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Authors	Earth Charter
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The Earth Charter Initiative

HANDBOOK



Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

The Earth Charter

The Earth Charter Initiative

HANDBOOK



OCTOBER 2010 (DRAFT)

Contents

Table of contents

Introduction 5

I. What is the Earth Charter? 7

II. The Structure and Mission of the Earth Charter Initiative 8
- Earth Charter Initiative 8
- Earth Charter Commission 8
- Earth Charter International (ECI) 8
- Earth Charter Initiative Mission and Vision 9
- Earth Charter International Organizational Vision 9
- Earth Charter International Goals and Strategic Objectives 9
- Roles of Major Actors 10

III. The Earth Charter Commission Members 14

IV. ECI Council Members, Secretariat Staff, Advisors and Partners 15

V. ECI Finances 17
- 2009 Financial Statements 18
- 2010 Budget 20

VI. ECI Strategy & Focus Areas 22
- Decentralized Empowerment 22
- Action Guidelines for Decentralized Expansion of the Earth Charter Initiative 22
- How you can participate in the Earth Charter Initiative 24
- Earth Charter Initiative Focus Areas – A Brief Overview 25
- Business; Education; Communications and Media; Religion, Spirituality and Ethics; United Nations and Global Governance; and Youth 26
- Resource Mobilization by Affiliates, Partners, Task Forces and Action Groups 31

VII. ECI Council Policy Statements 32
- Guidelines for the Organization and Operation of the ECI Council 32
- Responsibilities of the ECI Council 34
- Council Rotation Plan 35

Process for Election of New Council Members 36
Strategy Guidelines 37
Policy on Global Engagement 38
Fundraising Principles 39
Policy on Public Statements 40
Principles for Engaging Business in the Earth Charter Initiative 40
Policy on the Use of ECI Logo 41

VIII. Earth Charter Endorsement 43
Sample of organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter 44

IX. A Short History of the Earth Charter Initiative 46

X. Earth Charter Associates, Ltd. 52

XI. Statements on Controversial Issues 53
The Earth Charter and Religion 53
The Earth Charter, Non-Discrimination and Sexual Orientation 54
The Earth Charter and Responsible Reproduction 55
Does the Earth Charter Support Socialism? 57

XII. Biographical Information on ECI Council Members 60

XIII. ECI Affiliates, and Youth and Student Groups 71

XIV. The Earth Charter 76

Introduction

Introduction

The drafting of the Earth Charter was completed and the Charter was formally launched by the Earth Charter Commission in 2000. Since then, the global network of social activists, teachers, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, international law experts, and leaders in government, who are using, implementing and promoting the Earth Charter, has steadily grown. The Earth Charter International Council and Secretariat, which form Earth Charter International (ECI), endeavor to provide long range strategic direction and resource materials for the expanding Earth Charter Initiative.

This EC Initiative Handbook has been prepared by the ECI Council and Secretariat as a general guide for advisors, affiliates, partners, and all those who are working with the Earth Charter in many different nations and cultures around the world. The Handbook provides basic information on the origin, nature and purpose of the Earth Charter, the structure and mission of the Earth Charter Initiative, and the organization, goals and policies of ECI. Readers are encouraged to use the Table of Contents to identify those sections of the Handbook that may be of most interest. In addition to the Handbook, the Earth Charter International website contains much more information on how to get involved, on current Earth Charter activities and events, and on relevant reading materials.

The world is undergoing profound environmental, social and economic changes and faces an uncertain future. Commitment to a shared ethical framework that provides a clear sense of direction is essential if the people of the world are to come together in the midst of their diversity and build a global society that is just, sustainable, and peaceful. The Earth Charter is an expression of the widespread aspiration in the emerging global civil society for a shared vision of a better world. The ECI Council and Secretariat deeply appreciate the support given to the Earth Charter Initiative by individuals, organizations, and governments and hope this Handbook will prove to be a valuable resource.

Steven C. Rockefeller
Co-chair, ECI Council
Member, Earth Charter Commission

Mirian Vilela
Executive Director, ECI Secretariat
Member, ECI Council

one

I. What is The Earth Charter?

The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century. It seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. It is a vision of hope and a call to action.

The Earth Charter is centrally concerned with the transition to sustainable ways of living and sustainable human development. Ecological integrity is one major theme. However, the Earth Charter recognizes that the goals of ecological protection, the eradication of poverty, equitable economic development, respect for human rights, democracy, and peace are interdependent and indivisible. It provides, therefore, a new, inclusive, integrated ethical framework to guide the transition to a sustainable future.

The Earth Charter is a product of a decade-long, worldwide, cross cultural dialogue on common goals and shared values. The Earth Charter project began as a United Nations initiative, but it was carried forward and completed by a global civil society initiative. The Earth Charter was finalized and then launched as a people's charter in 2000 by the Earth Charter Commission, an independent international entity.

The drafting of the Earth Charter involved the most inclusive and participatory process ever associated with the creation of an international declaration. This process is the primary source of its legitimacy as a guiding ethical framework. The legitimacy of the document has been further enhanced by its endorsement by over 5,000 organizations, including many governments and international organizations.

In light of this legitimacy, an increasing number of international lawyers recognize that the Earth Charter is acquiring the status of a soft law document. Soft law documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are considered to be morally, but not legally, binding on state governments that agree to endorse and adopt them, and they often form the basis for the development of hard law.

At a time when major changes in how we think and live are urgently needed, the Earth Charter challenges us to examine our values and to choose a better way. At a time when education for sustainable development has become essential, the Earth Charter provides a very valuable educational instrument. At a time when international partnerships are increasingly necessary, the Earth Charter encourages us to search for common ground in the midst of our diversity and to embrace a global ethic that is shared by an ever-growing number of people throughout the world.

Note: For more information on the origins of the Earth Charter see "A Short History of the Earth Charter Initiative" in Section IX.

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two

II. The Structure and Mission of the Earth Charter Initiative

Earth Charter Initiative

"The Earth Charter Initiative" is an extraordinarily diverse, global network of people, organizations, and institutions that participate in promoting and implementing the values and principles of the Earth Charter.

The Initiative is a broad-based, voluntary, civil society effort. Participants include leading international institutions, national governments and their agencies, university associations, non-government organizations and community-based groups, city governments, faith groups, schools and businesses – as well as thousands of individuals.

Many organizations have formally endorsed the Earth Charter and are using it and promoting its vision. Many others are using and promoting the Charter without enacting an endorsement.

Earth Charter Commission

The Earth Charter Commission, which was formed in early 1997 as an independent, international body by the Earth Council and Green Cross International, oversaw the Earth Charter consultation and drafting process, approved the final text of the Earth Charter, and launched the Earth Charter in 2000. The Commission retains authority over the text of the Earth Charter, and its members advise Earth Charter International and serve as Earth Charter Ambassadors. However, the Commission is no longer involved in oversight of the Earth Charter Initiative. That responsibility has been given to the Earth Charter International Council.

Earth Charter International (ECI)

Earth Charter International consists of the ECI Council and Secretariat. ECI exists to advance the Earth Charter Initiative Mission and Vision. It endeavors to promote the dissemination, adoption, use and implementation of the Earth Charter and to support the growth and development of the Earth Charter Initiative. ECI was created in 2006 as part of a major reorganization and expansion of Earth Charter activities.

It is important to remember that, although the Earth Charter International Council provides leadership and guidance to the broader Initiative, it does not directly govern or control the Earth Charter Initiative as a whole. The Initiative is not governed in any formal sense. The Council is responsible only for the governance of Earth Charter International.

The following Mission and Vision Statements, Goals and Strategic Objectives were adopted by the ECI Council in 2008

Earth Charter Initiative Mission Statement

The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.

Earth Charter Initiative Vision Statement

We envision individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and multilateral institutions throughout the world, including the United Nations General Assembly and UN agencies, acknowledging the Earth Charter, embracing its values and principles, and working collaboratively to build just, sustainable, and peaceful societies.

Earth Charter International Organizational Vision

Over the next five years, we envision creating high quality communications and education resources that reach millions of people, promoting a systematic way of understanding the fundamental challenges of our time, catalyzing thousands of initiatives in support of the Earth Charter's objectives, and inspiring hope.

Over the next five years, we envision bringing the Earth Charter and its ethical values and principles into strategically chosen events, processes, and initiatives involving civil society, business, youth and government.

We envision accomplishing these goals as a small, efficient organization that works in partnership with individuals, affiliates, task forces, other organizations, and governments.

Goals:

1. To raise awareness worldwide of the Earth Charter and to promote understanding of its inclusive ethical vision.
2. To seek recognition and endorsement of the Earth Charter by individuals, organizations, and the United Nations.
3. To promote the use of the Earth Charter as an ethical guide and the implementation of its principles by civil society, business, and government.
4. To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, religious communities, local communities, and many other settings.

5. To promote recognition and use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.

Strategic Objectives:

- To promote development of a global network of Earth Charter supporters and activists with the collaboration of advisors, affiliates, partner organizations, and task forces.
- To create and disseminate high quality communications and educational materials to different target groups that will reach millions of people.
- To translate key Earth Charter materials in all major languages of the world.
- To set up Earth Charter websites in all countries in partnership with local leaders and established organizations.
- To promote the Earth Charter vision in local, national and international events and engage individuals and organizations in applying it in their areas of activity.
- To position the Earth Charter in relation to important international initiatives and processes so that its ethical framework can be used as a guide in efforts to address urgent challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, the Millennium Development Goals, food security, and conflict resolution.
- To undertake training programmes to facilitate the uptake and application of the Earth Charter in different sectors.
- To develop the guidance and instruments to help organizations, businesses, and local communities use the Earth Charter to assess progress toward sustainable development.

Roles of Major Actors

1. Earth Charter Commission

The Commission is the custodian of the Earth Charter text. Commission members advise and support the Earth Charter Initiative and act as Ambassadors for the Earth Charter.

Following the launch of the Earth Charter in 2000, the Commission turned over responsibility for the oversight of the Earth Charter Initiative and fundraising to a Steering Committee. In 2006 the Steering Committee was replaced by the ECI Council.

2. ECI Council

The ECI Council oversees the work of the Earth Charter International Secretariat. It sets major goals, policies, and strategies for ECI, and provides guidance and leadership to the broader Initiative. The ECI Council is not a legally incorporated entity. The Council elects its own members in consultation with members of the global network of Earth Charter supporters.

3. ECI Secretariat

The ECI Secretariat, which is based at the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica, endeavours to promote the mission, vision, strategies and policies adopted by the ECI Council. It supports the work of the Council, assists with strategic planning and coordinates many Earth Charter activities. The Secretariat guides and liaises with efforts to bring the Earth Charter to the fields of education, youth, business and religion, manages communications with the larger Earth Charter network, and promotes the use of the Earth Charter as an international soft law document.

4. Task Forces

The ECI Council has identified six focus areas, including Business, Education, Communications and Media, Religion, Spirituality and Ethics, the United Nations and Global Governance, and Youth, and has encouraged the formation of task forces designed to operate as independed volunteer networks that promote Earth Charter activities in these areas. Task forces are organized as networks of committed activists with a minimum of administrative structure. The ECI Council periodically reviews the progress and work of each task force. The Secretariat provides some basic services in support of the task forces, but ECI does not direct, manage, or fund the work of the task forces. One major purpose of the task forces is to catalyze the development of multiple, small, independent action groups.

5. Action Groups

Action Groups are small, independent teams of volunteers committed to advancing the Earth Charter's mission and goals in a specific area such as the arts, business, education, youth, religion or government. Action groups are entrepreurial, imaginative and creative in developing and implementing their own strategies, keeping administration to a minimum. An action group concentrates its efforts working within a specific organization, institution or community where the members of the groups have connections and are able to easily engage others with the Earth Charter.

6. Advisors

ECI Advisors are individuals who are formally recognized as sources of expert advice and support for the ECI Council and Secretariat. Individuals are invited to become advisors based on their commitment to the Earth Charter, their capacity to actively provide advice and support for the ECI Council, the Secretariat and the task forces, and where relevant, their organizational affiliation. Advisors are appointed by the executive director of the Secretariat.

7. Ambassadors

The members of the Earth Charter Commission serve as ambassadors for the Earth Charter. From time to time, the Council may wish to appoint eminent public figures as additional ambassadors or official representatives to assist ECI with specific issues for a period or in connection with a particular event or a series of events. The executive director of the Secretariat may make such appointments in consultation with the ECI Council co-chairs. Ambassadors may include, for example, well-known performing artists, current or former heads of state, prominent business leaders, Nobel Prize winners or well-known civil society leaders.

8. Affiliates

ECI Affiliates are individuals or organizations that share the Earth Charter vision and are committed to promoting the Earth Charter and helping implement ECI strategies in their countries. Affiliates enter into a formal agreement with Earth Charter International to be an active source of Earth Charter information and activity in their country. The ECI Secretariat coordinates activities with Affiliates and provides them with guidance and resource materials. There may be more than one Affiliate in a country. Decisions about designating Affiliates are made by the ECI Secretariat. When a new Affiliate is being created in country where there already exist one or more Affiliates, the existing Affiliates may be consulted. Affiliates agree to maintain close communications contact with Earth Charter International and to provide reports of important Earth Charter-related activity happening in their regions. Similarly, ECI agrees to keep Affiliates informed of key decisions and events that affect them and to provide them with some level of guidance, strategic advice, and communications support (the level of which is dependent on resource availability).

9. Partner Organizations

Strategic Partners are organizations whose activities are directly and programmatically supportive to the Earth Charter and the Earth Charter Initiative, or whose activities are in harmony with Earth Charter principles. These will mostly be international organizations, but they may also be nationally or locally focused. Partner Organizations enter into a formal agreement (a Memorandum of Understanding, Letter of Agreement, or some other formal acknowledgement) with Earth Charter International on specific projects that describe how the Partner will work to support and promote the Earth Charter and how Earth Charter International will support them.

Among the ECI partners is Earth Charter Associates, Ltd. (ECA). ECA is a legally incorporated entity based in the United States that has been created to provide legal and fundraising support for ECI. For more information, see Section X

10. Endorsers

An Endorser is any individual or an organization that formally expresses their support and commitment to the spirit and aims of the Earth Charter document. The category of Endorser is open to organizations of any size as well as to individuals. The ECI Secretariat has actively sought the endorsement of major international and national organizations (see more information on endorsement in page 41)

11. Supporters and volunteers

Volunteers and Supporters are endorsers who commit and donate resources - time, expertise, money, equipment, office space, staff support, public promotion, etc. -in support of the Earth Charter Initiative. Supporters may include organizations and government agencies. Volunteers include engaged individual activists and members of affiliates or partner organizations, task forces, and action groups. Supporters or Volunteers do have the right to identify themselves as a "Supporter of the Earth Charter Initiative" or a "Volunteer for the Earth Charter Initiative".

Earth Charter Initiative
A Global Network



EC refers to Earth Charter.

ECI refers to Earth Charter International, which includes the Council and the Secretariat.

There are 22 ECI Coucil members, 19 Advisors, 110 Afiliates and 70 Youth Groups and 863 Volunteers in 70 countries.

Over 5,000 organizations have endorsed the Earth Charter.

three

III. The Earth Charter Commission Members

Africa and the Middle East

Amadou Toumani Touré, Mali (Co-chair)
HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal, Jordan
Wangari Maathai, Kenya
Mohamed Sahnoun, Algeria

Asia and the Pacific

A.T. Ariyaratne, Sri Lanka
Kamla Chowdhry, India (Co-chair) In memoriam
Wakako Hironaka, Japan
Pauline Tangiora, New Zealand/Aotearoa,
Erna Witoelar, Indonesia

Europe

Mikhail Gorbachev, Russia (Co-chair)
Pierre Calame, France
Ruud Lubbers, The Netherlands
Federico Mayor, Spain
Henriette Rasmussen, Greenland
Awraham Soeterndorp, The Netherlands

Latin America and the Caribbean

Mercedes Sosa, Argentina,(Co-chair) In memoriam
Leonardo Boff, Brazil
Yolanda Kakabadse, Ecuador
Shridath Ramphal, Guyana

North America

Maurice F. Strong, Canada, (Co-chair)
John Hoyt, United States
Elizabeth May, Canada
Steven C. Rockefeller, United States
Severn Cullis Suzuki, Canada

four

IV. ECI Council Members, Secretariat Staff, Advisors and Partners

ECI Council

Brendan Mackey, Australia (Co-Chair)
Razeena Omar, South Africa (Co-Chair)
Steven C. Rockefeller, United States (Co-Chair)

Zainab Bangura, Sierra Leone
Mateo A. Castillo Ceja, Mexico
Rick Clugston, United States
Marianella Curi, Bolivia
Camila Argolo Godinho, Brazil *
Wakako Hironaka, Japan
Barbro Holmberg, Sweden
Li Lailai, Peoples Republic of China
Song Li, Peoples Republic of China/USA
Alexander Likhotal, Russia / Switzerland ^
Oscar Motomura, Brazil
Dumisani Nyoni, Zimbabwe *
Alide Roerink, The Netherlands
Mohamed Sahnoun, Algeria
Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, India
Tommy Short, United States ^
Mary Evelyn Tucker, United States
Mirian Vilela, Brazil <
Erna Witoelar, Indonesia

* Youth Rep.
^ Founding organizations
< Ex-officio

ECI Secretariat

Earth Charter International Secretariat and
Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE - San José, Costa Rica

Mirian Vilela, Executive Director
Marina Bakhnova, Project Coordinator
Alicia Jimenez, Project Coordinator
Betty McDermott, Project Coordinator
Jaana Laitinen, International Youth Facilitator

Advisors

Alan AtKisson, United States/Sweden
Peter Blaze Corcoran, United States
Abelardo Brenes, Costa Rica
Moacir Gadotti, Brazil
Herbert Girardet, United Kingdom
Edgar Gonzalez-Gaudiano, Mexico
Parvez Hassan, Pakistan
Ryokichi Hirono, Japan
Calestous Juma, Kenya/United States
Rustem Khairov, Russia
Amory Lovins, United States
Jim MacNeill, Canada
Herman Mulder, The Netherlands
Maria Novo, Spain
Jan Pronk, The Netherlands

Edmund O'Sullivan, Canada

Jacob Soetendorp, Institute for Human Values

Jan Roberts, United States

Nick Robinson, United States

Hans van Ginkel, The Netherlands

Moema Vizzer, Brazil

Partner Organizations (partial list)

Amana-Key, Brazil

Center for Environment Education, India

Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education,
Florida Gulf Coast University, United States

Earth Charter Associates, Ltd., United States

Ecumenical One World Initiative, Germany

Ethos Institute, Brazil

Forum on Religion and Ecology, United States

Global Reporting Initiative

Green Cross International

Heart in Action Enterprises, International

Itaipu, Brazil

Jacob Soetendorp, Institute for Human Values

Ministry of Environment, Brazil

Ministry of Environment, Mexico

National Committee for International Cooperation
and Sustainable Development, The Netherlands

Peace Child International

Taking it Global, International

Transformative Learning Centre, Ontario Institute
for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada

University for Peace, Costa Rica

University for International Cooperation, Costa Rica

five

V. ECI Finances

Earth Charter International is supported by the contribution of financial resources and various other resources and services by individuals, foundations, government agencies, and other institutions. There are several ways in which financial contributions can be made.

Financial contributions in support of Earth Charter International (ECI) may be made to the Earth Charter Fund in a special Earth Charter bank account managed by the University for Peace in Costa Rica. Financial contributions may also be made to the Earth Charter Fund at *The Philanthropic Collaborative* managed by *Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.* (RPA) based in New York City, USA. RPA is a non profit organization (501(c)(3) that provides philanthropic, financial and administrative services to individual donors, foundations, and a variety of non-profit organizations. On behalf of Earth Charter International, Earth Charter Associates, Ltd. engages the services of RPA.

Donors to ECI can make contributions to these two Earth Charter funds through the Earth Charter website using a credit card donation system (http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/pages/Donate.html).

Donations in support of ECI are used to cover the operating expenses of the ECI Secretariat. The bank records and transfer records of the two accounts in Costa Rica and New York are professionally maintained and are annually audited by an outside professional auditor.

The financial management of ECI is overseen by the ECI Council. The ECI Council approves an annual operating Budget for ECI. The ECI Secretariat is responsible for operating within the approved budget, for preparing financial reports and keeping the Council fully informed regarding financial affairs. The ECI Council Resource Mobilization Committee directs ECI fundraising efforts and seeks the contribution of other essential resources.

When making a contribution to the Earth Charter Fund at the University for Peace in Costa Rica in support of ECI, notification should be sent to Mirian Vilela, Executive Director of the ECI Secretariat (donation@earthcharter.org). The following information should be used for transferring contributions, including electronic cash transfers to Earth Charter International in Costa Rica.

Name of Bank:	Banco Nacional de Costa Rica
Address of Bank:	Avenida Central, Calle 4 y 6, San José, Costa Rica
Swift Code:	BNCRCRSJ
Account Name:	University for Peace/Earth Charter
Account Number:	100-02-099-600115-2

Financial contributions to the Earth Charter Fund at RPA can be sent to the following bank account in New York. An e-mail should be sent to Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors noting the transfer, attention Chris Page: cpage@rpa.com.

Name of Bank:	JP Morgan/Chase Private Banking
Address of Bank:	1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 - USA
Contact:	Matthew Ingram, 212/789-5686
ABA No.:	021 000021
Swift No.:	CHASUS33 (for international transfers)
Account Name:	Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.
Account No.:	031-1-144166

2009 Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES - 2009

1 January - 31 December 2009

Income	USD	USD
Foundation Grants		
Plan Netherlands - General Support		32,107
Major Individual Donors		
Seaward Fund, RPA^	233,339	
Ruud Lubbers	69,639	302,978
Affiliates		
NCDO		14,657
Small Donors (Less than USD 10,000)		6,716
International Agencies		
European Commission/Brighton University - Restricted		14,422
Return on invested fund/ Interest Income		423
Other/Miscellaneous		0
Total Cash Income		**371,303**
In-Kind Support		
Amana-Key (O. Motomura)		40,000
University for Peace		55,000
NCDO		8,000
Total In-Kind Support		**103,000**
Total Income		**474,303**

^ *The Seaward Fund is a donor-advised fund in The Philanthropic Collaborative managed by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors in New York City.*

Expenses	USD	USD
Salaries and Professional Services		183,732
Strategic, Program, and Communications Consulting Support		7,229
Youth Program (Restricted Funding)		32,352
Religion Program (Restricted Funding)		33,721
European Commission/Brighton University (Restricted Funding)		14,422
RBF - Education Resource - Program Development		684
Telecommunications & Internet		10,964
Translation Services		5,987
Travel		13,641
Council of Trustees Expenses (Travel and Meeting Costs)		8,970
Events and Meetings		4,435
Office (Rent, Equipment, Security, and Expenses)		5,668
Publications Development		120
Printing and Postage		8,799
Financial Expenses		284
Miscellaneous		6,564
Financial Consultant, ECA		5,000
Legal Expenses, ECA		30,177
Fund Management Expenses, ECA & RPA		4,398
Total Cash Expenses		**377,147**
In-Kind Services		
Website Technical Support		15,000
ECI Council Meeting Expenses		12,000
TV Video Spot		13,000
Office Space, HR & Financial Services		49,000
Computer Support		6,000
Climate Change Video, EC+10 Logo & Communication		8,000
Total In-Kind Services		**103,000**
Total Expenses		**480,147**
SURPLUS / DEFICIT		**-5,844**

Earth Charter International
STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES
As of December 31, 2009

Assets:	USD
RPA / Earth Charter Fund Balance	$ 57,724
UPEACE / Earth Charter Account Balance	$ 30,613
	$ 88,337
Liabilities:	
2009 Outstanding Legal Bills	1,571
Net available assets	$ 86,766
Restricted & Unrestricted Balances:	
General Fund	$ 86,766

2010 Budget

The ECI Secretariat conducts a highly efficient operation with a small staff of five members and a very tight budget. The relatively small budget for the Secretariat is not an accurate indicator of the extent of ECI activity. In addition to the international outreach of the Secretariat staff itself, many ECI Council members and other Earth Charter supporters, including affiliates and partner organizations, contribute a great deal of time and a variety of office services in support of the work of ECI. This network of support constitutes in effect an extended Secretariat.

All legal and financial issues pertaining to staff contracts and payments for staff and services are handled administratively by the Human Resources and Finance Departments at the University for Peace. In this regard, the ECI Secretariat follows the administrative procedures of UPEACE. UPEACE contributes these and other services in support of ECI.

Earth Charter International Budget for 2010 in US$	
Description	**Total**
Salaries, Professional Services and Related Expenses	210,639
Employment Related Insurance	24,000
Strategic, Program, and Communications Consulting	30,000
Office Construction (Restricted Funding)	44,300
Telecommunications & Internet Support	20,000
Translation Services	10,000
Travel	25,000
Council of Trustees Expenses (Travel and Meeting Costs)	35,000
Events and Meetings	45,000
Office (Rent, Equipment, Security, and Expenses)	8,500
Printing and Postage	15,000

Earth Charter International Budget for 2010 in US$	
Description	**Total**
Financial Expenses	600
Miscellaneous	6,000
Religion Program (Completed 2009)	0
Earth Charter Associates Expenses	5,000
Legal Expenses, ECA & ECI	5,000
Fund Management Expenses, RPA	0
Total Cash Expenses	**484,039**

six

VI. ECI Strategy & Focus Areas

Decentralized Empowerment

"Decentralized Empowerment for Scaling Up" is the short name given to a set of policy directives and decisions originally taken at the Third Meeting of the ECI Council held in 2007. The purpose of the strategy is to enable the massive expansion of the Earth Charter Initiative without having to grow the central administration, and to allow for a vast number of self-organizing, independent efforts to multiply and grow.

In support of this new strategy, the following documents have been prepared and posted on the ECI website:

- Action Guidelines for Decentralized Expansion of the Earth Charter Initiative
- How You Can Participate

Following these guidelines, any person, small group, organization, or community can make use of the Earth Charter and put it to work in appropriate ways commensurate with their capacities and opportunities.

ECI's central administration maintains the website and the various registration mechanisms, but attempts to reduce to a minimum the amount of administrative work associated with this strategy.

Action Guidelines for Decentralized Expansion of the Earth Charter Initiative

Introduction

Earth Charter International (ECI) encourages everyone inspired by the Earth Charter to contribute to the goals of the Earth Charter Initiative. Your active participation and support are needed. In this connection, ECI is in the process of scaling-up the Initiative worldwide by promoting decentralized activity and the empowerment of individuals, small groups, organizations and communities.

As ECI pursues this strategy, it will continue to promote the Earth Charter through various formal international processes and a limited number of projects. However, this strategy is necessary because the Earth Charter International secretariat is only able to organize and direct a small portion of the wide range of actions needed to implement the Earth Charter vision.

The Action Guidelines presented below are a resource designed to help people conduct Earth Charter related activities in ways that are in harmony with the values and principles of the Earth Charter.

The purpose of the Action Guidelines is also to ensure a certain measure of consistency in how decentralized actions on behalf of the Earth Charter are carried out. Think of the Guidelines as a kind of virtual

coordinating mechanism for the Earth Charter Initiative as it prepares for a rapid decentralized expansion that could involve the actions of many millions of people worldwide.

The Action Guidelines are addressed first and foremost to individuals. The full implementation of many principles in the Earth Charter will require action on the part of governments, corporations, and other organizations. However, the commitment of individuals is the ultimate source of leadership and change for a better world and the contributions of all people in all sectors is essential.

The Action Guidelines are not fixed and final. The Earth Charter International Council will periodically review them in the light of lessons learned from efforts to apply the Earth Charter in different regions and sectors. The Council welcomes any comments and suggestions you may have regarding them.

The Action Guidelines

1. *Start with the Earth Charter.* Let the Earth Charter be your basic guide when you are planning and undertaking activities to make the Earth Charter vision a reality.
2. *Be a Living Example.* Strive to be a living example of the spirit of the Earth Charter in your day-to-day life – at home, in the work place, and in your community.
3. *Empower Yourself.* Act boldly, and trust that you can make a difference as an individual and that your activities will catalyze the efforts of many others.
4. *Cooperate, Cooperate.* Create the power to affect change by building partnerships and collaborating with others, and seek win/win solutions.
5. *Empower Others.* Share power by being inclusive and providing others with opportunities to strengthen their capacities for problem solving, decision-making, and leadership, unleashing human creativity.
6. *Promote Respect and Understanding.* Endeavor to build relationships of mutual respect and trust among individuals and groups from diverse cultures and communities, and resolve differences through dialogue in a way that produces learning and growth.
7. *Facilitate Self-Organization.* Facilitate the spread of initiatives inspired by the Earth Charter without trying to control them, counting on the capacity of human groups with a clear ethical purpose to self-organize and achieve positive outcomes.
8. *Focus on Root Causes.* Focus thought and action on the root causes of the major problems and challenges facing humanity, and do not let the pressures of existing unsustainable systems and practices deter you from action.
9. *Be Committed Yet Flexible.* Be unwavering in your commitment to fundamental principles and ensure that the means adopted to achieve your goals are consistent with Earth Charter values, but always be flexible and innovative in selecting means and methods as circumstances change.
10. *Be Resourceful.* Do not let your thinking and acting be restricted by dependence on money; use your imagination and be resourceful in making things happen.
11. *Use Technology Wisely.* Be mindful that large numbers of people do not have access to advanced technology, and when constructing technological solutions to problems ensure that they are appropriate.
12. *Protect the Integrity of the Charter.* When presenting, quoting from, or translating the Earth Charter

be faithful to the words and spirit of the original text, and link the Charter only with organizations, products and events that are consistent with its values and vision.

How you can participate in the Earth Charter Initiative

1. Disseminate the Earth Charter and raise awareness about it among your friends and in your local community.

2. Endorse the Earth Charter and encourage the organizations to which you belong and your local and national governments to use and endorse the Earth Charter.

3. Start an Earth Charter study group and explore how to use the Earth Charter and apply its principles in your home, work place, and local community.

4. Start a small, independent action group for advancing the Earth Charter's mission and goals. Earth Charter action groups are encouraged to be entrepreneurial, imaginative and creative in developing and implementing their own strategies. Action groups should be action orientated. Two or three people can together create an action group. Consider focusing the initial efforts of your action group in a specified area such as the arts, business, education, the media, religion or government. An action group should concentrate its efforts working within a specific organization, institution, or community where the members of the group have good connections and are able to easily engage others with the Earth Charter. Action groups should endeavor to inspire others to form additional action groups. Over time an action group may want to expand its own network and also build connections with other Earth Charter groups and activities.

5. Help the work of one of the Earth Charter Initiative focus areas – Education; Business; Communications and Media; Religion, Spirituality and Ethics; Youth and United Nations and Global Governance.

6. Collaborate with Earth Charter Partners and Affiliates and with other organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter in your region.

7. Make financial contributions or provide other resources and needed services in support of Earth Charter International and other Earth Charter projects.

8. Consult and follow the Action Guidelines for Decentralized Expansion of the Earth Charter Initiative, which may be found on the Earth Charter website.

There are many ways to use the Earth Charter in schools, businesses, governments, NGOs, conferences, and public events. For example, it can be used as:

- an educational tool for developing understanding of the critical challenges and choices facing humanity and the meaning of a sustainable way of living.
- a call to action and an ethical guide to a sustainable way of life that can inspire commitment, cooperation, and change.
- a values framework to guide governments at all levels in the design of policies and strategies for building a just, sustainable and peaceful world.

- a comprehensive framework for defining corporate social and ecological responsibility and formulating related mission statements and professional codes of conduct.
- a catalyst for multi-sectoral, cross-cultural and interreligious dialogue on common goals, shared values and global ethics.
- a soft law document that provides an ethical foundation for the on-going development of environmental and sustainable development law.
- an instrument for assessing progress toward the goal of sustainability.

Earth Charter Initiative Focus Areas – A Brief Overview

As part of a new long range plan that is based on the principle of decentralized empowerment and is designed to rapidly expand Earth Charter activities around the world, the Earth Charter International (ECI) Council approved in its May 2008 annual meeting, the creation of six focus areas, some of which function with independent task forces mainly. Each of these independent task forces is committed to promoting special projects, developing a network of activists, and catalyzing the creation of a number of independent, volunteer action groups in one of the following focus areas:

Business
Education
Communications and Media
Religion, Spirituality and Ethics
United Nations and Global Governance
Youth

These six focus areas were chosen because they provide significant opportunities for using the Earth Charter strategically to advance the transition to sustainable ways of living. In most of these six areas, there are already a number of promising activities and projects on which the task forces can build. In all these areas there is also the potential for interest in the Earth Charter to spread quite spontaneously or organically beyond the initial catalyzing effect of the task forces. ECI also encourages the creation of independent task forces and action groups in other areas of professional and cultural activity such as the arts, sciences, and different spheres of government.

The six task forces created in 2008 have been designed to operate as volunteer networks that will lead to independent initiatives. They have been conceptualized by the ECI Council and launched by various ECI Council members. The ECI Council periodically reviews the progress and work of each task force. However, the ECI Council and the ECI Secretariat do not direct, manage nor fund the work of these task forces. The Secretariat provides some basic services in support of their work. The Secretariat may also play a role in advancing the work of some task forces when it has the expertise and resources to be helpful as in the cases, for example, of education and youth where the Secretariat plays an active leading role. It is expected that the task force leadership teams include many individuals who are not members of the ECI Council, and that other organizations provide services for the task forces, thereby giving further effect to the concept of an "extended secretariat".

Earth Charter International has a keen interest in youth participation and thus intergenerational partnership is a highly encouraged approach in each focus area. Therefore each focus area is expected to involve youth as much as possible , given that this will strengthen intergenerational equity, communication and learning between different generations.

The decentralized empowerment strategy, which includes establishment of these independent task forces and the encouragement of self-directed action groups, is based on recognition that the Earth Charter Initiative is a network and not a formally incorporated non-governmental organization (NGO). It is not possible for the Earth Charter Initiative to expand its influence around the world and realize its mission if it is conceived as a conventional organization where all activities are directed and controlled by one organization, the ECI Secretariat. Given the Earth Charter's mission it would be impossible for even a large NGO to oversee the activities of the global Earth Charter Initiative and the cost and complexity of attempting such an undertaking would be extraordinary. It would be an impossible task and an unwise plan.

In actuality the Earth Charter Initiative has developed as a network of thousands of individuals and organizations that sometimes collaborate and often act independently. The ECI Council establishes policies and strategies for the ECI Secretariat and these policies and strategies also provide some guidance for the larger network that forms the Earth Charter Initiative. The small Secretariat provides a limited number of core services such as management of the international website and preparation of basic materials and resources. The offices of a number of ECI Council members already support and assist the Secretariat and constitute an extended Secretariat office in different regions of the world.

The leadership of each task force is envisioned to be a team of approximately two to ten individuals. The purpose of each task force is to catalyze new Earth Charter activity and to promote a dramatic expansion of the Earth Charter network, including the formation of hundreds of small action groups. Each task force begins its work by clarifying the distinctive contribution the Earth Charter can make in its area and the niche that the Earth Charter can appropriately fill. It is also necessary to develop a plan of action with short and long range goals and strategies for achieving these goals. The task force then enlists the volunteer leadership and support needed to implement its plans and must mobilize the necessary resources. Each task force becomes its own network of Earth Charter ambassadors and activists.

As part of the new long range plan, the ECI Council in 2008 also approved two other projects that involve improving the current worldwide web platform of the Earth Charter Initiative and preparing the communications materials, including books, brochures, and films, required to support expansion of the Initiative in the areas on which the task forces are focused. The Secretariat assists with these two projects. The worldwide web platform involves establishing local websites throughout the world in the appropriate languages. By 2010, 42 national websites in local languages had been created by the Secretariat. These local websites are equipped with the same basic information about the Earth Charter and the Initiative, and they are set up in such a way that further information relevant to the local situation can be added.

Business

Recognizing the need for new collaborative forms of governance, the Earth Charter states: "A partnership of government, civil society, and business is essential for effective governance" (The Way Forward). In accord with this principle, ECI has adopted a strategy for engaging businesses in the Earth Charter Initiative. In 2007 and 2008 the ECI Council developed and adopted guidelines for the engagement of businesses with the Earth Charter Initiative. (See Chapter VII) In addition, in 2008 a Business Task Force was created to take the lead in implementing the strategy for this focus area. The ECI Secretariat provides limited assistance. It encourages businesses to endorse and use the Earth Charter, and it provides some resources that businesses may find useful. However, the Secretariat staff does not have the primary responsibility for implementing this initiative, and it does not monitor the participation of individual businesses.

A major part of the ECI strategy for engaging business involves working in partnership with business leaders and building alliances with business related initiatives, such as the UN Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). In the context of these alliances, business leaders are invited to use the Earth Charter as a common ethical framework in their dialogue with civil society actors and other stakeholders. Businesses that support the Earth Charter, but do not yet participate in GRI are encouraged to do so.

After extensive research and dialogue, ECI, in cooperation with the Dutch National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO), has developed a Guidance Paper that responds to questions about how the Earth Charter relates to other leading global initiatives such as the UN Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). This paper is designed to help Earth Charter users and those using the GRI and Global Compact to understand the synergies and complementary strengths of these three initiatives. It endeavors to explain how businesses can integrate the Earth Charter into the reporting processes organized by GRI and other similar efforts. ECI places special emphasis in its work with businesses on the value of adopting GRI guidelines. An alliance with GRI has been developed along these lines.

The ECI encourages all businesses to use the Earth Charter in one or more of the following ways:

Engage employees with the Earth Charter for the purpose of learning, training, and inspiration.

Assess the activities of the business in the light of Earth Charter values and principles, using the Global Reporting Initiative's Guidelines.

Incorporate Earth Charter values and principles in the business mission statement and its core operations with the goal of developing a more socially and ecologically responsible business.

ECI will not attempt to create a special administrative staff for this focus area, nor will it monitor individual business participation. Instead, ECI will develop resources that will be made available via the website, and encourage businesses to participate in this focus area by endorsing the Earth Charter, making use of the resources, and taking actions of the kind described above.

A task force to help implement the Earth Charter strategy in the field of business is being put in place. See the Principles for Engaging Business in the Earth Charter Initiative in Section VII.

For more information about the current work of this Task Force contact:
Alide Roerink
NCDO, The Netherlands
Email: e.charter@ncdo.nl

Oscar Motomura
Amana key, Brazil
Email: motomura@amana-key.com.br

Education

Education is fundamental to the mission of Earth Charter Initiative and ECI has, therefore, created the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at the University for Peace in Costa Rica.

The Center's mission is to promote the use of the Earth Charter in schools, colleges, universities, business activities, and non-formal education programmes throughout the world and to contribute to education for a sustainable way of life. A task force has been put in place to help implement the education strategy, and it works in close collaboration with the Center.

The Center pursues the following strategies:

1. Outreach to educators via education networks.

2. Promotion of formal institutional adoption and implementation of Education for Sustainable Development, with the Earth Charter as primary reference document.

3. Development of courses and materials to be disseminated through education and environment ministries and key strategic partnerships.

4. Coordination and support of a network of organizations and individuals using the Earth Charter as an educational tool.

5. Research and evaluation of the uses of the Earth Charter in education, training and public awareness.

The Center is an active partner of UNESCO in supporting the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and the UNESCO Education Sector recently published a book prepared by the Center entitled *Good practices using the Earth Charter.*

The two volumen *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosopy* (Macmillan Reference USA, 2009) recognizes the Earth Charter as one of the ten "Primary Sources" for this whole field of research, writing and teaching. In short, the Earth Charter is well established as a primary reference document for scholars, working in the field of environmental ethics and philosophy.

For more information about the current work of this Task Force contact:
Rick Clugston
Forum on Religion and Ecology, USA
Email: rmclugston@aol.com

Mirian Vilela
Earth Charter International Secretariat, Costa Rica
Email: info@earthcharter.org

Communications and Media

A Communications and Media Task Force was created in 2009 and has adopted the following mission statement and action plan.

Mission: Through a global communications campaign touch hearts and move minds around the world, inspiring people individually and collectively to transform their way of thinking, becoming living examples of the Earth Charter, reflecting and acting for all - humanity, life and Earth.

The task force envisions global alliances being formed with the most powerful media organizations and these organizations working collaboratively with the task force to help promote the rapid, worldwide adoption of Earth Charter values leading to establishment of an urgently needed ethical foundation for the emerging global community.

The major goal of the Communications and Media Task Force is to help implement the ECI Council's first goal: To raise awareness worldwide of the Earth Charter and to promote understanding of its inclusive ethical vision. In accord with the goal, the objectives of the task force are:

1. To introduce the Earth Charter to millions of people in different cultures and nations and in all parts of society.
2. To raise awareness of the urgent need for a shared ethical framework that can guide humanity in addressing the critical environmental and social challenges it faces in the 21st Century.
3. To inspire a transformation of values and attitudes at all levels of society and from the youngest to the most influential decision makers.
4. To motivate people to take positive action that contributes to the building of a just, sustainable and peaceful global community.

For more information about the current work of this Task Force contact:
Fernanda Baumhardt
ECI Communications Task Force, Brazil
Email: fernanda.baumhardt@mac.com

Alide Roerink
NCDO, The Netherlands
Email: e.charter@ncdo.nl

Religion, Spirituality and Ethics

In early 2009, as part of the ECI decentralization strategy, a task force on Religion, Spirituality and Ethics was formed. This task force aims to engage a broad range of individuals, institutions, and organizations concerned with religion, spirituality and ethics, to use the Earth Charter in their efforts toward creating a just, peaceful, and sustainable future for the Earth Community.

In particular, the task force is reaching out to:

1) Leaders of religious institutions and communities

2) Scholars and theologians of the world's religions as well as ethicists

3) Individuals and organizations interested in linking religion, spirituality, and ethics to issues of sustainability

The task force is developing a set of resources for religious, spiritual and ethical groups that have endorsed the Earth Charter.

This task force is led and supported by the following individuals and their respective organization:

Mary Evelyn Tucker
Forum on Religion and Ecology
Yale University, New Haven, Ct., USA, http://fore.research.yale.edu/religion/

Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp,
Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values
The Hague, The Netherlands, www.soetendorpinstitute.org

The Task Force Action Plan can be found on the Earth Charter website. For more information about the current work of this task force contact:

Rick Clugston, PhD
Earth Charter coordinator
Forum on Religion and Ecology
Email: rmclugston@aol.com

Michael C. Slaby, M.A.
Earth Charter Program Coordinator
Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values
Email: mslaby@soetendorp.org

United Nations and Global Governance

The purpose of ECI activity in this focus area is to achieve recognition of the Earth Charter by the United Nations General Assembly and to demonstrate the relevance of the Earth Charter's values and principles to global governance. For that a United Nations Task Force was created in 2008 and has adopted three strategic objectives:

1. Climate Change Project—to promote use of the Earth Charter's ethical framework in the international climate change negotiations on a post-Kyoto Agreement.
2. Endorsement by UN Agencies—to seek recognition and use of the Earth Charter by UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, and the UN regional economic commissions.
3. UDHR Project—to further collaboration between the Earth Charter Initiative and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For more information about the current work of this task force contact:
Brendan Mackey
ECI Council Co-Chair and Professor at Australia National University

Mirian Vilela
Earth Charter International Secretariat, Costa Rica
Email: info@earthcharter.org

Youth

Actively engaging youth in the Earth Charter Initiative is a key priority for the Earth Charter Initiative; therefore ECI Secretariat has undertaken special efforts in empowering young leaders from around the world in incorporating the Earth Charter as part of their activities. One approach has been in inviting interested individuals and organizations to organize Earth Charter Youth Groups, another approach has been on capacity building for young leaders. For instance, e-GLO, Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity, is a semester-long, online leadership course on youth leadership and the Earth Charter offered since 2008 as a collaborative project between Earth Charter International and BeatBoard's (implemented in Heart In Action Enterprise's interactive virtual platform called "secured multimedia communication).

As part of the Earth Charter Initiative there is a bold, diverse and dynamic action-oriented youth network that promotes the principles of the Earth Charter among young people. This youth network involves active young people from over 100 countries, with more than 70 *Earth Charter Youth Groups* (ECYGs) and numerous partners around the world.

Earth Charter Youth Groups organize local sustainability and peace building projects to bring the Earth Charter alive. Diverse individual members seek to embody the Earth Charter's principles in their daily lives, share the Charter with others, and participate in local action projects, as well as global decision-making processes. For more on this see EC Youth Groups profiles, http://ecyg.wikispaces.com/.

It is hoped that an increasing number of young people will embrace the Earth Charter and incorporate it as part of their activities, studies, discussion groups, workshops or work, and that more young people will be involved in other focus areas.

For more information please contact:
ECI Youth Facilitator based in the Secretariat, at: youthcoordinator[@]earthcharter.org

Resource Mobilization by Affiliates, Partners, Task Forces and Action Groups

1. As a general rule, Earth Charter task forces and action groups should rely on volunteers and existing resources of involved individuals and supporting organization, therefore it should minimize the need to raise funds by securing the donation of needed services and other necessary resources. The ideal is to operate without dependence on money.
2. The ECI Logo (dove design) and the titles "Earth Charter International and "Earth Charter Initiative" are registered trademarks and may be used only by ECI or with the authorization of ECI. Affiliates, partners, task forces, and other Earth Charter activists may not use these ECI trademarks in their fundraising materials, brochures, letterhead, posters, websites and videos or in other related ways unless the ECI explicitly authorizes a specific use or written permission has been granted by the executive director of the ECI Secretariat. For more information, see the policy statement on use of the ECI Logo in Chapter VII.
3. The ECI Council and Secretariat do not have the financial resources to fund the work of affiliates, partners, task forces, and action groups.

seven

VII. ECI Council Policy Statements

Guidelines for the Organization and Operation of the ECI Council
Version 2.0, 10 April 2006, revised during ECI Council meeting in May 2008

A. Membership

1. The Council shall have no fewer than 15 members and no more than 25. The membership of the Council shall reflect geographical distribution, cultural diversity, gender and age balance, and diverse spheres of professional expertise relevant to the goals and programmes of the Earth Charter Initiative.
2. Council members shall be elected for a three-year term and may serve two three-year terms after which they may not be reelected to the Council for at least one year. There will be three classes of Council members with staggered terms so as to ensure some continuity in membership.
3. The executive director of the ECI Secretariat shall serve as an ex officio member of the ECI Council with the understanding that he or she may not participate in the deliberations of the Council or vote on matters where there could be a conflict of interest.
4. In the case of any vacancy on the Council for any cause, the Council may elect a new member to hold office for the unexpired term of the Council member whose position has become vacant.

B. Officers

1. The Council shall have a chair or co-chairs and such additional officers as the Council may decide—for example, a vice chair, treasurer, and secretary.
2. Meetings will be chaired by the chair or co-chairs. In the absence of the chair or co-chairs, the vice chair will chair a meeting, if a vice chair has been elected.

C. Meetings

1. The Council shall hold at least one meeting a year at a time and place to be determined by the chair, co-chairs, or Council.
2. Notice of meetings will go out to Council members at least one month prior to the meeting and significantly earlier whenever possible. However, in the case of a special meeting called to address an urgent issue, notice may go out only ten days in advance of the meeting.
3. One of the regular Council meetings will be an annual meeting at which officers (including the chair or co-chairs and the chief executive officer for Earth Charter International) and Council members are elected.
4. Additional meetings of the Council may be called by the chair or co-chairs, the Council, or a group of five or more Council members.

5. The presence at a meeting of half the members of the Council or more shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A Council member participating by telephone conference call shall be considered present.

6. The chair or co-chairs will make every effort to develop a consensus on important issues. When the person chairing a meeting believes that a consensus may have been reached, he/she may call a test vote to determine if all Council members present are in agreement. If a vote reveals that a consensus has been reached, the chair will declare that there is a consensus and the matter has been decided. If the test vote reveals that there is not a consensus, the chair may continue the Council's deliberations on the matter under consideration or postpone further discussion to a later date. If the chair determines that a decision on the matter under consideration must be made without further delay in order to resolve urgent business of Earth Charter International, the chair may put the matter to a formal vote. Under these circumstances, a majority of those present at a meeting is sufficient to approve or defeat a resolution. A formal vote will involve determining those who are in favor, opposed, and abstaining.

7. As a general rule, resolutions proposed for adoption by the Council will be presented to the Council in writing.

8. When there are compelling reasons to do so, Council meetings may be conducted by conference telephone or another similar mode of communication that allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time.

9. As a general rule, when a Council member is not able to attend a meeting, he or she may not send a representative to participate in the Council meeting. However, when there are very compelling reasons to do so, the co-chairs may permit a well qualified representative to attend a meeting with the understanding that the representative will not have a vote.

10. At least once a year, the Council will meet in executive session during one of its meetings.

11. Minutes of each Council meeting will be prepared, distributed to the Council members, and submitted for the members' approval at the next Council meeting.

D. Action by Unanimous Written Consent

1. The Council may take action without a formal meeting at any time by the unanimous written consent of all its members (an e-mail will suffice) to a written resolution authorizing action of the kind that might be taken at a regular meeting.

E. Committees

1. The Council shall appoint an Executive Committee of five to eight members to transact business on behalf on the Council between meetings. The Executive Committee will be chaired by the chair or a co-chair of the Council and will report to the Council on all actions taken by the committee at the next meeting of the Council.

2. The Council shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three to five persons that presents nominations for Council membership.

3. The Council shall create such other committees as the chair, co-chairs, or Council decides are needed. The Council will prepare a written statement of the responsibilities of all committees.

4. The Nominating Committee shall nominate and the Council shall elect at its annual meeting the membership of the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, and any other standing committee. The Nominating Committee will consult with the co-chairs regarding all nominations for membership on all these committees. The Council chair or co-chairs will appoint the members of any ad hoc committee that the chair, co-chairs, or Council creates.

F. Reimbursement of Council Members

1. Members of the Council shall not receive compensation for their service on the Council but may be reimbursed for travel and lodging expenses directly related to Council meetings.

G. Annual Report

1. The Council will issue an annual report on the activities of the Council and Earth Charter International, including a financial report. The annual report will be prepared by the executive director under the oversight of the chair or co-chairs and Council.

Responsibilities of the ECI Council

Version 2.0, 10 April 2006

The Earth Charter International Council (hereafter referred to as "the Council") is responsible for providing leadership in support of the mission of the Earth Charter Initiative, which is to establish a sound ethical foundation for the emerging global society and to help build a sustainable world based on Earth Charter values. The Council has responsibility for overseeing the activities of Earth Charter International Secretariat, which includes the Secretariat and the Center for Education for Sustainable Development at the University for Peace, and for overseeing the progress of the larger Earth Charter Initiative.

More specifically, the responsibilities of the Council and its members are to:

1. Elect the members of the Council.
2. Elect a chair or co-chairs of the Council and such other officers as the Council decides are appropriate, such as a vice chair, treasurer, and secretary.
3. Appoint the Executive Director of Earth Charter International and oversee his or her activities.
4. Appoint an Executive Committee of five to eight members to act on behalf of the Council between meetings and a Nominating Committee of three to five members.
5. Create such other committees as the Council may decide are necessary. The responsibilities of each committee should be carefully defined.
6. Define the mission of the Earth Charter Initiative and issue the mission and vision statements for the Earth Charter Initiative and an organizational vision statement for Earth Charter International.
7. Approve an annual operating budget for Earth Charter International. An operating budget will be prepared by the executive director and submitted to the Council for its review and approval.

8. Set major policies and strategic guidelines for Earth Charter International and approve major plans and partnerships. The executive director and senior management team will bring their recommendations for new policies, strategic guidelines, and partnerships to the Council for approval.
9. Undertake long-range planning, working together with the executive director and senior management team.
10. Approve a resource mobilization strategy to meet the financial needs of Earth Charter International and actively support the efforts of Earth Charter International to mobilize financial and other resources.
11. Promote and monitor an ongoing worldwide, cross cultural dialogue on the Earth Charter and global ethics. Ensure that criticisms and misinterpretations of the Charter are carefully analyzed and that appropriate responses are made to attacks on, or misinformation about, the Earth Charter when a response will serve a good purpose from the perspective of the mission of the Earth Charter Initiative.
12. Ensure that the Earth Charter, the Earth Charter Initiative logo, and the titles "Earth Charter International" and "Earth Charter Initiative" have appropriate legal protection.
13. Provide leadership that keeps the activities of the Council, Earth Charter International, and Earth Charter Initiative in accord with the values of the Earth Charter.
14. Confirm appointment of Earth Charter Ambassadors who have been nominated by the executive management team or Council members.
15. Keep well informed regarding the activities of Earth Charter International and the Earth Charter Initiative.
16. Attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Council.
17. Provide leadership and support for Earth Charter activities locally and regionally and, as appropriate, globally.
18. Be available to provide advice to the Earth Charter International staff.
19. Ensure that the Earth Charter Commission receives the annual report of Earth Charter International and is kept informed of major developments, especially with reference to the dialogue and debate surrounding the Earth Charter document.
20. Prepare and revise as appropriate a set of guidelines for the organization and operation of the Council.

Council Rotation Plan

Council members are elected by the ECI Council to serve a three-year term, and they may be reelected for one additional three-year term, after which they are not eligible to be reelected as a Council member for one year. *The first terms of the founding members of the Council have been designed to end on different years in order to ensure some continuity of membership on the Council.* The years the Council members' first and second term expire are listed below.

2008 (end of first term)

Mateo Castillo (Mexico)
Rick Clugston (United States)
Marianella Curi (Bolivia)
Camila Argolo Godinho (Brazil)
Zainab Bangura (Sierra Leone)
Wakako Hironaka (Japan)

2009 (end of first term)

Li Lailai (Peoples Republic of China)
Song Li (Peoples Republic of China /United States)
Alexander Likhotal, (Russia / Switzerland)
Brendan Mackey (Australia)
Elizabeth May (Canada)
Oscar Motomura (Brazil)
Steven Rockefeller (United States)

2010 (end of first term)

Dumisani Nyoni (Zimbabwe)
Henriette Rasmussen (Greenland)
Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria)
Kartikeya Sarabhai (India)
Tommy Short (United States)
Mary Evelyn Tucker (United States)
Razeena Omar (Republic of South Africa)
Erna Witoelar (Indonesia)

2011 (end of second term)

Zainab Bangura (Sierra Leone)
Mateo Castillo (Mexico)
Rick Clugston (United States)
Marianella Curi (Bolivia)
Camila Argolo Godinho (Brazil)
Wakako Hironaka (Japan)

(end of first term)
Barbro Holmberg (Sweden)
Alide Roerink (The Netherlands)

2012 (end of second term)

Li Lailai (Peoples Republic of China)
Song Li (Peoples Republic of China /United States)
Alexander Likhotal, (Russia / Switzerland)
Brendan Mackey (Australia)
Oscar Motomura (Brazil)
Steven Rockefeller (United States)

2013 (end of second term)

Dumisani Nyoni (Zimbabwe)
Mohammed Sahnoun (Algeria)
Kartikeya Sarabhai (India)
Tommy Short (United States)
Mary Evelyn Tucker (United States)
Razeena Omar (Republic of South Africa)

Process for Election of New Council Members

(Council Action 2007-002)

Council members are elected by the ECI Council to serve a three-year term and may be re-elected for one additional three year term after which they are not eligible to be re-elected as a Council member for one year.

New Council members will be appointed to fill vacancies on the Council, or in order to bring to the Council complementary expertise.

The Council will appoint new members to the Council on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee; The Nominating Committee is a standing committee of the Council.

In appointing new Council members, the Council will endeavour to ensure Council membership is gender balanced, reflects regional diversity, has representatives from the Earth Charter Youth Network and honours the founding organisations, the Earth Council and Green Gross International.

The nomination processes will be as follows:

1. Active participants in the Earth Charter initiative, including Council Members, Affiliates, and Special advisers, will be invited via a general internet communication to recommend candidates to the Nominating Committee.

2. The Nominating Committee will make clear in the internet invitation the characteristics and qualities the Council is seeking in the new member, including considerations of gender, youth, regional and other representation considerations.

3. All recommendations for candidates will be treated in confidence by the Nominating Committee.

4. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for undertaking due diligence on recommended candidates, and where necessary will seek advice from Council members, Special Advisors and Affiliates on the suitability of candidates.

5. The Nominating Committee will nominate a candidate for the Council's approval, and provide them with the reasons for their recommendation.

Procedural Notes:

The nomination processes should be posted on the Earth Charter web site, along with a link to the document that describes the responsibilities of Council members.

An explanatory note should also be added clarifying that Council members are appointed as individuals, not as representatives of any organization with which they are affiliated with the exception of the two founding organizations mentioned above. Similarly, whilst the Council membership should reflect regional diversity, Council members are not appointed nor expected to function as official "regional representatives". However, Council members will be expected to be able to bring to the Council meetings insight into regional issues.

Strategy Guidelines

Version 1.1, 27 April 2006

During this year of transition, Earth Charter International will develop programmes and set priorities based on the following guidelines.

Our programmatic work should seek to:

1. Make the current global imperative for action on sustainable development clear and compelling. The ultimate goal is to change hearts and minds, and to generate action.

2. Build hope and counter cynicism by demonstrating and highlighting what is proven and possible (e.g. "best practices"); by using the communications power of stories, symbols, and experiences; and by helping people to feel that they are part of a larger global transformation process.

3. Seek to move the Earth Charter deeper into the mainstream.

4. Deepen the dialogue on sustainable development and global ethics.

5. Maintain and promote the whole-systems, integrated view of sustainable development, as reflected in the Earth Charter.

6. Support the development of global civil society.

7. Promote the Earth Charter as an international soft law document, and support its adaptation for use in governance in other sectors (such as business and local government).

8. Actively engage the Endorsers of the Earth Charter and urge them to take action in support of their endorsement.

9. Build strategic partnerships with other organizations to promote mutual objectives and to avoid competition.

10. Seek avenues to engage with global governance processes, such as the WTO, to promote the ethical dimension of good global governance.

11. Work with policy and decision makers on integrating the Earth Charter into governance processes.

12. Seek to contribute to international efforts on development, inter-faith dialogue, disaster preparedness and relief, and the emerging global energy crisis.

13. Create clear goals for the Initiative in the short, medium, and long-term, and develop indicators for measuring progress.

14. Be in harmony, as much as possible, with the values and principles of the Earth Charter itself.

15. Celebrate life!

Policy on Global Engagement *(Version 1.0, 4 April 2006)*

The Earth Charter Initiative will engage with global issues and processes, according to the following guidelines:

1. ECI will strongly promote engagement and action, in a general sense, on major global issues.

2. ECI will encourage and facilitate dialogue processes that explore global issues from the perspective of the Earth Charter.

3. ECI will consult with its global constituency before taking a position on any specific approach (or set of approaches) to solving global problems.

4. ECI will focus special attention on a small number of international, UN-led processes addressing urgent global issues, promote action on those issues, and promote the use of the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for addressing those issues. These include efforts to:
   - Address climate change
   - Achieve the Millennium Development Goals
   - Conserve biodiversity
   - Promote sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods
   - Promote non-violent conflict resolution and a culture of peace
   - Provide Food Security

Fundraising Principles

Version 2.0 - 28 May 2007

Revised and edited from a set of Principles that were proposed by Council Member Oscar Motomura; and accepted by the Council on a provisional basis. These Principles shall be reviewed from time to time.

1. ***Integrity:*** The method by which ECI obtains its resources shall not negatively affect ECI's identity, public image, or reputation as an initiative with the highest level of ethical awareness and commitment to the common good of all living beings. In raising resources, ECI must avoid all situations that could be classified as being in conflict with its fundamental purpose.

2. ***Inclusiveness:*** Any fundraising process that might lead to any form of fragmentation in the Earth Charter Initiative; to the exclusion of certain people or organizations with fewer resources; or to the granting of some special advantage to a small number of people or organizations, shall be considered inappropriate.

3. ***No Commercialization:*** The Earth Charter's identity shall not be utilized for commercial purposes in connection with fundraising. ECI will avoid traditional "sponsored by" commercial announcements and will not accept donations that come with sponsorship advertising as a condition of the donation.

4. ***Equity of Appreciation:*** ECI will welcome unconditional support of all kinds -- material, financial, service, time, etc. -- from all types of people and organizations, at whatever level is appropriate to them; and all contributions shall be equally valued and appreciated. "Unconditional" means contributions not tied to "quid pro quo" conditions, the conferral of special status, or to expectations of reward or compensation, as noted above. ECI reserves the right to say "No, thanks" to donations from sources that could be perceived as compromising the Earth Charter's identity or integrity.

5. ***Transparency:*** All contributions to ECI will be recorded and accounted for in the ECI Financial Reports, including contributions that are made anonymously. The identity of anonymous contributors shall be known by the ECI Executive Committee and Executive Director, and shall be kept under confidentiality. This practice will allow auditors to conduct independent evaluations of the sources and uses of funds.

6. ***Multiple Avenues for Contribution:*** Earth Charter International will make available a large number of "avenues for contribution" -- different methods of donation, adjusted to different circumstances faced by people and organizations throughout the world. These avenues shall include, for example:

   a. Direct financial donation to Earth Charter International.

   b. Indirect financial donation, via the purchase of goods or services that are then donated to ECI.

   c. Direct in-kind contribution of goods or services.

   d. Contributions to national- or local-level Earth Charter affiliates, groups, or projects.

   e. Donations of real estate, stock, and other financial instruments.

   f. Donated advertising space / time in communications media.

   g. Transfers of intellectual property, such as patents, copyrights, or other ownership rights of any kind and any other avenues that might emerge over time. ECI will accept those donations that allow it to continue upholding its ethical criteria, that do provide a benefit to the Earth Charter Initiative, and that do not impose an undue burden on the coordinating administration of the Initiative.

Policy on Public Statements

Version dated 1 October 2006

To support ECI's general policy of encouraging engagement in critical ethical issues of world importance, the Earth Charter International Council recommends the following as guidelines to Executive Staff and Council members:

1. ECI will create a standard statement that can be issued by Executive Staff in response to critical world events, especially when ECI is being called upon for comment that (1) reminds people that the Earth Charter exists, (2) summarizes what the Charter says in relationship to important global issues or events, (3) notes when those events are clearly not consonant with the ethical principles of the Earth Charter, and (4) notes how the Charter can be used in positive ways to address that issue.

2. ECI will use the Earth Charter website to facilitate global dialogues on critical global issues, from the integrated ethical perspective of the Earth Charter.

3. As a general rule, the Council will not issue statements on current events. The Council reserves the right, however, to issue statements or endorsements at its discretion.

4. The Council may commission special reports or white papers on specific issues. These may be published in the form of "reports to the ECI Council," at the Council's discretion.

5. The Council recommends to its members that, when they address issues in a public forum and identify themselves as ECI Council members, they speak from the perspective of the integrated vision of the Earth Charter, and for the creation of a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

6. Council members may prepare individual statements providing clarification on the meaning and application of specific aspects of the Earth Charter, from their perspective, and make these statements available to other Council members and Staff for use as appropriate. These statements will not, however, be issued officially by the Council.

Principles for Engaging Business in the Earth Charter Initiative

The following working principles, should guide ECI engagement with businesses. They were adopted by the Council in 2007 and revised by the Executive Committee on 2 July 2008 in the light of decisions made at the May 2008 Council meeting.

1. Support (financial and in-kind donations) will be accepted from businesses that meet the terms of the Fundraising Guidelines set by the Council at its March 2006 meeting.

2. Endorsement of the Earth Charter is not a condition for accepting support from business organizations.

3. Endorsement by businesses and corporations should, as with all acts of Endorsement, be considered a serious commitment to engage with the Charter and its Principles.

4. The overarching purpose of engaging businesses with the Earth Charter is to inspire and deepen their commitment to social and ecological responsibility.

Earth Charter International Logo Policy 2010

Introduction

In 2000 the Earth Charter Steering Committee created the Earth Charter Logo, which has been used by the Earth Charter Secretariat over the past decade. In 2006 the Earth Charter International Council (ECI) decided that the Earth Charter Logo and the titles Earth Charter International and Earth Charter Initiative should be protected as trademarks and registered.

On behalf of the ECI Council and Secretariat, Earth Charter Associates, Ltd. undertook the registration process, which was completed in 2010. The title Earth Charter International is registered only in the United States. The Earth Charter International Dove Design or Logo and the title Earth Charter Initiative are registered internationally.

1. Signifying Trademark Registration

Whenever and wherever it is used, the ECI Logo should be accompanied at its lower right hand corner by®, which identifies it as a legally registered trademark.

2. Formal Statement Explaining International Registration

When using the ECI Logo, the following statement may be used to explain the international registration of this trademark.

> "The Earth Charter Initiative and Earth Charter Dove Design (or Logo) are the trademarks of Earth Charter Associates Ltd. and are the subject of Costa Rican registration Nos. 181895, 181896, 181897 and 181958. These trademarks of Earth Charter Associates, Ltd. have also been registered in many countries throughout the world. The registration of this Logo has been undertaken to protect the ECI image."

3. Restricted Use of ECI Logo

A logo is an image or symbolic design that identifies an entity or initiative. The ECI Logo without any written identification and the Logo with the words "Earth Charter International" have been created to represent Earth Charter International, which includes the ECI Council and Secretariat. ECI is the oversight coordinating entity of the larger network of individuals and organizations that make up the Earth Charter Initiative.

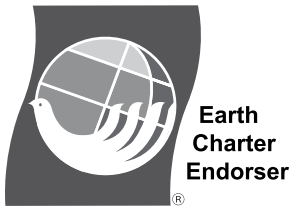




The ECI Logo may only be used by ECI or with the prior written consent of the executive director of the ECI Secretariat. Permission to use the ECI Logo will be granted when in the judgment of the executive director it is appropriate for ECI to signal that a close connection or partnership exists between ECI and another organization, project or event. When another entity uses the ECI Logo, it must take care to ensure that there is no confusion about its identity as an entity distinct from ECI.

4. Authorization for Affiliates, Partners, and Endorsers to Use the Logo with Special Wording

ECI has created four variations on the wording that may be used together with the ECI Logo by certain organizations, groups and individuals that are active members of the Earth Charter Initiative. These entities include ECI affiliates and partners, Earth Charter Youth Groups and Earth Charter Endorsers. The websites and publications of these entities must make clear that they are distinct entities separate from ECI, but ECI grants them permission, without requiring written authorization, to use the ECI Logo with one of the following variations in wording. ECI reserves the right to withdraw this authorization, if the ECI Secretariat determines that the ECI Logo is being misused. An example of misuse would be use of the Logo in connection with activities that are not consistent with the values and principles of the Earth Charter.



Organizations and individuals that have endorsed the Earth Charter Charter are invited to place this logo on their website, personal profile, blogs, and other forms of communication. When possible a reference to the ECI website (**www.earthcharter.org**) should be included.



Formally recognized affiliates of ECI that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the ECI Secretariat are encouraged to place this Logo on their website and in their publications with a reference to the ECI website (**www.earthcharter.org**).



Groups that have registered with the ECI Secretariat as Earth Charter Youth Groups are encouraged to place this Logo on their website or group profile, and members of the group are invited to include this Logo in their personal profile or blogs. When possible a reference to the ECI website (**www.earthcharter.org**) should be included.



Non-commercial projects that are developed and inspired by the Earth Charter or organizations or individuals who are endorsers, partners, volunteers of the Earth Charter, are invited to use this logo in their website, personal profile, blogs, in reports, articles and any other communication form to express how their work has been inspired by the Earth Charter. When possible, include a reference to the Earth Charter website: **www.earthcharter.org**

eight

VIII. Earth Charter Endorsement

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

Endorsement is one of the ways the Earth Charter has acquired legitimacy. The legitimacy of the Earth Charter as a guiding ethical framework comes primarily from the inclusive global process that generated the document. However, the endorsement of the Earth Charter since its launch in 2000 by over 5,000 organizations that represent the interests of hundreds of millions of people is another source of the Earth Charter's legitimacy as an ethical guide.

Endorsement of the Earth Charter is open to anyone and any institution. Earth Charter International makes a concerted effort to verify endorsements and ECI assumes that endorsement includes an agreement that the Endorser may be publicly identified as an Earth Charter Endorser.

Endorsement Statement on ECI Website:

Endorsement of the Earth Charter involves agreeing to and signing the following statement:

"We, the undersigned, endorse the Earth Charter. We embrace the spirit and aims of the document. We pledge to join the global partnership for a just, sustainable, and peaceful world and to work for the realization of the values and principles of the Earth Charter."

Additionally, it is expected that an Endorser will:

1. Actively promote the Earth Charter and follow the Action Guidelines stated in Section VI.

2. Contribute to the Earth Charter Initiative and to Earth Charter-inspired action projects in whatever way is most appropriate.

3. Implement the Earth Charter in his/her professional work and personal life.

Sample of organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter

African Women's Development and Communication Network, Kenya
Arab Office for Youth and Environment, Egypt
Associaçao Portuguesa de Educaçao Ambiental - ASPEA, Portugal
Australian Centre for Environmental Law
Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development
The Club of Budapest
National Council on Environment and Sustainable Development, Portugal
The CORE Trust, United Kingdom
Consejo Estatal de Ecología de Michoacan, Mexico
Council of the Parliament of the World's Religions
The David Suzuki Foundation, Canada
Development Alternatives, India
Environmental Defense, United States
Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale, United States
Fundación Mundo Sustentable, Mexico
Fundación Valores, Spain
Fundación Cultura de Paz, Spain
The European Environmental Bureau
The Ministries of Environment in the Nations of Brazil, Costa Rica, and Honduras
The Government of Mexico
The Government of the Republic of Niger
Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Youth Council
The Green Belt Movement, Kenya
Green Cross International
Grupo de los Cien, Mexico
Grupo Xcaret, Mexico
Hilton Arlington Hotel, USA
Instituto Paulo Freire, Brazil
Interfaith Center of New York, United States
International Institute for Environment & Development - IIED
International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN
Inuit Circumpolar Conference - ICC
Itaipu Binacional, Brazil
The Jane Goodall Institute
Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development

Kehati, Indonesia
LEAD International
Lenting, Indonesia
Local Governments for Sustainability - ICLEI
Millennium NGO Forum (a group of a 1000 NGO's)
The Ministry of Youth, Egypt
The National Center for Human Rights Education, United States
The National Center for Youth Development, Nigeria
National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development, Netherlands
National University, Costa Rica
National Wildlife Federation - NWF, United States
Natural Resources Defense Council, United States
Pro-Natura, Italy
The Senate of Puerto Rico
The Senate of Australia
The Parliament of Portugal
The Parliaments of Tatarstan, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Kalmykia, Russian Federation
Physicians for Social Responsibility, United States
Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden
Third World Academy of Sciences - TWAS, Italy
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO
United Nations University
University for Peace, Costa Rica
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
The US Conference of Mayors
Vitae Civilis, Brazil
The Wilderness Society, Australia
Women & Environment Development Organization - WEDO
World Federation of Engineering Organizations
World Resources Institute, United States
WWF International

nine

IX. A Short History of the Earth Charter Initiative

The Earth Charter is a people's declaration on global interdependence and universal responsibility that sets forth fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful world. It endeavors to identify the critical challenges and choices facing humanity in the twenty first century. Its principles are designed to serve "as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed." (Earth Charter Preamble). The Earth Charter is the product of a decade long, world-wide, cross-cultural, dialogue on common goals and shared values conducted during the 1990s. This process, which involved the most open and participatory consultation process ever associated with the drafting of an international document, is the primary source of the legitimacy of the Earth Charter as an ethical guide.

I. Origins of the Earth Charter

Among the many recommendations in Our Common Future (1987), the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), is a call for creation of a "Universal Declaration on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development" in the form of a "new charter" with principles to guide nations in the transition to sustainable development. Building on this recommendation, Maurice F. Strong, the secretary general of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development), proposed in 1990 that the Summit draft and adopt an Earth Charter. Intergovernmental consultations were held on the Earth Charter during the preparatory process for the Rio Earth Summit, but an intergovernmental agreement on principles for an Earth Charter could not be reached. The Rio Declaration, which was issued by the Summit, contains a valuable set of principles, but falls short of the inclusive ethical vision that many people hoped to find in the Earth Charter.

Therefore, in 1994, Maurice Strong, as chairman of the Earth Council, joined with Mikhail Gorbachev in his capacity as president of Green Cross International to launch a new Earth Charter initiative. It was Jim McNeill, secretary general of the WCED, Queen Beatrix and Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers of The Netherlands who brought Strong and Gorbachev together. The Dutch government provided the initial financial support. The plan was to conduct the project as a civil society initiative and to draft a charter that articulated the consensus taking form in the emerging global civil society on values and principles for a sustainable future.

Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun of Algeria served as the first executive director of the Earth Charter project during 1995 as a new international consultation process and research in the fields of environmental ethics, sustainable development, and international law got underway. An Earth Charter secretariat was established at the Earth Council in Costa Rica under the management of the executive director of the Earth Council, Maximo Kalaw of the Philippines. In 1996, Mirian Vilela of Brazil became coordinator of Earth Charter activities at the Earth Council. Toward the end of 1996, an Earth Charter Commission was formed to oversee the drafting process. It was co-chaired by Strong and Gorbachev and included a diverse group of twenty-three eminent persons from all the major regions of the world. The Commission invited Steven C. Rockefeller, a

professor of religion and ethics from the United States, to chair and form an international drafting committee. The drafting process, which began in January 1997, required three years.

Hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals participated in the creation of the Earth Charter. Forty-five Earth Charter national committees were formed. Earth Charter dialogues were conducted throughout the world and on the Internet, and major regional conferences were held in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, North America, and Europe. The ideas and values in the Earth Charter reflect the influence of a great variety of intellectual sources and social movements. These include the wisdom of the world's religions and great philosophical traditions and the new scientific worldview being shaped by, among other disciplines, cosmology and ecology. The Earth Charter should be seen as a product of the global ethics movement that inspired the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and gained wide support in the 1990s. The drafting committee worked closely with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Commission on Environmental Law and carefully reviewed all relevant international law declarations and treaties and over 200 civil society declarations and people's treaties. The Earth Charter builds on and extends international environmental and sustainable development law. It reflects the concerns and aspirations expressed at the seven UN Summit meetings held during the 1990s on the environment, human rights, population, children, women, social development, and the cities. It recognizes the importance of the spread of participatory and deliberative democracy for human development and environmental protection.

The final text of the Earth Charter, which was approved at a meeting of the Earth Charter Commission at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in March 2000, contains a preamble, 16 main principles, sixty-one supporting principles, and a conclusion entitled "The Way Forward." The Preamble affirms that "we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny," and the Earth Charter encourages all people to recognize their shared responsibility, each according to his or her situation and capacity, for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. Recognizing the interrelationship of humanity's environmental, economic, social, and cultural problems, the Earth Charter presents an inclusive, integrated ethical framework. The titles of the four sections into which the principles are divided indicate the breadth of the vision: I Respect and Care for the Community of Life; II Ecological Integrity; III Social and Economic Justice; and IV Democracy, Non-Violence, and Peace. The Earth Charter identifies a number of widely shared spiritual attitudes and values that can strengthen commitment to its ethical principles, and the document culminates with a vision of peace and the joyful celebration of life.

II. The Earth Charter Initiative, 2000 – 2005

A second phase in the Earth Charter Initiative was begun with the formal launch of the Earth Charter at the Peace Palace in The Hague in June 2000. Following this event, the Earth Charter Commission turned over responsibility for oversight of the Earth Charter Initiative and fund raising to a newly created Steering Committee, which included among others several members of the Earth Charter Commission. The committee was chaired by Kamla Chowdhry, Ruud Lubbers and Steven Rockefeller. The Commission retained authority over the text of the Earth Charter and its members continued to provide advice and support for the Initiative on an individual basis. In 2000, Mirian Vilela was appointed to serve as the executive director of the Earth Charter Secretariat. Over the next five years the Earth Charter was translated into forty languages and endorsed by over two thousand five hundred organizations representing the interests of hundreds of millions of people. Among the organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter are UNESCO, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and the US Conference of Mayors. The Earth Charter provides an excellent overview of the essential elements of sustainable development and world peace, and before long it was being widely used as a teaching resource in schools, colleges, universities, and non-formal education programmes.

A major effort was made to secure formal recognition of the Earth Charter at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. During the Summit, a number of world leaders and heads of state and many NGOs attending the Summit issued public statements in support of the Earth Charter. The final version of the Johannesburg Declaration does not include an explicit reference to the Earth Charter. However, it does affirm the central theme of the Earth Charter when, borrowing language from the Charter, it states that "we declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to our children." Efforts to seek formal recognition of the Earth Charter by the United Nations General Assembly are on-going.

By 2005, the Earth Charter had become widely recognized as a global consensus statement on the meaning of sustainability, the challenge and vision of sustainable development, and the principles by which sustainable development is to be achieved. It was being used as a basis for peace negotiations, as a reference document in the development of global standards and codes of ethics, as a resource for governance and legislative processes, as a community development tool, and as a framework for educational programmes on sustainable development. The Charter was also an important influence on the Plan of Implementation for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and ECI became a partner with UNESCO in promoting the Decade.

In 2005 the Steering Committee undertook a major strategic review of the progress and strengths and weaknesses of the Earth Charter Initiative. This involved both an internal and external assessment. The external review was conducted by Alan AtKisson, an international consultant in the field of sustainable development. AtKisson's lengthy evaluation of the Earth Charter Initiative led him to conclude that much had been accomplished between 2000 and 2005 and that the Initiative had great promise and should be continued, but its future success depended upon a major reorganization of its management structure and long-range strategic planning. The strategic review process culminated with a major Earth Charter conference in The Netherlands that was hosted by the Dutch National Committee on International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) and that brought together over 400 Earth Charter leaders and activists. At this conference, the Steering Committee's decision to appoint Alan AtKisson as a new executive director of the Earth Charter Secretariat was announced. AtKisson was given the responsibility of managing a transition to a third phase in the Earth Charter Initiative.

During The Netherlands conference, KIT Publishers in Amsterdam released a book edited by Peter Blaze Corcoran, Mirian Vilela and Alide Roerink entitled The Earth Charter In Action: Toward A Sustainable World. This publication contains sixty essays by Earth Charter leaders and supporters from around the world and provides a valuable overview of the significance of the Earth Charter and of Earth Charter activities.

III. The Earth Charter Initiative, 2006 - 2010

In 2006 the Earth Charter Secretariat was reorganized as Earth Charter International (ECI). A new Earth Charter International Council with twenty three members from nineteen countries was formed to replace the Steering Committee and to oversee ECI's core programmes and small staff. Steven Rockefeller, Razeena Omar of South Africa and Erna Witoelar of Indonesia were elected as the co-chairs of the newly formed ECI Council. A new Earth Charter Center for Communications and Strategic Planning was opened in Stockholm, Sweden. The former Earth Charter Secretariat at the University for Peace was transformed into the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development with Mirian Vilela as director. The ECI Council adopted a new mission and vision statement, and began developing the goals, strategies and policies for the third phase.

National governments began to make even stronger, more formal commitments to the Earth Charter. The Brazilian Ministry of Environment entered into a formal agreement with the ECI secretariat and the Center for the Defense of Human Rights of Petrópolis, founded by Leonardo Boff and Marcia Miranda, to promote the Earth Charter in every sector of Brazilian society. During a presidential celebration of Earth Day 2007, the ministries of education and environment in the Mexican government made public commitments to use the Earth Charter as an educational instrument in the Mexican school system. Other state and city governments initiated or strengthened formal public commitments to adopt, use and implement the Earth Charter, including the State of Queensland, Australia, the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation, the Parliament of Portugal, and cities like Calgary (Canada), Munich (Germany), New Dehli (India), Oslo (Norway), and Sao Paulo (Brazil).

During 2006 and 2007, endorsement of the Earth Charter reached 4,800 organizations and the Earth Charter website began to experience a dramatic increase in visitors, growing to nearly 100,000 per month. New Programmes were launched in Religion and Business. The Earth Charter Youth Initiative continued to expand with groups operating in twenty-three countries and a twelve person youth leadership team was elected. The number of Earth Charter affiliates grew to ninety-seven in fifty-eight countries. The Charter began to take on new relevance in matters of policy as the global dimension of problems such as climate change highlighted our interdependencies and the need for collective action. ECI was invited to participate in an international conference on Intercultural and Interreligious Cooperation for Peace organized by the president of the UN General Assembly.

As a result of an intensive three-day workshop on long-range strategic planning lead by Oscar Motomura at Amana Key in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2007, the ECI Council launched a new strategy of "Decentralized Empowerment for Scaling Up," designed to dramatically increase active participation in the Initiative without the need for an expanded central administration. New "Action Guidelines" were released to provide a framework and coordinating mechanism for this decentralized activity to promote the Earth Charter and implement its vision.

After two years managing the transition to the third phase of the Earth Charter Initiative, Alan AtKisson stepped down as executive director of ECI at the end of 2007 in order to devote more time to his consulting business and other related projects. He continues his association with ECI as an advisor. Mirian Vilela was appointed the new executive director of ECI, and the headquarters of the ECI Secretariat was again based at the University for Peace in Costa Rica, together with the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development. As an ECI Council member and as a member of the staff of the Dutch National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO), Alide Roerink began help the ECI Secretariat, providing leadership and support in connection with a number of projects, including the outreach to the business community. In 2007 Erna Witoelar stepped down as co-chair and Brendan Mackey was elected as a new co-chair.

At its annual meeting in 2008 the ECI Council approved adoption of a refined version of the Earth Charter Initiative mission statement.

> The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.

At this meeting the Council also adopted a Long Range Strategic Plan that identifies six focus areas for Earth Charter initiatives, including education, business, the media, the religions, the United Nations and global governance, and youth. As part of the decentralization strategy, it also approved the launch of six independent task forces designed to promote the Earth Charter and to catalyze the creation of multiple volunteer action groups in these focus areas. A number of Council members as well as other Earth Charter supporters have played leadership roles in the creation of the six task forces.

In accord with the 2008 Long Range Strategic Plan, the ECI Secretariat undertook a number of projects in 2009 and 2010 in an effort to strengthen its communications outreach. The international website, which is presented in English, French and Spanish versions, was redesigned, updated and expanded. It includes a virtual library with over 800 resources and pages on Earth Charter activities in 91 countries. In addition, employing a common format designed with the assistance of Amana-Key, over 40 Earth Charter national websites have been created in the official language of each nation. There is also now an Earth Charter webpage on Wikipedia in several languages, an Earth Charter video channel on YouTube, and a Wiki space for Earth Charter youth activities and for a network of educators using the Earth Charter.

The Business Task Force has established a partnership between ECI and the Global Reporting Initiative, and the GRI now offers the hundreds of corporations with which it works the opportunity to use the Earth Charter as a framework for their initiatives in the field of corporate social and ecological responsibility. Using the Earth Charter as a guide, the UN Task Force has endeavored to inform the drafting of a new intergovernmental treaty on climate change with a focus on the ethical dimension of the treaty. After several years of international consultations, the Secretariat and the Education Task Force released a "Guide for Using the Earth Charter in Education" at the 2009 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Bonn, Germany. In 2010 the Journal of Education for Sustainable Development published a especial edition on "The Earth Charter and ESD." In the course of the past decade, over a hundred books, as well as numerous journals, have been published with sections or essays that explore the history and significance of the Earth Charter. Many of these publications include the entire text of the Earth Charter. One example is the comprehensive, two-volume *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy,* (Macmillan Reference, 2009), which recognizes the Earth Charter as one of the ten primary source documents for this entire field of study and social action.

During 2010 the Earth Charter Initiative celebrated the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Earth Charter in 2000. Earth Charter+10 activities and events were organized around the theme "Dialogue, Collaboration and Action for a Sustainable Future." Major Earth Charter+10 conferences were held in Mexico, The Netherlands, Jordan, Japan, and India. As part of Earth Charter+10, members of the Communications and Media Task Force launched a media campaign that secured the contribution of advertisement space for the Earth Charter on t.v., radio and public transportation and in newspapers and magazines with a value of $15 million in Latin America, Europe and the U.S. An important dimension of Earth Charter+10 activities has been a dialogue focused on developing a vision for the next decade. In this regard, Ruud Lubbers, a member of the Earth Charter Commission who has played a leading role in the creation and promotion of the Earth Charter, pledged to contribute to the University for Peace the funds needed to construct a new and expanded headquarters for the ECI Secretariat and Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development. The new headquarters will open in 2011.

Throughout the first decade of the Earth Charter Initiative since the launch of the Charter, the Secretariat has remained a small, efficient, and highly productive organization operating on a tight budget. In 2010, the Secretariat staff included the executive director, three regional coordinators and a youth coordinator.

The capacity of the Secretariat has been enhanced significantly by the active support of a network of Council members, advisors, partner organizations, affiliates, and interns. By 2010 ECI had 112 affiliates in 66 countries. There were also 69 youth groups in 41 countries. By the end of the first decade, over 5,000 organizations and governments had endorsed the Earth Charter. Recent endorsements include the National Parliament of Portugal, General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the USA, and India's spiritual and social leader, Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (widely known as Amma).

2011 will mark a new phase in the Earth Charter Initiative. After ten years serving as a co-chair of the Steering Committee and the ECI Council, Steven Rockefeller will be stepping down from that position at the end of 2010. In addition, the Council is giving serious consideration to a reorganization of ECI's governance structure in an effort to strengthen leadership at the regional level. Resource mobilization in support of the Secretariat remains a challenge, and ECI will have to give this challenge increased attention and broaden its base of support in order to pursue its future goals. In the years ahead, ECI will also have to address the questions that will periodically arise about the text of the Earth Charter and various current issues and about the relation of the Earth Charter to new declarations such as the draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth issued in 2010 by the Bolivian government. ECI remains committed to the goal of seeking United Nations General Assembly recognition of the Earth Charter, and Rio+20, which will take place in 2012, provides another opportunity to secure such recognition in some appropriate form. Keeping in mind its limited capacity and resources, ECI must continue to wrestle with the question of how to position itself in relation to other organizations and initiatives that are part of the global sustainability movement. These are some of the challenges that ECI will face over the next five to ten years.

No intergovernmental or civil society declaration has to date replaced the Earth Charter, and those new documents that have emerged are not as comprehensive nor the product of the kind of inclusive, participatory, worldwide process that has given the Earth Charter its basic legitimacy as a guiding ethical framework. The decentralization strategy coupled with the new communications outreach is paving the way for the ongoing, rapid, worldwide expansion of Earth Charter-related activity. As an educational instrument, a source of inspiration and guidance for action, and a reference document for the development of ethics, law, policy, and standards, the Earth Charter remains profoundly relevant and continues to grow in influence. The major changes envisioned by the Earth Charter are ever more urgently needed as the risks associated with the consequences of inaction continue to grow.

ten

X. Earth Charter Associates, Ltd.

Since the ECI Council is not legally incorporated and, therefore, cannot enter into legal contracts and conduct certain financial transactions, Earth Charter Associates, Ltd. (ECA) was created in the United States in 2006 to provide certain legal, financial, and fund raising services in support of ECI. ECA is being registered in the US as a charitable (501c3) organization.

ECA provides donors with a vehicle for making charitable contributions in support of ECI. For this purpose ECA contracts with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA), a non-profit organization based in New York City that provides financial and philanthropic services to individuals, foundations and other non-profit organizations. RPA has established and operates an Earth Charter Fund, which receives contributions and transmits the funds to the University for Peace in support of the ECI Secretariat or to other Earth Charter projects as appropriate. RPA's services include the management of funds and bank accounts, provision of accounting services, and financial reporting. RPA also insures that all grants from the Earth Charter Fund conform with US federal law.

ECA has the capability to enter other legal contracts on behalf of ECI when necessary. In this regard since 2006, it has secured international trademark registration , it has secured international trademark registration for the Earth Charter logo (dove design) and the title "Earth Charter Initiative".

The activities of ECA are overseen by a board of seven trustees, four of whom are ECI Council members. The officers and trustees of ECA are the following:

Rick Clugston
Song Li
Nicholas Robinson, Vice Chair
Steven Rockefeller, Chair
Laurie Rockett, Secretary
Harold L. Talbot
Mary Evelyn Tucker
Dennis Ryan, Treasurer

eleven

XI. Statements on Controversial Issues

From time to time people raise questions about the position of the Earth Charter regarding various sensitive or controversial social issues. The following statements on several such topics have been prepared by Steven Rockefeller in consultation with various ECI Council members and Advisors. These statements are not official statements adopted by ECI Council. However, the Council supports the use of these statements by Council members, the Secretariat, Affiliates, and others when they are looking for guidance regarding how to respond to questions about the Earth Charter.

The Earth Charter and Religion

The Earth Charter is the product of a decade-long, worldwide, cross-cultural dialogue on common goals and shared values. Consultations on the Earth Charter began during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, but the actual drafting of the Earth Charter was conducted and completed as a civil society initiative. It is the purpose of the Earth Charter to articulate the consensus on shared values taking form in the emerging global civil society. Many religious leaders from diverse traditions participated in the consultation and drafting process.

The Earth Charter sets forth general ethical principles and strategic guidelines for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful world. The text of the Earth Charter affirms many values that are fundamental to the great religious traditions of humanity, including compassion, love, justice, care for the poor, environmental conservation, and peace.

The Earth Charter promotes the building of a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace. It strongly supports respect for cultural and religious diversity.

The Earth Charter Initiative encourages all cultures and religions to embrace, in their own distinctive ways, the Earth Charter's ethic of respect and care for all peoples and the greater community of life. It is not the purpose of the Earth Charter Initiative to create a new world religion and the Earth Charter has not been presented as a "mystical revelation" as some have asserted. It is not the intention of the Earth Charter Initiative to replace the high ethical demands of the world's religions with some new ethical minimalism.

Different traditions and organizations affirm, celebrate, and promote the Earth Charter in many diverse ways. The Earth Charter Commission and International Council welcome a diversity of responses from religious organizations and groups. They do not identify the Earth Charter itself with any one response in particular.

In addition to its ethical principles, the Earth Charter recognizes the importance of the spiritual dimension of life and makes reference to several widely shared spiritual values, including the following: The Preamble emphasizes "that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more." It affirms the values of "reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature."

The Earth Charter, which seeks support across all boundaries of faith and culture, does not make reference to God or the Creator, because some religious traditions and many humanists do not use God language. However, some people in the Christian, Jewish, Islamic, and Hindu traditions and various other religious traditions choose to interpret the reference to "reverence for the mystery of being" as a summons to reverence for God. Other individuals and groups will not give this reference a theological interpretation.

The Earth Charter teaches respect for nature and Earth, our planetary home. The Earth Charter does not promote the deification or worship of Earth. The Earth Charter capitalizes Earth because this is the name of the planet. All the planets in our solar system have names. Astronomers, scientists in general, and many others use the names of the planets when referring to them. In addition, the use of the name Earth evokes the image of the planet in space as captured by the photographs of the astronauts. This image of Earth as a relatively small, beautiful, and fragile planet floating in space encourages the attitudes of respect and care.

The Earth Charter recognizes that all nations, peoples, and religions live in an increasingly interdependent world and that many urgent problems can only be managed and resolved through global cooperation. Collaboration and partnership require common goals and values such as those found in the Earth Charter. There is a great need for the leadership and support of the world's religions in the effort to promote shared values and to build a just, sustainable, and peaceful world community.

Even though the Earth Charter advocates worldwide cooperation and global community, it is not the purpose of the Earth Charter to promote creation of a world government. The Earth Charter does state that "the partnership of government, civil society, and business is essential for effective governance."

The Earth Charter, Non-Discrimination and Sexual Orientation

Principle 12 states: "Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities."

Principle 12.a states: "Eliminate discrimination in all its forms, such as that based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, language, and national, ethnic or social origin."

The Earth Charter in Principle 12.a calls for an end to all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, in accordance with international human rights law. It is only in this context that the Earth Charter addresses the issue of homosexuality.

Discrimination involves distinctions, exclusions, and restrictions that deny people their human rights and fundamental freedoms as set forth in international law. Some people suffer discrimination because of their sexual orientation. Article 26 in the international Covenant on Political and Civil Rights is widely recognized among international lawyers to provide a general prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Principles 12 and 12.a are an extension and clarification of the concerns and values set forth in a number of preceding principles in the Earth Charter. For example, Principles 1 and 2 call for respect and care for the community of life as a whole. Principle 2 emphasizes the values of understanding, compassion, and love. Principle 3 calls for building just and peaceful societies, and Principle 3.a is the imperative to "ensure that communities at all levels, guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone an

opportunity to realize his or her full potential." In this spirit, Principle 9.c calls on all communities to "protect the vulnerable." Principles 12 and 12.a should be read with these other principles in mind.

Fundamental human rights and freedoms under certain circumstances have to be weighed and balanced against each other. In this regard, international jurisprudence (case law) leaves open the possibility that if religious institutions and other organizations are able to demonstrate that it is "legitimate to do so," they may restrict the opportunities open to gays and lesbians in their institutions. The ethics of such restrictions are a matter of on-going debate.

The Earth Charter recognizes that "Life often involves tensions between important values. This can mean difficult choices." The tension between individual freedom and social justice or the practice of non-violence and the prevention of harm or environmental protection and economic development are examples. The Earth Charter does not endeavor to address the many complex problems that may arise when individuals, institutions, and governments endeavor to implement its general principles. From the perspective of the Earth Charter there must be very compelling ethical reasons for permitting any form of discrimination in any institution.

The Earth Charter and Responsible Reproduction

The Earth Charter calls for sustainable patterns of human reproduction and for universal access to healthcare that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction. However, the Earth Charter does not address the issue of abortion. It does not take a position for or against abortion.

1. The Scope of the Earth Charter

The Earth Charter is the product of a decade-long, world-wide, cross-cultural dialogue on common goals and shared values. Its purpose is to articulate the consensus on shared values that is taking form in the emerging global civil society.

The Earth Charter sets forth general ethical principles and strategic guidelines for building a just, sustainable and peaceful world. The Earth Charter Commission intended to say in the text of the Earth Charter just what is stated and nothing more.

The Earth Charter Commission and International Council recognize that there will be an on-going debate over how to implement the Earth Charter's various ethical principles and that different cultures and communities will adopt diverse approaches to achieving the goal of sustainable development. The Earth Charter focuses attention on the critical ethical issues and frames the debate. The Earth Charter does not try to prescribe answers to the many complex questions about what means and mechanisms should be chosen in the effort to realize its goals and values.

However, the Commission and International Council do recognize that the ends actually achieved by an initiative are constituted and shaped by the means adopted and that worthy ends do not justify unprincipled means. All means should be consistent with Earth Charter values.

It is helpful to keep in mind that the Earth Charter is made up of principles, not rules. Rules give instruction on exactly what to do in specific situations. Principles advise us on what to think about when we are trying to decide what to do.

2. Sustainable Patterns of Reproduction

The first principle of the Earth Charter is the imperative to "respect . . . life in all its diversity", and Principle 1.a states that "every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings."

Principle 7 calls for patterns of human reproduction that are sustainable and "safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being." It should be noted that the Earth Charter does not use the term "population control," and when referring to patterns of reproduction, it explicitly states that these patterns should be pursued in ways that safeguard human rights. In short, the Earth Charter principles are opposed to coercive methods of regulating population growth.

In accord with the international consensus worked out at the UN summits on population in Cairo (1995) and on women in Beijing (1997), the Earth Charter recognizes that the most effective way to achieve sustainable patterns of human reproduction is to promote gender equality and to empower women in and through "universal access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunity." These values are affirmed in Principle 11 as a matter of social and economic justice as well as sound sustainable development policy.

3. Reproductive Health

The Cairo and Beijing UN summits also specifically emphasize the critical importance of reproductive healthcare for the achievement of sustainable development. The Earth Charter in Principle 7.e, therefore, states, "Ensure universal access to healthcare that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction."

The Beijing Platform for Action (1997) defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." (Annex II, IV.C.89) According to the Beijing Platform reproductive health involves well-being "in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes." Achieving reproductive health means "that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so." (Annex II, IV.C.94)

4. Responsible Reproduction

As indicated above, Principle 7 makes clear that "responsible reproduction" involves patterns of reproduction "that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being." It is the position of the Earth Charter that the goal of responsible reproduction should be achieved through gender equality, the empowerment of women, and universal access to healthcare, and in ways that respect humanity's fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Within the framework of the Earth Charter's general principles, different cultures and communities may adopt diverse approaches to the provision of health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction. The Earth Charter does not enter the discussion and debate on this matter.

Does the Earth Charter Support Socialism?

From time to time critics of the Earth Charter express a concern that it promotes socialism. This reflects a misunderstanding of the nature and purpose of the document. The Earth Charter highlights the importance of social and economic justice, but it does not advocate socialism as a political and economic strategy for achieving it.

The Earth Charter builds on humanity's great ethical and spiritual traditions and on international law, and it is the product of a decade long, worldwide, cross-cultural dialogue in search of goals and values that are widely shared by people of all cultures and religions. It has been drafted as an aspirational declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful world. The Earth Charter's vision for a better world is designed as an urgent call for social change. Its principles have far reaching social, economic and political implications. However, the Earth Charter is focused primarily on the ethical foundations of a better world. It does not attempt to specify—beyond a number of very general guidelines--the political, economic and environmental mechanisms required to implement its principles. The Earth Charter was drafted with the hope that it would help to stimulate a worldwide debate on this highly complex subject. It also recognizes that the world's peoples will find a variety of ways to achieve a sustainable future.

Following the collapse the Soviet Union and the removal of the Berlin Wall, interest in state socialism as a system for promoting human development and achieving justice, sustainability and peace declined significantly. Partly as a result, there was very little discussion about socialism during the Earth Charter consultation and drafting process. Attention focused on principles about which there is a wide consensus in the emerging global civil society, including ideas that were endorsed by the seven United Nations summit meetings held during the 1990's. There was extensive discussion about social and economic justice and about the values that should govern economic development. On the political side, there was much discussion about democracy, which the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has come to recognize as a fundamental human right and as essential to human development. When reflecting on the Earth Charter and socialism, it is also useful to keep the following in mind.

The Earth Charter fully supports the rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international law, and international law recognizes that "everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others." (UDHR Article 17). In Principle 2a, the Earth Charter recognizes "the right to own, manage, and use natural resources" with the critical qualification that with this right goes "the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people." The Earth Charter, which views the individual and society as interdependent, endeavors to present a balanced understanding of rights and responsibilities.

The Earth Charter recognizes that "the dominant patterns of production and consumption" in the world today are ecologically unsustainable and have failed to prevent mass poverty. However, it nowhere advocates government ownership of the means of production, centralized economic planning, and government control of the distribution of goods as the solution. The ethical principle that it sets forth in this regard calls for patterns of production and consumption "that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being." (Principle 7)

Some critics focus on Principle 10a, which calls for "the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations," as evidence of socialist leanings in the Earth Charter. It is the case that many socialists have focused special attention on the injustice of the gross economic inequity in the modern world, and they emphasize the equitable distribution of wealth as a major goal of a socialist society. However, the Earth Charter presents Principle 10a, not as part of a call for socialism as a political and economic system, but as a basic principle of social and economic justice that is consistent with international human rights law and widely shared among people throughout the world. The meaning and significance of this principle in the context of the Earth Charter becomes clear when one considers why and where it appears in the document.

Reflecting the awareness that most of the world's wealth is concentrated in the hands of roughly twenty percent of the world's people and over two billion people live in poverty on two dollars a day or less, the Earth Charter Preamble states: "The benefits of development are not shared equitably and the gap between the rich and the poor is widening." From the Earth Charter's ethical perspective, this is a deeply troubling and unacceptable situation. Poverty denies people their basic human rights. It is both a cause and consequence of environmental degradation. In addition, poverty breeds desperation and resentment often leading to crime, violence and terrorism. Justice, security, and environmental protection are all compelling reasons for the world community to collaborate in ending poverty.

Therefore, in a section on Social and Economic Justice, Earth Charter Principle 9 calls for the eradication of poverty, and Principle 10 states: "Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner." This principle is designed to make clear that economic development is not an end in itself and should be viewed as a means for promoting equitable human development. In other words, the well-being of people and the community as a whole, not profits, should be the overriding concern of economic development. In addition, Principle 10 asserts that development should be ecologically sustainable. The Earth Charter does not question the great social value of well managed private enterprise, and businesses are certainly entitled to make a profit. However, economic activities should serve human needs and protect the environment. It is in this context that Principle 10a appears with its call for "the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations." The point is that eradicating poverty and equitable human development require an equitable distribution of wealth—of essential resources, useful goods, and beneficial services.

What does the equitable distribution of wealth mean? First of all, it is important to keep in mind that "equitable" means fair; it does not mean equal. Second, international, social and economic human rights law provides guidelines that set minimal standards for an equitable distribution of wealth. For example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in Article 25:

> "(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate to the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection."

In accord with these guidelines, Earth Charter Principle 9b states: "Empower every human being with the education and resources to secure a sustainable livelihood and provide social security and safety nets for those who are unable to support themselves." The Earth Charter places a strong emphasis in this regard on "universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity." (Principle 11). Principles 10b, c and d further develop the ideas in Principles 10 and 10a, calling for international aid for the developing world, progressive labor standards, and a steadfast commitment to the common good and transparency on the part of multi-national corporations. In our increasingly interdependent world, a new spirit of solidarity, compassion, and social and ecological responsibility is essential.

The Earth Charter does recognize that governments have a major role to play in eradicating poverty and promoting a more equitable distribution of wealth in and through, for example, tax policy, regulation, education, and social safety nets. However, it does not advocate the centralization of power in the state. The Earth Charter also recognizes that the business community has a critical role to play in this matter, but it does not support a concentration of power in the business sector and its principles call for a major transformation in the way corporations and markets operate. In addition the Earth Charter strongly supports the rise of a well informed and socially engaged civil society, and it urges promotion of participatory democracy. It is the position of the Earth Charter that "the partnership of government, civil society and business is essential for effective governance" in the 21st century. Responsibility for promoting equitable and sustainable human development is a common but differentiated responsibility of all three sectors.

The members of a variety of religious and secular communities freely opt to abandon their right to private property and to accept collective administration of the goods and resources of the community. It should be noted that there is nothing in the Earth Charter that opposes such a voluntary arrangement. Further, if they choose to do so, such communities can live in harmony with the Earth Charter's ethical principles, and some strive to achieve this goal.

The growing gap between the rich and poor in the world today is a fundamental problem facing the human family in the 21st Century. The idea that global security and peace is possible under the present circumstances is an illusion. Eradicating poverty and promoting equitable human development must be part of any strategy for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

Steven C. Rockefeller
Co-Chair, Earth Charter International Council

twelve

XII. Biographical Information on ECI Council Members



Steven C. Rockefeller (United States), Co-Chair

Room 5600, 30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112, USA

Steven C. Rockefeller is professor emeritus of religion at Middlebury College, where he taught for 30 years and also served as dean of the College and chair of the religion department. He received his master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and his PH.D. in the philosophy of religion from Columbia University. He is the author of *John Dewey: Religious Faith and Democratic Humanism* (Columbia, 1991) and the co-editor of two books of essays, *The Christ and the Bodhisattva* (SUNY, 1987) and *Sprit and Nature: Why the Environment is a Religious Issue* (Beacon, 1992). His essays appear in a variety of books and journals. In recent years, much of his research and writing has focused on global ethics, sustainable development, and the interrelation of democracy, ecology, and spirituality.

Over the past twelve years, Professor Rockefeller has played a leading role in the drafting and promotion of the Earth Charter. He chaired the Earth Charter international drafting committee. Following the launch of the Earth Charter in 2000, he was made a member of the Earth Charter Commission. He currently serves as co-chair of the Earth Charter International Council and as chair of Earth Charter Associates, Ltd., which has been set up to provide the ECI Council with financial and legal assistance. His essays on the history, structure, and purpose of the Earth Charter appear in many publications.

Active in the field of philanthropy, Professor Rockefeller has served as a trustee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) for twenty-five years and chaired the Fund's board of trustees from 1998 to 2006. The RBF is an international foundation with programmes on democratic practice, sustainable development, peace and security, and arts and culture. Over the past decade, Professor Rockefeller has served as a trustee of the Asian Cultural Council, the Council of the University for Peace in Costa Rica, the Philanthropic Collaborative in New York City, and the Wendell Gilley Museum in Southwest Harbor, Maine. He is a member of the High Level Advisory Panel at UNESCO for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and he served as the moderator for the launch of the DESD at the UN Headquarters in New York City in 2005. In 1999, the Demeter Fund, of which he is the president, established the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge in the Champlain Valley of Vermont in the US.



Razeena Omar (South Africa), Co-Chair

Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management
Department of Environmental Affairs
East Pier Building II, East Pier Road
Waterfront, Cape Town
South Africa

Razeena Omar is a South African citizen who takes a keen interest in monitoring trends, shifts and debates on environment, conservation and education, including policies and implementation issues, and has been a central player in these fields for a number of years. She holds academic and professional qualifications in the areas of botany, zoology, ecology, conservation and education. Subsequent to working in the area of formal education, she joined the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA) and was thereafter appointed as environmental adviser to the previous National Minister of Education, Professor Kader Asmal for four years (1999-2003). Her work in the Ministry of Education included establishing the National Environmental Education Programme (NEEP), which resulted in the environment being recognised as a key issue in all education and training programmes in South Africa. Dr. Omar has also contributed to the professional rigour of environment work through conducting a number of evaluations, including the US-funded Windows on the Wild Programme, and a number of Community-based Conservation and Environmental Education projects. She has presented numerous papers and workshops at provincial, national and international levels, and has produced a number of publications, which have made a significant contribution to the field of the environment.

She has visited and participated in courses in a number of international institutions in Africa, Australia, the USA, the Republic of the Maldives, Denmark, and the UK, amongst others. She has also provided advice and guidance to international organisations such as UNESCO. She has served on a number of decision-making boards and advisory structures and committees to contribute towards managing the environment sustainably. Dr. Omar was the executive director for People and Conservation at South African National Parks (SANParks) and, since June 2008, she has been chief director of integrated coastal management and development for the department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism; Marine and Coastal Management.



Brendan Mackey (Australia), Co-Chair

The Fenner School of Environment and Society,
The Australia National University
Canberra ACT 200, Australia

Brendan Mackey has a PhD in tropical forest ecology, and is a professor of environmental science at The Australian National University, Canberra. Brendan's research and teaching are in the areas of Earth system science, biodiversity, climate change and conservation. Brendan has a long-standing commitment to the Earth Charter Initiative. He served on the drafting committee, and participated in numerous regional consultations, including an Australian national forum he convened. Prof. Mackey also served as chair of the Earth Charter education advisory committee during the initiative's second phase. Brendan has written extensively on themes related to environmental science, including papers on the significance of ecological integrity to world ethics for sustainability. He also serves a member of the IUCN Council as a regional Councillor for Oceania, and chairs the Council's climate change task force.



Zainab Bangura (Sierra Leone)

Movement for Progress Party (MOP)
P.O. Box 600, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Zainab Bangura is the current foreign minister of Sierra Leone. Previously, she was chief of the Civil Affairs Office for the United Nations Mission in Liberia, a position to which she was named in 2006. Zainab began her career as a professional in the field of insurance.

She was led into civil society work in response to war in her region in the early 1990s. In 1995 she founded the Women Organized for a Morally Enlightened Nation (W.O.M.E.N) at a time when the military, through the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) governed the country. W.O.M.E.N was the first non-partisan women's political rights organization in the country and played a vital role in the campaign against the military junta. Zainab mobilized thousands of women to confront armed soldiers in pro-democracy street protests.

In 1996 Zainab launched The Campaign for Good Governance (CGG). As coordinator of the largest local NGO in Sierra Leone, Zainab led the organisation in promoting democratic participation, new civil society organisations, human rights, the rule of law, and the political and economic empowerment of women. CGG's work earned international recognition and Zainab herself was honoured with the 2000 Human Rights Award of the New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. Zainab Bangura left CGG to establish the Movement for Progress Party (MOP) in January 2002. The party organised a diverse core team of founding members from the local professional class, academia, and grassroots organisations. Zainab was nominated as the party's presidential candidate and thus the only female candidate. More recently, Zainab has worked as a consultant for the UN High Commission for Refugees and the Open Society Initiative.



Mateo A. Castillo Ceja (Mexico)
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Mateo A. Castillo Ceja is the head of the Coordinating Unity of Social Participation and Transparency in the Ministry of Environment of Mexico. Previously he served as president of the Ecological State Council of Michoacan, Mexico, and, with many others, has instigated processes of social participation in the development of environmental public policies for a sustainable Mexico. He is an altruistic person who takes part in the world humanitarian movement. He is considered a national expert in the implementation of local Agenda 21. He has been a representative of civil society in Mexico in many forums and international summits. Castillo is the main developer in Mexico of the Earth Charter and the founder of the National Secretariat. He was awarded the Citizen Merit Prize in 2003, and in 2004 he received honorary mention in the National Prize for Ecological Merit. In 2005, he was awarded the Maximo Kalaw Award for his work in promoting the Earth Charter in Mexico. Mr. Castillo holds a Master's degree in quality and competitiveness and is a biochemist in the area of pharmacology.



Rick Clugston (United States)
Executive Director
Earth Charter US
USA

Rick Clugston is Project Coordinator for the Earth Charter Scholarship Project at the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at Florida Gulf Coast University. He is also the Executive Director of Earth Charter US, and Earth Charter Coordinator for the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University.

From 1991-2008, Rick was Executive Director of the Center for Respect of Life and Environment in Washington D.C. There he directed a variety of initiatives, including the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (1997-2007); the Sustainable Universities Assessment and Evaluation Project (1996-2005); Theological Education to Meet the Environmental Challenge (1992-1999); Earth Charter USA (1996-2006);and the Soul of Agriculture Project (1994-2001).

Dr. Clugston participated in the Earth Charter drafting committee meetings and served on the Earth Charter International Steering Committee where he chaired the fundraising committee. He now serves on the Earth Charter International Council, and the boards of the Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation (Maine, USA) and the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education (Florida, USA). Dr. Clugston is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Education for Sustainable Development* (Sage Publications). He was a cofounder of the Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership.

Prior to coming to Washington, Dr. Clugston worked for the University of Minnesota for 11 years, first as a faculty member and later as a strategic planner. He received his doctorate in Higher Education from the University of Minnesota and his masters in Human Development from the University of Chicago.



Marianella Curi (Bolivia/Ecuador)
Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano
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Marienella Curi is a social psychologist experienced in the design of policies for sustainable development and of environmental education for sustainable development. Previously she was vice-minister for natural resources and environment, and undersecretary for the promotion of sustainable development in the government of Bolivia. She was director of the Bolivian Environmental Defence League, the most extensive network of non-governmental environmental organizations in that country. In 2004, she began working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in the position of policy specialist on the BOLFOR II Project, and she represents TNC in Bolivia. She was the director of the BOLFOR II Project, which was the largest sustainable forestry management in Bolivia, with financial support from USAID and The Nature Conservancy. Ms. Curi initiated the creation of the Bolivian Council on Sustainable Development, and was engaged in the process of developing, validating, and promoting the Earth Charter in Bolivia for several years. She is currently working at the Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano in Ecuador.



Camila Argolo Godinho (Brazil)
Instituto Diversidade/Diversity Institute
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Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

Camila Argôlo Godinho is a young Brazilian environmentalist. She received her undergraduate degree in international business and has a post-graduate degree in environmental education. Camila has been working locally, nationally, and internationally with youth and environment since 1999.

As a researcher and youth leader, she coordinated the GEO for Youth Brazil Project, developed in partnership with the NGO Interagir, the Latin American and Caribbean Office of UNEP, the ministers of environment and education of Brazil and the National Youth Secretariat. Since 2002, she has taken part in several international conferences, networks and training programmes, including the UNEP TUNZA Youth Council (2003-2005) and Commission of Sustainable Development Youth Caucus and Education Caucus.

In 2002 she received the Petrobras/Universidade Solidaria Merit Award for an environmental education project that she developed in the community of Mussurunga, a slum in Salvador, Brazil. She has been a member of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative since 2002, and from 2005 to 2007 a member of its Core Group. Camila founded and coordinates an Earth Charter Youth Group in Brazil, now incorporated into the Diversity Institute, where she promotes the Earth Charter among youth and community leaders in poor communities.

Camila currently coordinates projects related to community development in the Diversity Institute. She is also the coordinator of the department of corporate responsibility of the Jorge Amado University and is part of the Expert Team A of the Forest Stewadership Council Plantations Review on "Raising the Bar on Corporate Responsibility".



Wakako Hironaka (Japan)
Tokyo 100-0014 - Japan

Wakako Hironaka served as a member of Japan's House of Councilors till 2010, elected from Chiba Prefecture in July 2004. She used to be the vice-president of the Democratic Party of Japan. In 1993-94, she was state minister, director-general of Environment Agency in the Hosokawa Cabinet. Ms. Hironaka is also active internationally, as a member of the Earth Charter Commission, GLOBE, and GEA.

Ms. Hironaka received a B.A. in English from Ochanomizu Women's University and an M.A. in Anthropology from Brandeis University. She has written several books, essays, translations, and critiques on education, culture, society, and women's issues, including Between Two Cultures: Woman - Her Work and Family (1979), Politics is Unexpectedly Interesting (1989), and translations of Ezra Vogel's Japan as Number One and Haru Reischauer's Samurai & Silk (Kinu to Bushi).



Barbro Holmberg (Sweden)
Slottet
802 66 Gävle, Sweden

Barbro Holmberg is a recognized Swedish Social Democratic politician. She has served for many years the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1999, she became a political adviser and got involved with the Ministry's Children Project as a project leader. In 2002, she was appointed as the state secretary for that ministry, and during the period of 2003 to 2006, she served as the minister for asylum and migration. In addition to her involvement with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, she also served as the secretary of the Committee on the

Convention on the Rights of the Child and secretary of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. She is the author of several books. The latter one deals with issues of women's rights. Ms. Holmberg has also been the editor of two magazines: Social Politics Magazine and Psychology Magazine, a publication for Swedish psychologists. Currently, Ms. Holmberg works as deputy member of the Board of the Swedish Riksbank (National Bank) and as a county governor in Sweden.



Li Lailai (Peoples Republic of China)

Deputy Director & Center Director
Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) - SEI-Asia,
15th Floor, Witthyakit Building
Chulalongkorn University
254 Chulalongkorn Soil 64, Phyathai Road
Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, THAILAND

Lailai Li received her bachelor's degree in English, and a master's and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Pittsburgh in the United States. Prior to her appointment as associate director of the Stockholm Environment Institute, Li Lailai served as the national programme director of LEAD-China. Previous to that she worked as a research fellow at the Institute of Sociology and Anthropology at Pekin University, where her research was focused on the interactions between Chinese traditional values, agricultural activities, and environmental impacts. She also served as director of information resources at LEAD International (part time) from 1997 to 2001. She participated in the development of LEAD's information strategy, thereby fulfilling her interest in exploring the role of information and information technology in the human endeavor toward the greater sustainability of society. Her research experiences lie in NGO development and exploration of alternative development paths toward global sustainability.



Song Li (Peoples Republic of China /United States)

World Bank
Washington, DC USA

Song Li is a consultant to the World Bank. Her main responsibilities include managing the environmental projects portfolio in the African region, with particular focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate change adaptation, land degradation, and biosafety. She is part of the team to advise on project preparation and results monitoring use of different World Bank and GEF financial instruments.

From 1996 to 2004, Song Li served as senior environment specialist with the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Her major tasks included managing capacity building projects for countries to implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Desertification Convention and responsible for policy and institutional issues, including technical assistance to governments to improve their coordination with local communities, the private sector, and NGOs. She was the GEF focal point for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

Previously, Song Li served as Senior Programme Officer for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UNEP, responsible for the financial mechanism and funding policy and programme

priorities; and as director for the division of environmental law, Treaty and Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China. She represented China at negotiations for global environmental conventions and at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

Song Li holds an L.LM with a focus on Environmental Law from George Washington University, a Certificate in public international law from the Institute of Diplomacy of China, and a Masters in French literature from University Paris III.



Alexander Likhotal (Russia / Switzerland)
Green Cross International
160a, route de Florissant
1231 Conches Geneva, Switzerland

Alexander Likhotal is currently president of Green Cross International. He received his Ph.D in Political Science in 1972 from the Institute of International Affairs in Moscow, the subject of his thesis being "The Shaping of the British Security Policy". He started his academic career as a lecturer at the Moscow State Institute of International Affairs, where he became senior research fellow at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the USSR. In 1988 he became professor of political science and international relations at the Diplomatic Academy, and in the same year was appointed vice-rector.

During the wake of Gorbachev's perestroika, being already a well known expert in the field of European security, he received a proposal to become the chief analyst of NATO politics in the International Department of the Central Committee of the CSPU - one of the Soviet foreign policy co-ordination bodies. In 1991 Alexander Likhotal was appointed deputy spokesman and adviser to the president of the USSR. Since then he has been an advisor to Mr Gorbachev, founder of Green Cross, for many years.



Oscar Motomura (Brazil)
Amana-Key
Av. Nova Petrópolis, 33
06709-125 Cotia/São Paulo, Brazil

Oscar Motomura is the founder and chief executive officer of the Amana-Key Group, a center for excellence in management, a network of associates with global reach, based in São Paulo, Brazil. The purpose of Amana-Key is to serve as a world reference for radical innovation in management that is capable of generating the genuine development of people, organizations, communities, and the greater whole. The Amana-Key Group has adopted the Earth Charter as a reference for its education programmes and innovation retreats. Thousands of leaders from corporations and the government take Amana-Key programmes every year, where their awareness of global issues affecting humanity is expanded along with their understanding of the importance of contributing to our collective evolution, through ethical and conscious management practices. Mr. Motomura started his career in Brazil in a large, multinational financial institution, where he reached a senior management position at the age of 26. He founded his own company at 28, which was the starting point for what is now Amana-Key. Motomura is known in Brazil as one the most creative specialists in the area of strategy. He holds degrees in business administration and social psychology.



Dumisani Nyoni (Zimbabwe)
Zimele Institute
Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP)
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Dumisani (**also "Dumi"**) **Nyoni** is a graduate of Psychology from Cambridge College, in the United States, and works on the coordinating team of Pioneers of Change, a global network of young leaders, activists, social entrepreneurs and change agents interested in understanding and having an impact on the systems that affect the communities, institutions, and societies around them.

Dumisani is a youth activist, leader, motivator and consultant with a range of experiences from building and coordinating global action networks, facilitating large and small gatherings, workshops and conferences, to advising organizations on strategic development, team building and the inclusion and participation of youth in programmes and processes. Having previously worked with the Earth Council at its former headquarters in Costa Rica, Dumisani helped to launch the youth component of the international Earth Charter Initiative for which he continues to act as an advisor. Dumisani has also worked as a youth coordinator at the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign, where he helped to organize the first global summit on Youth Employment, and to establish YES Country Networks in over 70 countries, which are youth-led multi-stakeholder coalitions that are launching projects around the world to create sustainable livelihoods for youth.

Dumisani serves as an advisor and board member to innovative organizations globally such as TakingITGlobal, EnVision Leadership, EcoVentures International, the Global Youth ACTION Network, The Sweet Mother Tour, IDEAS, and the Zimele Institute at the Organization of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP) in Zimbabwe. He is also a writer and a keen musician.



Alide Roerink (The Netherlands)
P.O. Box 94020
1090 GA Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Alide Roerink is an anthropologist and has been involved over the years in networking, advocacy, and policy development for gender justice, international solidarity, and global governance. Alide Roerink was coordinator of Vrouwenberaad Ontwikkelingssamenwerking, a network of gender experts in development agencies in The Netherlands. Since 2000 she has been working with the National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) in the capacity of advisor international relations, and is a member of the NCDO management team. Alide coordinates the NCDO Earth Charter programme and the Round Table of Worldconnectors for People and the Planet (www.worldconnectors.nl). Alide Roerink is board member of the Alliance for the University for Peace, NVVN (United Nations Associations Netherlands) and SIGN (Schoolfeeding Initiative Ghana Netherlands). NCDO is Affiliated to the Earth Charter Initiative and cooperated with the Earth Charter Initiative in the launch of the Earth Charter in 2000 in the Peace Palace in The Hague and in the Earth Charter+5 event in 2005 in Amsterdam. Alide Roerink initiated and co-edited the book Earth Charter in Action: Towards a Sustainable World. Alide Roerink was advisor to the Earth Charter Initiative before she joined the Council.



Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria)
University for Peace Geneva Office
7-9 chemin de Balexert,
1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun was, for many years, special adviser to the secretary general of the United Nations Kofi Annan, on the Horn of Africa region. Mr. Sahnoun has had a distinguished diplomatic career serving as adviser to the president of Algeria on diplomatic affairs, deputy secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and deputy secretary-general of the League of Arab States in charge of the Arab-Africa dialogue. He has served as Algeria's ambassador to the United States, France, Germany, and Morocco, as well as to the United Nations (UN).

Previously, he served as special adviser to the director general of the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the Culture of Peace Programme, special envoy of the secretary-general on the Ethiopian/Eritrean conflict (1998-1999), joint representative of the UN and the OAU in the Great Lakes region (1997), special representative of the UN secretary general to Somalia (1992). He was a member of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) in the 1980s, as well as senior adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. He was also the first executive director of the Earth Charter Initiative back in 1994. Mr. Sahnoun studied first at the Sorbonne University, in Paris, and than at New York University, where he received his B.A. and M. A. degrees in political science.



Kartikeya Sarabhai (India)
Centre for Environment Education (CEE)
Thaltej Tekra
380 054 Ahmedabad, India

Kartikeya V. Sarabhai is the founder and director of the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), a national institution engaged in promoting environmental awareness and conservation as well as education for sustainable development. Starting small in Ahmedabad in 1984, CEE today works at the national and international level with a staff of over 200 professionals and 40 offices across India, as well as in Australia and Sri Lanka. In 2005, CEE received the Global award for Outstanding Service to Environmental Education from the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Mr.Sarabhai also set up VIKSAT, an NGO working towards people's participation in natural resource management, as well as Sundervan, a nature discovery centre.

Mr. Sarabhai has served on several committees of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. These include greening India's formal education system and initiatives for biodiversity education. Mr. Sarabhai has long been associated with IUCN, and was the chair of South and South-East Asia, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication. He is currently vice-chair of the Indian National Commission. Mr. Sarabhai was instrumental in initiating SASEANEE, the South and Southeast Asian Network for Environment Education. He was a member of the Indian delegation to UNCED at Rio and WSSD at Johannesburg and was co-author of India's report

for UNCED. He has been closely associated with communication initiatives of UNEP, especially those connected with Ozone. Under his leadership CEE organized the first International Conference of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in January 2005. Mr. Sarabhai received the Tree of Learning Award from The World Conservation Union in 1998 in appreciation of his contributions to the field of environmental education and communication. In 2005, The Indian Institute of Human Rights presented Mr. Sarabhai with the World Human Rights Promotion Award.



Tommy Short (United States)
Chairman and Co-Founder
Earth Council Alliance
1220 Rosecrans St., #418
San Diego, CA 92106 USA

Tommy Short is chairman of Earth Council Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering a sustainable global society based on the principles of the Earth Charter. He is an international business man and philanthropist who has long supported sustainability projects around the world. In the past two decades, he has travelled extensively in the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia, working with local communities and organizations to identify and fund projects that support the environment, youth, and the arts. As co-founder and chairman of the Earth Council Alliance, Mr. Short has taken further strides in identifying opportunities and communicating sustainability to numerous organizations with co-founder, Maurice Strong.



Mary Evelyn Tucker (United States)
Yale University
School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
205 Prospect Street
New Haven CT 06511 - USA

Mary Evelyn Tucker received her PhD from Columbia University in East Asian religions. She was named to a dual appointment with the Yale Divinity School and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Previously she was a visiting professor of religion at Yale University, and she is founder and coordinator of the Forum on Religion and Ecology. Along with John Grim, she organized a ten-conference series on World Religions and Ecology at Harvard's Center for the Study of World Religions, which led to the publication of 10 volumes by Harvard from this series. She co-edited the volumes on the ecological dimensions of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Hinduism. They are also editors of a series of 18 books on Ecology and Justice from Orbis Books. Tucker has been a committee member of the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 1986, and is vice president of the American Teilhard Association. She was a member of the Earth Charter International Drafting Committee.

She has published Worldly Wonder: Religions Enter Their Ecological Phase (Open Court Press, 2003) and edited two volumes on Confucian Spirituality with Tu Weiming. Her newest books are an edited volume of Thomas Berry's papers titled Evening Thoughts: Reflecting of the Earth as Sacred Community (Sierra Club Books and University of California Press, 2006), and The Record of Great Doubts: The Philosophy of Ch'i (Columbia University Press, 2007).



Mirian Vilela (Brazil)
Earth Charter International Secretariat
c/o University for Peace
P.O. Box 138-6100 El Rodeo de Mora
Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica

Mirian Vilela is the executive director of Earth Charter International and has been involved in the initiative internationally since early 1996. She has coordinated an international process of consultation, and set up partnerships with organizations and individuals who contributed to the consultation process and who continue to be involved in the implementation phase of the Charter. She has organized and facilitated numerous international workshops and seminars on values and principles for sustainability. Prior to her work with the Earth Charter, Ms. Vilela worked for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) for two years in preparation of the 1992 UN Earth Summit. She is currently a faculty member of the University for Peace. She holds a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where she was an Edward Mason Fellow.



Erna Witoelar (Indonesia)
United Nations
Jl. M.H. Thamrin kav.3
P.O. Box 2338
- Jakarta 10001, Indonesia

Erna Witoelar was appointed as UN Special Ambassador for MDGs in Asia & the Pacific in October 2003. She is the former minister of human settlements and regional development (1999-2001) and a former member of the National Assembly of Indonesia. She currently serves as chairperson of the Indonesia Biodiversity Foundation (KEHATI), co-chair of the Partnership for Governance Reform in Indonesia, and an Earth Charter Commissioner. Before joining the Indonesian government, she pursued a long career in civil society and led the Indonesian Consumer Foundation (YLKI), founded and led both the Indonesia Forum for the Environment (WALHI) and Friends of the Environment Fund (DML), among others. At the global level she has been elected president of Consumers International (1991-1997), member of the Commission on Developing Countries and Global Changes (1990-1992), and member of the Advisory Committee on Industry and Sustainable Development of the Brundlandt Commission (1985-1986). She is currently the board member of several civil society organizations at national and international levels, including chairing the YIPD (Foundation for Local Governance Innovation), and serves as an advisor to both the Indonesian Association of Municipalities and Association of Districts. She was a recipient of the UNEP Global 500 Award during the Rio Summit in 1992, the Earth Day International Award at the UN in 1993, and the Indonesian Presidential Medal for the Environment in 1995.

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XIII. ECI Affiliates, and Youth and Student Groups

ECI Affiliates

AFRICA and the MIDDLE EAST

BURKINA FASO
Green Cross Burkina Faso^*

CAMEROON
Nouvelle Afrique

EGYPT
Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

JORDAN
Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP)

The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development

KENYA
The Green Belt Movement

MALI
*Association de Formation et d'Appui au Développement (AFAD)**

MAURITIUS
*Council for Environmental Studies and Conservation (MAUDESCO) **

NIGER
Commission Nationale pour l'environnément et le développement Durable

NIGERIA
*NGO Coalition for Environment **

*Eco-Stewards International**

Center for Peace Advancement in Nigeria (CEPAN)^*

SIERRA LEONE
*Environmental Foundation for Africa**

UGANDA
Integrated Rural Development Initiative - IRDI

ZAMBIA
*Workers Education Association of Zambia (WEAZ)**

ZIMBABWE
*Africa 2000 Network**

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA
*Earth Charter Queensland Committee**

*Edmund Rice Centre**

Sustainable Living Foundation^*

BANGLADESH
Centre for Sustainable Development

CHINA - HONG KONG
Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum

CHINA - TAIWAN
*Taiwan Ecological Stewardship Association – TESA**

INDIA
*PCED - The People's Commission on Environment and Development India**

*Development Alternatives**

*Center for Environment Education (CEE)**

Montfort Social Institute

Alaknanda Ghaati Shilpi Federation (AAGAAS FEDERATION)^*

INDONESIA
*Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation – KEHATI**

*Lenting (Institute for Development of Environmental Concern and Ethics)**

*Yayasan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan (Sustainable Development Foundation)/ LEAD Indonesia**

*Dana Mitra Lingkungan (Friends of the Environment Fund)**

JAPAN
The Okinawa Ocean Culture & Environment Action Network (Okinawa O.C.E.A.N.)

*Earth Charter Committee for Asia-Pacific and Japan**

MALAYSIA
*Earth Charter Malaysia**

NEPAL
*Center for Community Development and the Environment**

NEW ZEALAND / AOTEROA
New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law

*Faculty of Law, University of Auckland **

SRI LANKA
*Sarvodaya Sramadana movement**

THAILAND
Grassroots Action Program (GAP)

Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)

ADEC (Environment and sustainabiliy training NGO) and Mahidol University Thailand

THE PHILIPPINES
*Earth Council Asia Pacific**

Philippine Resources for Sustainable Development

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA
Association for Sustainable Human Development

AUSTRIA
International Network for Educational Exchange

AZERBAIJAN
IRELI Public Union

BELARUS
Youth International Education Club "New Line"^*

BULGARIA
Association "Balkan Agency for Sustainable Development" (BASD)^*

CZECH REPUBLIC
"UESS - SPODEK"^*

DENMARK
Green Cross Denmark

FINLAND
*GLM Finland^*

FRANCE
Centre Earth Charter pour une Education Developpement Durable

GERMANY
Ecumenical One World Initiative (Oekumenische Initiative Eine Welt)

GREENLAND
Earth Charter Greenland

HUNGARY
Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

ITALY
Pro-Natura

Fondazione Cogeme Onlus

Green Cross Italy

KYRGYZTAN
*Social Fund "Sunny Country" *^*

LATVIA
Institute for Sustainable Education at the Daugavpils University

THE NETHERLANDS
National Committee for International Cooperation - NCDO

NORWAY
Earth Charter Norway

PORTUGAL
*ASPEA - Portuguese Association for Environmental Education**

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Center for Russian Environmental Policy

SPAIN
*Fundación Valores **

Foro Soria 21 para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Fundación Avalon^*

*Guillem Ramis**

INFOVA - Instituto de Información Avanzada^*

SPAIN/CATALUNYA

UNESCOCat, Centre UNESCO de Catalunya, Comité Català per la Carta de la Terra

SWEDEN
Green Cross Sweden

SWITZERLAND
New Angles

Earth Charter Switlzerland

TAJIKISTAN
Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives (FSCI)

UNITED KINGDOM / ENGLAND
Earth Charter UK

UNITED KINGDOM / SCOTLAND
Action for Change

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA
*Argentina People and Nature Foundation**

*Ala Plástica**

Programa Agenda 21 Escolar, Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo de la República Argentina

BELIZE
*International Institute of Culture and Language**

BOLIVIA
*Fundación Puma**

BRAZIL
*Flávio Boleiz Júnior**

Instituto Paulo Freire

UMAPAZ

*Instituto BioMA**

*Center for Human Rights of Petropolis**

Instituto Harmonia na Terra^*

Nucleo dos Amigos da Infancia e da Adolescencia – NAIA

CHILE
Instituto Ecología Política

COLOMBIA
Fundación Taller de la Tierra^*

COSTA RICA
Centro Costarricense para la Ciencia y la Cultura – Museo del Niño

Universidad Nacional – UNA

La Salle, Distrito de Centroamérica – Panamá^*

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Centro Cultural Poveda

Centro de Estudios Sociales Padre Juan Montalvo

*International Resources Group, Ltd.**

ECUADOR
Andes Tropicales S.A.^*

HONDURAS
*Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Sostenible - CONADES**

MEXICO
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales - SEMARNAT

PERU
La Carta de la Tierra PERU^*

*Asociación Cultural Pirámide**

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
*Tropical Re-Leaf Foundation**

VENEZUELA
Vitalis Asociación Civil^*

Red Verde^*

Avepalmas Centro UNESCO^*

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA
Little Animation Inc.

*Quantum Dental**

UNITED STATES
*Earth Charter US**

Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education of Florida Gulf Coast University^*

The Interfaith Center of New York

Earth Charter Communities USA Initiatives

**Affiliates with MOU* *^new affiliates (2009)*

Youth and Student Groups

AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

CAMEROON
*LUKMEF-Cameroon-ECYG **

*ECYG AFREDECC Limbe**

ECYG Yaoundé Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child

CONGO
ECYG AZUR Development

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Congolese Youth Association for Development

*MAISON DES JEUNES ECYG – PRODECE**

ETHIOPIA
ECYG Jimma

THE GAMBIA
*ECYG - Global Unification, The Gambia**

GHANA
*IMAANI foundation ECYG **

ECYG Visionary Youth Ghana

*ECYG THE PIGOP **

ECYG Youth in Environment and Agriculture (YEA)

*ECYG For Sustainability and Peace Ghana **

ISRAEL
*Earth Charter Youth Initiative Israel**

KENYA
Kenyan Disabled Youth Action Network (KEDAN)

Mathare Roots Youth Group

Kibera Community Youth Programme

*Students for Global Sustainability – University of Nairobi**

Lake Victoria ECYG

LIBERIA
ECYG for Sustainability and Peace

*Fiamah Youth in Action for Development ECYG **

NIGERIA
*ECYG OGUN **

*ECYG Climate Change and Green Development **

CCN Earth Charter Youth Group

*Earth Charter Youth Committee Save a Youth Soul (SAYS)**

Earth Charter Youth Group Calabar, Nigeria

ECYG for Sustainability, Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative

ECYG Lagos and Abuja

*ECYG Youth Vision Alliance Network **

*ECYG Sokoto for Change **

ECYG Suleja at the African School of Excellence

ECYG Warri

RWANDA
Youth Association for Dissemination of Development Information (YADDI)

SIERRA LEONE
ECYG Sierra Leone

SOMALIA
*ECYG Somalia **

TOGO
Togolese Foundation for Peace

UGANDA
Students for Global Democracy – Uganda

*East Africa Network for Peace Builders - Earth Charter Youth Group**

ZAMBIA
ECYG for Social Empowerment and Development

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

BANGLADESH
ECYG Climate Natural

CHINA
GreenSOS (Green Student Organizations Society)

INDIA
*ECYG Green-Clean Himalaya India AAGAAS FEDERATION **

IDONESIA
*ECYG – Jakarta Green Monster**

PAKISTAN
ECYG Farz Association of Rehabilitaion and Development

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
*Earth Charter Youth Committee PNG for Ecological & Economical Sustainability**

PHILLIPPINES
ECYG at Mindanao Polytechnic State College
ECYG Negros
Philippine Resources for Sustainable Development, Inc

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA
ECYG FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

BELARUS
Youth International Club "NEWLINE"

CROATIA
*ECYG de leut's environment**

FINLAND
ECYG Finland

GERMANY
*ECYG Marburg**

LATVIA
ECYG Students for Sustainability

ROMANIA
ECYG Constanta

SERBIA
ECYG KRIO

TAJIKISTAN
ECYG Dushanbe: "Live Earth"

UNITED KINGDOM
Havering Sixth Form College (East London)
*Earth Charter Student Group**

UKRAINE
*Earth Charter Ukraine for Education for All**

UZBEKISTAN
ECYG School Connect

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA
Cowichan Intercultural Society Youth Projects

SGIC Vancouver Youth Earth Charter Committee

USA
E3: Ecology, Economy, Equity (California Student Sustainability Coalition, UCLA Chapter)

*Earth Charter Butler Chapter **

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL
ECYG Diversity Institute, Bahia

COSTA RICA
ECYG University for Peace Environmental Club

ECYG at United World College

MEXICO
Multidisciplinary Group of Youth in Michoacan

PERU
Asociacion Peruana de Escultismo (APE)

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XIV. The Earth Charter



PREAMBLE

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

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 uncertain adventure, but Earth has provided the conditions essential to life's evolution. The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters, and clean air. The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.

The Global Situation

The dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental devastation, the depletion of resources, and a massive extinction of species. Communities are being undermined. The benefits of development are not shared equitably and the gap between rich and poor is widening. Injustice, poverty, ignorance, and violent conflict are widespread and the cause of great suffering. An unprecedented rise in human population has overburdened ecological and social systems. The foundations of global security are threatened. These trends are perilous—but not inevitable.

The Challenges Ahead

The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another or risk the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life. Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living. We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more. We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all and to reduce our impacts on the environment. The emergence of a global civil society is creating new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world. Our environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual challenges are interconnected, and together we can forge inclusive solutions.

Universal Responsibility

To realize these aspirations, we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our 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 family 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 urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed.

PRINCIPLES

I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

1. ***Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.***
   a. Recognize that all beings are interdependent and every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings.
   b. Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.

2. ***Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.***
   a. Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.
   b. Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.

3. ***Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.***
   a. Ensure that communities at all levels guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone an opportunity to realize his or her full potential.
   b. Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is ecologically responsible.

4. ***Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.***
   a. Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations.
   b. Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities.

In order to fulfill these four broad commitments, 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. Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and regulations that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all development initiatives.

   b. Establish and safeguard viable nature and biosphere reserves, including wild lands and marine areas, to protect Earth's life support systems, maintain biodiversity, and preserve our natural heritage.

   c. Promote the recovery of endangered species and ecosystems.

   d. Control and eradicate non-native or genetically modified organisms harmful to native species and the environment, and prevent introduction of such harmful organisms.

   e. Manage the use of renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products, and marine life in ways that do not exceed rates of regeneration and that protect the health of ecosystems.

   f. Manage the extraction and use of non-renewable resources such as minerals and fossil fuels in ways that minimize depletion and cause no serious environmental damage.

6. ***Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.***

   a. Take action to avoid the possibility of serious or irreversible environmental harm even when scientific knowledge is incomplete or inconclusive.

   b. Place the burden of proof on those who argue that a proposed activity will not cause significant harm, and make the responsible parties liable for environmental harm.

   c. Ensure that decision making addresses the cumulative, long-term, indirect, long distance, and global consequences of human activities.

   d. Prevent pollution of any part of the environment and allow no build-up of radioactive, toxic, or other hazardous substances.

   e. Avoid military activities damaging to the environment.

7. ***Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.***

   a. Reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used in production and consumption systems, and ensure that residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems.

   b. Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

   c. Promote the development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

   d. Internalize the full environmental and social costs of goods and services in the selling price, and enable consumers to identify products that meet the highest social and environmental standards.

   e. Ensure universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.

   f. Adopt lifestyles that emphasize the quality of life and material sufficiency in a finite world.

8. ***Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.***

   a. Support international scientific and technical cooperation on sustainability, with special attention to the needs of developing nations.

   b. Recognize and preserve the traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all cultures that contribute to environmental protection and human well-being.

   c. Ensure that information of vital importance to human health and environmental protection, including genetic information, remains available in the public domain.

III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

9. ***Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.***

   a. Guarantee the right to potable water, clean air, food security, uncontaminated soil, shelter, and safe sanitation, allocating the national and international resources required.

   b. Empower every human being with the education and resources to secure a sustainable livelihood, and provide social security and safety nets for those who are unable to support themselves.

   c. Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and enable them to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.

10. ***Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.***

    a. Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations.

    b. Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.

    c. Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and progressive labor standards.

    d. Require multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public good, and hold them accountable for the consequences of their activities.

11. ***Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.***

    a. Secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them.

    b. Promote the active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal partners, decision makers, leaders, and beneficiaries.

    c. Strengthen families and ensure the safety and loving nurture of all family members.

12. ***Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.***

a. Eliminate discrimination in all its forms, such as that based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, language, and national, ethnic or social origin.

b. Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources and to their related practice of sustainable livelihoods.

c. Honor and support the young people of our communities, enabling them to fulfill their essential role in creating sustainable societies.

d. Protect and restore outstanding places of cultural and spiritual significance.

IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.

a. Uphold the right of everyone to receive clear and timely information on environmental matters and all development plans and activities which are likely to affect them or in which they have an interest.

b. Support local, regional and global civil society, and promote the meaningful participation of all interested individuals and organizations in decision making.

c. Protect the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, association, and dissent.

d. Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.

e. Eliminate corruption in all public and private institutions.

f. Strengthen local communities, enabling them to care for their environments, and assign environmental responsibilities to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively.

14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.

a. Provide all, especially children and youth, with educational opportunities that empower them to contribute actively to sustainable development.

b. Promote the contribution of the arts and humanities as well as the sciences in sustainability education.

c. Enhance the role of the mass media in raising awareness of ecological and social challenges.

d. Recognize the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living.

15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.

a. Prevent cruelty to animals kept in human societies and protect them from suffering.

b. Protect wild animals from methods of hunting, trapping, and fishing that cause extreme, prolonged, or avoidable suffering.

c. Avoid or eliminate to the full extent possible the taking or destruction of non-targeted species.

16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.

a. Encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation among all peoples and within and among nations.

b. Implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve environmental conflicts and other disputes.

c. Demilitarize national security systems to the level of a non-provocative defense posture, and convert military resources to peaceful purposes, including ecological restoration.

d. Eliminate nuclear, biological, and toxic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

e. Ensure that the use of orbital and outer space supports environmental protection and peace.

f. Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.

THE WAY FORWARD

As never before in 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 to adopt and promote the values and objectives of the Charter.

This requires a change of mind and heart. It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility. We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures will find their own distinctive ways to realize 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.

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

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

Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.



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