



2000 – 2010

Earth Charter Initiative

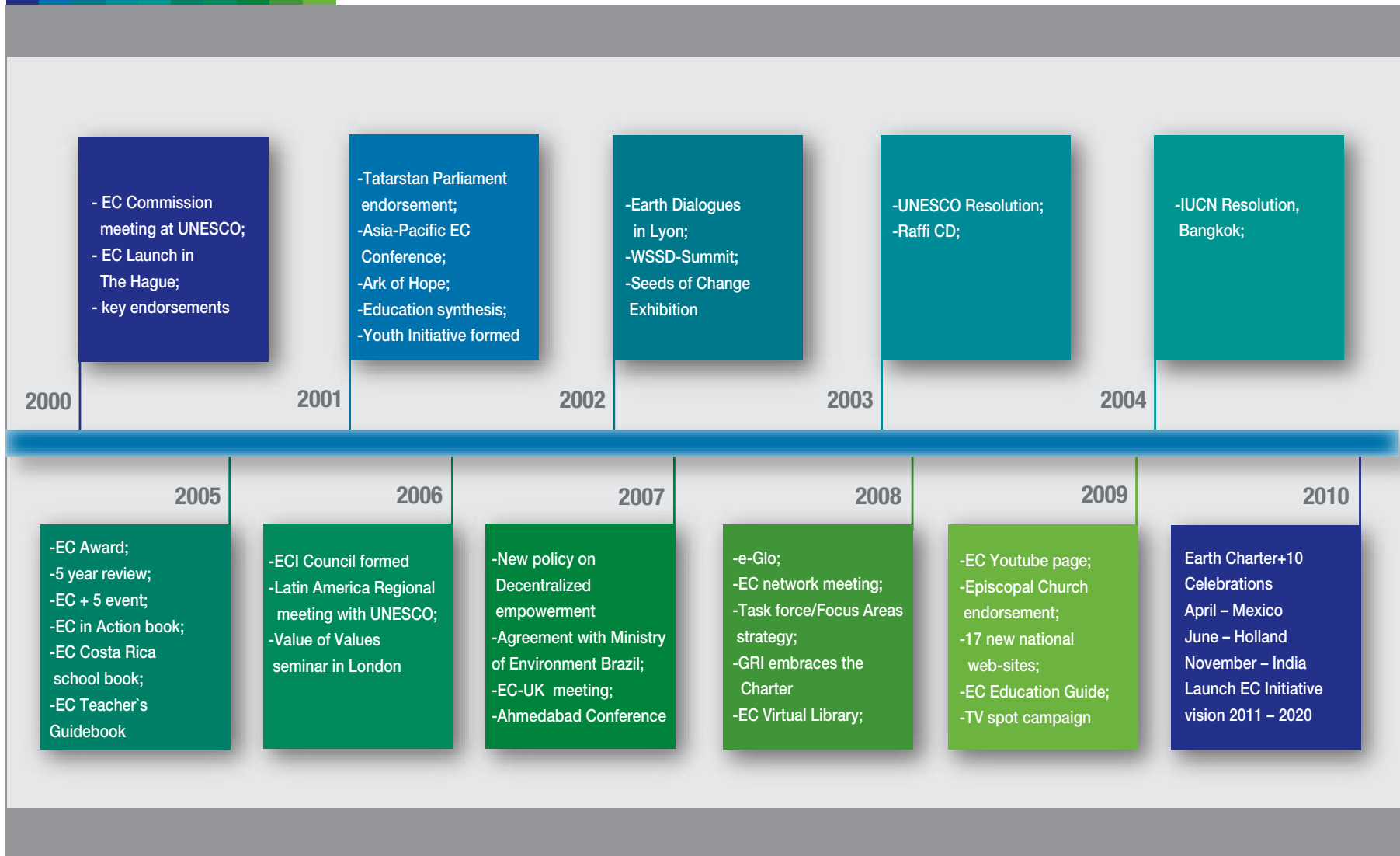
• *At a Glance*



*Dialogue, Collaboration,
and Action for a
Sustainable Future*



Earth Charter Initiative - At a Glance



Introduction



We invite you to flip through this overview of events and activities that have taken place since the Earth Charter was launched in 2000. It should be noted that this document is not intended to offer a comprehensive account of everything that has happened in the past decade, and that many activities and projects are not presented here. We encourage you to send us your own stories and “photo albums” so that we can continue to document the many ways in which the Earth Charter is contributing to a global transition towards sustainable ways of living.

The interesting story of Earth Charter + 10 is how the Earth Charter is helping to awaken the global community to the challenges we face, to the values we need, and to the policies and practices we must follow to create a just, sustainable and peaceful future for all humans, the greater community of life, and future generations.

These 80 illustrations give us an overview of how the Earth Charter, as a document and the focus of a social movement, is making a catalytic contribution to accelerating our transition to sustainable ways of living. They give examples of how this integrated ethical vision increasingly serves as:

- a sustainable development policy guide for national and local governments
- an important educational resource for education for sustainable development

- a framework to support corporations in their understanding and reporting of social and environmental bottom lines
- a common ground for interreligious and intercultural dialogue on sustainability, justice and peace
- an inspiration for artistic expression and youth activism for a sustainable future

This 10th anniversary year challenges us to realize the Earth Charter’s integrated ethical vision for creating a sustainable human presence on Earth, our common home.

The Earth Charter is a guide to the changes we need to make, and it serves as a rallying point for those who know these changes must happen quickly. EC+10 is an opportunity to participate in a variety of local and global events that challenge our governments, our communities, our organizations and our ways of living to reorient policies and practices to embrace EC principles and values. How can we create a financial system that respects and cares for the community of life and future generations? How can we respond to the challenge of climate change guided by Earth Charter principles? How can we orient our actions and policies towards eliminating poverty and violence and “awakening 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”?



▶ **Earth Charter**
Commission Meeting at UNESCO;
Paris, France - March

An Earth Charter Commission meeting was held at the UNESCO headquarters on 12-14 March with the objectives to: (a) review the progress and results of the Earth Charter Consultation; (b) reach consensus on the Earth Charter document; and (c) consider the future strategy of the Initiative. At the onset of the meeting, the director general of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, eloquently expressed UNESCO's support for the Earth Charter and stressed that the objectives of the Earth Charter are fully in line with the goals and ideals enshrined in the constitution of UNESCO. With the completion of the drafting process, the Earth Charter Initiative entered a new phase, having as its primary objectives the worldwide dissemination and use of the document.



▶ **The Launch of the Earth Charter;**
Peace Palace
The Hague, Netherlands - June

On 29 June at the Peace Palace, the official launching of the Earth Charter and new phase of the Initiative took place. Approximately 300 people from different parts of the world celebrated the conclusion of an extensive consultation process and the beginning of the dissemination and implementation phase, in which individuals and groups were invited to utilize the Earth Charter as a values framework for sustainable development. The document was presented by a young representative, January Juliao, to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands in a symbolic gesture: the request for the adoption of values for a sustainable future, sought by one of those who will inherit that future.



▶ **Presentation of the Earth Charter to the**
Costa Rican President
November

The Earth Charter was presented to the President of Costa Rica on 6 November 2000 during a special public event held at the National Auditorium, closing with a concert by world renowned pianist Manuel Obregón. The President, Miguel Ángel Rodríguez Echeverría, gracefully accepted the Earth Charter. The event was also honored with the presence of Mr. Nitin Desai, Under Secretary to the United Nations and speeches from Guillermo Vargas, Minister of Education and Elizabeth Odio, Vice-president of Costa Rica, who stated: "We are here, and in receiving this Charter, we commit to these principles".



▶ Some Key Initial Endorsements

Individuals and organizations began to express their support of the Charter by endorsing it. The concept of endorsement includes not only signing on, but seeing that the Charter be put into action to the fullest extent possible. Some of the key endorsements received in this early stage were: The Millennium NGO Forum, which brought together over 1,000 NGOs for its meeting at the UN headquarters in 2000; ICLEI, an international association of local governments for sustainability; The Sierra Club United States' Board of Directors as well as the Sierra Club of Canada's National Board; The University for Peace; The Costa Rican National University; The Asian Council for People's Culture; The Center for Sustainable Development; The US National Wildlife Federation; The Canopus Foundation; the Population Coalition; The Convergence Foundation; The Global Security Institute; and Shalom, the International Network for Justice.



▶ IUCN - World Conservation Union Congress; Amman, Jordan (Draft Resolution on the EC) October

A successful Earth Charter activity took place at the IUCN World Congress in Jordan on 5 October. The main purpose of this event was to present the Earth Charter to key individuals and organizations from the Middle East region as well as to some special guests. The president of IUCN, Yolanda Kakabadse, the president of the Earth Council, Maurice Strong, and Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, Earth Charter Commissioners, as well as the Director General of IUCN, Ms. Maritta Koch Weser offered reflections on the Earth Charter and expressed the need to have IUCN support it. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan offered its support to the Earth Charter process. Endorsement of the Earth Charter was discussed among IUCN members during the World Congress through a proposed draft resolution that was not approved. It was expected that collaboration between the Earth Charter Initiative and IUCN will be strengthened in the near future.



▶ The Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders; New York, USA August

The Peace Summit, which took place on 28-31 August, brought together about 1,000 religious and spiritual leaders from numerous countries and traditions. The Summit focused on the following issues: conflict transformation, forgiveness and reconciliation, the elimination of poverty, and the preservation and restoration of the environment. An Earth Charter roundtable breakfast took place at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel where Earth Charter Commissioners Wangari Maathai, Steven Rockefeller, Kamla Chowdhry, Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, and John Hoyt made presentations regarding the document. The Charter was introduced and, as a result, many Earth Charter values were incorporated into the Declaration issued by the Summit.

2001



▶ Tatarstan, First Parliament Adoption of the Earth Charter.
Russia - April

The State Council (parliament) of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation) officially embraced the Earth Charter on 27 April 2001, becoming the first provincial government in the world to adopt the Earth Charter as a guide for conducting affairs of state and to apply the principles of the Earth Charter as part of their constitution. This effort was part of the project “Tatarstan - a Territory for a Culture of Peace, Sustainable Development and Tolerance”, which the President of the Republic had launched a year earlier. The importance of the Earth Charter in Tatarstan is that it has provided a values-based organizing framework for the new agenda the Republic has set for itself. Through this process, the Earth Charter is making a difference in Tatarstan by helping to stimulate and channel the discussion of what kind of future the Republic wanted for its citizens.



▶ Education On Line Forum Synthesis Report
September

The Earth Charter Education Advisory Committee inaugurated an online (Internet) discussion forum between 26 August and 9 September 2001. The Earth Charter Education Advisory Committee was formed to provide advice and guidance to the Earth Charter Initiative on the development and implementation of the Earth Charter education programme. The aims of the online forum were to articulate an educational philosophy for the Earth Charter and identify priority tasks for the education programme. The conclusion derived from the forum is that Education is the key to advancing the transition to a more sustainable way of living. Transformative education is needed: education that helps bring about the fundamental changes demanded by the challenges of sustainability. As a result of this forum, a Synthesis Report was produced, serving as the initial guidelines for EC Education efforts.



▶ Annual Town Meetings in Vermont USA

The Earth Charter Initiative inspired a campaign to put the Charter on the agendas for the Annual Town Meetings that are convened in small towns all over the state of Vermont every March. Town Meetings are genuine democracy in action. Every registered voter in town is invited to these meetings. Towns are required to send the town budget and the agenda for the meeting to everyone in advance of the annual democratic gathering. As a result of this effort, 23 towns in Vermont endorsed the Earth Charter, including Burlington and Montpelier.



▶ The Ark of Hope Journey from Vermont to New York
September

The Earth Charter inspired artistic expression through the creation of the Ark of Hope. The Ark of Hope is a beautifully crafted chest, designed and painted by Burlington artist Sally Linder, built by Huntington cabinetmaker Kevin Jenness, and lined by Burlington fabric artist Beth Haggart. It contains a copy of the Earth Charter and hundreds of Temenos Books, books created by artists, schoolchildren, and citizens around the state of Vermont, with images and messages for global healing, peace, and gratitude. The Ark had been created for a celebration of the Earth Charter held at Shelburne Farms on 9 September. The event featured keynote speaker Jane Goodall, global peace walker Satish Kumar, musician Paul Winter, and Steven Rockefeller, professor emeritus of religion at Middlebury College and a member of the Earth Charter Commission. After the 11 September tragedy, Sally Linder decided to bring the Ark of Hope to New York as a spontaneous response to the horror. Volunteers began walking with the Ark of Hope from Vermont to New York City, where it was presented to the United Nations and exhibited there as an expression of hope and a prayer for peace. Since then the Ark of Hope has gone to South Africa, The Netherlands, Washington D.C. and other places for exhibitions and events such as Temenos Book Workshops that involved thousands of youth and children.



▶ EC Community Summits in the US
September

The first EC Community Summit was organized simultaneously in 12 US cities. The organizers of the historic U.S. grassroots launch of the Earth Charter entitled the September event: “A Declaration of Interdependence”. The launch included an African American printer in Philadelphia, a graduate student at the University of Chicago, a feminist activist and a single mom in Portland, Maine, a Soka Gakkai Buddhist in San Francisco, and a former mayoral candidate in Indianapolis -- all linked by the Earth Charter and their dedication to bring its vision to their hometowns. The goal of the summits was to empower people in feeling ownership about the Charter, to raise awareness among the people about the Earth Charter, not just activists or major organizations, and to inspire them to implement its principles within their own spheres of influence.



2001



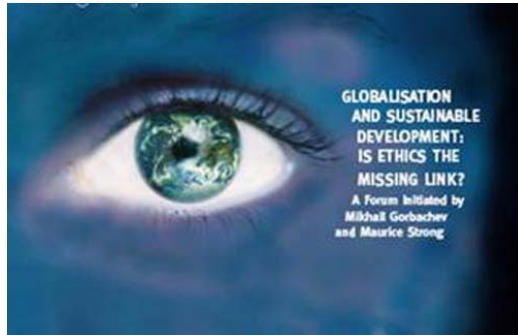
▶ Asia-Pacific EC Conference,
Brisbane, Australia
December

Between 29 November and 2 December more than 300 delegates from sixteen Asia-Pacific countries gathered at the Inner City Conference Centre on the picturesque Brisbane River to set up Earth Charter networks, hold meaningful dialogues, and celebrate the Charter's vision and message of hope. Among the delegates were Earth Charter Commissioners, Dr. Kamla Chowdhry of India and Erna Witoelar of Indonesia. Other contributors who have played a prominent role in the Earth Charter Initiative included Mirian Vilela from the Secretariat in Costa Rica, Ella Antonio from the Philippines, and Rick Clugston from the USA.



▶ EC Youth Initiative formed


A core-group of 20 active young persons from different countries joined efforts to bring the Earth Charter to youth around the world. Their vision was to engage young people in the EC Initiative and to create a special EC Youth Initiative. Since then, many Earth Charter youth groups have been formed at the local level, led by volunteer young leaders who are organizing local sustainability projects and workshops inspired by the Earth Charter.



 **Earth Dialogues.**
Lyon, France
February

More than 1,300 people attended the first Earth Dialogues Forum in Lyon, France from 21-23 February 2002, under the theme: “Globalization and Sustainable Development: Is Ethics the Missing Link?” The event, which was attended by Mr. Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister of France, representatives of civil society, government, international in collaboration with other organizations, business, religion, media and academia, was convened to seek ways to position the ethics debate within the sustainable development and globalization agendas. The Earth Charter was a central part of the overall programme and of the roundtable discussions. The event was organized by Green Cross International.



 **Academic Symposium - Teaching for the Environment in Higher Education. USA**
May

A remarkable Academic Symposium, co-sponsored by The Chewonki Foundation, the Center for Respect of Life and Environment and University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, took place on 17-19 May in Wiscasset, Maine, USA. The organizing theme was the implication of the Earth Charter in higher education. The purpose of the symposium was to reflect upon the larger human, ecological, ethical and environmental dimensions in which teaching takes place, and to provide scholarly analysis and inspiration to advance teaching for the environment. The Symposium brought together a number of academics, university representatives, and students to address questions such as: Why is teaching for the environment in higher education so problematic? How can the Earth Charter inform the liberal arts curriculum? What might be a pedagogy of the Earth Charter?



 **EC Endorsement by all Municipalities in Jordan**
May

In May 2002, the heads of the Kingdom of Jordan’s 99 municipalities jointly endorsed the Earth Charter. This effort was intended to promote an integrated and strategic plan in Jordan to advance sustainable development. This significant event occurred under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma and was organized by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), together with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment in Cooperation with the General Corporation for Environmental Protection. The city of Amman’s Deputy Mayor shared this information as well as plans for an implementation phase at the World Summit of Local Authorities held in Johannesburg at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

2002



▶ WSSD PrepCom IV-Side events,
exhibition and concert, Bali, Indonesia
June

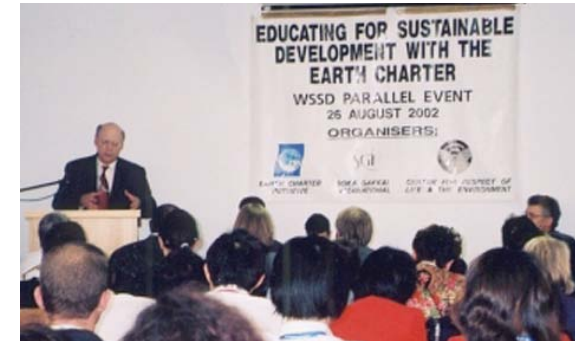
In Bali, Indonesia on 1-2 June an Earth Charter working session was held in order to: a) share experiences in working with the Earth Charter; b) elaborate a joint partnership plan post World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) for using the Earth Charter; and c) identify the gaps within the WSSD process where the Earth Charter can serve as a meaningful instrument to advance the sustainability agenda. In addition, two side events were organized during PrepCom IV to raise awareness and support for the Earth Charter. An Earth Charter exhibition was displayed, organized by Soka Gakkai International and the local Soka Indonesian group. Over 1,000 people attended the “Earth Charter Cultural Festival” held at the Candra Loka Amphitheatre in Nusa Dua on the evening of 2 June. The event brought together Indonesian artists and singers and served as a wonderful opportunity to promote the Earth Charter.



▶ World Summit on Sustainable Development,
WSSD Johannesburg Summit
August

A major focus for the Earth Charter Initiative in 2002 was to seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by governments and to gain recognition at the WSSD held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002. The Initiative made significant progress in having the Earth Charter referenced in a number of preparatory documents towards the Summit, and by actively participating in the events of the Summit. This involved seeking ways to promote the Earth Charter throughout its preparatory process, which started a year earlier and involved four Global Preparatory Committee Conferences (PrepComs). A number of EC events were held during WSSD and a number of heads of state expressed their support to the EC. For instance, the President of Mexico, Vicente Fox Quesada, expressed his commitment to the Earth Charter and announced that “*Mexico supports and shall make efforts to disseminate the Earth Charter, which contains principles and values that are fundamental to Sustainable Development*”. This was referenced in the first Draft Declaration of the Summit. These efforts sought to build political support, raise awareness, and present the Earth Charter to government delegates and non-governmental organization representatives.

Furthermore, one of the important outcomes of the WSSD was the launching of official partnerships. A type II partnership inspired by the Earth Charter was formed. The goal of this partnership was to provide community leaders and the communities themselves with information and education concerning the fundamental principles of sustainable development, and advice on how to blend these into decision-making processes.





▶ Seeds of Change Exhibition

In 2002, Soka Gakkai International, in collaboration with the Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat, produced an Earth Charter exhibition entitled “Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and Human Potential,” which was first launched at the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development. Roughly 15,000 people attended the exhibition during the Johannesburg Summit. This particular exhibition won third prize in the “Independent Exhibits” category at the UBUNTU Village. The exhibition describes the need for sustainable development and introduces the positive message of the Earth Charter. It presents the Earth Charter as a “map” showing the way towards a sustainable lifestyle. To date, the exhibition has been translated into over 12 languages, including Arabic, Icelandic, and Hindi, and has been shown in 27 countries, informing thousands of people about the Earth Charter and its vision for creating a more just, peaceful and sustainable world.



▶ UNESCO’s Multimedia Teacher Education Programme: Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future has a module on the **Earth Charter**

As part of its programme, “Educating for a Sustainable Future,” UNESCO led the development of a multimedia teacher education programme entitled Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future. In 2002, a third version of this online module was launched, containing 100-hours of professional development modules for teachers, curriculum developers, education policy makers, and authors of educational materials. It provides a valuable overview of the holistic and interdisciplinary concept of sustainability, its implications for teaching across the curriculum, its emphasis on values and ethics, and teaching methods that can be used for these fields of study. This material includes a substantial section on the Earth Charter and also suggests ways to be involved in the Earth Charter process.



▶ Unitarian Universalist Association Endorses the **EC**

In 2002, the General Assembly of the Unitarian-Universalist Association endorsed the Earth Charter. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) represents the interests of more than one thousand Unitarian Universalist congregations, on a continental scale. Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with its roots in the Jewish and Christian traditions. The Unitarian Universalists adopted the Earth Charter at the end of their annual five-day General Assembly held in Quebec City. This Assembly was attended by more than 4,100 people. In endorsing the Earth Charter, the delegates to the General Assembly called for all member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association to use it as an instrument.

2003



▶ **EC Events and Workshops**
at World Social Forum, Brazil
January

The second World Social Forum (WSF) was organized under the slogan, “Another World is Possible,” and convened in Brazil in January 2003 with the participation of 100,000 people. A seminar entitled “the Earth Charter-minimum consensus for human beings” kicked off the first day of events. The seminar opened with a moving slide show of powerful images of destruction of the Earth while quotes from the Earth Charter, calling for an alternative vision, were simultaneously read aloud. There were 2 hours of thought-provoking discourse on the Earth Charter with Jose Romao, Secretary General of the Paulo Freire Institute, wrapping up with a tribute to Paulo Freire. This was followed by a captivating address by Earth Charter Commissioner, Leonardo Boff. A youth group assembled in Porto Alegre offered the closing presentation.



▶ **Raffi Earth Charter CD. Canada**
January

On 31 January and 1 February, the 300-member “Gettin’ Higher” choir accompanied the internationally renowned singer and songwriter Raffi in Victoria, B.C. Canada for a benefit concert, “Where we all Belong”, inspired by the Earth Charter. Everyone who attended the concerts was given a copy of the Earth Charter, and encouraged to endorse it and to find a way to promote it in their workplace and/or community. In 2003, Raffi launched his Earth Charter CD. This has generated other efforts such as the translation of Raffi’s song “Where we all Belong” into Catalan by a music professor at the Blanquerna School in Mallorca, where it is being used as a teaching tool.



▶ **EC Strategic meeting. Urbino, Italy**
June

The “Earth Charter in Action” meeting, held in Urbino from 26-30 June, brought together key Earth Charter partners to develop a two-year action plan. The event was sponsored by the Earth Charter Initiative, the Centre for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE), and the City of Urbino. The purpose was to articulate efforts that would significantly advance the development and implementation of the Earth Charter Education Programme as well as the Type II partnership, “Educating for Sustainable Living Using the Earth Charter,” launched during the Johannesburg Summit.



▶ UNESCO Resolution on the **Earth Charter**
October

The 32nd General Conference of UNESCO, which took place in October 2003, adopted a resolution *“recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development” and acknowledging “its ethical principles, its objectives and its contents, as an expression that coincides with the vision that UNESCO has with regard to their new Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007.”* The Draft Resolution, submitted by the Government of Jordan and supported by Costa Rica, Honduras, and Spain, affirmed member states’ intention “to utilize the Earth Charter as an educational instrument, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” which began in 2005.



▶ 1st National Gathering on Ethics for Sustainability. Mexico
November

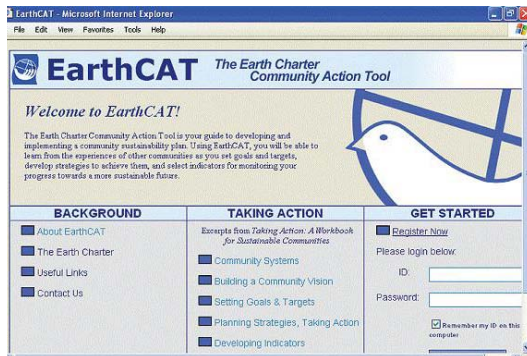
In November, the first national gathering on ethics for sustainability “Educating for a Sustainable Way of Life with the Earth Charter” took place in Morelia, Mexico. The event included political support from all levels of government and was primarily organized by the State Council of Ecology, which operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and the State Government of Michoacan. The event gathered 380 representatives from all parts of Mexico, including educators, university students and professors, representatives of local governments, and NGOs. At the opening ceremony, the Minister of Environment, the Representative of the Minister of Education, the Governor of the State of Michoacan, and the Mayor of the city of Morelia all expressed their support and commitment to the Earth Charter. Since then, such national gatherings have been taking place in Mexico every two years.



▶ Education Online Forum
December

In December 2003, The Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat organized and hosted an online forum on “The Earth Charter as an Educational Framework for Teaching and learning about Sustainable Development.” This forum involved the growing network of educators worldwide working with the Earth Charter and using it as an educational tool. The forum included sessions on topics of educational philosophy for the Earth Charter, suggested pedagogies for teaching the Charter, as well as the educational resources that the Education Programme should focus on, especially in view of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. During the two-week forum, participants posted messages and comments, and shared their insights and advice for the Education Programme. The synthesis of these discussions with the first online discussion in 2001 was used to guide the actions of the Education Programme in 2004.

2004



▶ EarthCAT - An Online Software Tool for Communities. USA
July

The Earth Charter Action Tool (EarthCAT) was developed by the Earth Charter Partnership for Sustainable Communities (ECPSC), a partnership consisting of the Earth Charter Secretariat, Global Community Initiatives, and the World Resources Institute. The purpose was to respond to the challenge of providing communities with a framework that permits them to identify their own priorities and approaches as they work toward a sustainable future.



▶ Itaipu State Company starts using the Earth Charter, Brazil
November

Under the leadership of Nelton Friedrich, ITAIPU Hydroelectric Power Plant -- a bi-national enterprise jointly developed by the governments of Brazil and Paraguay, and one of the largest power generators in the world -- started to use the Earth Charter as a valuable ethical framework, an educational tool, and as the common thread linking the 70 or more individual projects that are part of the programme Cultivando Agua Buena (Cultivating Good Water), which began in 2003. These projects involve over 29 municipalities, 145 NGOs, and 318 schools representing over 88,000 students.



▶ IUCN Resolution on the Earth Charter. Bangkok
November

An Earth Charter Resolution sponsored by IUCN's Governing Council was adopted at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Union Congress held in Bangkok from 17-25 November 2004. With this resolution, IUCN endorsed the Earth Charter and committed to use it as a guide for the organization's policies and programmes.



2005



▶ Assessment of the five year progress of the Initiative

In 2005, the Steering Committee undertook a major strategic review of the progress, strengths, and weaknesses of the Earth Charter Initiative. This involved both an internal and external assessment. The internal review resulted in the publication of the *Earth Charter+5 Progress Report*. This eleven chapter report documented years of productive effort in the fields of education, ethics, community development, youth empowerment, faith groups and the arts, as well as the process of encouraging formal endorsements and establishing the Earth Charter as an internationally recognized reference document on sustainable development. The external review was conducted by the AtKisson Group, an international consultant firm in the field of sustainable development. AtKisson's lengthy evaluation of the Earth Charter Initiative led to the conclusion that much had been accomplished between 2000 and 2005, that the Initiative had great promise, and that it should be continued and expanded, but also that its future success depended upon a major reorganization of its management structure and long-range strategic planning.



▶ Last meeting of the EC Steering Committee
September

From 16-19 September, the Steering Committee, joined by a number of Senior Advisors, met outside New York City to consider the Progress Report and the Strategic Review. The Committee decided to pursue the experimental "Transition to Phase 3," based on the recommendations of the Strategic Review and Progress Report, with the aim of expanding the presence and impact of the Earth Charter internationally. (Phase 1 was the development of the Earth Charter itself; Phase 2 was the launch and initial establishment of the Earth Charter as a global consensus document on the principles of sustainable development.) The Steering Committee, first formed in 2000 as a subset of the Earth Charter Commission, would be phased out of existence, and the new EC International Council would assume full governing authority for the Earth Charter Initiative.



2005



▶ **Earth Charter Educational Materials for Costa Rican Schools**
March

Educational materials for teaching and learning about sustainable development with the Earth Charter were produced and distributed to Costa Rican primary schools. This project involved the production of a Guidebook for Teachers, a Workbook for Students, and a 2005 planner – as well as training for primary school teachers. Over 150,000 copies of the materials were distributed to schools throughout the country, accompanied by teacher training workshops held with the support of the Ministry of Public Education. The intention was to provide material that would facilitate the understanding of the concept of sustainable development and motivate teachers and students to contribute to the common good and reflect on the values of the Earth Charter. This project received financial support from the Japanese Embassy and represented an important contribution to the *UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*, which began in 2005.



▶ **EC+5, Amsterdam**
November

A major Earth Charter+5 event took place from 7-9 November 2005 in Amsterdam, marking five years since the launch of the Earth Charter. Nearly 400 participants came together from all regions of the world to celebrate accomplishments, share experiences, and launch a new phase of the Initiative. This event did not only involve Earth Charter Commissioners, but also key Earth Charter partners. Some of the main objectives for the meeting were to undertake an assessment of the Earth Charter Initiative's strengths and weaknesses, set goals and priorities for the next five years, and agree on how best to organize the Initiative in the future, as well as offering a platform for partners to share their experiences in using the Earth Charter.



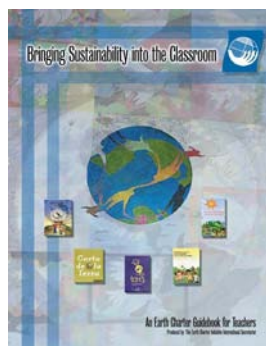
▶ **Launch of the EC in Action Book**
November

The Book *The Earth Charter in Action; Toward a Sustainable World* was launched during the Earth Charter+5 event held in Amsterdam in November 2005. This book demonstrates the rich diversity of uses of the Earth Charter, and points toward its many future possibilities. Thematic essays, stories, narratives, interviews, photographs, and artwork from around the world inspired by the Earth Charter demonstrate its usefulness in diverse cultural contexts.



▶ **EC Award**
November

To express appreciation for the outstanding efforts taken to promote the Earth Charter worldwide, The Earth Charter Initiative presented the Maximo T. Kalaw, Jr. Award to Mateo Castillo of Mexico (for promotion of the Earth Charter throughout that country), Louise Erbacher of Australia (for the “Brink Expedition,” an around-the-world cycling duo spreading the Charter to schools worldwide), and Rustem Khairov of Russia (for his facilitation of the Earth Charter’s adoption and implementation by the Republic of Tatarstan). Each of the winners received a check for 5,000 Euros (sponsored by NCDO in the Netherlands) to support their continuing efforts. A special non-cash award was granted to ITAIPU Binacional, a public energy enterprise, for its “Cultivating Good Water” programme in Brazil.



▶ **EC Teacher’s Guidebook: Bringing Sustainability into the Classroom**

This Guidebook was written for teachers interested in bringing the concern for building a just and peaceful world into the classroom. It offers guidelines on education for sustainable living, using the Earth Charter as one possible educational tool that can help develop an understanding of the critical choices facing humanity. This guidebook was subsequently translated and published in Spanish, German, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, Tajik, and other languages.

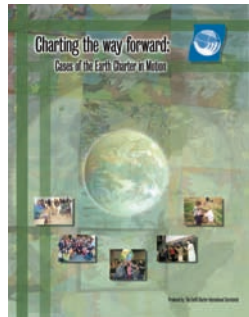


▶ **EC Video**
November

An 11 minute EC video was launched, presenting an overview of the Initiative’s history and its decade long drafting and consultation processes. The video features four stories (from Kenya, Mexico, The Netherlands, and the United States), illustrating ways in which the Earth Charter is perceived and implemented. This video was subsequently translated into many languages for the use of different groups around the world.



2005



▶ EC 1st publication on best practices using the **Earth Charter** (cases)

Charting the way forward: Cases of the Earth Charter in Motion is a publication containing twenty case experiences in using the Earth Charter in education and in local communities. Cases were selected from different contexts to demonstrate the diversity in the use of the Charter. In all instances, these experiences contributed to the quest towards a more just and sustainable global society.



▶ Japanese Theatre Performance
November

On 2 November, the Classic Live for the U.N. group presented an environmental musical, “Our Forest Is Alive: Part III - Our Earth Charter”, through the Youth Performing Arts Company of Tokyo at the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. The musical weaved songs and dances from Japan and other countries into a dialogue on the Earth Charter and current environmental issues. The Classic Live for the U.N. has been promoting the arts and activities for young people since its establishment in 1991. The organization has performed at the United Nations every four years; this was their fourth performance. Our Forest Is Alive: Part III - Our Earth Charter commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations.



▶ 1st EC Youth Network gathering
November

After five years of online collaboration to promote the Earth Charter, members of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI) came together in their first face-to-face meeting in Amsterdam on 5 and 6 November, two days prior to the Earth Charter + 5 conference. Created in 2000, the ECYI functions as an online network of youth organizations and young individuals who actively promote the Earth Charter and strive to bring its vision to life in their local and national communities. The youth conference brought together about 30 international ECYI leaders from every region of the world, most of whom knew each other by names and e-mail addresses. Discussions during the two-day conference included sharing experiences about projects in promoting the Earth Charter, assessing past achievements, and discussing the future of the ECYI.



- ▶ Center for Communication and Strategy established in Sweden and EC Center of Education for Sustainable Development in Costa Rica

As a result of the external review recommendations for the expansion of the Initiative, the Earth Charter Secretariat was reorganized as Earth Charter International (ECI) and two centers were established in different regions. The Earth Charter Center for Communications and Strategic Planning was opened in Stockholm, Sweden under the direction of Mr. Alan AtKisson, President of the AtKisson Group. The center was charged with the role of raising the profile and use of the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter office at the University for Peace campus in Costa Rica turned into the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development.



- ▶ Business leaders considering the use of the **Earth Charter**: Value of Values Seminar, Imperial College London, UK
March

On 15 March 2006 over seventy-five sustainability leaders participated in a special seminar on “The Value of Values: Global Ethics and the Future of Sustainable Development” held in London. The seminar explored the role of the Charter in business and policy making, and included world-renowned speakers such as HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal and Ruud Lubbers (Earth Charter Commissioners), Alexander Likhotal of Green Cross International, Herman Mulder of ABN AMRO Bank, UK-based sustainability expert John Elkington, and Harvard Fellow Jane Nelson, who also directs strategy for the International Business Leaders Forum in London. Participants – who included sustainability professionals from well-known companies, institutes, and NGOs in London – and panelists advised the Earth Charter Initiative on ways to expand its outreach and impact, especially on business.



- ▶ ECI Council 1st meeting
April

On 2-4 April, at the University for Peace in Costa Rica, the newly formed Earth Charter International Council met for the first time and set the “Transition to Phase 3” formally on course. The Council meeting itself was a milestone in the history of the Earth Charter Initiative. Formed through an open nominating process, the 23 member Council is a geographically and culturally diverse group. It brings new faces together with people who have been with the Initiative since the beginning. Members include prominent figures in the international arena, Earth Charter leaders working at the national level, sectoral experts, business people, and youth representatives. In two days of intense dialogue, facilitated by Co-Chairs Steven Rockefeller (USA) and Erna Witoelar (Indonesia), the Council identified remarkably quick pathways to consensus on key issues regarding organizational structure, strategy, and initial policy.

2006



- ▶ 1st major **EC** Congress in Spain: *Proyectos y Utopías para un Mundo mejor*, Fundación Valores, Spain
April

In April 2006, Fundación Valores organized its annual Congress “Proyectos y Utopías para un Mundo Mejor” (Projects and Utopias for a Better World), with the objective of engaging individuals and organizations in the use and promotion of the Earth Charter in their sphere of work. The conference intended to provide a space to reflect on the Earth Charter principles, as well as on processes of education for sustainable development and value-based education. Since then, such gatherings have taken place every year in Madrid.



- ▶ Latin America Regional meeting with UNESCO
November

A Latin American meeting entitled “Building the Education for Sustainable Development,” was held in San José, Costa Rica from 31 October to 2 November 2006 with the purpose of promoting the implementation of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) in the region. The event was organized by the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE in cooperation with UNESCO. The meeting, which brought together 180 participants from 23 countries, provided a space to share experiences and build alliances. The Earth Charter was central to the agenda and was also part of the outcome strategy and recommendations for implementing the UNDESD in the region. As a result, a number of ministries of education and teachers from the region started to consider ways to incorporate the notion of education for sustainable development into their educational practices.



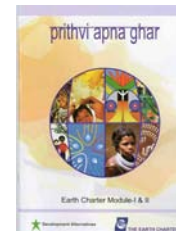
- ▶ New Edutainment Video Resource for Children: Little **Earth Charter**, LEC

The LEC is a short curriculum with accompanying animated video for teachers and parents of children aged 4 to 8. The content is focused on ethical and environmental values, with a strong message of hope. It echoes the content of the Earth Charter, but it is adapted for children. This educational resource was created by Little Animation Inc., which is a Canadian company founded by director/producer JC Little, with the support of Canadian artist Rosie Emery. The purpose of the Little Earth Charter is to share the Earth Charter’s principles with children at an early age, so that they may become responsible Earth stewards for a sustainable future. The goal of the LEC is to reach as many children as possible, in every region of the planet.



▶ International Law and the **Earth Charter** seminar at Oxford University, United Kingdom
February

In partnership with Exeter College, Oxford University, and with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, a special seminar entitled “Earth Charter, Past and Future” was held on 9-10 February. At this occasion, The Earth Charter UK Trust was formally launched with a special tree planting ceremony. The guest of honour was Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Earth Charter Commissioner, Wangari Maathai. The seminar engaged a small, selected group of international leaders together with the emerging leadership of the Earth Charter UK Trust to advance understanding on specific aspects of strategy for the Earth Charter, especially in the United Kingdom.



▶ The **EC** in Delhi Public Schools. India
April

The Honourable Chief Minister of Delhi and CLEAN-India launched the “Earth Charter for Schools” project in April 2007, making Delhi one of the first cities to integrate the Charter into its school curriculum. Teacher’s manuals and textbooks, as well as educational and training packages, were developed by the organization Development Alternative in order to integrate the Charter into Indian schools. This work built on previous efforts of the Delhi Public School Society (DPSS), which has used the Earth Charter to raise awareness among thousands of children regarding sustainability principles since early 1999. The “Earth Charter for Schools” project also built on the work of Development Alternatives (DA), that, in 2005, developed a children’s version of the Earth Charter through its CLEAN-India programme and translated it into eight Indian languages.



▶ **Earth Charter** principles inspire artist to create 16 paintings

The art exhibition entitled “Llanto Verde” (Green Crying), inspired on the 16 principles of the Earth Charter, was created in 2007 by artist, Architect Lorena Priego Fonseca, from Tabasco, Mexico. The paintings, employing a wide range of styles, took a year to finish and its various exhibitions were supported by the Federal Government and the State of Tabasco. This is meant to be a traveling exhibition and will be presented in different cities of Mexico and Latin America.



- ▶ Earth Day Celebration in Mexico with President Calderón. Reaffirms Mexico's commitment to the EC
April

During a special national ceremony for Earth Day (22 April 2007), Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Education signed a formal agreement to collaborate in the implementation of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. They also agreed to incorporate the Earth Charter into all levels and aspects of Mexico's education system. The ceremony was hosted by the President of the Mexican Republic, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa. ECI Council Co-Chair Steven Rockefeller spoke at the event.



- ▶ EC Strategic Workshop at Amana-Key, Sao Paulo, Brazil
April

A two-day strategic planning workshop took place in April to identify key challenges and opportunities for the Earth Charter Initiative, and to further develop a strategy outlining the way forward for the Initiative. This event marked an important opportunity to refocus the efforts of the Earth Charter Initiative towards its expansion, using a set of guiding and operational principles focused on decentralization of activities. This event involved the participation of Earth Charter Council members, Staff, and several Advisors and Affiliates. The results of this workshop were used to provide an input to the annual Earth Charter International Council meeting that followed this strategic planning workshop. One of the most important outcomes that resulted from both the workshop and the Council meeting which took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was the *Decentralized Empowerment for Scaling up Policy*. This policy is designed to empower individuals, communities, and organizations to take action and to promote the Earth Charter worldwide. In order to guide this anticipated upsurge in activities, the Council has produced a set of *Action Guidelines for Decentralized Empowerment*.



▶ Agreement with the Ministry of Environment of Brazil
May

On 30 April a formal collaborative agreement was signed between the Minister of Environment of Brazil, the Center for the Defense of Human Rights of Petropolis (founded by EC Commissioner Leonardo Boff), and Earth Charter International. During the ceremony, Minister Marina Silva strongly pledged her support for the Earth Charter and reiterated the commitment of the Ministry to use and promote the Earth Charter's vision. The Earth Charter has been widely disseminated by this Ministry in connection with Agenda 21 activities over the past five years. This agreement further strengthens and formalizes cooperation between the Brazilian Government and Earth Charter International.



▶ Agreement with the City of Sao Paulo. Brazil
May

On 2 May, during a special Earth Charter event at the City Hall, the mayor of Sao Paulo, Mr. Gilberto Kassab, signed a commitment to the Earth Charter and expressed his full support for collaboration between the Sao Paulo Secretary of Education and Secretary of Environment. This cooperation agreement is focused on implementing actions to bring the Earth Charter into the city's education system. Following that UMAPAZ, an open university for peace and environmental education in collaboration with the Municipal Secretaries of Education and Environment, launched a project to disseminate the Earth Charter across Sao Paulo's network of educators, which consists of approximately 65,000 teachers. The aim was to sensitize the participants about the Earth Charter, and to request their support in mobilizing educators by district.

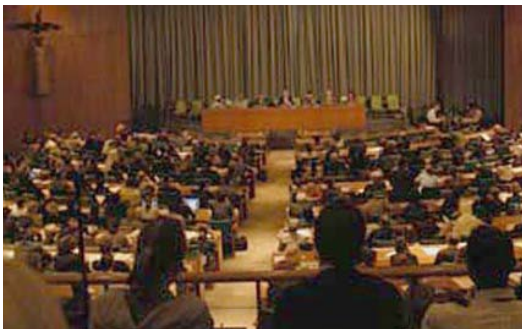


▶ First national EC teacher's training seminar held in Germany.
October

On 24 October, the German Earth Charter Affiliate, Ecumenical One World Initiative (EOWI), Soka Gakkai International - Germany and two regional educational institutions organized the first national teacher's training seminar on the Earth Charter in Germany. The training was officially supported by three federal countries in Germany, which hold autonomy of their educational policies according to the federal system of the German government. In preparation of the training, a range of international materials such as the Earth Charter Teachers' Guidebook and the Workshop Toolkit had been translated into German. Together with an Earth Charter version for children and youth, these materials were distributed among the participants. Several co-organizers and participants represented Transfer 21, a programme of the federal government aimed at bringing education for sustainable development into German schools.



2007



- ▶ The **EC** at the UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Interreligious Collaboration. New York
October

The Earth Charter was officially presented to the UN General Assembly at an informal, interactive hearing with representatives of civil society, which took place during the General Assembly's High Level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Collaboration for Peace, on 4 – 5 October 2007. At this occasion, the UN organized an interactive informal hearing with civil society, where experts, scholars and representatives of civil society organizations shared their experiences and firsthand insights into the key challenges and best practices for building bridges between religions and cultures.

Earth Charter International Council Co-Chair Steven Rockefeller participated in this hearing and responded to a panel on best practices for interreligious dialogue going forward. In his statement, Rockefeller stressed the need for a deepened quest for global ethics and shared values, and highlighted the Earth Charter as an important civil society contribution to the development of a new global ethic: "Shared values are what make community and cooperation possible. In an increasingly interdependent world where our major challenges can only be addressed in and through international cooperation, shared values and global ethics are essential."



- ▶ New Partnership with the Russian Center for Environmental Policy and Culture
November

During the first half of 2007, a new partnership was initiated between the Center for Russian Environmental Policy and Culture and the ECI. This partnership led to the organization of a conference called "The priorities of environmental policy and civil society", which was held from 20-22 November in Moscow. The conference was organized under the leadership of Dr. Vladimir Zakharov, Director of the Center, who is also a chairman of the Environmental Commission of the Russian Public Chamber. One of the purposes of this effort was to help identify the priorities for Russian environmental policy and environmental protection for the newly elected members of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Special attention was paid to the formulation of these priorities and enhancing future cooperation between state, business and civil society groups for an effective implementation of environmental priorities.



▶ **EC in the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education, Ahmedabad, India**
November

In November 2007, the Center for Environment Education - CEE (ECI Affiliate) and UNESCO, organized the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education in Ahmedabad. Over 1,500 people participated in this major event. ECI organized several activities to contribute to the conference, including the working session: “Integrating Values of Sustainability into Education: The Promise of the Earth Charter”; the launch of the publication “Good Practices Using the Earth Charter”; and the launch of the Intergenerational Partnership Initiative. Significantly, the final Ahmedabad Declaration and Recommendations explicitly mentions the Earth Charter as a foundation to developing the educational processes needed to help individuals to find solutions to the pressing problems and challenges of the 21st century.



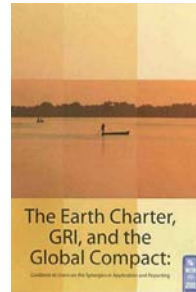
▶ **EC Youth Leadership Team formed**
November

In September 2007, through public online elections, an EC Youth Leadership team was elected to help move forward the process of bringing the EC to young people around the world. The EC Youth Leadership Team (YLT) is a group of 12 young leaders from different regions of the world. They met for the first time in Ahmedabad and drafted a Plan of Action for the duration of their term, 2007-2009.



▶ **ECI and UNESCO partner in the development of the publication: Good Practices using the Earth Charter**

As a follow-up to the UNESCO resolution in recognition and support of the Earth Charter, the *Good Practices using the Earth Charter* was published in collaboration with UNESCO, and launched during the Ahmedabad Conference. This publication is a compilation of twenty-seven experiences of incorporating the Earth Charter into non-formal, primary, secondary, and/or higher education practices from different parts of the world.



▶ **EC and Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Partnership launched**

On 8 May, the Earth Charter Initiative and NCDO jointly with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) hosted a special high-level event during the Amsterdam Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency. This occasion had the objective to announce a strategic alliance between the Earth Charter and GRI to encourage their users to also take advantage of the other instruments; and to stimulate discussion on how the Earth Charter can be used more widely in the context of corporate social responsibility. As a result, a joint publication was launched entitled: “The Earth Charter, GRI and the Global Compact: Guidance to users on the synergies in application and reporting”. This paper is designed to help Earth Charter users – as well as those using the GRI Guidelines and the Global Compact – to understand the synergies and complementary strengths of these three initiatives, and to help organizations to integrate the Earth Charter into their global engagement and reporting processes. This publication targets the international business community.



▶ **ECI Council Meeting defines new direction for the Initiative**
May

During the Fourth Meeting of the ECI Council, held in May 2008 in New York, the long range plan of action of the decentralized empowerment for scaling up strategy was discussed in great depth. This plan was not based on actions that needed to be generated by ECI’s central administration, but on actions and results generated by self-organizing groups and individuals interested in promoting one or more of the specific Earth Charter focus areas.



▶ **1st e-GLO: EC on line youth training programme**

E-GLO (Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity) is a semester-long, online digital storytelling and community leadership training inspired by the Earth Charter. It was developed and implemented in collaboration with Beat Board TV, with the virtual secured multimedia communication conference environment powered by Heart in Action Enterprises. Starting in March 2008, e-GLO was offered for the first time to youth, aged 15-30, who were motivated community development leaders and socially conscious artists from around the world. Participants met online via webcam and mic in e-GLO’s own virtual conference environment. The online sessions covered introductions, workshops, interviews with expert guests, cultural performances, and participant presentations on local projects, intergenerational partnerships, and e-GLO collaborative projects.



▶ New resource for using the **Earth Charter**: EC-Assess
September

EC-Assess is an integrated ethical assessment tool that can be used by individuals, organizations or groups who want to evaluate and improve both their level of declared commitment and their level of performance in pursuit of a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. The tool is designed to be applicable and useful in a very wide variety of contexts, ranging from individual lifestyle assessment, to projects or organizations seeking to improve their own practice of sustainable principles, to groups seeking to evaluate (from an external position) the ethical commitment and performance of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, corporations, etc. The results allow the evaluator to identify areas where most important Principles are identified, and where the actual practice of a specific Principle is strong or weak. The results highlight, in particular, those areas where declared commitment to a Principle, and the practices of that initiative or organization, are not in sync with one another.



▶ IUCN Congress, Barcelona
October

The Earth Charter Secretariat actively participated in the 4th IUCN World Conservation Forum, held from 5-9 October, 2008 in Barcelona, Spain. As the biggest conservation event of 2008, the Secretariat – as well as Earth Charter Initiative members – built upon the IUCN endorsement of the Charter and organized three workshops related to education for sustainable development, the EC Assess, and youth empowerment. This was an occasion to show how members of IUCN can use the Earth Charter as part of their work, in their spheres of influence and, as such, implement the IUCN endorsement of the Charter.



▶ “Special Projects Fund” for **Earth Charter Youth Groups**

In 2008, The Earth Charter Initiative empowered youth-led projects in different parts of the world through a “Special Projects Fund” for Earth Charter Youth Groups. This fund was made possible thanks to the financial support from Plan Netherlands. This project sought to have Earth Charter Youth Groups organizing workshops and activities that engage youth and promote dialogue and action for a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. Small grants were dispersed to six Youth Groups, especially in countries where there is a gap in Earth Charter activities and for languages that lack translated Earth Charter materials.



▶ **EC Network meeting in Amsterdam**
December

In early December, an Earth Charter Network Meeting was held in Amsterdam, organized by NCDO (National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development), and the ECI Secretariat. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together members of the EC Initiative to share experiences and ideas about the decentralization strategy and to further explore the EC links with the efforts to address Climate Change and Human Rights and also to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This meeting presented an important opportunity to reflect on the meaning of decentralized empowerment, ideas for how to put it into practice, and the role of the task forces in this process.



▶ **Inspiration for Global Governance. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Earth Charter**
December

The book “Inspiration for Global Governance” by Ruud Lubbers, Willem van Genugten and Tineke Lambooy, was published to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights and launched on December 2008. This publication sought to address the linkages between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Earth Charter.



▶ **The Earth Charter in Textbooks in Tatarstan, Russia**

Tatarstan’s Ministry of Education published three text books for bringing the Earth Charter principles for junior, medium, and senior school children. It builds on previous projects such as the book *Earth Charter in Tatarstan* -- a beautiful coffee-table book in Russian with English summaries and the Earth Charter monument placed in a public park in Kazan.



▶ **EC Virtual Library**

An EC Virtual Library was launched as part of the new EC website in which materials related to the Earth Charter can be downloaded from anywhere. The collection includes educational materials, essays, speeches, books, reports of events, and historical materials, among others.



▶ Education Guide
March

A Guide for Using the Earth Charter in Education was launched during the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Bonn in 2009 (31 March – 2 April). This Guide is intended for all educators who are concerned with the development of educational systems and programmes that prepare young people and adults to live sustainably and become responsible local and global citizens in the 21st century. It provides basic information on how to use the Earth Charter in educational settings. A number of teachers have been using it in an effort to reorient their educational practices towards education for sustainable development.



▶ ECI Council Meeting
April

In April 2009, an ECI Council meeting took place in Sao Paolo, Brazil. The Council set further directions and guidelines for the Task Forces in various focus areas and for outreach in the most spoken world languages.



▶ TV Spot Campaign
April

An Earth Charter TV spot was put together in Brazil and broadcasted on numerous TV Channels as a communication campaign to raise awareness about the Earth Charter. It was broadcasted for several months, starting on 22 April 2009. This 60 seconds video was illustrated with the drawings of children from an underprivileged community located in the surroundings of Sao Paulo. The video was originally produced in Portuguese and was subsequently translated into English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Turkish, Persian, Kurdish, Ukrainian, Korean, Japanese, Hindi, German, Finnish, and Azerbaijani.



2009



- ▶ The Ethos Institute, a leading organization in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility in Brazil, embraces the Earth Charter

At the Ethos Institute’s annual meeting held in December 2008, it was decided that the Institute would work on the development of a socially responsible market. More specifically, they decided that the central objective of the Ethos Institute for the next ten years would be to promote an inclusive and responsible green economy in Brazil, using the principles of the Earth Charter as a general guide. According to the Institute, “by taking the Earth Charter principles as a reference, the necessary synergies between economic activities and other human activities are created in a spirit of respect and harmony with the planet and with the whole community of life.”

The Ethos Institute is widely recognized as a hub for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of corporate social responsibility and on the development of new tools to help the private sector analyze its practices and management. It has the aim of deepening its commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development. It is also an international reference in these themes, developing projects in partnerships with various entities worldwide. The institute’s membership includes over 1,000 companies and business organizations. During the 2009 Ethos International Conference held in June, the Earth Charter featured in the opening plenary session and in the meeting of the institute’s network of entrepreneurs, media professionals, and academics.



- ▶ EC Youtube page
June

In June 2009, the Earth Charter International Secretariat launched a video channel on YouTube. This YouTube channel currently features 64 videos about the Earth Charter in a variety of languages. These include introductory videos about the Earth Charter and interviews with key individuals. This youtube channel is designed to stimulate people in using the Charter and encourage groups from around the world to record and post short videos sharing their experiences in working with the Earth Charter, learn from one another and use these videos in workshops or as an educational resource. The channel’s web address is <http://www.youtube.com/ECInternational>.



2009



▶ Earth Charter Websites in many languages

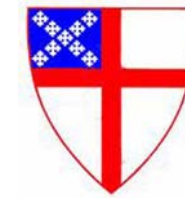
The year of 2009 was marked by the emergence of a great number of Earth Charter national websites. This is part of a strategy to expand awareness of the Earth Charter by reaching out to people in their own languages. Overall 25 national websites have been set up in various languages to disseminate information about Earth Charter activities locally and globally, including Vietnam, Nigeria, Italy, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Finland and others.



▶ EC Congress: Web of Life towards an integrated vision of reality. Italy November

Since November 2007, the Congeme Onlus Foundation has been organizing an annual Congress in Italy to further promote awareness and understanding on the Earth Charter. In November 2009, the event sought to extend the debate about the educational potential of the Earth Charter, with a special focus on care and respect for the Earth and the whole community of life, and also on the building of sustainable communities with a systemic and integrated world view.

The event had the participation of Dumisani Nyoni, member of the ECI Council from Zimbabwe and Ervin Laszlo, President and founder of Club of Budapest, member of the International Academy of Philosophy of Science.

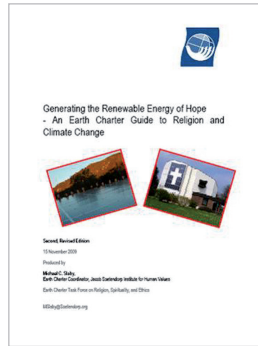


▶ Episcopal Church endorses the Earth Charter July

The 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church held from 8 – 17 July in Anaheim, California, USA, adopted a resolution endorsing the Earth Charter, which encourages the US Episcopal dioceses, congregations, agencies and individuals to take action consistent with the Earth Charter locally, nationally, and internationally. The resolution was proposed by both the Diocese of New York, after its Convention in November, 2008 and by the Diocese of Newark, following its convention in January, 2009. The Episcopal Church has about 2 million members.



2009



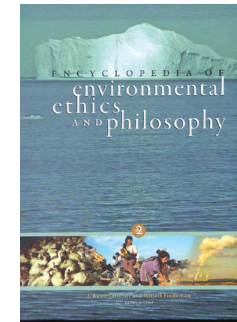
▶ Religions and Climate Change Guide
November

The second edition of the *Earth Charter Guide to Religion and Climate Change* produced by Michael Slaby, EC project coordinator at the Rabbi Soetendorp's Institute, was released in November. It was the result of a two-year process of research and consultation with scientists and experts in the Earth Charter Initiative and the larger interfaith community. The Guide summarizes the basic facts on climate change, gives an overview on of available resources, materials, and best practices, and uses the Earth Charter to make the point that religious leaders have a crucial part to play in speaking out on the major ethical questions posed by global warming. The methodology could be especially useful in religious seminaries, theology and ethics classes, congregational study groups, and interfaith dialogues on the deeper dimensions of climate change and global warming.



▶ Parliament of the World's Religions
Celebrated in Melbourne, Australia
December 2009

From 3 to 9 December, around 6000 people from 220 different faiths and all corners of the world celebrated the Parliament of the World's Religions 2009 in Melbourne, Australia. The Earth Charter Task Force on Religion, Spirituality, and Ethics participated in the celebrations and organized two panel events on the Earth Charter. These panels involved the following speakers such as: Mary Evelyn Tucker (Forum of Religion and Ecology), and A.T. Ariyaratne (Earth Charter Commissioner), who explained how his Buddhist inspired Sarvodaya Movement has translated the Earth Charter into local languages and uses it to educate communities in more than 15,000 villages in Sri Lanka.



▶ The Earth Charter in the Encyclopedia
of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy

A new, two-volume *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*, published in the U.S. by Macmillan, identifies the Earth Charter as one of the ten primary source documents for this rapidly expanding and important field of research and writing. It is interesting to note that the Earth Charter is the only document among these ten texts that appeared in the last three decades (see page 429 of the second volume). The other nine documents are all essays written prior to 1978 as this field was beginning to take shape. This recognition of the Earth Charter as a primary reference document highlights the special significance that the Earth Charter has acquired for scholars working in the field of environmental ethics and philosophy.

Prepared by

Earth Charter International Secretariat

Research work: Samira Aghabayova

Editing: Mirian Vilela

Copy editing: Ross Ryan

Design: Producciones Alpi



*Dialogue, Collaboration,
and Action for a
Sustainable Future*



*What will happen in 2010 and beyond
is still to be created and written...*

C/O University for Peace

P.O. Box 138 - 6100
San Jose, Costa Rica

Tel. (506) 2 205 9000

Fax. (506) 2 249 1929

www.earthcharter.org
www.cartadelatierra.org
www.chartedelaterre.org