: rledesma@pronatura.redid.org.do
Or pronatura@codetel.net.do

El Salvador

Ms. María Eugenia Aguilar
Institute for Indigenous Ancestral Rescue (RAIS)
Fax: (503) 223-3166
E-mail: rais@es.com.sv

Mr. Raul Huezco
CONADES
Fax: (503) 263 4569
E-mail: raulhuezco@hotmail.com

Guatemala

Mr. Carlos Morán
Q' ANIL Indigenous Organization
Tel/Fax: (502) 761 8273

Mexico

Mr. Mateo Castillo
Sustainable Development Consultative Council
Fax (52 43) 201 039
E-mail: mateo@mail.giga.com

Nicaragua

CONADES
Fax: (505) 270-4612

Panama

Mr. Maximiliano Ferrer
General Congress of the Kuna Culture
Fax: (507) 263 3765
E-mail: koskun@sinfo.net

Paraguay

Ms. Stella Maris Romero
Ecological Movement of Paraguay
Tel/Fax: (595 21) 446-043
E-mail: ceura@highway.com.py

Peru

Mr. Javier Azpur
Asociación Arariwa
Fax: (51) 84 23-6889
E-mail: postmast@arariwa.org.pe

Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Eden Shand
Tropical Re-Leaf Foundation
Fax: 1 (868) 6255878
E-mail: eachand@trinidad.net

Uruguay

Mr. Diego Fau
General Director ECONATURA
Fax: (59 82) 916 2632
E-mail: faud@mec.gub.uy

Venezuela

Mr. Alejandro Martínez Ubieda,
Secretario Ejecutivo
Parlamento Amazónico (PARLAMAZ)
E-mail: parlamaz@true.net

North America

Canada

Ms. Stephanie Foster
Earth Council Institute
Fax: (416) 498-7296
E-mail: ecfoster@web.net

USA

Mr. Thomas Rogers
National Coordinator, Earth Charter USA
Tel: (202) 778-6133
E-mail: rogers@crle.org

CONSTITUENCY CONTACTS

Alliance for a Responsible World

Mr. Pierre Calame
Paris, France
Fax. (331) 43 14 7599
E-mail: alliance@fph.fr

Baha'i International Community

Mr. Peter Adriance
Washington DC, USA
Fax: (202) 833 8988
E-mail: padriance@usbnc.org

Boston Research Center for 21st Century

Ms. Virginia Straus
Massachusetts, USA
Fax: (617) 491 1169
E-mail: brc21c@aol.com

Global Education Associates

New York, USA
Fax: (212) 870 27 29
E-mail: globaleduc@earthlink.net

Green Cross International

Mr. Alexander Likhotal
Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (4122) 789 1695
E-mail: alexander.likhotal@gci.ch

Indigenous People's Program

Ms. Beatriz Schulthess
Indigenous People's Program of the Earth Council
Indigenous Peoples Consultative Council
San José, Costa Rica
Fax: (506) 255 2197
E-mail: bschulth@ecouncil.ac.cr

Interfaith Center of New York

Bawa P. Jain
New York, USA
Fax. (212) 685 42 22
E-mail: ifaithny@aol.com

International Community Education Associates

Mr. Colin McMillan, CEO
London, England
Fax: (44) 1565 750989 / 750156
E-mail: icea@web.net

Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of YMCAs

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tel./Fax.(5411) 4637 4727
E-mail: clacj@wamani.apc.org

Millennium People's Assembly Network

Ms. Susan Zipp
USA
Tel/Fax: (707) 937 53 65
E-mail: suezip@worldcitizen.org

Paulo Freire Institute (IPF)

Dr. Moacir Gadotti, Director
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Fax: (55 11) 302 1 5589
E-mail: ipf@paulofreire.org

Soka Gakkai International

Ms. Joan M. Anderson
Tokyo, Japan
Fax: (813) 5360 9885
E-mail: janderson@sgi.gr.jp

Mr. Al Albergate
Director of Community Relations
SGI-USA
Fax: (310) 260-8917
E-mail: aalbergate@sgi-usa.org

World Federation of Engineer Organization

Mr. Jim Poirot
USA
Fax: (202) 296 1151
E-mail: jalspach@aaes.org

Earth Charter Drafting Committee

Mr. Steven C. Rockefeller, Chair
P.O. Box 648
Middlebury, VT 05753, USA
Fax. (802) 388 19 51
E-mail: rockefel@middlebury.edu

Earth Charter Commission

Africa and the Middle East

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Princess Basma Bint Talal	Jordan
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*Co-chairs

“Perhaps there is an encoded connection within our bodies that recognizes the interconnectedness of all life, and therefore the intrinsic value of all other life. Because if we have value, and we have been and will be part of other living things, then all living things have value... From this, other things arise: a sense of deep respect for Earth and its biodiversity.”

—Imogen Zethoven, Director, Queensland Conservation Council, Australia

This report was prepared by:



**Earth Charter International
Secretariat c/o Earth Council**

P.O. Box 2323-1002, San José, Costa Rica.
Phone: (506) 256-1611 / Fax: (506) 255-2197
E-mail: echarter@ecouncil.ac.cr
Website: www.earthcharter.org