

## Senate of Puerto Rico

### SENATE OF PUERTO RICO

#### CAPITOL

I, JOSÉ A. NAZARIO ALVAREZ, Secretary of the Senate of Puerto Rico,

#### CERTIFY:

That the Senate of Puerto Rico, in its session of April 22, 2002, approved in final voting, the Resolution of the Senate Number 1582, presented by Mr. Fas Alzamora, which reads as follows:

#### RESOLUTION

Express the adhesion of the Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico to the principles declared in the Earth Charter and support all the efforts conducting to the adoption of the Charter by of the United Nations at the Second Earth Summit to be celebrated in Johannesburg, South Africa in September, 2002.

#### REASONS

In 1987, the World Commission of the United Nations for Environment and Development made a call upon the creation of a charter of principles to establish the fundamental basis for a sustainable development. The adoption of which was one of the goals that were not accomplished at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. In 1994, the General Secretariat of the Summit and Green Cross International, began a new task for the adoption of the Earth Charter by the United Nations. The official launch of the Earth Charter was held on June , 2000 at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

The Earth Charter is a declaration of basic principles inspired in international law and human rights, contemporary science and religious and philosophical dogmas with the purpose of building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society. In its Preamble, the Charter called upon all peoples to recognize that in the midst of the magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms, we are one human family and a sole terrestrial community with a common destiny. Invites all men and nations to unite and create a sustainable global society based on respect for nature, universal human rights, economical justice and a culture for peace.

We are living times in which the violence, misunderstanding and lack of compassion have propitiated hate among peoples and the diverse sectors, races and styles of life of the human species. As said by Rigoberta Menchú, we live "with the hope in a string..." because we do not know what disaster will occur tomorrow and a few beg for peace or practice coherence. The situation at the town of Vieques and our brothers that died in the United States on September 11, 2001, are the clearest and near-to-us examples of the violence of men against nature and himself as well as the absence of peace in the world.

In times in which the harm to the environment and the violence become a challenge on how we think and live, the Earth Charter compel ourselves, as human beings, to examine our values and choose a better path. We are oblige to look for a common ground in the midst of our world diversity and embrace a new vision, which is shared by a great number of persons in different nations and cultures; and to which this High Body, in representation of the People of Puerto Rico, would like to join.

The Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico firmly believes in the objectives expressed and all the principles contemplated in the Earth Charter, which are grouped in four main themes: Respect and Care for the Community of Life; Ecological Integrity; Social and Economical Justice and Democracy; Nonviolence and Peace. Our people believe in peace and social justice, democracy and

environmental protection and integrity. At the same time, regrets the use of violence to resolve conflicts between men, groups or peoples.

Based upon these fundamental principles we declare our adhesion to the Earth Charter and assume the universal responsibility of living identifying ourselves with the whole community of the Earth, as well as with the local communities, with a firm compromise for the present and future well being of the human family and the whole living world. By doing this, we recognize, as established by the Charter, that the spirit of human solidarity and affinity with life is reinforced when we live with reverence before the mystery of being, with gratitude for the gift of life and humility with regards to the place that the human being has within nature.

IT IS THEN RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO.

- Section 1. The adhesion by the Senate of the Free Associate State of Puerto Rico to the principles established in the Earth Charter is expressed, as well as its support to all efforts conducting to the adoption of the Charter by the United Nations at the Second Earth Summit to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002.
- Section 2. The Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico adopt, as rector system in its deliberations and formulation of public laws and politics, the principles enumerated and outlined in the Earth Charter that is already part of this Resolution.
- Section 3. The Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico, exhort the Government and all sectors: arts, science, religious, educational institutions, media, business and non governmental organizations to adopt and agree to be ruled by the principles established in the Earth Charter and to develop and put into practice, with creativity, the vision of a sustainable way of life at a local, national, regional and global levels.
- Section 4. The Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico, exhort the educational system, private and public, to spread the principles and text of the Earth Charter, to strengthen the respect for life, equity, social justice and the conservation and sound utilization of the environment among our students.
- Section 5. This Resolution, in the form of a parchment, will be delivered to Ambassador Frans van Haren, President of the Earth Council, as testimonial of our adhesion and compromise with the Earth Charter principles and will be distributed within the media of the country for their information and publication.
- Section 6. This Resolution will be in force immediately after its approval.

I issue this document in my office at the Capitol, San Juan, Puerto Rico, today, April 22, 2002 with the stamp of the Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico.

ANTONIO J. FAS ALZAMORA

President

JOSE NAZARIO ALVAREZ

Secretary