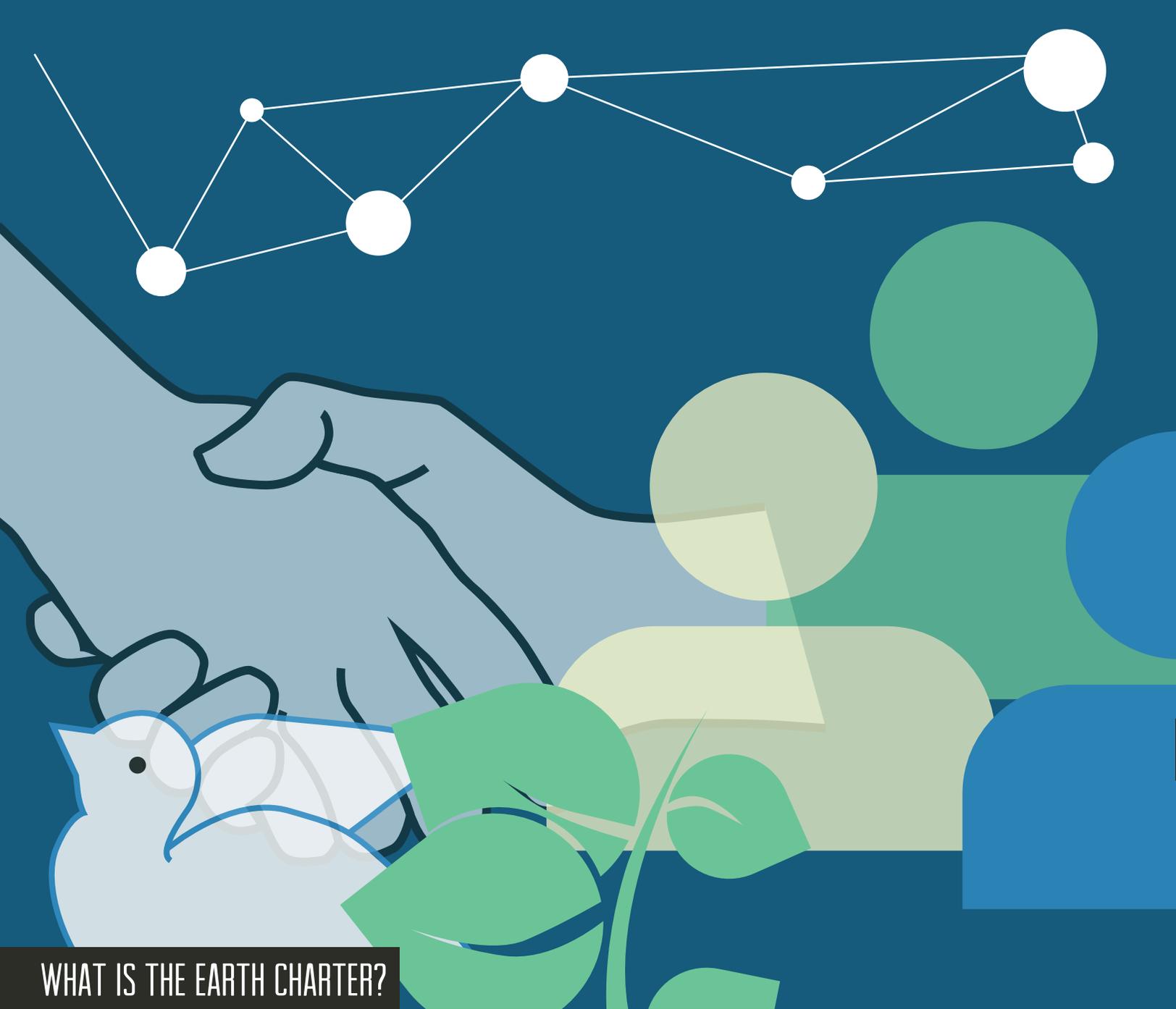




THE EARTH CHARTER

Values and principles for building a just,
sustainable, and peaceful global society



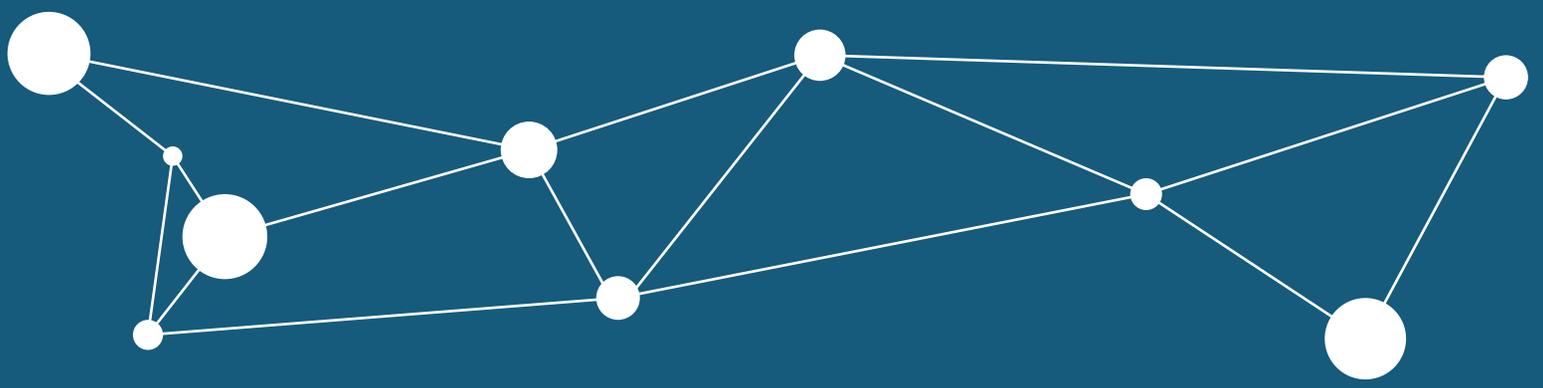
WHAT IS THE EARTH CHARTER?

The Earth Charter is an ethical framework for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society. It is centrally concerned with the transition to sustainable ways of living and human development. The Earth Charter recognizes that ecological protection, the eradication of poverty, equitable economic development, respect for human rights, democracy, and peace are interdependent.

The Earth Charter is the product of a decade-long, cross-cultural, global civil society dialogue on common goals and shared values. The creation of the Charter remains the most open and participatory worldwide consultation process ever associated with the drafting of an international declaration. Many thousands of people and hundreds of organizations contributed to the drafting process contributing to the declaration's strength and legitimacy.

The Earth Charter was officially launched in the year 2000 and, since, it has been endorsed by thousands of organizations representing millions of people, including the UNESCO Conference of Member States, the World Conservation Congress of IUCN, national governments and their ministries, national and international associations of universities, and hundreds of cities and towns in dozens of countries. It has also been endorsed by many civil society and political leaders, Nobel Peace Prize winners, and heads of state.

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. It calls on us to search for common ground in the midst of our diversity and to embrace a new ethical vision shared by growing numbers of people in many nations and cultures throughout the world.



EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL (ECI)

Earth Charter International (ECI) consists of the ECI Council and Secretariat. The purpose of ECI is to advance the Earth Charter Initiative's mission and vision, and support the broader initiative. The Council guides the direction of the Secretariat's activities, which consist of facilitating a global network of affiliates and partners and initiating projects and activities.

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.

The Initiative goals are to:



1. Raise awareness worldwide of the Earth Charter and to promote understanding of its inclusive ethical vision.



2. Seek recognition and endorsement of the Earth Charter by individuals, organizations, and the United Nations.



3. Promote the use of the Earth Charter as an ethical guide and the implementation of its principles by civil society, business, and government.



4. Encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, faith groups, local communities, and other settings.



5. Promote use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.

EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

The Earth Charter Initiative is a global network of people, organizations, and institutions that participate in promoting and implementing the values and principles of the Earth Charter. Participants include leading international institutions, national governments and their agencies, university associations, nongovernment organizations and community-based groups, city governments, faith groups, schools and businesses – as well as thousands of individuals.

WHAT DOES ENDORSEMENT OF THE EARTH CHARTER MEAN?

Endorsement of the Earth Charter by individuals or organizations signifies a commitment to the spirit and aims of the document. It indicates an intention to use the Earth Charter in ways that are appropriate given the situation and to cooperate with others in working for the implementation of its principles. Endorsement builds support for the Earth Charter Initiative and social change.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

1. Disseminate the Earth Charter and raise awareness about it.
2. Endorse the Earth Charter and encourage endorsement by organizations to which you belong.
3. Encourage your local and national governments to use and endorse the Earth Charter.
4. Make financial contributions in support of Earth Charter International.
5. Start an Earth Charter study group and explore how to use the Earth Charter and apply its principles in your home, workplace, and local community.
6. Make use of the Earth Charter:
 - a) in public events, conferences, and workshops;
 - b) as a values framework for creating sustainable development policies and plans at all levels;
 - c) as a soft law instrument to provide an ethical foundation for the ongoing development of environment and sustainable development law;
 - d) as a guide in assessing progress towards sustainability through audits and reviews;
 - e) to modify and improve organizational mission statements, codes of conduct, programmes, activities and publications of business and professional organizations;
 - f) as an educational tool for developing understanding of the choices facing humanity and for the need for a sustainable way of life;
 - g) as a map to explore major issues associated with globalization and sustainable development;
 - h) as a catalyst for multi-sectoral, cross-cultural, and interfaith dialogue on global ethics and important social and ecological values and their interrelationships;
 - i) as a call to action and a guide to a sustainable way of life that can inspire commitment, cooperation, and change.

In addition, ECI seeks volunteer translators, project sponsors, communicators, and contributors of all kinds.

You can find out much more about the Earth Charter, how to use it, how to get involved, where to find people and resources, Earth Charter history, ECI, areas of work, and much more on the Earth Charter Web site:

www.earthcharter.org

or contact us at

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