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YLT Rep, Hind Ottmani, Morocco
I. The Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI)

Intro

The Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI) is a bold and dynamic action-oriented youth network that promotes the principles in the Earth Charter. The ECYI is founded on the conviction that sustainable development is an ethical imperative and that urgent action is required to bring about a just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

ECYI is active in over 50 countries and continues to grow rapidly. It is composed of Earth Charter Youth Groups, individual members, and partner organizations. It is guided by the Youth Leadership Team, an elected group of 11 young people representing all major regions of the world. The diverse members of the ECYI, who are typically 15 to 35 years old, seek to embody the Earth Charter’s principles in their daily lives; share the Charter with others; organize local sustainable development and peacebuilding projects, and participate in global decision-making processes. To become a member of the ECYI, an individual endorses the Earth Charter and completes the ECYI Membership Application, available at www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/.

The Youth Initiative is coordinated and supported by an international Youth Leadership Team of 11 youth, as well as an International Youth Coordinator and other office staff. Earth Charter International ("ECI") is the organization supporting the much broader and voluntary Earth Charter Initiative. ECI has offices in Costa Rica and Sweden and is guided by the Earth Charter International Council, which includes two ECYI youth representatives, Camila Godinho of Brazil and Dumisani Nyoni of Zimbabwe.

The mission of the ECYI is “To encourage young people to join hands, hearts, and minds to build a sustainable world based on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.”

The objectives of the ECYI include:

- To expand awareness of sustainable development and the Earth Charter among young people;
- To provide peer-to-peer education and training on sustainable ways of living;
- To seek engaged endorsements of the Earth Charter, especially by forging local, national, and global alliances of young people;
- To engage in and promote ethics-based assessment using the Earth Charter to define what it means to be a truly sustainable individual, school, business or community; and
- To integrate the principles of the Earth Charter into youth-led projects which contribute to the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Brief History

Principle 12c of the Earth Charter reads: "Honor and support the young people of our communities, enabling them to fulfill their essential role in creating sustainable societies."

Inspired by this Supporting Principle and motivated to create a space for youth to meaningfully engage with global issues, a youth intern at the Earth Charter Secretariat in Costa Rica (now the EC Center for Education for Sustainable Development), Dumisani

YLT Rep, Samer Eid, Palestinian Territory
Nyoni, started the Earth Charter Youth Initiative in 2000. Subsequent volunteer youth coordinators and Earth Charter staff – including Melanie Ashton of Australia, Nicole Jirón Beirut of Costa Rica, Renaud Richard of France, and Michael Slaby of Germany -- expanded ECYI’s reach and enhanced the resources and programs of this global network of youth activists.

An early milestone was the endorsement of the Earth Charter by the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign and, consequently, a shift in emphasis in YES from employment creation for youth to environmental sustainability. Another milestone occurred at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in South Africa in 2002. The Youth Caucus at WSSD supported the Earth Charter and included it in their final Youth Declaration.

The first Earth Charter Youth Groups were launched in April 2003, one in Sierra Leone and the other in the Philippines. Four years later, there are over ten times as many ECYGs, with the original two still active. See the next section for more information.

In 2004, the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Barcelona, Spain gathered some 4,000 religious leaders, scholars, lay people, and journalists from around the world. A special emphasis was given to youth involvement. Then ECYI Coordinator, Michael Slaby, organized an Earth Charter panel within the Parliament and established fruitful relationships with key leaders of the emerging global interfaith youth movement.

In 2005, in conjunction with the EC+5 Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands, 30 ECYI leaders from around the world met face-to-face for the first time. After nearly five years of communication via the Internet, they spent the week in the Netherlands sharing stories, successes, and challenges, and planning for the future of the network. As a result of the conference, ECYI activists reaffirmed their commitment to the concept of the EC Youth Group as the main vehicle of the ECYI, and resolved to work towards programs in trade justice, sustainable livelihoods, peace education, and leadership training. A new and expanded Core Group of 13 individuals was formed at EC+5 to help coordinate the Youth Initiative.

In November 2006, with generous funding from Plan Netherlands (a prominent and highly regarded development agency focused on improving the well-being of children), Earth Charter International was able to hire a full-time youth coordinator, Dominic Stucker, for the first time in its history.

For a more complete history of the ECYI, please request the “ECYI Assessment Report, June 2005” by writing to youthcoordinator@earthcharter.org.

**Online Forums**

The ECYI network is primarily connected through the Internet. Currently, the following website and listserv offer the most up-to-date information and idea-sharing among ECYI activists.

The **ECYI Website** is maintained by the International Youth Coordinator from the Costa Rica office. Stories and reports are posted on the ECYI Blog from young activists around the world. Make a comment and add to the discussions! This page also lists engaged Earth Charter Youth Groups with contact information.

[www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/)

The **ECYI mailing list** is housed at TakingITGlobal.org, an online youth engagement community. Historical, reference, and project documents are available for download on the TIG ECYI page.

[www.groups.takingitglobal.org/ecyi](http://www.groups.takingitglobal.org/ecyi)
II. The Youth Leadership Team (YLT), 2007-2009

Intro

In September 2007, the ECYI's first-ever, democratically-elected Youth Leadership Team (YLT) was formed. Five women and six men, between the ages of 18 and 30, from all major regions of the world are serving for a 2-year term. The YLT, working collaboratively with the International Youth Coordinator, is entrusted with guiding the ECYI and helping the Initiative work toward its vision and mission. The full mandate and information on the election process can be found in the YLT Guidelines.

In November 2007, the YLT will have its launch meeting in Ahmedabad, India in conjunction with the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education. With input from regional ECYI members, YLT Representatives will be finalizing their Plan of Action 2007-2009; co-facilitating the Youth Working Session at the conference; participating on plenary panels; and signing a Partnership Agreement with UNEP’s South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN).

YLT Bios

Africa and the Middle East

Ms. Hind Ottmani, Morocco
Read Hind's CV
I am a 25 years old Moroccan architect. For the last 5 years, I have been involved in a range of organizations and activities promoting gender equity, sustainable development, trade justice, youth participation and the culture of peace. And during these years, I have been working on linking my professional career with my passion for development, which explains my deep interest in urban sustainability. I have been trained in sustainable development, sustainable landscape design, and ended up working on youth friendly urban spaces as a graduation project. [I also participated in EC+5 in Amsterdam, 2005.] On a much less serious note, I am also a chocolate fan.

Mr. Samer Eid, Palestinian Territory
Read Samer's CV
My name is Samer Eid, I am a Palestinian. I was born in Jerusalem but I grew up in Ramallah. I finished high school in 1997, then I attended Birzeit University where I got my B.Sc. in Chemistry. Due to the bad political and economic situation in Palestine, my family didn’t have the ability to pay for my education, so I had to work while I was studying. When I finished from the University, I worked as a quality control supervisor at a pharmaceutical company in Ramallah for one year. I also taught Chemistry in the Al-Mustaqbal School in Ramallah for two years. While I was working in the pharmaceutical company and in the school, I also worked afternoons as a cosmetics salesman. After that I went to the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies to continue my M.Sc. and now I am an M.Sc. student at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, studying the environment.

Mr. Timothy Ogene, Nigeria
Read Timothy's CV
I am Timothy Ogene from Nigeria, a development and youth empowerment advocate with special interest in poverty reduction, ICT, and peacebuilding. Having volunteered for a good number of youth-led organisations, I have acquired skills in the areas of advocacy, communication, networking and personnel management. I pioneered Young & Speed Africa, a youth-led organisation that is committed to building partnerships for the sustainable development of Africa and empowering youths to be change leaders in their communities. I also initiated the Youth Action Partners for Development, an online interactive community
for youths who are dedicated to community development. My mission is to support people in supporting
themselves. And I dream of a peaceful world where man respects his fellow man and the environment.

Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Aparna Susarla, India

Read Aparna's CV

I completed my post graduate education in Environmental Sciences in May 2007 and I am working as a Programme Officer in the Youth Environment Network in the Center for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, India [an Earth Charter Affiliate]. My résumé, above, provides more details on my qualifications and the projects I worked with. I like experimenting and achieving what others think is impossible, and I believe in practicality more than anything else. I am interested in traveling and interacting with people, knowing more about their cultures and traditional patterns. My experience of working with several eco-friendly organizations as a supporter, volunteer and intern has helped me develop interest in sustainable living for sustainable development and taught me to be open minded and adaptable. I have a keen interest in conserving nature and its invaluable resources. I am a very good, amicable team player and I adapt myself to the environment I am in. I believe in learning practically from my experiences and in improving the quality of my work.

Mr. Yuyun Harmono, Indonesia

Read Yuyun's CV

I am Yuyun Harmono from Indonesia. I am 24 years old. Now, I work as an Outreach Officer with the Anti Debt Coalition (ADC), based in Jakarta. My 2 years of work experience with ADC has helped me learn how to use technology for campaigning. I am also an Action Partner with the Oxfam International Youth Partnership for 2007-2010. I am inspired by the Earth Charter because it is an effort to build a peaceful and sustainable world, and supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Niu Kejia, China

Read Niu's CV

I am a a fourth-year undergraduate student in the Biomedical Engineering Department, Sichuan University, Sichuan Province, China. During my three years in university, I became especially interested in the environment problems in China, especially the improvement of environmental consciousness. I have been in the green group at our university for 3 years and now I am the General Coordinator of GreenSOS, a non-governmental organization aimed to help other green groups in China and promote the green youth movement. [GreenSOS is also an Earth Charter Youth Group.] I, with my friends in GreenSOS, created many projects about environmental protection which are often imitated by other green groups.

Europe and Central Asia

Mr. Didier Gleyzes, France

Read Didier's CV

Born in the city of Annecy in the French Alpes in 1984, I obtained my master's degree in International Organizations at the end of October. Currently working as an intern at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on their sustainable lifestyles and climate change communication campaign, I am looking for employment in either NGOs/IGOs or CSR for November. [I was also a member of the Core Group, 2005-2007.] I am firmly committed to the cause of sustainability, and my main hobbies are sport, traveling, philosophy, and music.

Ms. Jana Kovandzic, Serbia

Read Jana's CV

My name is Jana Kovandzic. I am from Serbia. I am a fourth year student of Belgrade University, Faculty of Political Sciences. As one of the top students, I attended a program at Belgrade Open School, Department for Advanced Undergraduate Studies. There I learned about the EU and the Balkans. I did an internship
program in the Serbian European Integration Office, a governmental body. I attended summer school at the University of Graz - subject European Culture(s). I am a journalist for VOX, a student newspaper. In the Anti-Corruption Student Network in SEE, I did research on financial flows through Serbian universities. I am a member of the UN Association of Serbia. In this organization, I did a project called "Participation of young people in the UN bodies." I also coordinate a UNESCO club, "Center."

Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Gabriela Monteiro, Brazil
Read Gabriela's CV

I graduated in International Relations and my dream is to work with development and environment. I was elected to be one of the two TUNZA Youth Advisers of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for Latin America and the Caribbean from 2007 to 2009. I am currently conducting an internship with an NGO in Romania. I'm looking forward to start to work on social/environmental projects in my community and strengthen the TUNZA and ECYI networks.

Mr. Namir Nava, Mexico
Read Namir's CV

I was born in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico in 1980. I come from a middle class Christian family. Since my father was murdered in 1983 by the political and corrupt system of those years, my mother has become a defender of human rights with local NGO's, especially from women. Since I studied communications, my interest has become on peace processes and social changes. For seven years, I have been part of projects or NGO's involved on human and sexual rights defense. I have encouraged many youth from my region to become part of this group that I had founded in 2003, named Multidisciplinary Group of Youth in Michoacan [an Earth Charter Youth Group]. From that group, we have spread the Earth Charter principles and we have made recommendations for the government through documents such as the Declaration of Youth for Sustainable Development. Also, we have raised social consciousness through radio campaigns and workshops to prevent homophobia and promote the respect for the construction of diverse families. I consider myself a promoter of peace and respect in my community. [I also participated in EC+5, a large Earth Charter conference in Amsterdam in 2005.]

North America

Ms. Lisa Jokivirta, Canada
Read Lisa's CV

As a Finnish Canadian with significant international experience, I am a strong advocate of the importance of sharing knowledge across cultures to strengthen the development of individuals and the societies in which they live. First, just a few words about myself: I am a founding member of the first-ever Earth Charter Youth Group (ECYG) in Finland, and am currently undertaking a six-month placement at the EC Center in Costa Rica as part of my Master's program. As a member of the Youth Leadership Team, I hope to offer some of the insight gained from 6-7 years of involvement in various international and youth organizations. I also hope to bring a "fresh pair of eyes" to the ECYI table, as a relative newcomer having experienced both the rewards and challenges of setting up an ECYG.
III. Earth Charter Youth Groups (ECYGs)

Intro

ECYI promotes and supports Earth Charter Youth Groups (ECYGs) as excellent vehicles for affecting change. Through their local and national-level work, ECYGs can achieve a multiplying effect in their communities and countries. ECYI strives to create as many ECYGs as possible, while supporting their active and meaningful engagement.

An Earth Charter Youth Group is a society, network, or organization of young activists working to bring alive the vision of the Earth Charter in their local and/or national communities. Youth groups include a great diversity of young women and men from various ethnic, religious, and socio-economic groups. Some are existing groups that have decided to ally themselves with the ECYI, while others have been created in response to the inspiration of the Earth Charter. Single faith youth groups may form “Earth Charter Youth Committees,” while interfaith and inter-denominational youth groups may become full ECYGs.

As of this publication date, there are 25 official Earth Charter Youth Groups in 21 countries around the world and this number is growing steadily.

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<th>Africa and the Middle East</th>
<th>Europe and Central Asia</th>
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<td>Philippines (x3)</td>
<td>United States</td>
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Benefits of Becoming an ECYG

1. **Association with a bold and dynamic movement** that asserts that ethical sustainable development is not just a good idea, but an imperative for humanity’s and the Earth’s survival;

2. Listing of your ECYG profile on the official Earth Charter website that currently receives over 70,000 distinct visitors each month;

3. Use of the Earth Charter as a reference guide and an educational tool in your activities to help bring about a "just, sustainable, and peaceful world;"

4. Dialogue with the individuals and ECYGs of the global ECYI network through the ECYI List Serv, ECYI Blog, and ECYI Databases;

5. Inspiration, new ideas, and potential partnerships from such dialogue;

YLT Rep, Aparna Susarla, India
6. **Access to useful resources for participating in global governance processes, assessing sustainability, organizing projects and identifying donors**, including eligibility to apply for reimbursements from the ECYI Special Projects Fund;

7. **Announcements of opportunities**, such as conferences, grants, scholarships, competitions, and campaigns; and

8. **Support and encouragement** from the international Youth Leadership Team and the International Youth Coordinator.

**Establishing an ECYG**

ECYI members are encouraged to form local Earth Charter Youth Groups to disseminate and implement the Earth Charter in their respective local contexts. ECYGs are also encouraged to collaborate with one another, as well as with other organizations. When several ECYGs exist in one country, it is suggested to form a non-hierarchical, countrywide network and develop a common country vision. Reaching across national borders to form regional networks is also appropriate, especially when such regions encompass a river basin, mountain range, forest, desert, island, etc.

**ECYGs can be created in all kinds of settings**, including schools, universities, associations, neighborhoods, and places of worship so long as people want to work together based on the values embedded in the Earth Charter.

All kinds of **existing groups**, clubs, associations, and youth NGOs that share the ethical vision of the Earth Charter are also invited to join the global network of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative.

**First Steps Towards Creating an ECYG**

- **Connect with the International Youth Coordinator**, Youth Leadership Team Representative, and/or established ECYGs in your region for advice and information.
- **Find a group of interested people**, or introduce the Earth Charter into an existing organization.
- **Review the Earth Charter carefully** and think about how you might apply it locally.
- **Define concrete results** you want to achieve and actions to get there.

We encourage groups to be gender balanced and to include representatives from various local ethnic, religious, and socio-economic groups.

**Steps for Official Recognition of a Youth Group**

1. **Identify a contact person** for your ECYG. This person is usually the Coordinator for the Youth Group as well.

2. **Read and endorse the Earth Charter** as a youth organization and ask all of your members to endorse it as well. Go to [www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/) and click on “Endorse the Charter.”

3. **Fill out this ECYG Application**, available for downloading at [www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/), and e-mail it to youthcoordinator@earthcharter.org.

4. **Ask all of your members to fill out the ECYI Membership Application**, also available at [www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/) and mail them to the same address.
5. Each ECYG is asked to submit thorough documentation of its activities 1-2 times each calendar year. Documentation of your Youth Group’s successes and lessons learned are extremely important, as it will be made available to the ECYI, Council Members, potential donors, and the general public for inspiration and reference. Documentation can include a report, a detailed e-mail, a narrated video, a telephone conversation, photos with detailed captions, etc.

Structuring an ECYG

The type and degree of structure depends mainly on your local preferences. Do you want to create a legal structure or keep it informal? How do you organize activities and share tasks among each other? From an international coordination point of view, a reliable contact person is essential. Though not exhaustive, other suggestions include:

Core Roles and Functions

- **Coordinator**: Usually the contact person with the International Youth Coordinator. She facilitates the work of the group and convenes the meetings. If the group consists entirely of minors, an adult could serve as an advisor for legal purposes. The facilitator should be a very good listener and speak on behalf of the group. The group should operate according to the grass-roots principle of democracy, in that decisions are taken by the group as a whole, after adequate discussion.

- **Secretary**: Is responsible for keeping track of the ECYG’s membership, the history of the organization, and the minutes of meetings.

- **Treasurer and Fundraiser**: Identifies and pursues financial, material, and in-kind support for the ECYG to perform its activities; and uses such resources appropriately.

- **Project Manager(s)**: Runs one or more projects in which the ECYG is engaged.

- **Public Relations Officer**: Communicates with local NGO’s, the local press, and the public to inform them about ongoing activities and to invite their participation.

Have fun! And enjoy acting together for change!

Financial Resources

It is strongly encouraged that Youth Groups strive for financial autonomy. We encourage you to seek out partnerships within the ECYI network, especially North/South and South/South connections, in addition to approaching outside donors. At this time, ECI is also able to offer micro-reimbursements through its ECYI Special Projects Fund. Please write to youthcoordinator@earthcharter.org for more information.

ECYG Activities

ECYGs seek to take a holistic and inclusive approach in their work, mirroring the values in the Earth Charter. Their mandate is to serve as an integrating force within their communities, highlighting the interconnectedness of the sometimes fragmented areas of ecology, social and economic justice, and peace. In all activities, the group should seek cooperation with local, regional, and/or global NGOs, businesses, government offices, universities, and/or religious institutions to strengthen links with and among them. ECYGs are not in competition with the aspirations of other institutions or one another.
ECYGs are engaged in activities ranging from bridging the digital divide in Rwanda to promoting renewable energy on university campuses in the United States; from translating the Earth Charter into Finnish to promoting sustainable lifestyles in the Philippines; from leading Earth Charter workshops in Brazil to conducting an Earth Charter radio series in Mexico. Individual members of the ECYI also participate actively in regional and global conferences, such as the CIVICUS Youth Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Youth Caucus, the Tällberg Forum, and the United Nation's Environment Program TUNZA Youth Conference.

ECYGs are local groups and, as such, are free to choose their activities and priorities. Indeed, the diverse activities listed above are examples of the magnificent creativity of young people around the world to find their own local and culturally specific ways of putting the global values of the Earth Charter into practice.

For further reading on Youth Group activities, project reports will soon be made available as part of ECYG profiles at www.earthcharterinaction.org/youth/. See also the Global Youth Service Day Final Report, 2007, for inspiring ideas.
IV. Partners

Our partners are comprised of a range of youth-oriented organizations and networks, including:

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<th>Partner</th>
<th>Region of Activity</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<td>Beatboard</td>
<td>North America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brink Expedition</td>
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<td>Peace Child International (PCI)</td>
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<td>United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)</td>
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Our list of partners will continue to grow as we negotiate formal agreements and projects with them.

Here are a few examples of the projects we are conducting with some of the above partners.

IUCN Campaign: Framework for Forming Intergenerational Partnerships for Sustainable Development

In partnership with GYAN, TIG, PCI, and YAC, ECYI wrote a workshop proposal on a “Framework for Forming Intergenerational Partnerships for Sustainable Development (the Framework), which was accepted by IUCN for its World Conservation Congress to be held in Barcelona, Spain in November 2008. But we are not stopping there. We want the IUCN Council to adopt our collaboratively-created Framework as an official Resolution.

The workshop at the IUCN will serve as the culmination of a year-long effort by youth and adults to collaboratively create the Framework. To be launched at the 4th International Conference on Environment Education in Ahmedabad, India, this campaign will include two parallel streams: 1) drafting and revising the Framework at strategic events (such as GYS, CSD, CIVICUS, and the WYC) and through an open-source Wiki page and 2) the strategic lobbying of IUCN member countries and organizations to present the final version of the Framework to the IUCN Council for consideration as an official Resolution. We believe that such a Framework, especially if adopted by the IUCN, would provide an empowering mechanism for youth organizations to form partnerships with other organizations and governments under the banner of sustainability.
e-GLO: Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity

The e-GLO Team consists of Mike Sheehan, of Beatboard; Camila Godinho, youth representative on Earth Charter’s International Council; Leah Wener, former Earth Charter intern; and Dominic Stucker, ECYI’s International Youth Coordinator. In January 2008, we plan to launch e-GLO, a semester-long, online digital storytelling and community leadership training inspired by the Earth Charter.

e-GLO will be offered to 20-30 youth aged 18-30 who are motivated community project planners and socially conscious artists from around the world. Participants will meet online via webcam and mic in e-GLO’s own virtual conference environment. The online session will happen every other weekend for a period of two hours and will cover introductions, workshops, interviews with expert guests, cultural performances, participant presentations celebrating local projects and e-GLO collaborative projects, as well as a live, interactive, multi-media event open to the public. e-GLO seeks to build capacity for youth digital storytelling and to compile an online library highlighting youth-led development projects.

Global Youth Service Day

In partnership with GYAN and YSA, ECYI was honored to be on the Global Youth Service Day’s (GYSD’s) International Coordination Committee for the first time in 2007. ECYI helped to publicize the event that mobilized 3.2 million young people all around the world through service projects and celebrations of volunteerism. ECYI also offered the Earth Charter to GYSD participants and National Focal Points as a holistic framework for designing projects that integrate all facets of sustainability and peacebuilding. ECYI looks forward to playing an even bigger role in GYSD 2008!
V. Core Group Plan of Action and Earth Charter International Strategy for ECYI

The Plan of Action 2005-2007, developed by the Core Group at EC+5, laid out an ambitious agenda for the ECYI. The International Youth Coordinator, inspired by the Vision and Mission Statements for the ECI written by the International Council in Amsterdam in October 2006, developed the “ECI Strategy for Growing, Supporting, and Empowering the ECYI” in early 2007. Both these documents are summarized below.

Note: The new YLT will review this Plan of Action, allowing it to inform the creation of their own PoA, 2007-2009

Summary of Plan of Action 2005-2007

The Plan of Action 2005-2007 describes Programs, Activities, and Measures for Success for the ECYI. On the Program level, the Plan states that

...specific local projects and priorities largely depend on the preferences and creativity of the ECYGs themselves. However, all members of the ECYI are encouraged to implement and promote the “4 Es”... of the global Earth Charter Initiative: Expanded Awareness, Education for a Sustainable Way of Life, Engaged Endorsements, and Ethics-Based Assessment.

The Plan offers examples on how to implement these programs, including a set of Activities that ECYGs are encouraged to incorporate. These activities include leadership training, applying the Earth Charter in one’s daily life, peace education, and trade justice. The Millennium Development Goals are listed as a crosscutting theme.

Regarding global governance decision-making processes, the Plan states that “ECYI members, both new and future, are encouraged to actively partake in relevant... inter-governmental processes such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and Marrakesh Process.”

The Plan defines Measures for Success, many of which have already been met...

- Within 2006, we aim to have a well-functioning interactive website;
- By 2007, we aim to make the Earth Charter Youth Initiative self-sustaining with an international secretariat working with sufficient resources;
- Raise the financial means to employ at least one international youth coordinator within the year 2006.
- By 2007, we aim to have well-functioning and self-sustaining Earth Charter Youth Groups in at least 20 countries.
- More endorsements for the Earth Charter will be secured by existing and future ECYGs; and
- Partnerships forged and projects implemented will be significantly increased.

...and some of which are still being pursued...

- [The number of countries with Earth Charter Youth Groups] is targeted to reach 50 by 2010;
- We aim to make the international e-mail network of the ECYI grow to at least 1,000 members worldwide by early 2007 and 5,000 members by 2010; and
- Successes, case-studies, and experiences will be documented on the homepage and published in an annual report.

These Measures for Success have been carefully considered and integrated into the “ECI Strategy for Growing, Supporting, and Empowering the ECYI.”
Summary of the ECI Strategy for Growing, Supporting, and Empowering the ECYI

The **Goal** of the Strategy paper, which extends through 2007 and 2008, is to:

Inspire hope within and through the ECYI and support this global youth network in embodying, promoting, and applying the principles of the Earth Charter.

The three **Objectives** are to:

1. Raise awareness of the Earth Charter among key youth leaders and networks;
2. Grow, support, and empower ECYGs who are engaged in local action projects; and
3. Facilitate the engagement of ECYI members in global sustainable development decision-making processes.

The Strategy paper goes on to detail eight specific **Strategies** that seek to achieve the above Objectives. They are [to be finalized]:

1. Use Cutting Edge Internet Technologies and Presentations to Engage Youth Around the Earth Charter;
2. Develop and Disseminate Publications and Resources to Guide and Support Youth;
3. Grow, Support, and Empower ECYGs;
4. Cultivate an Engaged Youth Leadership Team;
5. Form Durable Partnerships with Youth Organizations and Networks;
6. Develop and Implement e-GLO, an Earth Charter-Inspired Online Leadership Training;
7. Facilitate the Engagement of Youth in Global Sustainable Development Decision-Making Processes; and
8. Develop and Implement ECYI’s Special Projects Fund.

To read the complete Plan of Action, 2005-2007 and the ECI Strategy for the ECYI, please contact youthcoordinator@earthcharter.org.
VI. Contact Information

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