

# EARTH CHARTER +5 REPORT

*Conference held 7-9 November 2005*

*Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

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# Section I

## Earth Charter+5: A Landmark Event

*'The Earth Charter+5 is the opportunity to celebrate and learn from each other ideas and experiences. When we go home we will be vitalized and energized and know what we can do ... It can no longer be business as usual.'*

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

### Introduction



*Lubbers at the opening plenary*

The Earth Charter+5 meeting held from 7 – 9 November 2005 was a historic occasion. Over 400 people met in Amsterdam to celebrate the spread of the Earth Charter and the development of The Earth Charter Initiative, as well as to reassess the Charter's relevance in the context of a changing world. In the words of Ruud Lubbers, it was a moment to 'energize' and to celebrate the diversity of life, a moment to renew the vitality and interconnectedness of the Earth Charter Initiative. The three day meeting not only celebrated the achievements to date but also offered an opportunity to examine ways to promote the Earth Charter in the future, to forge new alliances, and to harness leadership across the Earth Charter community in the launch of the Initiative's third phase.

There were many conversations and happenings in those three days, and this Report seeks to capture some of them as well as provide a direct record (through web links) to the documents, speeches and celebratory events that marked five years of Earth Charter activity. The report aims also to be a resource for all of those working towards the new strategies and practical responses that will be guiding the third phase of the Earth Charter Initiative.

The Report aims to capture the deep sense of commitment of the participants in the Initiative, and the creativity and the determined realism that went into the meetings, discussions and celebrations. Although the overall mood was of celebration, there was also a profound sense of urgency and a concern that all advocates of the Earth Charter would be able to move forward together as a community, so that wherever they are living and with whatever set of skills they have, all can contribute.

The days together in Amsterdam demonstrated that the Earth Charter Initiative is moving forward with a renewed sense of commitment, strengthened governance, and a new management structure.



*Conference Hall*

There was tremendous appreciation for all that had been achieved to date, particularly by the team working at the Earth Charter Secretariat and all of the grassroots community groups that are making the Earth Charter come alive.

As Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai stated in the Earth Charter Video screened during the Conference: 'The Green Belt Movement is the Earth Charter translated into practice ... Communities we work with could then localize the Earth Charter and make it relevant, make it a living document'.



*Book launch*

The book *The Earth Charter in Action*, the reports of the thematic groups, and the Video that was screened at the Conference indicated how much has been achieved. As Alan AtKisson, the newly appointed International Transition Director, stated in his remarks, there is now an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the international leadership “wing” of the Earth Charter Initiative, and the local, on-the-ground “wing” of Earth Charter volunteers and champions. Bringing the Earth Charter to world-wide awareness is a major political task, as the near success of its adoption at the Johannesburg Meeting World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 showed.

The Earth Charter+5 was made possible by the generous support of the Dutch people. The event counted with the collaboration from NCDO, Plan Netherlands and the Royal Tropical Institute – KIT (the actual meeting venue). The event was included as part of Queen Beatrix 25th Anniversary Jubilee celebrations. Many speakers recalled the commitment to sustainable development of her late husband Prince Claus. The Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Jan Peter Balkenende, offered a keynote address in the last morning plenary and many of the key political players for sustainable development were actively involved. There was much appreciation for the Dutch confidence in and continuous support of the Initiative.

There was a general feeling that it is indeed possible to put the Earth Charter into practice: from education programmes for children to engagement at the highest level of business and government, it is clear that many are setting an example that the Earth Charter Initiative would like to see followed by others.

At the end of the days together, participants left with a sense that indeed this is “a critical moment in Earth’s history, a time when humanity must choose its future”; and that the world needs “fundamental changes ... in our values, institutions, and ways of living.” Such a shift requires nothing less than establishing new “ethical foundation for the emerging world community” based on “respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.”



*Queen Beatrix at closing plenary*

(Earth Charter Preamble) What the Earth Charter Initiative celebrated in Amsterdam was five years of making that hope a reality.

The report cannot attempt to capture all that happened in these very important days — days that were fun but also emotionally moving, days full of intense collaboration and profound dialogue. Speeches, conversations, and dinners were all part of crucial strategizing involving some of the most important political figures in the sustainable development movement. The report is therefore just a glimpse of those days, highlighting the serious considerations that went into this celebration of past accomplishments and launch of the Third Phase.

## Guide to the Report

The Report is divided into six sections, with important links to more detailed reports throughout the document.

This first section introduces the main achievements to date, with a short commentary and links to the presentations of Mirian Vilela, who gave a Progress Report of the Earth Charter Initiative; Alan AtKisson, who presented his consulting group's review of the Initiative's work over the past five years; and the conclusions of Earth Charter Commission and Steering Committee meeting offered by Steven Rockefeller. These are key strategic presentations that point the way to the future, and to the Third Phase of the Earth Charter Initiative that was launched in Amsterdam.

The second section puts the spotlight on some of the high points of the event, with particular attention to the Royal Support of Queen Beatrix for the Earth Charter Initiative, the first Maximo T. Kalaw Awards, and the launch of the book *The Earth Charter in Action*.

The third section goes to the heart of the Earth Charter story to date and looks at what has been achieved according to the international leadership of the Earth Charter. It also addresses its relationship with some other efforts such as the Millennium Development Goals. It summarizes the contributions of Earth Charter Commissioners Steven Rockefeller, Maurice Strong, Ruud Lubbers, Erna Witoelar, along with world renowned guest Jane Goodall, and distinguished Dutch hosts such as the Prime Minister of the The Netherlands Jan Peter Balkenende, Senator Jos van Gennip, and Herman Mulder of ABN-Amro bank. The Annexes to this report include the Prime Minister's complete speech.

The fourth section highlights the many activities that make up the Earth Charter Initiative in various sectors with a summary of the thematic group discussions. In some cases, such as the Earth Charter Youth Initiative, these groups met for a period of three days during the Conference. The links to this section contain the full reports from the thematic sessions on Education, Local Communities, Business, Faith Groups, Culture of Peace, International Law, the Arts session and the Youth meeting. In addition, this section features brief reports of key gathering points of Earth Charter constituencies: the "Focal Point Dinner," where Earth Charter Focal Points had the chance to meet over a special "Earth Charter meal" hosted by The Humane Society of United States/Earth Charter USA; and the Donor Dinner, which acknowledged the important role of the Initiative's financial supporters.

The fifth section looks at how the Earth Charter Initiative is reaching out and building links with other movements and initiatives, addressing questions about how the next phase of the Earth Charter Initiative will take into account a rapidly changing world, with both new hopes and new threats for a sustainable future. The substance of this section comes from the plenary panel discussions held during the Conference in newsroom style, with Dutch leaders Ruud Lubbers and Hans Opschoor probing the lively and diverse panellists from Japan, Zimbabwe, USA, Brazil, Australia, Hungary and India.

The concluding sixth section examines where the Earth Charter+5 event has taken the Initiative, with a strategic look forward based on the concluding remarks of Steven Rockefeller.



*Concert with Oumou Nana*

## What has been achieved? Earth Charter Progress Report (link to presentation)



*“The Earth Charter Initiative has become a big body with a very small heart to organize and pump energy throughout.”*

Mirian Vilela

Mirian Vilela, Executive Director of the Earth Charter Initiative in Costa Rica, gave a short overview of the Initiatives activities, emphasizing that the small secretariat acts as a catalyst to efforts undertaken around the world and its main task is to serve its constituency: the Earth Charter community, focal points, Commissioners and friends. Throughout the meeting her warmth, professionalism and friendliness has clearly been appreciated by all; indeed the standing ovation she received at the final plenary was marvelous proof of all she has helped achieve and inspire for the Earth Charter Initiative.

In her report she underlined that it is the work on the ground that is enabling the Earth Charter to be used as a tool for sustainable development in many communities around the world. Vilela noted that during the first two years after the launch of the Charter, significant efforts were made to disseminate the Earth Charter and seek expressions of support through endorsements. As a result the Charter has been translated into over 34 languages, with over half a million brochures printed in 12 languages, about fifteen websites dedicated to the Earth Charter. Much of this work was done in collaboration with other institutions.

A number of highly significant endorsements were achieved, including some governments, UNESCO, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Council of Local

Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), and the Parliament of the Republic of Tatarstan in Russia, among others. Then the Secretariat’s focus shifted to supporting projects that could demonstrate the implementation of the Earth Charter in areas such as education and local government.(See <http://www.earthcharter.org/files/resources/Cases.pdf>). Vilela also reported that since the end of 2001, an Earth Charter Youth Initiative has emerged as a coalition of volunteer young people from all continents, who are committed in promoting and using the Earth Charter. During the first two years the Secretariat was able to help by offering a staff person to coordinate this effort, and although this position was discontinued for funding reasons, the Youth Initiative network continued to function with a coordinator working in a volunteer basis.

## The Earth Charter Video

The Earth Charter Video showcased some of the key successes of communities in promoting the Earth Charter. In the video, Jan Roberts of the USA shows how the Earth Charter has inspired numerous individuals to be engaged in making their communities more sustainable. Mateo Castillo, Earth Charter Focal Point in Mexico, explains how their National Earth Charter Committee – with the personal support of President Fox – has led to numerous training sessions in the formal and non formal educational settings, as well as the endorsement of the Earth Charter by sixteen municipalities, 23 educational institutions, three private institutions and over 4,000 individuals. Alide Roerink and Henny Helmich of NCDO recount how the Earth Charter has been promoted in The Netherlands, and note that many communities are using it to support “a change of heart and attitude” needed to bring about real sustainable development.

## AtKisson Findings and Recommendations Report on the Earth Charter Initiative

[\(link to presentation\)](#)



*Alan AtKisson*

Alan AtKisson, in presenting the findings of his report, spoke with personal urgency that came from his own experiences, particular those of the last year and the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina, and also from his deep commitment to working with sustainable development initiatives around the world. He

had been asked to assess critically the progress of the Initiative and offer recommendations on how to take the Earth Charter movement and vision forward.

In his presentation, AtKisson underlined that the Earth Charter is a great ‘product’ admired for its quality but it is not well known, even among professionals in the field of sustainability and environment. In his comparison of initiatives that are working on sustainable development and ‘competing in the global market place of ideas,’ he showed that the Earth Charter was falling behind. Although his team’s global assessment concluded that ‘miracles’ had been worked to date by the small Secretariat in Costa Rica, a breaking point that had been reached. New resources, new strategies, and a new unifying vision were needed. The two ‘wings’ of the Earth Charter movement, the ‘grass roots’ and the ‘internationalists’, needed to become more closely connected and work together in a coordinated way to lift the Initiative higher.

He underlined that the Earth Charter had a unique position in the world. Its massive consultation and participation process was completely unlike Agenda 21 or The UN Global Compact, and this has given the Earth Charter

a strong legitimacy within civil society that has propelled it to legitimacy in other arenas. The Earth Charter is therefore well positioned to meet the needs of different sectors, including faith communities, business, NGOs, States, indigenous peoples, and academic institutions. Indeed, the Charter’s huge strength is that it can reach everyone, and be of genuine service to them, because of the inclusiveness of all the different people working for sustainability.

However, the Charter needs to keep up with the ‘wired’ world. It needs to use the Internet, move beyond endorsement of the UN as a primary goal, and find a unified vision and direction– something that all can strive for. He proposed four goals that all can be working for, linked to four long-term visions:

- 1) Expanded Awareness of the Earth Charter: the vision that everyone on Earth will someday have the opportunity to know and understand it.
- 2) Education for a Sustainable Way of Life: the vision that people will use their learning about sustainability and the Earth Charter to take action in their life and work.
- 3) Engaged Endorsement: the vision that all who formally endorse the Earth Charter contribute to its continued spread, and that they use it to raise their own goals and aspirations for sustainability, in an active and meaningful way.

Ethics-Based Assessment: the vision that institutions, companies, governments, communities, and even individuals will use the Earth Charter to help them determine whether we are making adequate progress toward the vision of a sustainable world, judging that on the basis of the Charter’s vision of ‘the right thing to do.’

He asked that all those working for the initiative hold these goals in our hearts and minds, to help make them inspiring and persuasive, to work on making them relevant to our local situations and to making the changes happen. He noted that during his group's review of the Charter, they had started out feeling quite skeptical about it. But by the end of the review, he and others were convinced that the Charter, with its unifying vision and framework of ethical responsibility, has a very important role to play in the global movement for sustainability.

Alan AtKisson, because of his outstanding report and demonstrable commitment and interest in the Earth Charter (which went far beyond the task at hand), has been asked to join the Initiative to put these four visions into action. He will take up a new role as International Transition Director, and will join together with Mirian Vilela to be the new senior management team of the Initiative. In January 2006, a one-year transition period will begin. The existing office in Costa Rica will become an Earth Charter Center focused on sustainable development education (in partnership with the University for Peace), and a new Center will be established in Europe to focus on the strategic development of programmes and projects, fundraising, and communication. During the Earth Charter+5 conference, discussions began on the possibility of also establishing regional centers in Asia, the Middle-East and West Africa.



## Report from Earth Commissioner Steven Rockefeller [\(link to presentation\)](#)

Steven Rockefeller in his report on the Commission meeting (held on the previous day) stated that the Earth Charter+5 event was about faith and hope renewed, as well as a time to assess and plan for the future. His task was to report decisions from the Commission and the Steering Committee on how the Initiative is to continue its work of building the ethical foundations, locally and globally, for a sustainable world.

Rockefeller reported that the Commission and Steering Committee members concluded that the aim in the third phase of the Initiative will be to ensure engaged endorsement of the Earth Charter, to make it a living document, as well as to continue to work towards recognition at UN. He announced a series of changes, including a new governance structure. A new Council of Trustees will be at the heart of the process, instead of Steering Committee, and Earth Charter Commissioners will continue to be engaged as advisors and “Ambassadors” of the Earth Charter. He described the expanded need for leadership to step up and make the Charter a success, at the grassroots level, and in the sphere law and governance. Rockefeller said,



*Steven Rockefeller*

*“In an effort to strengthen the governance structure, the Steering Committee has decided to create a new international Council of Trustees that will replace the Steering*

*Committee as the chief executive decision making body with responsibility for oversight and direction of the Initiative. In addition, a new International Advisory Board will be created. Its members will not meet regularly as a body but will advise and assist the Council of Trustees and the senior management of the ECI. This new Advisory Council could have 30 or more members”.*

The Earth Charter Steering Committee and Commissioners reaffirmed the Earth Charter Mission Statement adopted in 2000. The Steering Committee recommends that there will be no changes to the Earth Charter text now, but that it will continue to welcome the cross-cultural dialogue on shared values and to monitor the discussion regarding the text of the Charter. The text could be reviewed at some point in the future. Rockefeller recommended that education be used as a way to build the Initiative, and that the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development is an important opportunity for the Initiative.

A new strategic vision for the Initiative is being developed around four interrelated goals which can be understood as steps toward achieving the mission of the Earth Charter Initiative. In 2000 the Earth Charter Steering Committee adopted the following three goals:

- To promote the dissemination, endorsement, and implementation of the Earth Charter by civil society, business, and government.
- To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, faith communities, and many other settings.
- To seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations.

The revised strategic goals, adapted from the findings of the AtKisson Report, are the following:

- Expanded awareness of the Earth Charter
- Education for a sustainable way of life
- Engaged endorsement, including further efforts to secure UN recognition
- Ethics-based governance and assessment

Rockefeller concluded by stressing that the year 2006 will be a transition year and an experimental year. At this time next year, the new Council of Trustees will assess what has been accomplished, and decide whether to continue with the Third Phase as it is now envisioned.



*Commission and Steering Committee meeting*

## Section II

# Some Highlights of the Earth Charter+5

### Summary of the Highlights



*Lubbers, Hironaka, Helmich, Balkenende, Donner, Mulder and Witoelar at plenary session*

Throughout the Conference there was a constant hum of conversations, with new and old friends meeting, and people from around the world putting a face to a name. There were plenaries, professional high-tech presentations, receptions, working meetings, media and public fanfare. There was all the stuff of important international events, but there was more than that: there were artists painting the hopes and dreams of their subjects, an ark where the Queen of the host nation and children placed their drawings expressing messages of hope, inspiring videos, break out groups, hand sewn banners of the Earth Charter principles, dancing, games, singing of personal and community pain and love, tears and prayers for the future. Young and old were there for a purpose, from the highest political people to school children; this was a community that was looking for change, at the spiritual, ecological, social and economic level.

The Earth Charter+5 event strengthened the sense of community, the sense of a shared history and shared goals, the sense of

understanding that there is still a long way to go, personally and collectively. It was a time of dialogue and partnership building. It was a time to bolster enthusiasm and create synergy. The professionalism of the event enabled comfortable and enjoyable atmospheres to be created, even down to hosting meals that were organic, locally produced, and at one dinner event, vegan. The event showed that there was much that can happen if the Earth Charter movement's potential is reached.

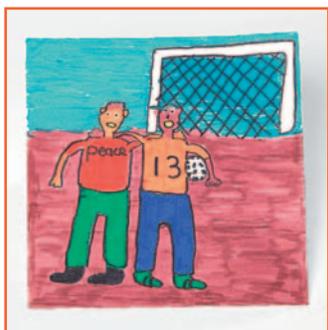
This section highlights some of the unique features of the Earth Charter Initiative, the rewarding moments after all the hard work, and the moments that will stand out as part of the celebration of five years' work, moments that helped forge a stronger commitment, a sense of purpose and determination.



*Maurice Strong with Prime Minister Balkenende*

## Royal Support for the Earth Charter

The Earth Charter+5 was formally embraced as part of Queen Beatrix's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Her Majesty the Queen attended the closing ceremony to hear the conclusions of the conference, and to receive the first copy of a new book, *The Earth Charter in Action: Toward a Sustainable World*. Queen Beatrix also contributed with her own piece of art, her self-designed vessel to carry messages of hope from the children of The Netherlands.



*On Wednesday 9 November, twenty-five winners of a children's drawing contest (which drew 8,000 entries from all over The Netherlands) presented their drawings to Queen Beatrix, who then placed them in her own vessel and subsequently into the Ark of Hope itself.*

## Herman Mulder receives royal knighthood

Following his speech, Mr Herman Mulder, Senior Executive Vice President Group Risk Management of ABN AMRO, was appointed Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau by her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.



Mr Mulder was decorated because of his leading role in the development of the Equator Principles. He was one of the initiators of the principles, which serve as a common baseline and framework across the commercial banking sector for project financing. ABN AMRO was

one of the first banks to adopt the Equator Principles. Mr Mulder received his decoration in Amsterdam during the Earth Charter+5 celebrations from Mr R.J. Treffers, Director-General International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## The Ark of Hope



The Ark of Hope is a well-known and beautifully symbolic depository of messages of hope from a large number of people. The Ark was displayed in the hall of the Conference venue throughout the event. Sally Linder, the artist leader of this project, presented her experience in working with educational workshops and the Ark during a thematic session on the Arts and the Earth Charter. A copy of the Earth Charter, handwritten on papyrus, is kept in the Ark, together with hand-made books made by artists and children. These box-like books, also known as "vessels," are filled with painted and written impressions of a better world. The Ark of Hope was in display at the KIT Museum in Amsterdam, since June 2005.

## The First Earth Charter Maximo T. Kalaw, Jr. Awards



*Maurice Strong with Khairov, Erbarcher, Castillo, Friedrich, Basma and Helmich*

The Earth Charter Awards were offered as an expression of appreciation for the many outstanding efforts of organizations and individuals around the world, and the winners were selected (from a group of ten finalists) based on a number of criteria, including:

- Projects with an explicit relationship with the Earth Charter document
- Implementation of Earth Charter values and principles in an action-oriented project
- Creativity and innovation
- Long-term benefits

A significant impact on the awareness of people and their engagement in sustainable development.

Earth Charter Commissioners Maurice Strong and Princess Basma announced the three winners of the 2005 Earth Charter Awards for exceptional efforts on behalf of the Charter and its integrated vision of a sustainable world. The winners received a special cash award of

five thousand Euros, provided by conference co-sponsors NCDO, to support their continued work to promote the dissemination, endorsement, and implementation the Earth Charter.

A special non-financial award was granted to ITAIPU Binacional, Brazil for its Programme “Cultivando Agua Buena”, under the leadership of Nelton Friedrich, as an example of a socially and environmentally responsible public enterprise.



The winners from the 26 entries and 10 finalists were:

**Mateo Castillo,**  
**Earth Charter focal point, Mexico**

<http://www.coeco.org.mx/>



Since 1999 Mateo Castillo has undertaken a leadership role in promoting the Earth Charter in Mexico. With the support from the Ministry of Environment (SEMARNAT) and the existing mechanism of the National Council for Sustainable Development, a national campaign was set in place to promote awareness on the Earth Charter and seek endorsements. A National Earth Charter Committee was set up to help articulate this process, and as a result, sixteen municipalities,

23 educational institutions, three private institutions and over 4,000 individuals have endorsed the Earth Charter.

Support from President Fox was achieved in 2002 through a civil society movement. Since 2003, efforts have focused in incorporating the Earth Charter in education programmes from schools to universities, as well as in articulating it as an instrument to local government processes of designing Local Agenda 21. Between 2003 and 2005, 27 conferences were offered with a total of 5,400 participants and 43 workshops involving over 4,000 participants. The goal of this project in Mexico has been to provide community leaders and the communities themselves with information and education concerning the fundamental principles of sustainable development and how to blend these into decision-making processes. The project has worked with formal education and local communities and has undertaken workshops to all sectors of society in most of the States in Mexico.

**Louise Erbacher,**  
**Brink Expedition, Australia**  
<http://www.brinkx.org/>



Louise Erbacher is a member of the Brink Expedition organization and undertook a leadership role in this project as education coordinator. The expedition itself consists of two other team members who are travelling around the world carrying a message of a

better future, visiting schools, and sharing curriculum materials which include the Earth Charter. The philosophy of the Earth Charter is the basis for the educational goals of the Expedition and the materials they developed.

The aim of the Brink Expedition, which started in 2001, is to bring social and environmental issues into mainstream awareness. The School Room of the Brink website currently includes 65 schools from Australia, USA, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Spain and Sweden. It is anticipated that by October 2006, there will be at least 300 schools participating in the project.

**Rustem Khairov,**  
**Foundation for Survival and Development**  
**of Humanity, Russia**

<http://www.earthcharter.ru/>



For many years, Rustem Khairov, through the Foundation for Survival and Development of Humanity, has taken a leadership role in promoting the Earth Charter in the Russian Federation. Mr. Khairov has continuously sought implementation of the Earth Charter principles in different regions of the Russian Federation. Achievements include the support received from the parliaments of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kalmykia and Kabardino-Balkaria. At the end of the year 2000, the Tartastan Parliament undertook an

in-depth study on the Earth Charter through hearings and discussions. The purpose was to determine to what extent the values and principles of the Earth Charter were coherent with state laws, policies and traditional values. These efforts culminated with the unanimous vote of members of parliament of Tatarstan to adopt the Earth Charter and use it as part of the Constitution, which is a quite unique example for a parliament.

Following that, the Republic of Tatarstan launched a large-scale experiment on implementing the Earth Charter, which included incorporating the Earth Charter in school curricula and the launch of the 'Earth Charter in Tatarstan' Book, which is published in English and Russian and has a preface from the President of the Republic, Mr. Shaimiev.

## The Earth Charter in Action Book Launched



*The book launch*

In a ceremony covered by the Dutch news media, Her Majesty Queen Beatrix received the first copy of *The Earth Charter in Action: Toward a Sustainable World*. The book contains sixty-two chapters by seventy-four contributors representing thirty-three nations.

This full colour book is a collection of thematic and descriptive essays inspired by the Earth Charter by, among others, Wangari Maathai, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jane Goodall, Maurice Strong, Jan Pronk and Princess Basma Bint Talal. It illustrates how the Earth Charter is being used, principle by principle, working across faith traditions, nations, generations and North-South divides.

The essays, together with artwork from around the world inspired by the Earth Charter, illustrate the document's capacity to reach across cultures and sectors, and to turn principles into practice. Published by the Netherlands Royal Tropical Institution (KIT Publishers), *The Earth Charter in Action* can be ordered at the website below, or via email through Maurits von Heijden at [m.v.heijden@kit.nl](mailto:m.v.heijden@kit.nl).



*The Queen and the book*

[Direct weblink for ordering The Earth Charter in Action here.](#)

## Section III

# Achievements of the Earth Charter Initiative

*We have come here to have our faith and hope renewed, to learn from each other, to assess the accomplishments of the Earth Charter Initiative, to celebrate the many positive achievements, to plan for the future, to forge new partnerships, to revitalize the Earth Charter movement, and to launch a Third Phase in the Initiative.*

Steven Rockefeller

### Introduction

There were many inspiring and important talks on the achievements of the Earth Charter from prominent international leaders. In sharing their thoughts they discussed frankly the problems we face and the importance of working at the political, spiritual and social level towards sustainability.

Co-Chair Earth Charter Commission Maurice Strong led the way with an important and moving speech on what has been achieved, and yet how far we have to go if we are to be true to future generations. Ruud Lubbers, former Prime Minister of The Netherlands and Earth Charter Commissioner, brought his reflections into the proceedings throughout the event, from his candid insights into his weekly briefings with Queen Beatrix to his admiration to the energy and enthusiasm of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative. Steven Rockefeller, Co-Chair Earth Charter Steering Committee reported on how the future of the Initiative is to be managed, but also shared his thoughts about why an open and inclusive process has paved the way for this civil society-led initiative. Many referred to the liberation theologian and Commissioner Leonardo Boff, who was often seen around the Conference talking with the youth delegates.



Princess Basma graciously and wisely officiated over the proceedings. Earth Charter Commissioner Erna Witoelar delivered a keynote presentation on the links between the Millennium Development Goals and the Earth Charter. The Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Jan Peter Balkenende, gave a learned and touchingly personal speech on how to assist in the process of ending poverty and promoting development; and Herman Mulder, of ABN-Amro Bank, departed from his prepared speech to speak from the heart on the importance of learning from others, including environmental activists.

## “The Struggle between Ecosystems and Ecosystems”

Maurice Strong  
Earth Charter Commissioner<sup>1</sup>



*We know what we should do; science and technology can help us to do it. We know the solutions and we know what to do in the future. But we are not doing it. We are not able to make the transition to a sustainable way of life. Moral and ethical and spiritual responsibility*

*hangs on today's generation and emerging generations. We must reach into the hearts and souls of all people, and work with them for what we all want: a healthy whole community, happy children, and a secure life on earth.*

Maurice Strong

Speaking from his own childhood experiences in Canada as well as the many years he has spent leading the international movement in support of sustainable development, Maurice Strong underlined that we must all learn that traditional values are key to sustainable development. He stated that respect for nature and traditional wisdom was even more precious in a globalizing world.

His interest in the environment began with his early learning among the Inuit people in Canada. He learnt from them a culture of survival and joy, and he has carried with him throughout his life how by working with consensus all members of the Inuit community are able to take part in the good things of life. We cannot afford to lose touch with the respect for nature and traditional values, he said. Now in his new role teaching in China at Beijing

University, he notes how Chinese people are embracing the modernization for the economy while also repositioning and rediscovering their traditions, and recognizing the need to learn about Chinese traditional wisdom.

Strong underlined that preserving cultural and environmental diversity and variety will make us strong. He also warned that the loss of diversity and variety in life that makes society so rich and dynamic will mean inevitably the loss of civilization. We cannot afford to allow materialism and self-interest to ride rough shod over community values and societies. But neither can we make these profound changes alone, we need to work together.

Modestly, he says that whatever he accomplished was thanks to the partnership of others, and that the mistakes he has made “I made all by myself.” Only by learning together we can move ahead, he told the delegates. Speaking of the roots of the Earth Charter movement, he smilingly told the audience: I owe a lot to old friends and also to new people in new position, but I will not go away until nature takes me, or tells me. I will continue listening to nature.

Strong traced back the beginnings of a global movement for environment and development back to the 1970s, when the negative impact of economic growth on both nature and society was first recognized. This led to the first global conference on the future of the planet, the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. That UN-sponsored meeting, which Strong was assigned by U Thant to coordinate, put the links among economic, environment and social issues on the agenda. Following Stockholm there was a huge explosion of interest by both governments and NGOs in environment and sustainable development, leading to the Brundtland Commission (staffed by Strong) and the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 (which Strong also

<sup>1</sup> Maurice Strong offered a keynote speech on 8 November 2005 entitled “Progress of Sustainability Agenda and the Earth Charter”

chaired). Strong underscored his view that the global conservation movement remains key to advancing the sustainable development agenda.

The future of our Earth as a secure home for all will be determined in our life times, he said. We must stop the economic and social activities that impinge on life and our future. We need to change the parameters, put in place filtering mechanisms that will have an impact before our unsustainable economic and social patterns become fatal for us and the world.

Strong put it bluntly: we face catastrophe because the very wealthy nations, organizations and individuals -- instead of using their capacity to bring about a better world -- allow their greed, self interest and self indulgence to determine our lives and undermine our civilizations.

So, he asked, how to save the world? He captured in one phrase the complex factors that have led to environmental degradation and profound social and economic injustice. We are victims of ‘the struggle between ecosystems and egosystems’. It is the egos of people, governments, businesses that prevent solutions and generate a terrible lack of political will, he said.

There is undoubtedly a great capacity for new wealth today, but currently it is accompanied by a great disparity. What is happening in France [the riots were still occurring during this conference] is a manifestation of what is happening everywhere, where the oppressed become the dispossessed and rebel.

For those of us living in the North, we have to understand we are minority but when we do not pay attention to the concerns of the majority the result is catastrophe. We cannot ignore our power, both in terms of economy



*We are victims of ‘the struggle between ecosystems and egosystems’. It is the egos of people, governments, businesses that prevent solutions and generate a terrible lack of political will, he said.*

and knowledge. We have to lead and show example, learn how to listen, and not be impatient and not to enforce our own solutions on others.

Strong is personally trying to promote the Earth Charter in Beijing and Ottawa where he is now spending more of his time. He continues to be inspired by the enthusiasm of the young and hopes that if the older generations fulfil their obligation to the young, then we can save the world at least during their life time. It is therefore important that we hand the leadership to the young and not abdicate our support for the future generations.

Strong applauded the work done by the Earth Charter Initiative during the past five years, and expressed his support for the new strategic directions being taken by the Steering Committee. He believes that the Earth Charter now needs to be put into practice, particularly through education, and to make it an action based document with initiatives undertaking in adherence to the principles and actions.

He stated: “In Stockholm in 1972,” he said, “we lost our innocence. We realized the damage we were doing and we needed to act. It can be done. We know what we should do, science and technology can help us to do it. We know the solutions and we know what to do in the future. But we are not doing it. We are not able to make the transition to a sustainable

way of life. Moral and ethical and spiritual responsibility hangs on today's generation and emerging generations. We must reach into the hearts and souls of all people, and work with them for what we all want: a healthy whole community, happy children, and a secure life on earth".

Strongly honoured The Netherlands for their nourishing of the Earth Charter process with the Queen and Rudd Lubbers showing deep spiritual commitment. He looks forward to a great ethical change and a quiet revolution to ensure that the future will bring the well being of all people now and the life and generations that will follow.

## Reflections on the Earth Charter

Jos van Gennip Chairperson NCDO<sup>2</sup>



*The Earth Charter is neither idealistic or unrealistic it is a vision for a future which embodies realism and long term self interest... it searches for a deep and rich plurality that will unleash new ways of working.*  
Jos van Gennip

In his reflections on the Earth Charter Jos van Gennip underlined that five years is a very short time to promote innovation and changes in ethics and culture. The Earth Charter is a source of creative vision and engagement as well as a source of information. It is leaving a distinctive mark on the struggle of citizens towards a world of solidarity, peace and stewardship. Will the Earth Charter make a difference in the coming five years? NCDO, he stated, is very interested in this question. The NCDO and The Netherlands are proud to contribute to the Earth Charter Initiative in ensuring the next five years will count.

As the heirs of Prince Claus and as a group actively engaged in international sustainable development, the NCDO sees the Earth Charter as critical for a new generation in the Netherlands and Europe. The Earth Charter will help to usher in a new approach to governance, civil society, business, arts and faith so that the right answers to the world's problems is found not just by diplomacy but by all actors. The big answers at home cannot be solved without global change. Migration, the economy, security and the end to violence all need a global approach. The Earth Charter is a deep source of inspiration gleaned from scientific, personal, philosophical and religious conviction, instead of just seeking greatest common denominator it searches for a deep and rich plurality that will unleash new ways of working.

<sup>2</sup> Senator van Gennip, chaired the morning plenary of 9 November 2005

## How the Earth Charter can contribute to Sustainable Development [\(link to full report\)](#)

Jan Peter Balkenende  
Prime Minister of The Netherlands<sup>3</sup>



*What I like most about the Earth Charter is the way it builds a bridge between values and action.*

Jan Peter Balkenende

Jan Peter Balkende, Prime Minister of The Netherlands, shared with the audience how the Earth Charter contributes to further the sustainable development agenda of The Netherlands.

His talk focused on what he himself has learnt, starting from the guidance of Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus who have always promoted the vision and implementation of sustainable development. The Prime Minister sees development as a cultural process, not of material goods but of human resources and like Prince Claus sees the importance of people and countries developing themselves.

This lesson was underscored for him during a visit to Nigeria and Mali where he saw how people despite poverty and disease believe in the future. He also saw how investments in education for school children in Mali prove that small resources can make a difference. Even so, he conceded that the problems we face are enormous – in Nigeria he spoke to the President about the deep levels of corruption and violence faced by Nigeria, despite visions of hope. He asked that we put an end to all the cynicism and do our part to promote sustainability. This way the Earth Charter can

build a bridge between values and actions. Solidarity and freedom call for action, create obligations. He encouraged the audience to have the courage to put into practice our ideals.

The Earth Charter and the Millennium Development Goals inspire us to look beyond the moment and do our part. If we can work together we can ‘Make Poverty History’ and help Mother Earth deal with this new prosperity and its strain on the environment, bad governance war and conflicts that undermine even destroy development. We need a foundation of justice and security, without them development projects will sink. Economic development, human rights, security and sustainable development are all interlinked, a threat to one is a threat to all.



*We all share one world, no one can get off.*

His five points (see complete speech) elaborated how we can move to sustainable development with a focus on peace keeping, stability and good governance for sustainable economic growth. He pointed to the key role of energy the dangers due to erosion, air pollution, climate change and the exhaustion of fossil fuels. Energy is the engine that drives development. If we could develop cleaner most sustainable energy in the North and cleaner more sustainable investments in energy in the South the ideals of the Earth Charter would be one step close. We need to tailor approaches to different countries –and within countries – there is no single formula for success.

<sup>3</sup> Prime Minister Balkenende address the morning plenary session on 9 November 2005

He pointed to the growth of the Chinese economy, which has freed people from poverty but at huge ecological costs, air pollution, loss of vegetation, brown rain and acute shortage of clean water. We cannot afford such an ecological melt down, the Chinese environment is under threat, the economy and society at risk, and therefore also our own. He commends how the Chinese promoting cleaner energy and water management, trying to clean up and switch to more sustainable path

There is scope for innovations and he pointed out how The Dutch are promoting cleaner transport in Europe, and how Dutch greenhouses produce energy rather than consume.

*With open minds to innovation the skies the limit!*

He asks that governments, business and industry as well a civil society work together so that they have the same goals and a mutual trust. This will also bring us one step closer to a sustainable world. His example from the Netherlands includes the corporate responsibility by companies such as Shell where solid business principles include sustainable development at the heart of how they do business.

We share a common destiny lets make together a change of heart and mind and life. The Earth Charter in the true sense of expression a people's document and source of inspiration.

## Best practices from the business community

**Herman Mulder Senior Executive  
Vice President ABN/Amro Bank, The  
Netherlands**



*Eradicating poverty  
through profit for the  
very poor*

Herman Mulder, one of the Founder of the Equator Principles deviated from his prepared speech to share with the audience how inspired he was after spending the previous day in this gathering, and why it is so important that the international business society is stepping up efforts for sustainable development. He wondered why he was getting involved in this Initiative so late. “Why am I here?” he asked rhetorically. “And why are there so few of us from the business sector?” He underlined that changes in business practice cannot come only because of pressure from the public domain with its intensive monitoring, reporting and lobbying action. Change must also come from within the business community itself, from the top to the bottom of business and banking organizational pyramids.

He shared with the audience why the business community is now contributing to the Millennium Development Goals and joining such initiatives as the UN Global Compact with a renewed concern about environment and climate change. He proposes that the right way to do business is changing and he hopes that in future Earth Charter meetings there will be many more members of the business community present. In sharing some of his

personal experiences that led him to join the Earth Charter +5 meeting, he hoped we could find the way to ensure there will be more than just a handful of people representing the business community in Earth Charter +10.

He traced his involvement back to a first experience in 1998, when Friends of the Earth asked him to discuss a mining project in Papua New Guinea, a project which Mulder had brought to the Bank. He took two and half months to respond to the request to review the ecological and human sustainability of the project. In the end he told Friends of the Earth the Bank was not proud of the project and that they would no longer invest in it and would ask Friends of the Earth to advise them confidentially in the future. The response of Friends of the Earth was to say that they would not have confidential discussions but instead asked for the Bank to take responsibility in transparent and accountable way.

His second experience was when he met to discuss best practices and environmental monitoring plan with financial institutions investing in the energy sector in 2002. This initial meeting had high level managers from the 10 largest banks in the world. It was the beginning of the Equator Principles, which has now, involves 35 Banks that have agreed to new environmental standards, along with outside studies and monitoring of projects that involve the banks.

His third experience was when he visited Brazil to meet poor women micro enterprises and he saw what could be done in the Brazilian favelas with 500 dollars

*We have to face up to a low carbon future. We do not have three more planets that will be needed by 2050 to provide the live style to which all people are entitled.*

He also recognized the work of the young people in his Bank and other businesses – the young professionals from the next generation who are pushing environmental issues. This gives him hope that more will be possible as soon as possible.

He sees concretely the need for 1.4 trillion dollars of overseas development assistance if we are to live up to the Gleneagles agreement made in June 2005 by the G8 and confirmed at the just held World Summit. For him Hong Kong will be a litmus test. Business has to be part of the solution, because we want to make the preferred investment with the preferred partner. There is the promise of growth in emerging markets, but the signs on the wall that business as usual will lead to disaster. We have to adjust how we operate by listening and learning not just applying ways and means.

*The Earth Charter Initiative is invited to open up to allow at least 25% of Earth Charter activities to involve business and we will be there. Think EC +10 and how to live up to our commitments.*

Following his speech, Herman Mulder was awarded a knighthood (Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau) by her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Mr Mulder received his decoration from Mr R.J. Treffers, Director-General International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## The Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals and the Earth Charter

Erna Witoelar UN Ambassador MDGs  
Asia and Pacific and Earth Charter  
Commissioner<sup>4</sup>



*The Earth Charter needs to build synergy with the Millennium Declaration in order to solve real challenges of poverty and unsustainable development in order to ensure environmental sustainability.*

Erna Witoelar

Erna Witoelar began her contribution with a tribute to ‘the symphony of the Earth Charter played under the leadership of Ruud Lubbers and Steven Rockefeller, performing the masterpiece of Maurice Strong.’

Her contribution to the plenary was to compare the Earth Charter with the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), both born in the year 2000. She, like many others, recognized the years of work and preparation that went into the consensus-building that undergirds the Earth Charter, which does not have the formal recognition of the UN General Assembly. In comparison the MDGs have that recognition, and they represent agencies and governments, but many of these actors are less aware of the core values of the Millennium Declaration, to which the MDGs refer, and which are similar to elements of the Earth Charter.

The MDGs are not new. They represent the goals on which civil society and government have been working for years. She became engaged in the MDGs in response to her

concern that the MDGs must engage civil society to support their achievement, while also reflecting the diversity of different countries and regions. She strongly feels that it is not at the UN level that the goals can be put into practice. She has traveled around Asia to promote the interrelatedness of the Goals, and to help place the core values of the Millennium Declaration much more to the forefront

These core values, distinct from the targets and indicators usually associated with the MDGs, are freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. In comparison to the Earth Charter, the Millennium Declaration is more focused on human rights, whereas the Earth Charter is more focused on justice, environment and ethics. Nevertheless there are shared values around nature and diversity, solidarity and the need for global partnership in the MDGs and all forms of life in the Earth Charter that point to convergences.

Witoelar points to differences in the processes. The Earth Charter was a consensus building document engaging different groups of civil society, whereas the MDGs was a inter-governmental led process. In order to engage non-state actors, the MDGs initiative is now trying to create a more participatory process with civil society as well as governments being consulted.

The processes have led to different constituencies for the two documents. It has been hard to build ownership among governments of the Earth Charter; it was a painful process to see it being dropped at the Johannesburg Summit. The MDGs on the other hand have little public ownership, and there is still a lot of public distrust and cynicism around them.

<sup>4</sup> Ms. Witoelar made this presentation in the plenary morning on 9 November 2005

The Earth Charter still needs to be endorsed by the governments even if it has the support of people. It needs to use the UN mechanisms to ensure that governmental support is being put into action. But it is very difficult 'training cows' (an expression translated from the Indonesian).

The MDGs Campaign is now involved in different coalitions, for example Make Poverty History, GCAP (Global Campaign Against Poverty). This indicates there could be more support for the Millennium Declaration values and a new sense of commitment and coalition building not just among environment, poverty groups but also with HIV+ activists and gender activists who are coming together with a renewed spirit.

*"Power is not enough for politician to be good, they need compassion and care to enable real pro-poor policies in the South and pro-development policies in the North."*

(E. Witoelar)

It is possible to build synergy, revive governments, work for human rights, good governance and peace building. The last World Summit did indicate a renewed commitment to end poverty. The Earth Charter needs to build synergy with the MDGs campaigns to help eradicate poverty and ensure environmental sustainability by working on concrete targets and actions. We need to respect the world's fragility, and take note of the natural disaster toll as the price people pay when we do not comply with sustainable development policies. If people build without respecting the Earth, they take away natural coastal defenses, and make disasters far more severe.

*"We need to look beyond poverty as just income generation and see the challenges of poverty as needing a life of participation and dignity and security."*

(E. Witoelar)

Reaching sustainable development is a challenging task for all of us. Advocates of the MDGs and the Earth Charter must work closer together to link their values and principles into the real challenge of eradicating extreme poverty. The Earth Charter offers a realistic and programmatic approach that can build synergy with the MDGs link ending poverty with sustainable development as inscribed in the Earth Charter principles sewn on the banners around the room.

*"We have no excuses. We can make the change"*

(E. Witoelar)



## Roots and Shoots

Jane Goodall

*Every individual can make a difference every day, we all have a choice.*

Jane Goodall



Jane Goodall began her keynote address with the greetings of the chimpanzee, recalling the first time she hear the sound across the Tanzanian forest, 45 years ago. She argues that Chimpanzees help to show us how close we are to animals and nature. Humans are not the only beings with personalities. We need to respect other life forms. For Goodall, Chimpanzees are the ambassadors for other life forms. Their eyes say to us, ‘don’t I matter too?’

When Goodall first went to the Tanzanian forests there were a million Chimpanzees; now there are only 200,000, as the forests are disappearing. Chimpanzees are hunted for food, for commercial reasons, and for the urban elite, who now hunt animals for fashion. Logging to make roads has eroded their lives, together with the pygmies’ habitats and livelihoods. As the animals disappear, and as more hunters move in, pygmies start to adapt unhealthy and unsustainable lifestyles, reducing them to stark poverty. Goodall underlines that we need to take care of the people, and nature and lives. We need to encourage the respect of all forms of life and give hope to our children move away from bitterness and anger and poverty. When you can see and feel the pain, you need to respond. Our collaborative response is important for our human life, for animals in the wild and domesticated and for the environment.

Goodall describes how her personal response as an activist, a response now shared by thousands of others, is called ‘Roots and Shoots’, a project that educates young people from preschool to university students in a bottom up approach to think about animals, nature and people. The project is enabling and developing children’s passions about animals and nature, and has now taken hold in 92 countries with over 8,000 active groups. She sees the project as breaking down barriers between animals and people and sowing seeds of peace and understanding.

Jane Goodall travels 300 days a year sharing her vision of hope and courage for the world. She sees her initiative as mirroring the work of the Earth Charter, and in the process of her work she also has fostered the Earth Charter and sees it as growing along with the Roots and Shoots initiative inspired by love and hope for people, animals and nature.

*We need to give nature a chance, give animals and plants a second chance.*

Roots & Shoots® engages and inspires youth through community service and service learning. Founded by Dr. Jane Goodall, this global program emphasizes the principle that knowledge leads to compassion, which inspires action. All Roots & Shoots groups show care and concern in three areas: the human community, animals, and the environment. For more information see <http://www.rootsandshoots.org>

## Section IV

# Celebrating Earth Charter Activities

### Introduction to Thematic Sessions

During the conference, Earth Charter advocates from around the world came together in smaller meetings to review, debate and plan for the future in a series of thematic sessions. Below we give a brief run-down of the main papers and presenters. For more complete reports of several of the sessions please follow the web links indicated.

### Education and the Earth Charter ([link to full Report on Education Thematic Session](#))



*Higher Education Session*

Over the course of the two days, nearly 100 educators and interested individuals attended the session, with about half attending the non-formal education sub-session, a quarter going to higher education, and a quarter going to primary/secondary education. Participants concluded that a new educational paradigm, based on the values underlying sustainable development, is needed. Equally needed are resources, materials and teacher training in the

area of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The Earth Charter offers a valuable framework for developing such materials. Lastly, participants felt that the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) provides an important political space to advance the ESD agenda as well as the Earth Charter's educational potential, which has been formally recognized by UNESCO in this context.

What emerged from the various sessions is the need for more practical resources and tools to facilitate the work of educators with the Earth Charter, as well as greater political and economic support. Many educators are working in isolation in their schools, communities, organizations – how do they pass on the message of the Earth Charter and education for sustainability to others so that everything gathers momentum? Educators need to be made more aware of the transformational learning that occurs when students play an ownership role in curriculum, especially the way in which students are able to internalize the values and principles of the Earth Charter through actively participating in the world around them.

*Education is the key to advancing the transition to more sustainable ways of living. Transformative education is needed - education that helps bring about the fundamental changes demanded by the challenges of sustainability.*

Brendan Mackey

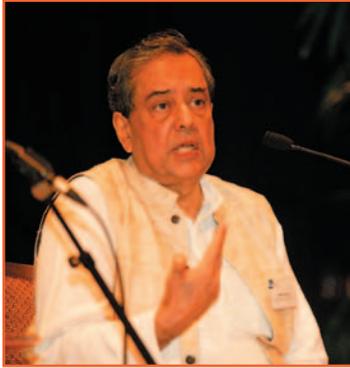
Brendan Mackey, in his plenary address, underlined that the Earth Charter education programme has made remarkable progress. However, it is also clear that a shift in thinking is needed to catalyse the necessary social reforms. Hans Van Ginkel spoke about the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and the possibilities of working towards Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development (GLSSD), based on Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs). He also underlined that higher education institutions play a vital role, not only in shaping the future by educating the professionals of tomorrow, but also by creating a research base for sustainability efforts, and by providing outreach and service to communities and nations. They are extremely well-placed to help achieve Principle 8 of the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter is well-designed in order to inspire the people working and studying in higher education institutions to contribute to sustainable development. The commitment of individual academics to the Earth Charter will be crucial for moving the education for sustainable development (ESD) initiative forward.

The panel on The Earth Charter in the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development consisted of Moacir Gadotti (Paulo Freire Institute); Tiahoga Ruge Scheffer (Ministry of Env., Mexico); Assouan Gbesso (University for Peace); Rick Clugston (ECUSA/CRLE); and Louise Erbacher (Brink Expedition and Queensland Earth Charter Committee). The panellists looked at how the Earth Charter is being implemented and the role of UNESCO in the Decade. The panel illustrated the universal appeal of the Earth Charter, from its application in literacy project led by the Paulo Freire Institute in Brazil to children's adaptation that is being carried around the world by the Brink Expedition. These examples reinforce the flexibility of the Earth Charter

as a framework for bringing sustainability to educational processes. With the beginning of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and a growing recognition of the need for more holistic, integrated educational approaches, there is great potential for the Earth Charter to be further utilized as an educational instrument.

The discussion on future priorities highlighted the need to build a community around the use of the Earth Charter for ESD and the need for more funding to be accessed to promote education for sustainable development. The Earth Charter could be used as a basis for reforming curriculum and it could be used in the classroom itself. University students in Education could work towards developing lesson plans that incorporate the Earth Charter and that align with state standards. One of the goals of DESD would be to make the Earth Charter as visible as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## Local Communities and the Earth Charter ([link to full Report](#))



*Today's development strategies can neither eradicate poverty nor strengthen ecological security. Traditional economic instruments are not enough. We need to change value systems, consumption patterns, policies and institutions, and we need to strengthen local governance.*

Ashok Khosla

Coordinated by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability this thematic session examined how local communities are using the Earth Charter to support their efforts to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection and a culture of peace.

Panel 1, facilitated by Ashok Khosla, presented the role of the Earth Charter in local communities, highlighting concrete examples and initiatives aimed at strengthening actions at the local level. Jan Roberts, speaking about the Earth Charter Local Communities Summits in the USA, emphasized that it is important to reach out to ordinary people. She explained how her organization involves people at local community, or grassroots, level by inspiring them to be agents of change and organizers of community dialogues in order to engage others in the development of a common vision for the future of the community. Especially impressive is their Earth Scouts project involving children.

Mateo Castillo, representing the Mexico Earth Charter National Committee, reported on efforts by Mexican 35 communities working with the Earth Charter in their Local Agenda

21 processes. His concluding message was that Local Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter complements each other. Pelayo de Riego from Deyna, Spain, stressed emphatically how well Local Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter match. He praised the Earth Charter as a universal, participatory framework.

Panel 2 discussed the relationship between Local Government and the Earth Charter. Guttorm Grundt, Environmental Affairs Director of the City of Oslo, Norway, reported that Oslo responded to ICLEI's call upon all of its local government members to discuss in their city councils and adopt the Earth Charter. Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Executive Director of Global Community Initiatives, USA/ South Africa, has worked with communities in the United States and South Africa promoting a systems-oriented approach to making communities more sustainable and assisting community leaders in developing successful strategies for change. GCI has produced a workbook and online tool providing local communities with a step-by-step guide on how to develop goals, targets and strategies to implement sustainable practices and to measure progress. Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, explained how ICLEI's membership of 400 local governments adopted the Earth Charter at its World Congress 2000 in Germany.

In his keynote presentation, Ashok Khosla, reviewed the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) in a critical light. He argued that today's development strategies can neither eradicate poverty nor strengthen ecological security. Traditional economic instruments are not enough. We need to change value systems, consumption patterns, policies and institutions, and we need to strengthen local governance.

Addressing the panel on ‘The Earth Charter in Local Government and Cities’, Erna Witoelar, Indonesia, UN Special Ambassador for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), emphasized that the MDGs are commitments by national governments not just to the United Nations but also to their own people. The Earth Charter can be used as a tool to advance the MDGs as it promotes environmental sustainability and responsibility for a sustainable way of life. Ahangamage Ariyaratne, President of the Sarvodaya Movement, Sri Lanka, explained that Sarvodaya (awakening) is the largest and most broadly embedded people’s organization in Sri Lanka with a network of sixteen thousand villages, thirty four district offices and over one hundred thousand youth. He sees the Earth Charter as multifaceted gems of wisdom. Camila Godino, Youth Representative from Brazil, reported about projects and programmes that are functioning in local communities and which involve youth. She highlighted the value of cooperation between the business sector, youth and all citizens and asked that authorities empower marginalized groups. The Earth Charter can serve as common ethical ground for all stakeholders when called upon to act responsibly in favour of generations to come. Thijs de la Court, Development Education Centres (COS), Netherlands, explained that local sustainability among Dutch municipalities has been measured through a participatory instrument, the Local Sustainability Metre, which is now managed by his organization.

In the concluding discussion on, where do we go from here?, the participants looked at whether Local Agenda 21 is a vehicle to promote the Earth Charter, or is the Earth Charter a vehicle to bring about LA21 processes? The conclusion was that the Earth Charter and Local Agenda 21 are elements of an organic whole. In

answer to the question of whether we should have community-based or local government-led process, participants felt that both the community and the local authority need a common awareness and understanding of the Earth Charter. Local governments should see the complementarity of the Earth Charter and Local Agenda 21.



*Local Community Session*

## Earth Charter and Business (link to full Report)



*We are playing a big game; the rules of the game need to be fair (for 6 billion people)*

Oscar Motomura

The session was organised and facilitated by Thierry Sanders, Sander Tideman and David Berry with 50 participants mainly from NGOs and some from business. Ruud Lubbers opened the session stating that the Earth Charter started with NGOs and is therefore new to the business world, but adds an ethical and spiritual dimension to business frameworks, standards and codes of conduct. There is now a recognition that business success and sustainability are closely related. Young professionals within business are ambitious, seek success and are eager to job-hop to achieve this, but they are concerned about the future and therefore sustainability. It is therefore important to bring youth and business together within the Earth Charter.

Alan AtKisson looked at how the Earth Charter can strengthen business by adding a sense of sustainability values, ethics and ideals to business standards and norms. Consumers, employees and employers are also people, and it on the individual level that the Earth Charter could seek one of its new entry points with business.

AtKisson also noted that it would be important, early in the Transition process, for the Earth Charter Initiative to examine and clarify its own aims and principles with regard to engagement with the business sector. “We will not be doing anything very quickly,” he noted. “We will be consulting with a wide range of

people” to make sure that the Initiative’s engagement with the business sector is of value to them in a crowded “market”, while strongly upholding the ideals and principles of the Earth Charter itself, and the Initiative that has grown around it. “Maintaining the integrity of the Earth Charter is critically important in this context,” he noted, “so, for example, we will not be seeking any corporate donations until and unless we feel that we have come to an excellent way of managing such support in a way absolutely maintains the Charter’s standing across all other sectors.”

In the panel presentations, Teresa Fogelberg – Deputy Director of Global Reporting Initiative – looked at how the Earth Charter can provide an overarching standard: it gives soul and ethics to other international standards, and it can be seen as ‘global public good’ governed by diverse stakeholders. See <http://www.globalreporting.org>

Masayo Hasegawa, Project General Manager, Environmental Affairs Division of Toyota reported on the ‘Toyota Earth Charter’ which is loosely based on the Earth Charter. Toyota have based their environmental and social standards on a multilayered system of Precepts – Guidelines – Earth Charter – Global Vision 2010. Sustainable mobility is the key element of Toyota’s core business in their 2010 vision. See <http://www.toyota.co.jp/en/>

Bart Jan Krouwel, Director of Social Innovation and sustainability of Rabobank Group, warned that there should not be too much overlap between standards (UNEP, GRI, Global Compact, Equator Principles, Earth Charter, etc.), because companies do not wish to spend money and time for the same goals. The business sector, and especially the financial sector, can play and has to play a key role in changing the world into a sustainable society because of the power of money, by using it in a good way, instead of a bad way.

André van Heemstra – Board member of Unilever – pointed out that sustainability is important for the company’s reputation, to help build prosperous consumers and to give meaning to employment. Sustainability is very important to employees; it gives meaningfulness to their jobs. Oscar Motomura, Director of Amana Key, underlined the need to educate business people and leaders.

The session proposed to ask business to join, not just endorse. They felt that working with business the Earth Charter can move from ‘intention’ to ‘practical action’, engaging leaders as well as the young in business. This requires creating a trendy EC movement, using modern ‘heroes’ videos, computer games and viral marketing techniques and a modular approach, so that organisations can evolve, or pick-and-choose. There needs to be an Earth Charter in business language with defined indicators for measurement and incentives such as tax policies for Earth Charter tax compliance.

Some of the obstacles were also discussed such as how to deal with resistance, greenwashing, undue influence due to sponsorship, and the need to create a, “Do Thank” not a “Think Tank”. For the business community. In addition that the EC should aim to be the source of values, ethics and inspiration for existing CSR standards, codes and instruments. It should not aim to replace or reinvent them. Lastly that the EC in business should aim to target the disbelievers, not the converted.

## Faith Groups Engaging With The Earth Charter ([link to full report](#))



*What is needed is a shift of heart and the critical sense of hope for future generations; a sustainable hope for the planet and the human spirit. We must search for the physical energy and the renewable energy of the human heart and assess in what ways can the religious communities come forward.*

Mary Evelyn Tucker

Among the objectives of the faith group session was to analyze and evaluate how the Earth Charter has been used to deepen interfaith understanding and to pinpoint the gaps/ challenges as well as opportunities in charting the way forward.

The session opened with invocations from Buddhists, Muslim and Youth followed by a speech by Mary Evelyn Tucker on the contributions of the religious community to the formation of the Earth Charter, especially in the drafting process. She noted that the strong commitment to values and ethics that the Earth Charter embodies can be further promoted by the world’s religions, and that the urgency of the planetary crisis we are facing is calling the religions forward to address the problems of equitable sustainable development. It is becoming increasingly evident that the religious traditions are poised to play an important role in promoting the Charter and its principles for a sustainable future, and that the potential here is enormous and has yet to be fully realized. Moreover, in the development community there is an understanding that religious and cultural values matter enormously in effective sustainable development projects.

The Harvard website on world religions and ecology may be helpful in underscoring these points. In particular, there is a section on the web site that has an extensive bibliography on poverty, development and religion.

From the breakout groups the general themes which emerged included creating a collaborative platform for sharing the challenges and successes of disseminating the Earth Charter in various faith traditions as well as shape stories and awareness of the Earth Charter in the context and language of specific faith traditions.

On the second day, an opening panel was moderated by Joan Anderson on “Religion and the Earth Charter” with Kamla Chowdry (India), Leonardo Boff (Brazil), Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp (The Netherlands), Pauline Tangiora (Maori from Aoteroa/ New Zealand), and Venerable Chang Ji and Venerable Guo Chan (Taiwan). The panellists explored the spiritual aspects of sustainability. The conclusions were that sustainability is not about using our resources, but strengthening our actions and our philosophies. Religions nowadays have a very important function to retain values and sustain spirituality. If we want to establish a dialogue amongst religions, we should not seek to emphasize the differences, but the common points. The Earth Charter could be a perfect document to bring together the dialogue of faith communities. What is needed is to draw religious leaders together to discuss compassion. Compassion is key for the protection of the social environment. We must learn to cultivate peace in our minds.

In general, session participants agreed it was critical to put the Earth Charter on the agendas of interfaith programs, with special consideration for the inclusion of indigenous

perspectives, native peoples, and first peoples. Session participants discussed the idea of an interreligious project to translate the Earth Charter into various religious traditions’ “languages.” This would be done by listing Earth Charter Principles and text alongside commentary or similar ideas from their own religious texts. Such a book would demonstrate that the Earth Charter is a document around which different religions can come together. On a grassroots level, participants saw the need to gather case studies and resources that identify how the Earth Charter is successfully being disseminated to faith traditions.

## Resources for Faith Traditions

Alliance of Religions and Conservation: <http://www.arcworld.org/>

Boston Research Center’s Buddhist Perspectives on the Earth Charter:  
[http://69.36.178.127/books\\_rcnt.html#buddhist-charter](http://69.36.178.127/books_rcnt.html#buddhist-charter)

Environment Sunday: <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/conservation-sunday.htm>

European Christian Environmental Network: <http://www.ecen.org>

The Forum on Religion and Ecology: <http://environment.harvard.edu/religion/main.html>

Resources: <http://environment.harvard.edu/religion>

Seeds of Change exhibit: [http://www.earthcharter.org/art/sgi\\_panels/](http://www.earthcharter.org/art/sgi_panels/)

For information on 8 language versions available, and CDs containing panels, contact Anthony George on [ageorge@sgi.gr.jp](mailto:ageorge@sgi.gr.jp)

UNEP: Earth and Faith: A Book of Reflection for Action  
UNEP Interfaith Partnership for the Environment  
Year of publication: 2000 / ISBN: 9280719157

United Religious Initiative: <http://www.uri.org/>

World Faiths Development Dialogue: <http://www.wfdd.org.uk/>

## International Law and the Earth Charter (link to full report)



*We are in a new a time with a new sense of urgency.*

Johannah Bernstein

Klaus Bosselmann, Director, New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, University of Auckland, New Zealand opened the session looking at the Earth Charter and international law. He argued that a key source of Earth Charter is found in international law as fundamentally, it is a legal document. One goal should be to influence international law through Earth Charter. In this context, the Earth Charter must be seen as equal to a Constitution; a plea that you give to the Earth. It can be utilized as a reference document to guide future developments in international law.

Bosselman stated that there is a crisis of international law with an undue reliance on international corporations and absence of norms/standards, a strong unilateralism guided by “Pax Americana”. The rule of law as legal process being replaced by a political process. It is therefore important to support the Earth Charter as a document that reflects an international consensus, by multiple organizations, governments and individuals including UNESCO 2003 and IUCN 2004.

Johannah Bernstein from Canada looked at the Earth Charter and Environmental Law suggesting that the Earth Charter can be used

to promote a coherent, integrated ethical legal framework based on social, economic justice, peace, non-violence and democracy. The Earth Charter could be used to facilitate institutions and existing treaties and to fill in gaps in international law if it could come closer to international, governmental processes.

Laura Westra, Integrity Group (Canada), spoke on “Eco-Violence, International Law and the Earth Charter” and underlined the need to look at environmental justice as a breach of global security. Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute, USA examined the The Earth Charter and the Current Geo-Political Juncture discussing “sustainable livelihoods” rather than “sustainable development and the problems of nuclear weapons”. Philip Osano, Earth Charter Youth Initiative, Kenya asked the Earth Charter Initiative to consider Capacity building, training; awareness raising and campaigns on legal frameworks and the Earth Charter.

In the second session, Wouter Veening, Director, Institute for Environmental Security (The Netherlands), presented the need to promote the Earth Charter in policy, law and practice, with The Hague as the “legal capital” of the world being able to play an important role. He asked that we examine: Where is international environmental law as to development, compliance and enforcement today? And how does environmental law relate to other fields of law (trade, investment, security)?

*We do not own land; we can only utilize the fruits of the land.*

Klaus Bosselmann

Klaus Bosselmann, Director, New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, University of Auckland (New Zealand), presented on “The Role of the Earth Charter in the Development of International Law in the Field of Sustainable Development,” he underscored that the Earth Charter’s importance lies in its principle of sustainability. The law of sustainable development = linking environmental, international, labor, human rights law. The Earth Charter offers a covenant framework enshrined in a fundamental principle of sustainability. Once this principle is recognized, we can relate it to other fundamental principles (justice, equality, human rights...). The Earth Charter today is a soft, normative instrument that Respect and care for the community of life.

Marc Pallemarts, Professor of Environmental Law, Free University, Brussels reflected on the Earth Charter Principles in relation to International Environmental Agreements. Brendan Mackey in his remarks on “An interdisciplinary perspective on the Earth Charter” suggested that the Earth Charter could provide an ethical framework for ongoing progression of environmental law first, if the values and principles are adopted by and embedded within working ethics that already exist in a diversity of cultures and secondly, if we can change international, global, transnational organizations to influence behavior, policy and actions. When these two social preconditions are applied to Earth Charter we can build a global moral community supportive of a world view; civil society and community based network grounded locally and support the work being undertaken to have Earth Charter endorsed and implemented.

Antonio Herman Benjamin, Vice-Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (Brazil), looked at International Law and National Constitutions arguing that we need to

use the Earth Charter to change the paradigms of environmental law constitutionally to take up ecological and ethical issues. He pointed out that in less than 30 years, more than 40 states have incorporated environment into constitutions and the Earth Charter can continue helping addressing this work.

## Building a Culture for Peace and the Earth Charter (See full report)



*Federico Mayor*

This thematic session focus was on how to link the concept and implementation of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence with the Earth Charter. For different reasons,

a stronger linkage and hence cooperation between the two agendas can be seen as valuable, particularly owing to the fact that both documents share similar structure and content. In Principle 16 of the Earth Charter, the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence is specifically mentioned. Furthermore, the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence embraces many of the values that are incorporated into the Earth Charter. The strong overlap of both documents and their underlying goals and principles can be seen as a potential strength of both initiatives and should be used more efficiently. Joint efforts might push both initiatives forward, as they can use each other as a vehicle for promotion and wider recognition among the public.

During the two afternoon sessions, different speakers expressed their ideas and perspectives about the potential link between the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence and the Earth Charter. The first session focused on the role of art in the promotion of both initiatives. Mr. Federico Mayor, a founding father of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence,

and Mr. Rustem Khairov, who is working for the International Public Foundation for Survival and Development (Moscow), presented their views on the potential of the two initiatives and of a possible link between them. Afterwards, Mr. Rein Heijne (House of Erasmus/Rotterdam), Mr. Jan Schaake (Platform Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, Netherlands) and Ms. Hilary Jeune (UNOY Peacebuilders) shared experiences with the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence on the local, national and international level.

The second session was dedicated to the development of visions and ideas concerning the coming five years of the Earth Charter and the second half of the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. In this session, HRH Princess Basma from Jordan and Mr. Alexander Likhotal (Green Cross International) provided interesting inputs. Their speeches were rounded up by a beautiful performance of a vocal group of Musicians Without Borders, an international organisation aiming to build bridges between different groups and nationalities through music. The panel speakers, Mr. Hamza Alamoosh (Jordan Earth Charter Youth Initiative), Mr. Sylvanus Murray (Sierra Leone Earth Charter Youth Initiative), and Mr. Jan Ruysenaars (Novib/Oxfam) introduced possible approaches to link the Earth Charter with the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence at the local, national and international level.

In the following discussion groups, participants discussed possible links and follow-up strategies on the local, national and international level. Their outcomes were thereafter presented to the auditorium. The discussion with all participants was devoted to the development of a follow up action plan.

The closing speech of Mr. Jonathan Granoff, President of the Global Security Institute, finalised two days of fruitful debate and discussion. Even though the number of participants did not meet the initial expectations by number, the organisers of the thematic session were very satisfied with the outcome and would name the working group on “Linking the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence with the Earth Charter” a very successful event.

### Art Thematic Session Report (see full report)



The arts engage the imagination and intuition addressing the “knowing” beyond the senses. The arts shape perceptions. Perception itself is fluid impacted by

memories, histories and desires as well as the phenomena of the world. Perception impacts consciousness which in turn affects behaviors. David Abram, Laura Sewell, Joanna Macy.

Sally Linder and Cami Davis, co-facilitators, began with an invitation to everyone to attune and establish a sacred space for dialogue and sharing, with a song sung by Susan Stewart. Davis spoke about the distinct contribution the arts have made to creating sustainable communities and in the promotion of the Earth Charter. There is a burgeoning environmental Art movement (see: [www.greenmuseum.org](http://www.greenmuseum.org)). This gives the opportunity to interpret nature, creating artworks that inform us about nature and its processes, or about environmental problems we face. In this way we can re-

envisions our relationship with nature, proposing new ways for us to co-exist with our environment and the larger living world.

Davis spoke about the event, “For Love of Earth, A Celebration of the Earth Charter,” co-created by Linder and Davis on 9 September 2001 as an example of utilizing the arts in promoting the Earth Charter. The Ark of Hope was then unveiled as the resting place for the Temenos Books. Sally Linder shared the story and global journey of the Ark of Hope, designed and painted by Linder, and the Temenos Books Project, Images for Global Healing, Peace and Gratitude, co-authored by Linder and Davis. [www.arkofhope.org](http://www.arkofhope.org)

Over 20,000 people (including 8,000 Dutch children) from four continents have been introduced to the Charter through the Ark’s and Temenos Books’ art hands-on approach. Simply put, beauty attracts, images speak a universal language, and due to the active and participatory nature of the Ark and Books, the Earth Charter takes on life. Yajaira Salas, Amsterdam (a Wayuu Indian from Colombia) shared her paintings and multimedia suitcases reflecting her indigenous background. Slides were shown of her Time–Space– Matter– Spirit Stone presented at the Peace Palace in the Hague in recognition of the Earth Charter and as a symbol of Reciprocity and Mutual Support to Understand Justice in Harmony and Balance. She discussed her art’s relation to Principle 12 B. Christa Regli (Switzerland), passed out information on programs developed in Switzerland regarding the Earth Charter.

A detailed discussion followed on how to utilize the arts to promote the Earth Charter.

The second session looked at some practical ways of bringing the Temenos Books and lessons from the Earth Charter Education archives to students. Following that detailed

discussion, Lisa Shaw, Findhorn, Scotland of “The One Water Network, Working Together for the Restoration and Sustainable Use of Water and Soil” [www.lookfar.org](http://www.lookfar.org) presented how she and her partner Galen Fulford were greatly inspired by the Earth Charter and brought the principles into action. Jan van Boekel Director of Communications, for the Centre for Indigenous Peoples, gave a power point presentation on his essay “Forget Your Botany, Developing Children’s Sensibility to Nature Through Arts-based Environmental Education”. van Boekel shared from an educational philosophy that encourages deep connection with nature through the arts. [www.ece@se/sustainable](mailto:www.ece@se/sustainable). Guillem Ramis, Balearic Islands, Spain shared his project that utilizes the visual and theatre arts to teach about the Earth Charter, such as a photograph contest following the main principles of the Charter. He was able to show participants the books that have been created to illustrate the Earth Charter for young children.

In the concluding discussion the participants looked at how to cross pollinate between art, business, government, faith, science, and ethics.

## Thoughts from members of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative:

*It is high time that we start walking our talk!*

Robert Sagun, The Philippines

*Straight from the airport, I made my way to Vancouver Island to give a presentation of the ECYI to 57 people gathered for the “Explore the Earth Charter” Inclusive Leadership Camp. My focus was to emphasize the call to action that I heard so clearly from the ECYI and the greater EC community...*

Kim (Kxx) Citton, Canada

*I witnessed and personally experienced partnerships being made. The large receptions created great opportunities to informally meet and in a lot of cases explore potential partnerships. This bolsters enthusiasm and creates synergistic effects for both people’s work and the growing reach of the EC.*

Mike Sheehan, Canada

*Sooooooo glad to meet all the ECYI members at Earth Charter+5 ... and so wonderful that Chinese youth will now have the chance to connect with and even join ECYI.*

Liu Yang, China

*It was my first time to be involved with youth from different countries and to participate in a lively and truly dynamic discussion.*

Hernando Bacosa,  
The Philippines, currently studying in Japan

*This was a very important and historic meeting to all the youth that are promoting the EC.*

Namir H. Nava, Mexico

*Let’s reconcile Rousseau (the social contract) and Hobbes (human is a wolf for human); ... let’s try to achieve physical peace, and live in an eternal moral struggle of dialogue.*

Didier Gleyzes, France

## Earth Charter Youth Initiative

(link to full Report)

*I hope the conference will be an inspiration for all the participants to intensify their activities with the Earth Charter and feel empowered by learning about all the Earth Charter activities happening all over the world, especially for youth who dedicate so much of their free time to run environmental, social, or peace-building projects to fill the Earth Charter with life.*



Michael Slaby

The Earth Charter+5 Conference enabled the first face-to-face meeting of 30 international members of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI). The two-day youth conference held prior to the Earth Charter+5 Conference was a community-building event that gave youth leaders a chance to put a person to an email address, strengthen the ECYI network and discuss the future of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative.

On the first day, participants came together to share the history of the ECYI, its successes and challenges, and debated key points about how the ECYI should proceed as the Earth Charter Initiative moves into a new phase of international activity. Participants discussed the future structure of the ECYI, ways to improve information sharing, and possible projects for the future, including leadership training and mentorship program, the World Youth Peace Summit, documentation and interactive web space for young people, and how to increase membership. Melanie Ashton, co-founder of the ECYI, said the discussions were very important starting point to further develop youth participation in the Earth Charter Initiative.

On the second day the international ECYI leaders met with 20 Dutch youth to share their experience conducting local activities based on the Earth Charter.

A new core-group was formed to lead the global network of the ECYI into a new phase. Its tasks are to: coordinate the activities of the ECYI, communicate and provide support and information to interested youth around the world, launch international campaigns and formulate youth friendly tools and resources on the Earth Charter.

### **Youth and the MDGs:**

During the Earth Charter +5, Melanie Ashton (Australia) and Robert Sagun (The Philippines) shared with the ECYI members and participating Dutch youth a report on “Youth and the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation.” - The report is a global stocktaking on the concrete contributions of youth around the world to the achievement of the MDGs, as well as a set of policy-oriented and action-focused recommendations to strengthen youth engagement in global and national MDG processes. The panel presentation provided a platform for ECYI members to link the Earth Charter to the MDGs and the UN Decade of Education on Sustainable Development.

## **Side event on Indigenous Peoples Earth Charter meets Speaking4Earth (link to full report)**

*Indigenous peoples' deep spiritual connection to the land encompasses the sky, the clouds, the rivers, the seas, the soil and all living creatures. This relationship also speaks to people in the Western world.*

An increasing number of people often find a renewed connection to the natural world as bringing more meaning and fulfilment to their lives. The S4E campaign is building a worldwide community of individuals and organisations, who can support urgent actions for the well-being of indigenous communities via online petitions and e-mail campaigns. The website [www.speaking4earth.net](http://www.speaking4earth.net) is a portal for indigenous peoples' organizations and support groups to present their urgent actions and contains among other issues information about urgent actions and short video messages from various indigenous speakers.

On Sunday 6 November 2005, the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIV) organized a major public event, entitled “Earth Charter meets Speaking4Earth”. The event focused on the effects of economic globalization for indigenous communities worldwide, and on the significance of the Earth Charter Initiative for their struggle. The campaign Speaking4Earth is a worldwide campaign on indigenous peoples and sustainable development.

The event started with the book presentation of “Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples Resistance to Economic Globalization”. Victor Menotti and Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson, contributors to the book, presented their view on the impacts of globalization on indigenous peoples. Victor Menotti is Programme Director at the International Forum on Globalization.

Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson is a member of the Haida Nation from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii, Canada. After the book presentation, Tanya Tagaq, an Inuit throat singer from Canada, gave an impressive musical performance.

Two indigenous guest speakers, Pauline Tangiora and Finn Lynge, presented their view on the Earth Charter and its Relevance for Indigenous Peoples. Pauline Tangiora is a Maori elder from the Rongomaiwahine Tribe on the East Coast of the North Island of Aotearoa/New Zealand. She also has affiliations to many other tribes. She is a Justice of the Peace, a former President and currently Vice President of WILPF Aotearoa, the former Regional Women's Representative for the World Council for Indigenous Peoples. Finn Lynge (Inuit) attended "Earth Charter meets Speaking4Earth" on behalf of Henriette Rasmussen, Earth Charter Commissioners and Parliament Member of Greenland. He was involved with Rasmussen in the drafting process of the Earth Charter.

A panel on "Looking Forward: New Strategies to Support Indigenous Peoples" hosted three indigenous speakers and three non-indigenous speakers - Pauline Tangiora (Maori), Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson (Haida-indian), Pelpina Sahureka (Moluccan), Varina Tjon-A-Ten (Member of Parliament, Labour Party), Alide Roerink (Earth Charter Netherlands) and Leo van der Vlist (Director NCIV).

Central to the evening programme was discussion on the Fourth Russell Tribunal on the rights of Indians in the Americas, which

took place 25 years ago in Rotterdam. Frank van Vree opened the evening by sharing his experiences and involvement with the Fourth Russell Tribunal. Subsequently, Fons Eickholt, initiator of the Fourth Russell Tribunal, presented more background information on the birth of the Fourth Russell Tribunal. After that a slide show of historical images provided an impression of the attendants of the Tribunal, contributors to the Tribunal and Media attention.

Adelard Blackman, a Dene Indian, asked attention for his people, who struggle for land rights. In 2007, 200 Dene Indians plan to come to the International Court of Justice in The Hague to present their case there. The presentation showed that the Fourth Russell Tribunal has achieved much, but there are still many Indians who lack certain rights and who are still struggling to survive. The presentation was followed by the film "The Fourth Russell Tribunal Revisited," which made the ambience of the Fourth Russell Tribunal very tangible.

## Side Event - Local Action towards Sustainable Development ([link to full Report](#))

The one day 'side-event' to the Earth Charter +5 meeting saw 150 Aldermen, local NGOs, local government officials and local politicians meeting to discuss local sustainability benchmarks in The Netherlands. The Centre for International Co-operation, COS Netherlands had engaged 90 percent of the 467 Dutch municipalities in check-lists to establish how local authorities are putting into practice social, economic and environmental policies (see <http://www.la21.nl/english>). Over 1,200 local officials contributed to the survey over a two-year period. The results were a striking example of how sustainable development at the local governmental level is still insufficient as only 40 of the 432 participating local governments had complied with the benchmarks set by the COS Netherlands. The cities of Tilburg, Delft and Alkmaar received prizes for reaching the sustainability benchmarks.

The Minister of Environment, Pieter van Geel in awarding the prizes explained the context in which these cities had achieved the COS benchmark. He pointed to the close co-operation between both the local governmental level, the NGO level and private sector as well as the synergy between local, provincial and national programmes particularly in relation to climate change and water. Minister van Geel expressed the hope that similar commitments will be made by other municipalities in the next COS programme on sustainable procurement. Ruud Lubbers, Earth Charter Commissioner and Hamza Alamoosh youth representative of

the Earth Charter, explained the Earth Charter to the Dutch participants and many joined the Earth Charter workshops on education and local government.

One large workshop, with some 100 participants, was held on the issue on political support to local sustainable development. The conclusion of the workshop was that local political parties and their constituencies should integrate sustainable development into their own programmes and the benchmark developed by COS Netherlands would be a useful tool in promoting this. COS Netherlands will take up this challenge in its next programme on sustainable procurement.

## Focal Point Dinner

The Focal Point Dinner brought together approximately 85 people, many of whom have been actively representing

the Earth Charter in their local regions. The occasion was the first time that Commissioners and Focal points were brought together: Earth Charter Commissioners had the chance to meet Focal Points, and regional groups had the chance to meet and forge new alliances. The food (vegetarian, organic, served in moderate amounts) was prepared by a special guest chef to reflect "a way of eating that is inspired by Earth Charter principles," said Rick Clugston of Earth Charter USA. The meal was sponsored by The Humane Society of United States/Earth Charter USA.



## Earth Charter Donor Dinner

The donor dinner held on Tuesday 8 November brought together about 50 invitees including Earth Charter Commissioners, representatives from organizations that have financially supported the Earth Charter Initiative, and representatives of new organizations. The purpose was to thank those who have financially contributed to the Earth Charter over the years, such as The Humane Society of the United States and The Philanthropic Collaborative, as well as engaging new groups in this new phase of the Initiative

## Latin Americans Restate their Commitment

A number of participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and Dominican Republic took the opportunity of being together in Amsterdam to meet as a regional group, and to forge an alliance for further incorporating the Earth Charter in education in the region. They also pledged to bring the Earth Charter, as a group, to intergovernmental forums such as UNEP. The group drafted a Declaration that included plans to further the initiative in the region. Discussions were held considering the organization of a regional meeting in the near future. Participants represented Ministries of Environment and Education, academia, and the private sector as well as NGOs from the participating countries.

## Section V

# The Earth Charter in a Changing World

*Every generation has its challenge: to end slavery, to end colonialism, to fight globalization. Economic justice is the issue to figure out in this generation. You must appreciate that young people are in this dialogue for the challenge of our times.*

Dumisani Nyoni



### Introduction

During the Conference, two distinguished panels of Earth Charter advocates representing different constituencies within the Earth Charter were interviewed by Ruud Lubbers and Hans Opschoor. During the panels (held during the 8 and 9 November morning plenaries) there was also a lively interaction with the Conference participants. This section summarizes some of the main themes explored by the panel and audience on how the Earth Charter Initiative is responding to the many changes we are facing and will face in the future.

These discussions covered a considerable range, from the 'big problems' humanity faces such as international systems reform, to how to respond to culture of war that utilizes fear and insecurity. They also included a reflection on major environment concerns such as climate change and how to provide for basic livelihoods without further damaging the Earth's ecosystems. The discussion touched on the ethical dimensions of governance, which will help achieve a sustainable inclusive society (cultural as well as economic dimensions) and looked at the problems of how to include

the marginalized and excluded parts of our populations. The core theme underlying the discussions was: 'how can the Earth Charter Initiative respond to these major concerns?' How does the Earth Charter help make a shift from cynicism and pessimism that appeal to the worst in humanity to a sense of hope and innovation that appeal to the best? How can the Earth Charter be heard and be a visible global player in Phase Three?

The panellists interviewed by Earth Commissioner Ruud Lubbers were: Julia Marton-Lefèvre (Hungary), Leonardo Boff (Brazil), Ashok Khosla (India) and Melanie Ashton (Australia). The panellists interviewed



*8 November Pannel, moderated by R. Lubbers*

by Hans Opschoor were: Wakako Hironaka (Japan), Dumisani Nyoni (Zimbabwe), Tom Miller (USA) and Oscar Motomura (Brazil)

Most of the panellists have been involved actively in the Earth Charter Initiative and more broadly speaking on working on sustainable development.

Dumisani Nyoni from Zimbabwe as a member of the ECYI was particularly concerned with youth employment and how people create livelihoods after their education. Tom Miller from the USA has spent 30 years working on development and is now CEO of Plan International. He flew into the Earth Charter+5 meeting directly from the devastation of the Earthquake in Pakistan. Oscar Motomura is founder CEO of Amana Key in Brazil and has been working for the last thirty years for radical innovation, social and environmental justice.

*Environment and the needs of children need to be on the top of the list for NGOs.*

Tom Miller

## The Earth Charter on the Ground

Although much of the discussion was at the global level, the panellists and speakers also shared how the Earth Charter is working on the ground. In India the Earth Charter is being used by children to learn about environmental issues, and it is also being used to reach out to major players in the economy such as industrialists, NGOs and citizens. From puppet shows to Internet to TV, the Earth Charter helps ordinary people in India to learn the basic principles of harmony among nature and other life forms.



Julia Marton-Lefèvre

The University of Peace in Costa Rica uses the Earth Charter to provide a link between sustainable development and peace building, as well as leadership for sustainable development among all ages. Using the Earth Charter and sustainable development principles Julia Marton-Lefèvre saw how different forms of knowledge can be brought together, rather

than divided into silos. Such a holistic approach to education is a big challenge in universities, and she feels it is important to use the Earth Charter to bring scientists together with social scientists working from a systems view.

## Role of Youth

The enthusiasm and motivation of the Earth Charter Youth was a central feature in much of the discussion, not only in these panel sessions but throughout the Conference. One hope expressed during the panel discussions was that young people engaged in the Earth Charter Initiative be open



Melanie Ashton

to discussing their concerns about the environment, social injustices, access to resources and job opportunities with people in business circles. Ruud Lubbers also stated that the Commissioners need to mentor young people in order to formulate new ways to change economic and social systems together. Dumisani Nyoni underscored the need for young people to be heard. He felt that young people could help to shift the obsession with economic growth to respect for the environment and people, learning how to share resources and space together. Coming from Zimbabwe, he underlined the need to talk about livelihoods and employment especially for young people and how to live rooted in the values of the Earth Charter principles, conserving the resources we use. He felt that economic justice is the key for the current and future generations.

## The Earth Charter and Alternatives



*Boff and Khosla*

*We need to learn to live within the limits of the wealth of nature*

Ashok Khosla

People are attracted to the Earth Charter from different entry points. The popular education methods of Paul Freire are one starting point for people who are looking for alternative teaching methods that reinforce education throughout life. Faith-based groups also find a lot of resonance in the Earth Charter. At the same time, there are scientists and economists who are deeply concerned that as developing countries create more and more wealth, and with China entering into the global market, the damage on the environment could be horrendous.

As Ashok Khosla stated, the Earth Charter must be about opening a process where we all can learn to talk about the environment, lifestyles, consumption patterns, and the problems of violence to people and nature. We need to see that modernity and science is not the only approach to living. There are alternatives. Post modernity must bring together modernity and tradition. Post modernity cannot be copycat of western systems of production, which are already destroying the planet. We need to think on different ways, not just green movements on consumption but on distribution. We already have great examples from history to follow. Gandhi was the first post modernist way beyond his times – St Francis was already preaching the need for justice and distribution centuries ago, as was Buddha.

He continued by saying that we need to learn to live within the limits of the wealth of nature. We need to redefine what a good life is, and thereby have a much more sophisticated respect for life as a whole. We need to have not only technical innovations but also to reach out to art, faith and to business. We need to have as many values as possible not only from Western science and green movements, but from other cultures so that we have a holistic approach and many people find a space and integrity in the Earth Charter Initiative.

Many government and business leaders are ecologically illiterate. In the next phase of the Earth Charter we need to convince business leaders and government leaders that a different vision is required so that we are all looking at human needs and all living beings and resolve the difference of governance and market. The Earth Charter must build quality awareness of all leaders, adults and children by educating them on science and arts and ecology so that we can heal this ailing economic and social system.

*Can there be a convergence of commitment among government, business and civil society? Can we all really share a common vision?*

Oscar Motomura

## A World for Peace

The discussion of the first day's panel focused on the huge problem of the world's increasing conflicts and war, looking at how to ensure that the will to peace and harmony rather than the fear of violence guide our lives. Our fear of others creates a profound disharmony and insecurities, where there is no peace we cannot hope for sustainability. As Leonard Boff stated, we need to create community that uses the Earth Charter to promote peace and good relations globally. If the Earth Charter can be a point of reference then perhaps we can transcend the problems of violence. We all want to live in peace both in the North and the South. We need to untangle our fear of the other get to know one another. This means to bring people from different parts of the world together, mentor young people, build up create a new ethics and harmony.

On the second day panel, the issue of nuclear weapons was raised from the floor as a root cause of insecurity. The Earth Charter calls for the rule of law, not weapons, said conference participant Jonathan Granoff. Why do we need nuclear weapons? It is to hold on to resources and power. We need to create a new framework of security, he went on --not just legislate for it, but end the root causes that lie at the heart of today's insecurity. We need to address local environmental threats, create cooperative security, and eliminate nuclear weapons if we are to uphold Earth Charter values. Cooperation will generate prosperity whereas competition leads to war.

The discussion from the panel suggested that violence is rife in rich and poor countries. Many pointed to what is happening today in Europe [riots in France] due to lack of resources and unfair competition. There are desperate young people in the streets of French cities; they are "the South in the North." The Earth Charter

Initiative needs to acknowledge this and cultivate a culture of peace. Young people are angry because they do not feel they belong. We need to create jobs, integrate allow people into economies and societies, allow them to mould and shape culture, facilitate their participation as a pathway to economic and social justice.

## Sustainable development and economic justice

During the second day's panel, Wakako Hironaka pointed out that in the 1980s, as the Cold War ended, the environment became the important global political movement. Since Rio in 1992 there has been a multiplicity of forums and declarations on water, climate change, energy, Kyoto etc. Yet there is still much to be done. The USA



*Wakako Hironaka*

and Australia as well as China and India are not complying; Japan has also increased emissions. The Earth Charter needs to work in line with the MDGs in order to make sure public behaviour falls into line and that we lessen the burden on the world's environment. Countries and people need to respect fairness – is it fair to rely on resources that are needed for future generations?

Tom Miller underlined the need to focus on children and their lives now, and what they face in the future. He stated: "We have not met our obligations to future generations. We need to create real stewards of this world, change the way we do politics so that environment and needs of children are top of the list".

### *Which World Organization?*

From the audience many questions were asked about the role of the World Trade Organisation. One participant stated that the WTO is “an empty Earth Charter” and asked, “Do we need new global institutions or should we just change the rules of WTO?”

This led to a series of suggestions that we need not only the WTO, but also a WEEO, “World Environment & Equity Organisation,” to check the excesses of economic growth and the damage to the environment. Another suggestion was a WJO, “World Justice Organisation,” to ensure prosperity and fairness. Most agreed that we need to move away from an obsession on economic gain and look at how to change the rules of the game, to reinvent it. Unbridled growth does not help for the future economic justice, and prosperity must be redefined for both the environment and economic well-being.

### **Being more not having more**

There seemed agreement that “being more, not having more” means focusing on the quality of life, not a higher standard of living. Prosperity means a decent living and decent work.

### *On lions and freezers*

Oscar Motomura proposed that the needs of the people rather than greed should be the aims of the market in the 21st century. Mainstream economics presupposes that collaboration is counter to a core philosophical belief of many economists: that everyone pursues his or her own interest and gain, that “greed is good.” Instead, in nature you can collaborate and compete at the same time. A lion will eat a small animal and then goes to drink at the water at the lake with the other animals. Why does that system work? Motomura asked. “Because lions do not have freezers.”

Motomura stated that we need to reinvent the system around us. We need to address not only material resources, but also self esteem and dignity. Handouts and charity do not sustain. What is best for all of us is to pursue not individual wealth but the common good. We need not accumulation of wealth, but distribution of wealth that will lead to wellbeing of all of us. We need a balance, not just to look at everything from an economic nor from an environmental point of view. We need clean water and poverty eradication, good governance and greater social justice.

### **A New Ethics**

Some panellists mentioned Prince Claus who spoke about the development process and how people develop themselves and others assist when asked. The roots of change are with the people and countries themselves.



We need to build partnerships and synergies where visions, innovation and the instruments for change converge together

Ethics is the choice for the common good. The Earth Charter has helped nurture a concept of ethics and vision that allows us to embrace all living things. Every person has the right to an income to decent work and to human rights. The Earth Charter needs to help us reach a level of scale and complexity using the technologies we have, changing the system that we live in and breaking down the barriers we face in creative ways. We need to break down the ‘them’ and ‘us’ of our polarized world.

*The Earth Charter is a network which has at its source compassion and spirituality, a holistic and integrated vision that takes us from common wealth to a common good.*

Erna Witoelar

## Section VI

# Moving Ahead: The Third Phase of Earth Charter Initiative

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

The Earth Charter



*Oumou Sangaré*

The Earth Charter+5 Conference closed with stunning performance by singer Oumou Sangaré, from Mali, who moved the entire audience to get up and dance.

We complete this Report with the words of Steven Rockefeller who, after heartfelt thanks to Queen Beatrix and the Dutch Hosts, mapped out the proposals for the Third Phase for the Earth Charter.

### The Future of the Earth Charter Initiative

By Steven Rockefeller

As this Earth Charter+5 meeting draws to a close, I would like to reflect with you on what brought us here and on what has been accomplished at this meeting. There are three basic aspects of the Earth Charter Initiative that create its unique significance. There is the process that produced the document; the document itself; and the world wide movement generated by the process and the document.



First, the process that produced the document was a decade-long, world wide, cross-cultural

interfaith dialogue on common goals and shared values. It came to involve the most inclusive consultation process ever associated with an international declaration.

Second, at the heart of the Earth Charter Initiative lies the document, which is a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society. The authority and legitimacy of the document is derived from the process that produced it. It is an authentic expression of the ethical values that are today widely shared in the emerging global civil society. Further, even after five years, the Earth Charter remains the most inclusive statement of the environmental, economic, and social values fundamental to a sustainable way of life.

Third, the Earth Charter Initiative has become a distinct social movement that is part of the larger global movement in support of the transition to a sustainable future—what some advocates aptly call the Great Transition. There are multiple dimensions of this Earth Charter movement. It includes international law experts and global ethics advocates who have been working to have the Earth Charter recognized as a soft law document by the United Nations and to have Earth Charter principles affirmed in other international law declarations and covenants. It includes many educators who are using the Earth Charter as a teaching tool in schools, colleges, universities, and nonformal settings. It involves environmental and social activists, civic leaders, government officials, religious leaders, business people, and artists, many of whom are working at the local community level in over 55 countries. Of special importance, the Earth Charter Initiative involves a growing number of youth. Our hope for the future lies to a large degree with the commitments and leadership of the next generation, and it has been truly heartening to see so many young

men and women from the Netherlands and around the world participating so actively in this Earth Charter+5 gathering.

When the Earth Charter Steering Committee, which in 2000 was charged by the Commission with executive decision making responsibilities, received the invitation from the NCDO to hold an Earth Charter+5 meeting in Amsterdam, many of us realized that the Earth Charter Initiative was approaching a crossroads, a time that called for hard decisions about what route to pursue in the future. The initiative has accomplished much since the launch in The Hague, but it also faces some tough financial and organizational challenges. The leaders of the Earth Charter Initiative, therefore, began to ask: Should we narrow our focus, cut back and consolidate or should we launch a Third Phase of the Initiative by reorganizing ourselves, clarifying our strategic vision, and expanding programs?

Using the findings and recommendations of both internal and external strategic reviews of the Earth Charter Initiative, the Steering Committee commenced last September charting a new course for the project. That process has continued during this Amsterdam meeting, which began with an Earth Charter Commission meeting. The result is a commitment to launch a Third Phase in the Initiative beginning in 2006 that involves an extensive reorganization and expansion of the Initiative. The following steps have been taken.

1. We are all very pleased that the members of the Earth Charter Commission wish to continue the Commission. The Commissioners see their future role as Ambassadors for the Earth Charter; custodians of the text of the document; leaders of local, regional and global initiatives; and advisers to those directing the larger Earth Charter project.

2. The Earth Charter Commission and Steering Committee have, with one modification, reaffirmed the 2000 mission statement for the ECI:

The mission of the Initiative is to establish a sound ethical foundation for the emerging global society and to help build a sustainable world based on respect for nature, diversity, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

3. The Commission and Steering Committee have found no reason to make changes in the text of the Earth Charter at this time. They, however, encourage an ongoing cross-cultural dialogue on shared values and global ethics and will monitor the discussion about the text of the document.

4. The strategic vision for the Initiative is being reconstructed with a focus on four interrelated goals.

(a) Expanded Awareness of the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter has been translated into 34 different languages and has been endorsed by over 2400 organizations world wide. Nevertheless, our research has revealed that even among many sustainable development professionals, there is a lack of knowledge about the Earth Charter, and this is something we must address.

(b) Education for a Sustainable Way of Life. Education is one especially meaningful way in which the Initiative can make a valuable contribution to the Great Transition. Future Earth Charter educational programs will be closely linked with the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which is being coordinated by UNESCO.

(c) Engaged Endorsement. Pursuing engaged endorsement is a very practical way of strengthening the Earth Charter movement and building productive

partnerships with other organizations. The Initiative will continue to seek recognition of the Earth Charter by the United Nations, building on the endorsement by UNESCO and IUCN's World Conservation Congress.

(d) Ethics-based Governance and Assessment. One objective of the ECI is ethics-based global governance. One way to achieve this end is to promote ethics-based assessment in business, government, and civil society institutions. This goal involves educating organizations about the role of ethical ideals, values, and principles in the process of progressive social change and developing measurable indicators for Earth Charter principles.

5. Early in 2006, a new international Council of Trustees will replace the Earth Charter Steering Committee and will be given responsibility for the oversight and financing of the Initiative. This new Council of Trustees is not designed to control the Earth Charter movement but to provide guidance, support, and coordination when needed. It is the intention to create a Council of Trustees that will have:

- Two Co-chairs – one from the North and one from the South, one female and one male.
- 12-16 members
- Geographical and cultural diversity
- Gender balance
- Trustees who are actively engaged in the Earth Charter Initiative
- Representatives from the next generation of Earth Charter leaders

I am pleased to report that it is very likely that

two Earth Charter Commissioners will be the first co-chairs of the new Council of Trustees.

6. The Steering Committee with the support of the Commission has created the new position of International Transition Director with the responsibility to lead the Initiative during a year-long strategic transition and reorganization. The International Transition Director will open and operate a new center for strategic planning, fundraising, and communications to be based in Sweden.

Alan AtKisson has been appointed to fill the position of International Transition Director. He has been with us during this Earth Charter+5 gathering, and many of you have had an opportunity to welcome him.

7. The Earth Charter office in Costa Rica, which has contained the International Secretariat and which is affiliated with the University for Peace created by the UN, will continue as a major Earth Charter center under the outstanding leadership of Mirian Vilela. Discussions are well underway about building a closer partnership between the Earth Charter Initiative and UPEACE. An Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE could take primary responsibility for developing the Earth Charter education program. We will explore the possibility of creating new Earth Charter centers in other regions of the world such as Asia and Africa.

In conclusion, I thank everyone who has participated in this Earth Charter+5 conference for your commitment to the Earth Charter vision for a better world and its implementation. The success of the Third Phase in the Initiative depends on your continued support and leadership. The challenges before humanity are formidable, but the opportunities for advancing the transition to a

sustainable future are many. Working with the business community and governments, a well-organized global civil society guided by sound ethical principles can make the difference.

*We are not working against the evils of poverty, against the tragedies of war or against the massive ecological degradation, but for social and economic justice, for a culture of peace, and for ecological sustainability.*

Michael Slaby,  
Earth Charter Youth Initiative Coordinator



## **EARTH CHARTER +5 REPORT**

*The Earth Charter+5 meeting was organised as a collaborative project involving the Netherlands National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (“NCDO”), the Royal Tropical Institute (“KIT”), Plan Nederland (the Dutch branch of an international NGO promoting the well-being of children), and the Earth Charter Initiative. This report was prepared by Wendy Harcourt. Pictures are from Ed Lonnee, Richard Chu and Mohit Mukherjee. Design by Adriana Molina.*