

EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE NEWSFLASH – JULY, 2000

On June 26th, 2000 the Earth Charter international campaign was officially launched at the Peace Palace in The Hague. At this event the Earth Charter was presented to Queen Beatrix, the Queen of Holland, by a Venezuelan youth who urged the Queen, on behalf of future generations, to endorse the Earth Charter. This presentation was symbolic in encouraging governments to adopt the Earth Charter as a values framework for a sustainable way of life. Earth Charter campaign is hoping to repeat the presentation to other heads of state around the world, in order to formally encourage them to accept and endorse the Earth Charter.

Following the launching of the Earth Charter at The Hague, the Earth Charter was also part of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) World Congress on July 1st, 2000. At this event both Maurice Strong and Steven Rockefeller spoke on behalf of the Earth Charter campaign at the plenary session encouraging the support of local governments in the Earth Charter process. As a result, the ICLEI World Congress Assembly voted to unanimously endorse the Earth Charter and passed the following resolution:

We, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, endorse the Earth Charter. We commit our organization to the realization of its aims. We will seek to promote and apply its principles in our programs, policies and other activities.

To complement the growing formal and informal endorsements of the Earth Charter, individuals and groups are encouraged to visit the new Earth Charter homepage at: www.earthcharter.org to sign on to the official Earth Charter endorsement statement, located under “How can you participate.” Personal, group and organizational endorsements are encouraged and will lend increased energy and momentum to the worldwide effort to promote a sustainable way of life.