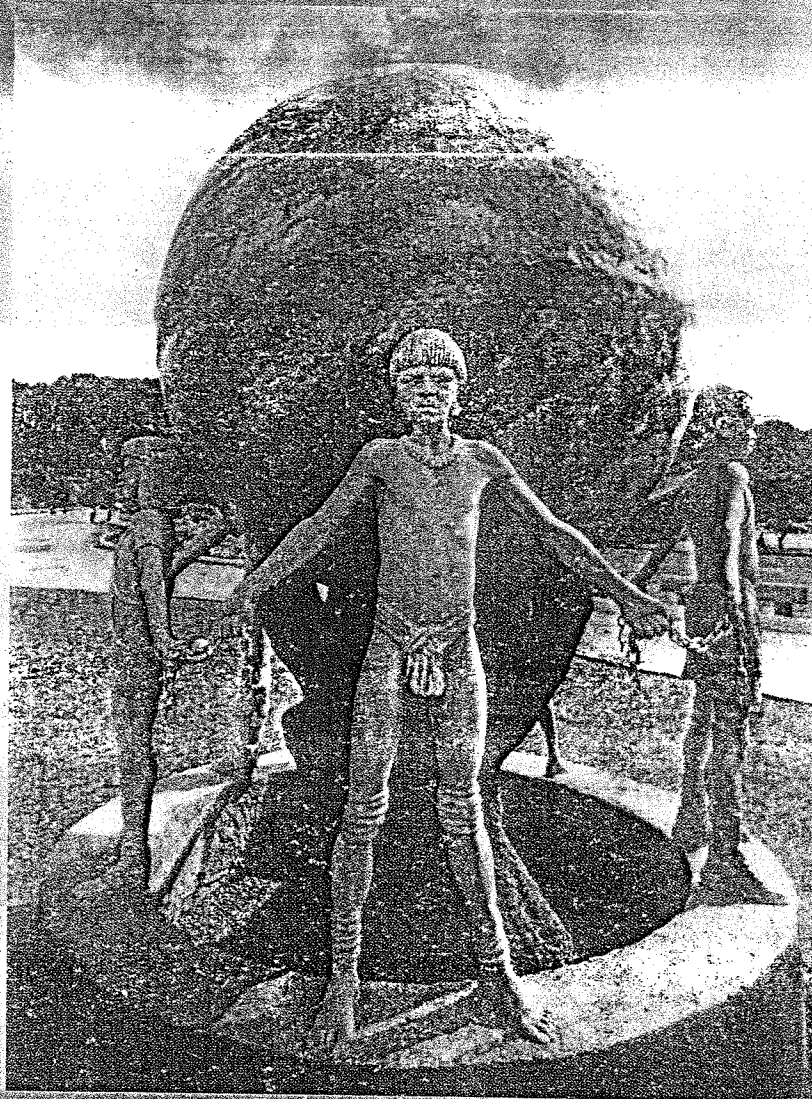




**Draft
Summary Report
of Earth Charter
Initiatives and Results
of Consultations
1998**



Foreword

As Secretariat of the Earth Charter Commission, the Earth Council, together with partner organizations, is undertaking the Earth Charter Millennium Campaign. This campaign focuses on a valuing process that will substantiate the Earth Charter drafting process. This valuing process will be achieved through eliciting people's personal values and translating them into work and organizational ethics, teaching curricula, and religious instruction, as well as frameworks for local and national sustainable development plans.

While acknowledging and respecting cultural, ethnic, and religious differences, this process strives to articulate common responsibilities and areas of cooperation in the formation of a universal People's Earth Charter.

The campaign has, through the organization of Earth Charter national committees and the use of an evolving Benchmark Draft Earth Charter, engaged diverse groups from the civil and economic sectors. In many cases, collaboration has been fostered with National Councils for Sustainable Development for the purpose of integrating Earth Charter values into national development plans.

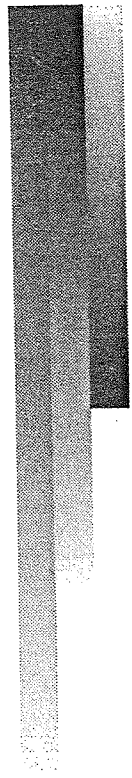
In 1998, this effort resulted in an increasing number of activities by National Earth Charter Committees in 35 countries in Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern and Western Europe, Latin American and the Caribbean, and North America, and from 15 major international and regional partner organizations.

Much of the credit for these activities belongs to diverse groups at the national level in each country, committed partner organizations, and the guidance of the Earth Charter Commission. Together, they have joined the need and the process of catalyzing change toward a sustainable future in an articulation of ethical values for a People's Earth Charter.

This report of a "campaign in progress" is for the purpose of acknowledging these groups' efforts and sharing this sense of an emerging movement of diversity and solidarity.



Maximo T. Kalaw, Jr.
Executive Director
Earth Council, April 1999



An overview of the Earth Charter Campaign

The Earth Charter initiative has taken diverse forms since the launching of the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft by the Earth Charter Commission during the Rio+5 Forum in 1997. The initial draft was called Benchmark because it tried to consolidate the results of various efforts, since the Stockholm Conference in 1972 and propose further consultation on the draft.

In this context, the activities of the national Earth Charter committees have included a variety of groups as major facilitators, including high government officials (Brazil and the Philippines), national NGO networks (Bolivia, Argentina, Zimbabwe, India and the Dominican Republic), youth (Cuba, Costa Rica and Uruguay), indigenous people (El Salvador, Panama and Nicaragua), National Councils for Sustainable Development or similar entities (Burkina Faso, Mexico and Senegal) and academics (Australia, Russia and the USA).

While initiated with a request for contributions to an Earth Charter Benchmark Draft, the process resulted in a diversity of focuses. These range of activities varies from the most predominant one of awareness building and sensitization to more formal action plans on areas such as changes in consumption patterns and lifestyles, and incorporating Earth Charter principles in educational curricula and professional codes of conduct. Other critical issues addressed include defense of public interest in Burkina Faso, human ecological security in the Philippines, institutional transformation and support mechanisms in Uganda, revision of the international economic order in China, links to grassroots democracy in India, corporate/financial systems and youth in Australia, and the context of globalization in the Netherlands. The need for national and regional charters that affirm the cultural and development context of the initiative was one of the messages of the Continental Conference of the Americas held in Mato Grosso, Brazil.

The initiatives of some major partner organizations—such as the Amazon Parliament, the Bahá'í International Community, Global Education Associates, Soka Gakkai International, and the World Federation of Engineers—focused on activities within their member networks. Others, like the Center for Respect of Life and Environment, promoted the Earth Charter in international events.

These dialogues and valuing processes reflect the current state of diversity and common concern for our global society. They pose questions such as How do each of us live our lives in a sustainable way? How do individual and corporate consumption and production patterns affect the society we live in and the future of our children? What kind of principles are needed to guide the conduct of people and nations in relating to each other and the Earth? How can we

become agents for social, economic and environmental change toward a more just, peaceful and sustainable future?

The efforts to answer these questions are providing additional momentum to the Earth Charter initiative, which has become a global campaign to promote sustainable development and societal change. This rich diversity of inputs and concerns continues to be fed into the drafting process of the Earth Charter document. The results of these initiatives have been consolidated in the Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II. The drafting team, headed by Professor Emeritus Steven C. Rockefeller, undertook a tremendous task of analyzing and incorporating contributions received to date in the draft II.

This campaign has been fueled by seed funds from donors, but mostly by people's energies, visions, and expectations of major global results by the year 2002.

Index

Part I

The first section of this draft report contains summary information on the initiatives and activities carried out within the Earth Charter campaign process, primarily during 1998. This information is divided by country and region and is accompanied by a separate section with information on involved constituencies.

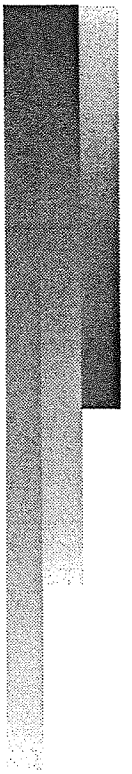
The Earth Charter International Secretariat would like to acknowledge that other events, activities and initiatives occurred in 1998, which may not be in this report.

Part II

This section contains summaries of the consultation results received to date. This information is divided according to country and involved constituencies.

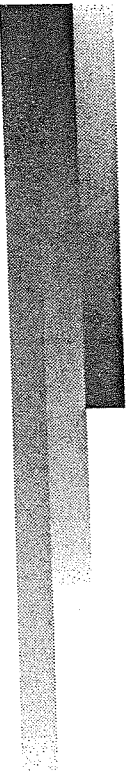
Annex

- 1 Introduction to the Earth Charter Initiative and Benchmark Draft II
- 2 Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II (April 99)
- 3 Earth Charter Benchmark Draft I (March 97)
- 4 Working Document for E. C. Benchmark Draft II (October 98)
- 5 Participants List



Part I:

Summary of Earth Charter Initiatives



Africa and the Middle East

- Burkina Faso
- Ghana*
- Jordan*
- Kenya*
- Mauritius
- Senegal
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe*

**Results of consultation processes yet to be received.*

Burkina Faso:

The Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Management of Environment and Natural Resources (CONAGESE) and Green Cross office in Burkina Faso began collaborating in the development and strengthening of the Earth Charter process in their country. Between August and October 1998, CONAGESE sponsored and coordinated a consultation and an information and sensitization campaign with regards to the Earth Charter. This campaign addressed socio-professional groups in the sectors of education, youth, traditional groups, religion, women's organizations, media, medical and law, and the NGO community. This consultation collected contributions from over 300 members of civil society. On October 24, a meeting at the Centre d'Education Ouvrière was convened to consolidate the outcomes. Among the participating groups in this meeting were the following:

- The Burkina Faso Movement for the Rights of Humans and Peoples, the most active human rights organization in Burkina Faso
- Africa Youth, a network of 88 organizations who provide information and training to young Africans
- Minister Carlé Naba, Minister of the Mossé Emperor, guardian of customs and traditions
- Ouagadougou University students
- The Burkina Faso Association of University Graduated Women
- The Burkina Women's Network of Opinion Leaders
- Respected individuals from the medical field
- The Burkina Faso Journalist Association

All parties consulted showed interest in this initiative and manifested their willingness to pursue this process, agreeing that the principles represent a guide within which NGOs and community networks can direct actions carried out in defense of public interest.

(See Part II for a summary of the consultation outcomes.)

Ghana:

The Ghanaian Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology convened an Earth Charter Validation Committee in October 1998 to review and discuss the Benchmark draft and present comments to a national forum. The purpose of this forum, which will take place during the first half of 1999, is to validate the relevance of the sustainable development principles and values as the guiding framework of development plans, professional work codes, NGO programs and community-based networks.

Jordan:

The Jordan National Earth Charter Committee, under the facilitation of the Jordan Environmental Society, has met several times between May and July 1998 to define a mechanism and strategies for putting together an Earth Charter campaign in Jordan and consolidate a contribution to this initiative. A professor from a private university is coordinating the committee and Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan, an Earth Charter Commission member, has helped to initiate this process in Jordan.

Kenya:

The Green Belt Movement, under the leadership of Prof. Wangari Maathai, has identified 11 prospective members for the Kenya National Committee for the Earth Charter. In mid-1998, several meetings took place to organize an Earth Charter process in Kenya. The aim was to develop an organizing committee made up of two representatives from each of the following: NGOs, community-based organizations, religious groups, government and the private sector. In addition, there would be one representative from the Scouts Association, the youth and the media. This consolidation process will be a focus in 1999.

Mauritius:

The Council for Development Environmental Studies and Conservation (MAUDESCO) completed a multisectoral Earth Charter workshop and consultation in November 1998. The first consultation was held on June 20, 1998, with approximately 50 participants. Present at this consultation was, among others, the President of the Environmental NGO Network, Monique Koenig, who gave a speech titled "Environment and Ethical Values." Ms. Homa Mungapen, from the Bahá'í Association of Mauritius spoke on human values and environment. This event was very successful and brought together numerous ideas and suggestions to be further incorporated into this initiative, such as:

- the media, TV, radio, press and Internet have the ability to promote sustainability and environmental protection
- the role of schools, teachers, parents, NGOs and formation group leaders
- the importance of knowledge, information, communication, lobbying and mass awareness campaigns to enable people to make informed choices

- the importance of women's education and gender equality
- the importance and role of nonformal education
- the need to encourage eco-agriculture, the importance of consumer education with an emphasis on promotion and use of renewal sources of energy, and the implementation of a Local Agenda 21.

(See Part II for a summary of the consultation outcomes.)

Senegal:

The Center for Ecological Follow-up, acting as the Earth Charter focal point organization in Senegal, undertook a multisectoral Earth Charter consultation. This consultation aimed to integrate the views of representatives and groups from various sectors, including parliamentarians, academics, professional associations, business and religious groups, the National Council for Sustainable Development and NGOs. Following a planning meeting of the preparatory committee on September 22, an Earth Charter consultation was convened on October 16, at the Hotel Independence in Dakar. This event gathered over 50 participants from government to civil society, and was in the framework of the activities of the National Council for Sustainable Development. The opening ceremony was presided over by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Jacques Baudin, the permanent secretary of the Council of National Resources and Environment (CONSERE), and the ministry of environment, represented by Mr. Amadou Moctar Niang. In his opening speech, the minister expressed his honor to open this event and relayed the government's support for this initiative.

Among the participants at this event were the following:

- the environmental advisor from the Presidential Office
- congressman representing the Environment and Development commission of the Congress
- members of the National Council for Sustainable Development
- professionals from the media, NGO and religious communities representative from the National Council for Youth
- ENDA (Environment and Development of the Third World)

At the consultation, participants agreed to follow-up on specific activities such as translate Earth Charter documents into the six national languages, organize sectoral meetings to further discuss the initiative, and put together a task group to undertake follow-up activities.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Uganda:

The Integrated Rural Development Initiatives (IRDI) Organization has facilitated an Earth Charter process and development of an Ugandan national Earth Charter committee. An Earth Charter workshop took place on October 2 at the Hotel Equatorial in Kampala, involving over 40 participants. The purpose of the meeting was to dialogue about the Earth Charter Benchmark draft and develop a strategy and plan for the Earth Charter process in Uganda. Featured, as the guest of honor, was the minister of the state of land, water and environment, the Honorable Baguma Isoke. The head of the forestry department at Makerere University, Dr. J. Kabogoza, chaired the meeting. Discussion centered around whether developing countries should participate in ideas that originate elsewhere, because there was concern that the results of these ideas are often environmentally, politically and culturally disruptive. There was also a call to be cautious before participating in the Earth Charter Campaign, especially when there is an absence or weakness of institutional support mechanisms in the country. Concluding the conference were remarks presented by F.C. Oweyegha-Afunaduua, professor of ecology and environmental science at Makerere University. He commented that the Earth Charter was a tool for building a firm ethical foundation for a sustainable future and that it is important to address such questions and concerns as why the Earth Charter principles do not include institutional transformation.

The national committee proposed the development of an awareness campaign as the next objective of the committee. This campaign intends to advocate Earth Charter values by sensitizing the public through TV and radio programs, contributing articles in the newspapers about the Earth Charter, production of Earth Charter newsletters, and conducting and presenting case studies relevant to the Earth Charter workshops in Uganda.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of the consultation.)

Zimbabwe:

Organization of the Earth Charter process in Zimbabwe is being facilitated by the Africa 2000 Network. The Africa 2000 Network is currently developing and coordinating a series of Earth Charter activities to be implemented in 1999.

Asia and the Pacific

- Australia*
- China
- India
- Japan
- Korea*
- Philippines

**Results of consultation processes yet to be received.*

Australia:

The Australian National Earth Charter Steering Committee has the governor-general of Australia, the Honorable Sir William Deane, as its patron, and it is also supported by the Australian National University. The Australian committee spent a considerable amount of time at the end of 1998 organizing a forum on the Earth Charter, to be held February 4-5, 1999. This forum aims to inform and inspire Australians about the Earth Charter process and challenge all sectors of Australian society to reflect on and debate the values and principles underpinning sustainable living and environmental protection. Sessions have been planned to provide an overview of the global Earth Charter process, with activities to focus on such aspects as principles that have emerged during global consultations debate on the Earth Charter principles and their implications. Mr. Maurice Strong, co-chair of the Earth Charter Commission, Steven Rockefeller, head of the Earth Charter drafting team, and Maximo Kalaw, executive director of the Earth Council will be present as special invitees. During 1998, the committee planned and implemented aspects of the Earth Charter campaign, such as launching of an extensive youth program for the Earth Charter, incorporating school-based activities, developing a National Youth Earth Charter Cultural Archive, and facilitating a youth drafting team.

China:

A small consultation on the Benchmark II draft document (of October 1998) was held in Beijing under the coordination of Professor Sun Honglie, academician of the Chinese Academy of Science and Earth Council member. This consultation involved approximately ten academic and environmental scholars, who each individually reviewed the working document of Benchmark draft II (October 1998) in preparation for a plenary meeting held in November 1998. The results of this consultation focused on increasing the role of government in the panorama of sustainable development, the revision of the international economic order to address unfair trade patterns, the positive role of science and technology, the importance of acknowledging the diversity of different development stages globally and the need to focus on specific issues in different regions.

The Chinese Society for Sustainable Development, a Beijing-based NGO, has been in com-

munication with the Earth Charter Secretariat to organize a working group discussion on the process in 1999 and form an Earth Charter Committee that will reflect upon this initiative and promote support. The formation of these groups is still to be defined.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

India:

Development Alternatives and People First, under the leadership of Ashok Khosla and SK Sharma, have held two broad-based multi-sectoral consultations on the Benchmark I document during the latter half of 1998. These consultations deliberated on the Earth Charter benchmark issues in relation to traditional practices in India and their relevance to contemporary society. Three thematic groups were constituted to deliberate upon (1) Planning and Environment, (2) Education and Population, and (3) Ethics and Religion. Development Alternatives has integrated the Earth Charter process into its "People First" initiatives, which focus on the need to link democracy with sustainability. The project stresses the need for improving democratic institutions in both, rich and poor nations such that power flows upward from the people, as advocated by Gandhi and practiced in the best democracies, notably the Swiss. Gandhi proposed additional features for containing consumption and promoting social justice and equity. The Earth Charter consultations in India endorsed the need for a new institution, sovereign rights commission, with authority to direct referendums. Development Alternatives is currently scheduled to sponsor a third Earth Charter consultation in 1999 on the Benchmark II draft document.

Dr. Kamla Chowdhry, E.Charter Commission co-chair, is also promoting the E.Charter in collaboration with the Environment Education Council for Children (a Delhi Public School society). They are setting up events to discuss the E.Charter with the students, teachers and parents. Also working with school children in Delhi, with Vikram Sarabhai Foundation, using Gandhi's moral philosophy. The school children are engaged in developing an E.Charter of their own.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Japan:

The Green Cross office in Japan, with the participation of Wakako Hironaka, Earth Charter Commission member, has coordinated the development of the Japanese National Earth Charter Committee, which consists of 13 members representing NGOs, national and local government, the private sector, media and academics. This committee organized an extensive consultation, which highlighted comments and suggestions for the working draft of Benchmark II (of October 1998) in December 1998. In addition, Green Cross Japan has translated the working draft of Benchmark II in Japanese and is organizing an Earth Forum titled "Global Movement of the Earth Charter and Indigenous Peoples' Spirituality, Culture and the Links with their Motherlands", to be held in Tokyo in early 1999.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Korea:

The Korean Federation on Environment Movement (KFEM) has expressed a willingness to organize an Earth Charter consultation, inviting groups from various sectors to review the Benchmark draft. They are being provided with all of the existing information on the initiative to distribute among key organizations. It is hoped that this committee will take form together with an Earth Charter process in this country in 1999.

Philippines:

The Philippines was the first country to have an official Earth Charter ratified by their government as the result of a national NGO consultation beginning in 1991. In June 1995, representatives of the Philippine government and civil society adopted the "Filipino Contribution to the People's Earth Charter" at a gathering for human and ecological security. Following this effort in 1998, the Philippines joined the Earth Charter Millenium Campaign with the creation of a Core Group. This Core Group has researched past and present Filipino initiatives and will use the information collected as a tool to further study the Earth Charter draft, validate that statement of principles and define the next steps in the process for the Philippines. The Core Group is made up of values-driven volunteers who have come together to continue working towards sustainability. This group is organized under the Philippine Institute for Alternative Futures (PIAF), the Earth Charter focal point organization in the Philippines. In addition, the Core Group has developed the "Pinoy Charter," an information page for the initiatives of the Core Group for the Philippine participation in the Earth Charter.

(See Part II for a summary of the main elements of the Filipino contribution.)

Europe

- Austria*
- Ireland*
- Italy*
- The Netherlands*
- Russia
- Uzbekistan

**Results of consultation processes yet to be received.*

Austria:

Earth Charter activities in Austria are being coordinated by Ing. Jacqueline Wagner. While there exists no official Austrian national committee, a group has been convened to initiate the process in Austria. A major accomplishment of this group was the translation of the Earth Charter benchmark draft into German (the native language of over one third of the European population). In addition, the group has outlined a practical implementation strategy for 1999. The following ideas have been articulated within the strategy:

- Inspire companies and organizations to implement parts of the Earth Charter and report on their experiences.
- Research organizations that could be part of the representation for an Austrian National Earth Charter Committee.
- Facilitate meetings with interested individuals in the different sectors of Austrian society to dialogue about the Earth Charter.
- Distribute the most recent draft of the Earth Charter for comments.

Holland/The Netherlands:

Under the direction of Earth Charter Commission member Professor Ruud Lubbers, an international research project is underway at the University of Tilburg, titled Global Principles: human rights, environment and development. The goals of this project are to contribute to the Earth Charter drafting process through the development of proposals, comments, suggestions and other materials related to these issues. A comparative study of global principles as elaborated in the documents of national, regional and international organizations will be completed in 1999.

Ireland:

The Three Rock Institute for Sustainable Development was very active in the first half of 1998, distributing Earth Charter informational documents and organizing small meetings to coordinate an Earth Charter consultation in Ireland. In addition, preparations were made to organize a national youth Earth Charter forum, collect perspectives from religious and spiritual groups,

and distribute a questionnaire to Irish NGOs. The Earth Charter was also featured during the third Sustainable Earth Fair, a three-day event that brings together individuals and organizations involved in practicing and promoting sustainability, held in County Cork in February 1998.

Italy:

An Earth Charter process was initiated in Italy under the direction of Elizabeth Ferrero, a professor of ecology at St. Thomas University in the United States. A core group of dedicated individuals has convened to assume tasks for the promotion of the Earth Charter campaign in Italy. This core group has translated the Benchmark draft into Italian and circulated it in the Piedmont region, Rome and Tuscany, where the translation is being studied and commented on. This exercise has gone beyond a simple translation of the Benchmark draft by entering into a process of interpretation according to the Italian cultural context. This group aims to gather various religious organizations, both Christian and non-Christian, to discuss how to make the Earth Charter part of people's lives. In addition, the group plans to create an Italian Earth Charter web site for the dissemination of information and to open a regional office in Assisi for Earth Charter activities.

Russia:

Under the auspices of the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity and Green Cross International events such as the Moscow Earth Charter Roundtable have been carried out. The principles contained in the current draft of the Earth Charter are derived, in part, from these consultations. In addition, the Russian National Center on Creation of the Earth Charter and the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity developed an experimental draft of the Earth Charter in 1996.

In 1996, under the initiative of the Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity, the Russian National Earth Charter Committee was founded. This committee consists of a number of prominent scientists and public figures. The committee is headed by the chairman of the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection, Mr. Danilov-Danilyan. During the 1996-97 period, a large number of meetings were held involving prominent scientists, and religious and public figures.

On March 9-10, 1998, a meeting entitled Analysis of Methodological Approaches Towards the Earth Charter took place in Moscow. The objective of this event was to discuss different approaches to the Earth Charter, as well as the scientific, religious and legal aspects of the Earth Charter principles.

Representatives of the Russian National Earth Charter Committee met with members of a working group in the Kamchatka Region regarding the development of a joint plan of action.

This action plan includes the creation of a Kamchatka version of the Earth Charter and the role it will play in defining the priorities of Kamchatka's sustainable socio-economic development and preservation of its natural complex. Furthermore, the action plan included arranging publicity on the Earth Charter through mass media, coordinating a regional seminar on the Earth Charter, conducting public hearings and generating participation in the process with many different sectors of society in the region.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of these consultations.)

Uzbekistan:

The National Sustainable Development Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan organized national hearings on the working draft for the Benchmark II document in November and December 1998. During the first stage of these hearings representatives from the state management structure, non-governmental and women's organizations and business circles were involved. For the second stage of these hearings, representatives of the diplomatic corps, accredited Uzbekistan international religious organizations, leading scientists and public figures in the Republic actively discussed the document. The process of working on the Charter has been widely covered in information systems such as radio programs and TV programs, and published materials.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Latin America and The Caribbean

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Guatemala*
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama*
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay*
- Venezuela

**Results of consultation processes yet to be received.*

On November 30–December 3, an Earth Charter Continental Conference of the Americas was held in the State of Mato Grosso, Brazil. This event brought together representatives from Earth Charter National Committees and involved groups in North, Central and South America to dialogue about the Earth Charter draft process in the various countries represented. The conference was host to approximately 100 delegates from over 20 countries and was jointly sponsored by the Government of Mato Grosso, the Earth Council, UNICEF and UNESCO. The primary objectives of the conference were the following:

- to bring together the Latin American and North American preliminary results of consultations based on the initial contributions of groups in various countries
- to propose a Latin American Earth Charter, that has regional validity to guide states and people in the issues of sustainability, equity and justice
- to formulate common strategies for follow-up in the region

The conference featured representatives from the Earth Charter drafting committee and members of the Mato Grosso government and well-known theologian Professor Leonardo Boff.

At the closing ceremony, the participants were part of a mobilization effort generated by the children of the city of Cuiabá from over 20 different schools. Four thousand students lined hand-in-hand forming a human chain of students and teachers, which measured over 3.5 kilo-

meters in length. This event took place in 'Chapada dos Guimaraes', a National Park Reserve. Television and the media were on-hand to document this historic mobilization event for the Earth Charter endeavor. The closing ceremony also featured an Indigenous dance, presented as an expression of their connection with other living beings on Earth.

In addition, the mayor of Cuiabá presented the first Earth Charter monument which was inaugurated by both Maximo Kalaw, Jr., Executive Director of the Earth Council and Professor Emeritus Steven Rockefeller, Head of the Earth Charter drafting committee. The monument, by artist Jonas Correa, is a sculpture of the Earth being "sustained" by the trunk of a tree. Five children, representing the five continents, surround the tree holding hands to form a human chain to symbolize protection and security of the planet. (*see cover page of this report*).

The development of the Latin American and Caribbean Earth Charter and the Strategies for Common Action were important results to the conference. Both of these documents articulated the long and short-term goals of the Earth Charter movement in the region. As well, the development of an Earth Charter Latin American Regional Committee was addressed and it was decided that there still exists much to accomplish on a ground level within each country before a regional structure is formed. However, there was an overwhelming response to the proposal of continuing a regional network for information and sharing.

It is imperative to highlight the great benefit of the bringing together in a regional platform key individuals who have been separately contributing to the process within their own countries. This was a successful opportunity for sharing and learning from each other, which served to generate inspiration and enthusiasm. In doing so, national processes were reinforced and encouraged to both expand and pursue more in-depth activities.

In addition, the conference created the opportunity for the representative of the drafting committee to gather the thoughts from the Americas, as well as share the drafting committee process. This allowed for a bridge to be made between the global and regional processes of the Earth Charter. At the end of the conference, representatives from Cuba generously offered to host the second Conference of the Americas, reinforcing an inspiring future vision of coming together again to continue the strengthening of the Earth Charter initiative.

(See Annex for the results of this conference.)

Argentina:

A meeting among different constituencies, held at the YMCA offices in Buenos Aires in May 1998 facilitated the creation of an Argentinean Earth Charter National Committee. Following this, a group convened to function as an open nucleus of broad participation from various sectors. The Earth Charter Committee has met several times between May and November 1998

to plan the organization of the Earth Charter process in Argentina. This process is facilitated by the Center for Harmonization and Human Development, with the support of the YWCA-Argentina.

On August 3, this committee coordinated a public forum to disseminate information about the Earth Charter process and motivate participation in this consultation. Representatives from NGOs, academic institutions and the government were in attendance, as well as Mercedes Sosa, a popular singer and Earth Charter commissioner, who is supporting and overseeing the process in Argentina; Secretary of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development Ing. Maria Julia Alsogaray; Beatriz Pichi Malen representing Indigenous Peoples; Raimundo Florin from the business sector and a representative from the NGO ENVIRO. Writer Ernest Sabado presented a paper on the Earth Charter. The meeting sought to develop a committee to generate an Earth Charter for Argentina, further implementing strategies of sustainable development within the country. In January 1999, a multisectoral and multiregional consultation process of the Argentinean Earth Charter was organized to establish strategies and methodologies to implement and incorporate the fundamental values and principles reflected in the Earth Charter.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Bolivia:

The League for the Defense of the Environment has developed a process of national Earth Charter consultation with diverse sectors of civil society, government and legislative bodies. Over 350 children, 600 university students, 45 professionals in forest engineering and agriculture, and 110 students from secondary schools were involved. Earth Charter informational materials were distributed and printed in bulletins. The consultation process in each sector sought to discuss and analyze the first Benchmark draft in terms of content, conceptual consistency and universal significance. These comments demonstrate reactions towards the Benchmark I draft, as well as articulate fundamental principles that reflect Bolivian sentiment regarding the values of sustainable development and living. The responses to the Earth Charter identified a need for change in attitudes, values and behavior of people and nations, with a strong emphasis in developing a shared responsibility and participation in the care and respect of Earth.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Brazil:

The Brazilian Earth Charter national campaign was launched in May 1998 with a gathering of key constituencies. A press conference involving the governor of State of Mato Grosso, Dante de Oliveira, and Earth Council Chair Maurice Strong was part of this event. Following, a com-

mittee, under the joint coordination of the Creatio Institute (Mato Grosso), the Institute for the Integration of Sciences (Minas Gerais), and the Center for Sustainable Development (Brasilia), was formed. This committee strives to promote multisectoral inclusiveness. Initiatives took place at both the national and state levels. The national committee is composed of one representative from each state committee, and two indigenous representatives. Among the steps taken by the Brazilian National Committee were to launch a national consultation and design guidelines for the national process, design a national web site, begin weekly national radio programs and include such entities as the Brazilian Organization of Lawyers. In addition, the Earth Charter process in the State of Mato Grosso has focused on an in-depth consultation process and the launching of a media campaign, inviting schools and groups to participate in the Earth Charter initiative. A series of 11 conferences with specific themes related to the Earth Charter, such as human and land rights, gender issue, science and technology were organized in this state prior to the continental gathering. The Brazilian National Earth Charter Committee co-organized the Earth Charter Continental Conference of the Americas in the State of Mato Grosso, Brazil, and has coordinated an organizational meeting, by the end of January 1999, to plan the activities for 1999.

An Earth Charter group called Terrauna was formed in Sao Paulo, during the first half of 1998, with the aim of joining forces with other active organizations in Brazil and Latin America. Group members, mainly from the education and business sector, already observe the principles of cooperation, interdependence, sustainability, planetary vision and spirituality in their personal and professional lives.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Costa Rica:

The Costa Rican National Committee draws its membership from individuals in the academic, environmental (NGO), student and religious sectors and from the ministry of public education. This group has build on the work on the Earth Charter initiated in 1995. This core group completed a national consultation in November 1998, on both draft I and working draft II (of October 1998). The consultation process featured a one-day workshop, on November 6, to validate the results of the information gathered. A public presentation followed, on November 18, to present the Costa Rican position towards the Earth Charter. This position was taken to the Continental Meeting of the Americas in Brazil. The core group facilitated workshops throughout 1997 and 1998, with children, bringing together 100 boys and girls of 11 years old to express their views on the Earth Charter, with teachers of secondary and primary schools in a series of events, university students and other groups.

(See Part II for a summary of consultation results.)

Cuba:

The Technical Brigade of Youth, the Earth Charter focal point organization in Cuba, facilitated, in the second half of 1998, an Earth Charter consultation on the Benchmark I draft through the development of a Cuban National Committee. This national group of youth, concerned with the ecology and environment of Cuba, elaborated a draft proposal derived from the benchmark draft and submitted it for consultation to multiple organizations within civil society. The Technical Brigade of Youth, with the support of the government, involved other groups and representatives from a variety of sectors. Participants in the consultation process expressed their willingness to continue in the Earth Charter process and the consultation resulted in the proclamation of eight specific principles, which illustrate the Cuban position on the Earth Charter.

(See Part II for a summary of consultation results.)

Dominican Republic:

An Earth Charter process was initiated in the Dominican Republic in February 1998 when PRONATURA, the Dominican Republic's Fund for Nature, undertook to organize a consultation process that would define a contribution from various groups in Dominican society. This consultation process involved the National Council for Sustainable Development. On March 4, the Earth Charter was presented in a workshop in Santo Domingo during which an Earth Charter Committee was formed. On April 22, Earth Day, the Earth Charter campaign was launched, convening public participation through discussion meetings, radio programs, the distribution of materials and invitations to two public events at the National Botanical Garden and the Sabana Perdida. These events culminated in a national workshop on June 26, where 45 participants, representing a large number of organizations, gathered. Conclusions from this meeting stated that the Earth Charter should not be just another document, that its values and principles should be taken personally; and national and international mechanisms should be developed to reinforce the charter.

(See Part II for a summary of consultation results.)

El Salvador:

The Salvadoran Institute for Indigenous Ancestral Rescue (RAIS) initiated a national consultation for the Earth Charter through community service radio programs. RAIS promoted the Earth Charter among Indigenous Peoples, university students and other sectors through working meetings with ecological and educational institutions. In October, the National Council for Sustainable Development in El Salvador, joined forces with RAIS to co-organize an Earth Charter event on November 12, 1998. This event aimed to (a) validate principles for sustainable development, (b) include them in the Salvadoran contribution to the Earth Charter and, (c) form an Earth Charter committee involving various groups. The resident representative of the UNDP, Bruno Moro, participated in this event, which was held at the UNDP office. The opening speech was given by Vice President of the Republic Enrique Borgo Bustamante, who

relayed support from the government in the Earth Charter initiative. Following the peace agreement, the need to advance toward a more prosperous, equitable, tolerant and participatory society has been seen as imminent. There was acknowledgment that Salvadorans are conscious that the path toward sustainable development means a change in values, principles and attitudes. As a result, the government, through the National Council for Sustainable Development, is motivated to continuously support the Earth Charter initiative, in collaboration with Instituto RAIS and the National Earth Charter Committee.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Guatemala:

In November 1998, the indigenous organization Q'ANIL, "Encuentro de expresiones culturales," called together representatives of different sectors and organizations in Quetzaltenango to initiate an Earth Charter process for 1999.

Honduras:

Following hurricane Mitch, CONADES, the Honduran National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), organized a workshop to promote and pledge national integrity. This event took place on November 19 at the Central American Bank of Economic Integration in Tegucigalpa. For this event, an integrated strategy was discussed, including the use of different morals and ethics for Honduras, especially in the promotion of human rights; the strengthening of democracy, and the ending of corruption and impurity. Participants acknowledged that a personal commitment to honesty, sacrifice, simplicity and human solidarity is the best tool to fight corruption. In conclusion, participants signed a National Pledge of Integrity for Sustainable Development for a New Honduras, agreeing to the following statements, among others:

- build a State that is imminently democratic and participatory
- create, strengthen and update Codes of Ethics in all public and private institutions
- develop and implement a framework of the Earth Charter as a declaration of fundamental ethical principles towards sustainable development

This pledge of integrity expressed the willingness and commitment of key representatives to continue working with the Earth Charter Campaign as they work to rebuild Honduras.

(See Part II for a summary of consultation results.)

Mexico:

An NGO that is part of the National Council for Sustainable Development in Mexico, Ecological Action and Development, took the lead in initiating an Earth Charter consultation in Mexico. This initiative was promoted through the existing structure of the Consultative

Councils for Sustainable Development, a network of NGOs and communication through radio and bulletins. Extensive national and local Earth Charter consultations occurred during September and October of 1998. These consultations involved representatives from various NGOs, the Mexican government, the private business sector, and universities. During a three-month period, radio spots were broadcasted with the principles of the Benchmark draft and programming with special invitees and open telephones were carried out. Radio spots turned out to be positive spaces for expression. Reactions from the public reinforced the hope that these principles go beyond static words and emphasized that any change must originate from within human beings.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Nicaragua:

CONADES, the NCSD in Nicaragua, initiated an Earth Charter process in October 1998. This process consisted of disseminating information, raising awareness and inviting different sectors of Nicaraguan society such as youth, artists, the indigenous community, women and environmentalists to participate in the process. CONADES organized an Earth Charter workshop with the church and private sector in Managua and will continue with Earth Charter activities in 1999. In addition, the Club of Environmentalist Youth and well-known poet, Julio Valle, have taken an important role in the Earth Charter process. In this context, the Miskito People, with the support of URACCAN university and CONADES, undertook a consultation process among 22 indigenous communities of the Atlantic coast. The Benchmark draft was also translated into Miskito language, which provided the participants of the consultation with the opportunity to review, analyze and voice their input.

(See Part II for a summary of the consultation outcomes.)

Panama:

The Earth Charter process is being facilitated under the direction of the General Congress of the Kuna Culture, an indigenous people's organization in Panama. The consultation process promoted the Earth Charter document and process under the General Congress's agreement that a "charter for Mother Earth is of universal responsibility and concern." For this reason, the Koskun Kalu Research Institute, an academic entity of the Congress, has taken on the role of disseminating the Earth Charter in Panama for evaluation, contributions and new proposals. Specific activities included a national workshop to promote the Earth Charter, which was held on November 25 with the participation of 45 organizations. This event congregated representative groups from different sectors to involve them in the Earth Charter campaign. The goals of this campaign are to disseminate the contents and principles of the charter, laying out a work plan for receiving contributions and input, and presenting the results in a national report written by the National Commission for the Promotion of the Earth Charter.

Paraguay:

The Earth Charter initiative in Paraguay, through the direction of the Ecological Movement of Paraguay, gained momentum through activities such as developing working groups among university students, featuring the Earth Charter in the media, encouraging church committee involvement and coordinating youth and media workshops. As a result, a small committee of six representatives was formed. Consultation results identified that solidarity, justice, equity, respect of different cultures, honesty, responsibility, and sincerity were among the fundamental values that reflect Paraguayan needs. Radio interviews were also used to promote the initiative.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

Peru:

The Association Arariwa initiated the organization of the Earth Charter process in Peru in October and November 1998. It coordinated a working meeting in November, prior to the Continental Meeting of the Americas in Brazil, to plan for an Earth Charter process in Peru and outline an initial Peruvian position on the Earth Charter document. This meeting reflected the collaboration of representatives from diverse sectors of Peruvian society in their contributions to the Earth Charter document.

The Indigenous Consultative Spiritual Council of the Andean Region analyzed the Benchmark draft through the holding of a number of meetings with both the Council of Elders and the Council of Youth in the Patakanha sacred valley. The Benchmark draft was translated into Quechua language and small working groups were formed to review the principles included in the draft and to permeate the document with the Quechua spirit.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation)

Uruguay:

The environmental and youth NGO, Eco Natural, promoted an Earth Charter Campaign in Uruguay by forming a National Earth Charter Committee of representatives from civil society and the government to support the process. Eco Natural has promoted the Earth Charter process through the publication of a magazine called Save Our Planet for June 5, International Environment Day, which was distributed to all secondary schools in the country. The launching of the Earth Charter campaign also took place in June, in conjunction with the launching of this publication. This official event had the participation of the vice president of the republic and other national authorities and has had continuous support from the Ministry of Education.

Venezuela:

The Venezuelan Committee to promote the Earth Charter was created during a May 11 intersectoral meeting, hosted by the Amazonian Parliament, and attended by Earth Council and Green Cross Venezuela representatives. The committee is composed of members of the ministries of environment and education, NGOs, academics and parliamentarians. The first phase of the work plan developed by this committee included holding a number of gatherings in which an interdisciplinary group (constituted by members of the committee) analyzed the Benchmark draft. This group has met several times between May and November with the goal of promoting the Earth Charter initiative to a broader public group.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this consultation.)

North America

- Canada*
- United States*

**Results of consultation processes yet to be received.*

Canada

The Earth Council Institute Canada hosted an inaugural Earth Charter brainstorming session on August 4, 1998, at the Canada Life Environment Room in Toronto. Twenty participants, representing business, education, environment, religion, media and government, came together to discuss the possible nature of an Earth Charter Canada initiative and the various logistics inherent in launching such as project.

The one-day meeting produced interesting ideas and approaches for launching an Earth Charter Canada campaign. Additionally, the Canadian Steering Committee is making plans to launch the national campaign at a Canadian Earth Charter Forum in 1999. This forum includes the following session: "A Vision of Our Values," "What Is the Earth Charter and Why Do We Need It?" "The View from Here" "Introduction to the Revised Benchmark Draft, " and "Consultation Strategies."

United States

The Center for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE) in Washington, D.C., is serving as the U.S. national secretariat for the Earth Charter. CRLE has facilitated the formation of the Earth Charter U.S. committee and has planned the strategies for a U.S. campaign. The U.S. presidential council is represented on this committee together with educational, religious and women's groups. CRLE has focused on soliciting input into the Benchmark draft and evolving a national campaign strategy in consultation with the Earth Council, representatives of other national committees, and persons on the U.S. National Committee representing key sectors of American life (e.g., business, government, education, religion and professional associations).

In early 1999, CRLE will launch Earth Charter campaign "kits" for these different sectors, and for use in various-geographical regions in the U.S. These kits will contain generic Earth Charter information, as well as special materials adapted for various degrees of in-depth treatment of the many issues involved in the ethics, values and retooling of societies for sustainability. In addition, CRLE has promoted the Earth Charter Campaign in various conferences around the world and will continue to do the same in 1999. Upcoming conferences addressing aspects of the Earth Charter include; the Forum on World Religions and Ecology, Earth Ethics and Ecumenical Movement Forum, the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America and the Second International Sustainable Communities Forum.

Within the Indigenous Peoples sector Victor White Yellow-Hawk, member of the Spiritual Consultative Council of the Indigenous Peoples Program at the Earth Council, has made efforts during the last two years to disseminate the Benchmark draft among Indigenous Peoples in the United States, and particularly with youth. Through these efforts, the Indigenous Peoples Environmental Network published information on the process including a copy of the Benchmark draft and their position on the draft, as discussed and analyzed through a General Assembly.

Other Constituencies

- The Alliance for a Responsible World
- Bahá'í International Community*
- Boston Research Center*
- Global Education Associates*
- Green Cross International**
- Interfaith Center of New York*
- International Community Education Associates*
- International Inuit Circumpolar Conference
- International Council for Adult Education
- Religions of the World and Ecology
- Pacifica Graduate Institute
- Parliamentarians of the Amazon
- Soka Gakkai International*
- The Spiritual Consultative Council
- World Federation of Engineering Org.*
- Young Men's Christian Association*

**Results of consultation processes yet to be received.*

***See Japan and Russia for results from the country offices of Green Cross International*

Alliance for a Responsible World (Alliance pour le progrès de l'homme):

The Alliance for a Responsible World is an international network under the leadership of Mr. Pierre Calame, its president and Earth Charter Commission member. The Earth Charter was one of the values, cultures, art, education and science workshops at the Alliance for a Responsible and United World assembly in December 1997 near Sao Paulo, Brazil. Some 150 participants discussed issues such as how to translate values into codes of conduct and how these values can be expressed in an Earth Charter as a pillar for global management. The alliance has analyzed the Benchmark draft to identify a crossroads of values and the dualities within these values.

(See Part II for a summary of consultation results.)

Bahá'í International Community:

The Bahá'í International Community has been active in the dissemination of the Earth Charter's values and principles to groups around the world and has offered its views on the Earth Charter throughout the project process, especially during the Earth Summit period. The Bahá'í International Community has reaffirmed its readiness to contribute to the further elaboration and promotion of the Earth Charter. This contribution was manifested in the presenta-

tion of the Earth Charter as a main theme in their annual international conference of the Environment Forum in November 1998. "The oneness of humanity," was primarily a suggestion of the Bahá'i Community to the drafting process. Additionally, Earth Charter information was published in their newsletter, One Country. In a collaborative effort with the Interfaith Center of New York, and other key people and organizations, the Bahá'i Community will be presenting the Earth Charter during the Parliament of the World's Religions Symposium in South Africa in 1999.

Boston Research Center:

The Boston Research Center solicited essays from distinguished scholars and individuals on certain aspects of the Earth Charter. These contributions resulted in the publication of three important books entitled, *Buddhist Perspectives on the Earth Charter*, *Women's Views on the Earth Charter and Human Rights*, *Environmental Law and the Earth Charter*. In addition, the Boston Research Center sponsored an Earth Charter reception at the American Academy of Religion and has coordinated several workshops on the Earth Charter, as well as featured the Earth Charter in its spring 1997 newsletter. The Boston Research Center is also involved with the Earth Charter US National Committee.

Center for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE):

The 4th annual Spirituality and Sustainability conference held in July 1998 in Assisi, Italy, was coordinated by CRLE and St. Thomas University with the support of the Earth Council. This event had the Earth Charter initiative as central theme of discussion and brought together representatives from Earth Charter National Committees from various countries. It provided an appropriate setting for dialogue and reflection on the relationship between spirituality and the movement towards more sustainable practices and policies.

Global Education Associates (GEA):

GEA's ongoing work for the Earth Charter builds on its initiation and continuing work for the first citizen's treaty: "The Earth Covenant: A Citizen's Treaty for Common Ecological Security." In 1988 GEA launched an international process involving people in 100 countries to input into The Earth Covenant, which has now been ratified by more than two million people around the world. The Earth Covenant also became a building block for other citizen treaties at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. GEA envisioned the Earth Covenant as a first step toward an Earth Charter to complement the UN Charter. Thus when the Earth Charter process was launched at a 1995 meeting in the Hague, GEA was among the first NGOs to declare its support. In 1996-1997 GEA associates and affiliates around the world organized more than 50 consultations in countries around the world to gather input for the first draft of the Earth Charter. GEA participated in several drafting processes, including the 1997 Rio +5 Forum, leading to Benchmark Draft I. Moreover, the GEA-Religious Order partnership (which is coordinated by GEA and includes some 165 Catholic religious congregations with a combined membership of

many thousands of women and men around the world) declared its support for the Earth Charter at annual partnership meetings in 1996, 1997, and 1998, and in 1997. The GEA-Religious Order Partnership also produced a video and Edu-Kit for use in promoting the Earth Covenant and the Earth Charter.

Additionally, from 1996 through 1998 GEA has offered educational programs at colleges, universities, and schools that promote an understanding of Earth Charter principles and expedite participation in Earth Charter processes. GEA associates participate in a number of Earth Charter international, national and local committees.

In 1998 GEA co-sponsored workshops and events in Canada and the U.S. exploring relationships between human rights and the Earth Charter. GEA has also been active in efforts exploring linkages between ecology (including an Earth Charter) and peace and security. GEA also participated in consultations and processes to gather feedback for the development of Benchmark Draft II.

Green Cross International:

During the fifth anniversary of Green Cross International and their general assembly, a Forum for the Pacific Rim was held on April 7, in Kyoto, Japan. This event brought together representatives from all national Green Cross offices, in addition to special invitees. National Green Cross offices were encouraged to join the Earth Charter process in their respective countries.

Interfaith Center of New York:

The Earth Charter initiative was presented by the Interfaith Center of New York for discussion at the Preparatory Conference in Chicago for the Parliament of World's Religions in November 1997. In 1999, the Earth Charter will be presented to this parliament in South Africa for adoption and endorsement by an Assembly of Religious and Spiritual Leaders. Besides that the ICNY continues to support the Earth Charter process in many ways.

International Community Education Associates (ICEA):

ICEA is committed to implement a worldwide consultation with educators. This consultation aims to collect contributions toward the Earth Charter, define a pedagogical process in agreement with the principles of the Charter and encourage the implementation of a global network of educators under the umbrella of the Earth Charter. In addition, ICEA is organizing its 8th World Conference entitled The Educational Vision of the Earth Charter, to be held in August 1999.

Inuit Group

Inuit representatives from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland gathered at the Circumpolar Conference in Nuuk, the capital city of Greenland, in July 1998. The Earth

Charter was one of the themes of this conference and addressed the translating the Benchmark Draft I into all of the languages used by the Inuit people including a Greenlandic version of the Earth Charter. The Inuit Circumpolar Conference also adopted a resolution for an amendment. This process is being facilitated by Earth Charter Commissioner, Henriette Rasmussen. In addition, suggestions were made to the Benchmark Draft I document in the form of changing the wording of two principles. According to these suggestions, Principle #9 should read, "They [Indigenous and Tribal Peoples] have the right to retain their spirituality, lands and territory and to use their knowledge and resources. Principle #15 should read, "Treat all creatures with respect and protect them from unnecessary cruelty."

International Council for Adult Education (ICAE):

Beginning in October 1996 and continuing in 1997, ICAE has worked to prepare and disseminate Earth Charter information and questionnaires through their bulletin, Pachamama. The goal of this activity was primarily to create a survey of "best practice" activities, which have involved the principles and values of the Earth Charter.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this participation)

Pacifica Graduate Institute:

The Pacifica Graduate Institute circulated the Benchmark I draft nationwide to the students and alumni of the institute (approximately 5,000 people), asking for comments and feedback to the draft. In addition, the institute developed a workshop handout titled, "Toward an Earth Charter Methodology: Giving Voice to the World." This handout addressed the confluence of dialogue methods, in-depth psychological inquiries, and dream tending in relation to the Earth Charter.

(See Part II for a summary of consultation results.)

Parliamentarians:

During the VIII Assembly of the Amazonian Parliament, held on April 20 in Bolivia, a special working session among parliamentarians was carried out to reflect upon their recommendations and commitment to the Earth Charter. Thus far, they have produced a charter that constitutes a manifestation of this commitment.

(See Part II for a summary of this charter)

Religions of the World and Ecology

From 1996-1998, a series of ten conferences, entitled "Religions of the World and Ecology," were organized at Harvard's Center for the Study of World Religions. These conferences were facilitated by Bucknell Professor, Mary Evelyn Tucker and explored views of nature in the various traditions to discern viable attitudes and values that would contribute to resolving our current environmental crisis. According to Professor Tucker, as the Earth Charter indicates, the

choice that we are making will involve a change of attitudes, values and ways of living and world religions may be especially helpful as they are the repositories of key attitudes and values which have shaped individuals and cultures over many centuries.

The culmination event for these conferences was held in the United Nations offices and the American Museum of Natural History in New York in October 1998. Both Steven Rockefeller, Head of the Earth Charter Drafting Team and professor of religion at Middlebury College and Wangari Maathai, Head of the Green Belt Movement in Kenya and Earth Charter Commission member, spoke on behalf of the Earth. All papers from the conferences are being published by the Center for the Study of World Religions and distributed by Harvard University Press. Furthermore, an ongoing Forum on Religion and Ecology has been established. The Earth Charter will be addressed in several of these forums in 1999. Partner organizations in this effort include: The Harvard University Committee on the Environment, The Harvard Yenching Institute, The Center for Respect of Life and Environment and Bucknell University's Department of Religion.

Soka Gakkai International:

Soka Gakkai International has been very involved in the Earth Charter initiative. SGI-USA has held over 21 consultations on the Earth Charter since August 1997. Approximately 1300 individuals from various sectors of society have participated in these consultations. A Day of Dialogue was held in Florida with Maximo Kalaw, the executive director of the Earth Council, as the keynote speaker. The event brought together representatives from local NGOs, the public and members of the Soka Gakkai community. A youth event was organized to introduce Earth Charter values to young people. In addition, a small San Francisco-based consultation was organized for interested individuals in the Bay Area. SGI-Uruguay is coordinating an Earth Charter conference involving over 500 people to be held in June 1999.

The Spiritual Consultative Council:

The Spiritual Consultative Council is a group of indigenous spiritual leaders and elders that was formed in 1996 in a joint project between the Earth Council and the Fetzer Institute. This project is entitled Indigenous Peoples, Mother Earth and Spirituality. The main goals are to consolidate indigenous capacity to influence decision-making mechanisms and to rescue and strengthen indigenous spiritual, cultural values and sustainable practices that contribute to global harmony. The Spiritual Consultative Council has closely worked with the Indigenous People's Program of the Earth Council to launch an international campaign to promote indigenous participation worldwide in the Earth Charter process.

(See Part II for a summary of the results of this participation)

World Federation of Engineering Organization (WFEO):

The WFEO incorporated sustainable development principles into the code of ethics of engineering organizations. The Ethics committee developed guidelines for engineers around the world to utilize these principles. The Earth Charter has been presented to officers and boards of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Association of Engineering Societies as a framework of values. In addition, WFEO highlighted the Earth Charter in its bulletin and prepared a packet of Earth Charter information for all WFEO members.

Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA):

The Latin American and Caribbean confederation of YMCA organizations has disseminated the Earth Charter initiative throughout their network in 1998. In May 1998, a special edition of their bulletin was prepared with a focus on the Earth Charter. The celebration of Environmental Day on June 5th, 1998 was a starting point for the organization of a series of activities addressing the environment. During these activities, space was set aside for discussion and reflection upon the Earth Charter draft.

Part II:

Summaries of Earth Charter Consultation Results

Africa and the Middle East

Burkina Faso

Five groups were targeted to contribute to an Earth Charter consultation process according to the area in which they operate, their visibility in the field, the permanence of their structures and the impact they make on the population. The five groups fall into the following categories: education, youth, NGOs, communication, religion and customs authorities, and professional associations. A synthesis of the opinions expressed was made in October 1998 and highlighted the following ideas:

- The Earth is a patrimony shared by all human beings. It is sacred and must be respected.
- In traditional African society, the guardians of the Earth are also regarded as Earth leaders. They must be consulted for all problems related to the Earth and the authorities must collaborate with them on questions and policies concerning environmental management.
- Optimal use of the Earth's capacities and functions must ensure the sustainability of life.
- The Earth's resources should be distributed equitably to benefit the poorer sectors of the population.
- The word "indigenous" has a strong pejorative connotation, with regard to the colonization period. Perhaps consider using, "original peoples" or "local peoples" is more appropriate.
- Instill humanitarian attitudes, tolerance, love and solidarity.
- Protect the Earth's physical environment, restore environmental stability and preserve cultural diversity.
- In addressing spirituality, state, "Local populations have a right to keep their spirituality, as long as this is not prejudicial to the life and integrity of others."
- Banish violence on Earth and reject all violent beings.
- Eliminate any behavior aimed at destroying human life such as wars, nuclear testing, genocide and marriage between homosexuals.
- Fight against pollution, wasteful use of natural resources, endemic diseases, AIDS and arms manufacturing.
- Make all actors (governments and individuals) aware of their responsibilities towards the well being of the community.
- Create jobs; promote social development in order to provide the means of subsistence, which will eliminate poverty.
- Eliminate illiteracy among the populations.
- Prevent depletion of the ozone layer; protect the environment (water, flora and fauna) by using environmentally friendly products and through reforestation.

- Establish efficient legal systems for the protection of the environment.
- Pay special and sustained attention to the worldwide consequences of local and isolated actions.
- Agree on principles and procedures of evaluation of actions on the environment and watch over its equality.
- Show compassion for all suffering people.
- Support local initiatives based on the spirituality that preserves the ecosystems, animal and vegetal species.
- Limit the waste of used resources by recycling them.
- Replace sources of energy such as oil, gas and kerosene by renewable sources of energy such as sun, wind, water etc.
- Do not use resources such as soils, forests, grasslands and waters in an excessive way that would be prejudicial to the regenerating power of the ecosystems.
- Set a fair price for exchanges and economic indicators, which take into account the geographical context and the social costs of human activities.

Mauritius

The following comments were submitted by the Mauritius National Earth Charter committee. These comments resulted from a consultation on the Benchmark I draft, held on June 20, 1998.

- **Principle #5:** The present state of affairs discriminates against poor/developing countries. Presently there is no equitable sharing of the benefits of natural resources. Internalization of environmental, social and economic costs will take years to happen.
- **Principle #6:** The forces of globalization make this particular principle a pious wish. With rich countries getting richer and poor countries getting poorer, social justice, poverty eradication and sustainable livelihood will not be achieved in our lifetime.
- **Principle #7:** The world is witnessing regular armed conflicts. The superpowers should move forward to drastically reduce/eliminate their current stocks and refrain from selling these to poor developing countries. The UN should develop mandatory resolutions to that effect.
- **Principle #8:** The question is who should empower people to participate in decision making and in ensuring transparency and accountability in government and administration – certainly not governments! Civil society NGOs in developing countries desperately lack the necessary resources to undertake such actions. In certain countries, the political and legal structures are simply nonexistent.
- **Principles #12 and #14:** In the majority of developing countries the participation of youth is limited to sports and recreational activities. Governments should drastically change their educational systems and school curricula to meet the objectives of this principle. Nonformal education should be given prominence.
- **Principle #13:** The developed countries should share their technological superiority and know-how with the developing countries (i.e., technology transfer as provided in Agenda 21.)
- **Principle #18:** To meet the objectives of this principle it is imperative that the political class is educated accordingly.

Senegal

In September 1998, a consultation was held in Dakar, involving 50 participants representing governmental institutions and civil society. The following comments on the Benchmark draft were outlined in the report of this consultation.

- **Add to Preamble** "Important geographical areas are submitted to significant disturbances and perturbations (ozone, desertification, etc.), which have a considerable impact on the environment. Joint efforts and specific actions showing solidarity should be quickly developed in order to limit or prevent these disturbances."
- **Principle #1:** Add environmental impact assessments.
- **Principle #3:** Add "Take the necessary measures against deterioration of soils, contamination of oceans and pillaging of resources such as fish stocks."
- Fight against all forms of poverty to consolidate institutional mechanisms for social solidarity and financial systems which create sustainable livelihoods. Eliminate poverty and strengthen actors involved in development and in particular local communities through the implementation of social development programs.
- **Principle #9:** Reword to say "Respect and value all other forms of knowledge on matters concerning environmental protection."
- **Principle #11:** Add to the end "...while safeguarding unity in the family."

Additional Principles to add to the Earth Charter

- Promote the development and the safeguard of the family unit, as the basis for sustainable human development.
- Reaffirm the need for all nations to ensure their sovereignty and their security with regards to food.
- Guarantee the safeguard of the genetic potential among all peoples and the biodiversity of nature in their own habitats.
- Promote agro-ecological and economic development patterns, which are socially equitable, economically viable and ecologically sound.
- Ensure the involvement and the participation of all categories of actors in the promotion of sustainable development.
- Encourage the use of sub-regional and regional integration mechanisms for sustainable management of natural resources to ensure sustainable development.
- Promote and increase the importance given to the environmental dimension throughout all education systems in order to perpetuate a sense of responsibility into individual or collective consciousness towards the Earth.
- Systemize environmental impact assessments in all development policies and implement Environmental Information Systems to serve as early warning signs in order to avoid / limit damage to the environment.

Uganda

At the Ugandan National Earth Charter consultation session, held in Kampala, on October 2, 1998, group discussion and presentations suggested the following changes in the Benchmark I draft.

- **Principle #1:** Include special attention to local people and other beings living in the area/country.
- **Principle #2:** Include respect for the traditional, historical and ecological ties of the indigenous species/people.
- **Principle #3:** Recognize the inequalities between the developed and the developing countries and between the rich and the poor within countries.
- **Principle #4:** Include spiritual well being in their localities the right to clean drinking water and so on.
- **Principle #5:** Natural resources first and foremost belong to the indigenous people, who should have first priority in their utilization; use of any surplus can then be considered. In addition, the effects of pollution should be redressed by the authors.
- **Principle #6:** Indigenous socioeconomic systems that create and maintain sustainable livelihoods and strengthen local communities should be considered first before other systems.
- **Principle #8:** "Strengthen processes and institutions," (e.g., the family) because processes are normally institutionalized.
- **Principle #9:** "Reaffirm that ethnic groups have a vital" Words like "indigenous" and "tribal" may sound derogatory.
- **Principle #10:** "Affirm that gender equity," because gender is about equal opportunities rather than being equal.
- **Principle #11:** "Secure health for all," because general health is vital for all persons.
- **Principle #13:** This principle puts scientific knowledge above other knowledge. It does not provide for safeguarding of indigenous knowledge. It should read, "All relevant and qualified knowledge," as well as include recognition, qualification and documentation of indigenous knowledge.
- **Principle #14:** Take into consideration that the educational system we have is not designed in favor of our traditional systems and there is a need for an institutional change in this area.
- **Principle #15:** This principle is too broad; it needs clarification.
- **Principle #16:** This is too wholesome; it assumes that we are at the same level of economic development and environmental awareness. We need to sensitize ourselves on environmental matters and look for means of getting ourselves out of poverty.
- **Principle #17:** Our land owner tenure system does not match with this principle. A decision to protect and restore should be left to individual countries.
- **Principle #18:** The relevancy of this principle varies since it cannot be universal due to different economic status.

Resource List: Africa and the Middle East

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Asia and the Pacific Region

China

A small consultation was held in November 1998 on the working draft of Benchmark II (of October 1998). This consultation was chaired by Earth Council member Professor Sun Honglie. The following comments were taken from the report sent to the Earth Charter Secretariat.

- It should be more acceptable to integrate the concept of development into the whole charter from beginning to end. Survival and development are top priorities for most developing countries. Economic development can increase the capability to protect the environment. Ideally, there should be harmonious development between man and nature.
- The role of government in the panorama of sustainable development should be stressed. It should be a united action involving all parties in which government should be the principal body.
- The positive role of science and technology should be elaborated in the charter, and its role in increasing ecosystem regenerative capacity should be recognized.
- The charter should acknowledge the diversity of different development stages, and therefore focus on specific issues in different regions.
- The charter should encourage people's confidence and show a bright future, though arduous efforts have to be taken.
- The contents in the listed items are unbalanced in importance, and key issues amongst the items are not well identified.
- **Preamble:** "When life on Earth is being placed at risk" can be deleted because it is redundant.
- **Preamble:** Elaborate the positive role of science and technology as a second paragraph.
- **Principle #4:** Between c and d the following phrase should be added: "With science and technology have come great benefits and also the ability to do great harm."
- **Add an additional principle** between #8 and #9 stating, "Root science into policy-making, law formulating and planning processes and take advantage of technology advancement in implementation for an environmentally sound development."
- **Principle #12:** Add, "Recognize individual needs of different local communities for their surroundings."
- **Principle #13:** Add, "(a) Manage renewable resources to ensure their sustainability; (b) Use advanced technology and invest capital resources to increase ecosystem regenerative capacity."
- **Principle #14:** "Eliminate" should be replaced with "Minimize"; (a) "model" should be replaced with "integrated system."
- **Principle #20 (c):** Replace with, "Establish rational evaluation system."

India

Key Themes

1. Democracy as the vehicle for sustainability

- Gandhi's concepts based on Indian ethos and universal values was ignored and a constitution based on anti-people exploitative colonial institutions was adopted.
- True local empowerment under which local governments command resources and decision-making, not merely people's participation, is vital for sustainability.

2. Sovereign rights of the people

- Right to information, consultation through public hearings, participation and referendum. These are sovereign rights intrinsic to democracy.
- Contemporary democracy needs a new institution, a sovereign rights commission, with authority to direct referendums as conscience keeper of nation-states.

3. Human development

- Education should be recognised as the basic right of every human being.
- Population: need to maintain a natural balance in harmony with the natural environment.

4. Resource Management

- Land: controlled by local governments, managed by grassroots governments leased to individuals, a contemporary interpretation of traditional practices.
- Planning with nature: scientific regional planning with participation of local communities.
- Pollution: sound local planning and effective local enforcement.

Japan

The following comments are the results of a consultation held in Japan on the working draft for the Benchmark II document (of October 1998). This consultation was organized by Green Cross Japan's Earth Charter Committee.

General Comments:

- Use "simple is best" principles which is characteristic in Japanese culture, versus the Western emphasis on logic.
- If the Earth Charter is to be understood by the general public, it should be simple enough to be remembered and it should be directly connected to their daily lives.
- We propose laying stress on the concept of reflection throughout the document.

Comments on the text:

- **Preamble:** First paragraph, change the words "the heritage" to "the blessings."
- **Preamble:** What does "to care for Earth" mean? Change phrase to "to live in symbiosis with other lives."
- **Preamble:** Change to, "We must reconsider industrial-technological civilization deviating from the law of nature, re-creating to balance."
- **Preamble:** It is not clear what is an "inclusive ethical vision." Change to "promoting the idea of symbiosis with other lives on Earth." Add readiness to go forward, "with utmost courage and wisdom unexperienced so far in our history."
- **Principle #1:** Eliminate (a).
- **Principle #2:** Eliminate (a).
- **Principle #5:** Eliminate (a) and (b) because they go into too much detail.
- **Principle #6:** Emphasizes justice over environment. Eliminate (a), (b), (c), and (d).
- **Principle #7:** Change "adopting" to "creating."
- **Principle #8:** Change "economic development" to "eco-sound economic activities." Eliminate (a), (b), (c) and (d).

Philippines

The following key themes were synthesized by the Philippine Institute for Alternative Futures, following a consultation of Filipino NGOs in 1991. These key themes were eventually compiled to form the 1995 Filipino Contribution to the Earth Charter, which was presented and ratified by the Filipino government in 1995.

Key Themes

1. Stewardship of Nature

2. Enhancement of the Earth's Carrying Capacity

- Integration of ecology and economics
- Harmony between people and nature
- Conservation of biological diversity

3. Upholding Basic Rights

- Elimination of exploitation, violence and discrimination by ensuring fundamental human rights
- Ensure that everyone is given equal access to, and control over, resources and their benefits
- Respect and promote cultural uniqueness, diversity and heritage

4. Social, Gender and Generational Equity/Justice and Development

- Need to eradicate poverty
- Common and differentiated responsibilities of state, business and civil society for local and global common good
- Indigenous People's primary rights to their ancestral domain and participation

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Europe

Russia

The Russian National Center on Creation of the Earth Charter facilitated a consultation process in 1996. This process resulted in the development of the Experimental Draft of the Russian Earth Charter. The key elements articulated within this experimental draft are outlined below:

- **Life:** is materialized on Earth in biota – in the aggregate of all organisms.
- **Interrelations:**
 1. Between humans and biota
 2. In human development
 3. In balanced sustainable development
- **Sustainable Development:** All people enjoy the right to a sustainable and clean environment, the right of access to any procedure of his/her rights, freedoms and obligations. The right to pursue free social, economic, cultural and political development must be related to the inseparability of rights, freedoms and obligations toward the biosphere and biota of the Earth.
- **Foundation of Life:** Nonstandard development of the human community led to a contradiction between growth of economics, growth of population, and environment.
- **Population:** There is a need to elaborate a coordinated global demographic policy to assure a population level on Earth that observes the limitations of economic capacity of supporting ecosystems.
- **Economics:** New economics should regard the biosphere of the Earth not as accumulation of the resources of humankind, but as the foundation of life on Earth. This should assure that the increase in living standards does not exceed the accepted ecological limits.
- **Global Partnership**
 1. Of all states
 2. Democratic participation of people, communities states in decision-making
 3. Respect for the rights and cultures of small nations
 4. Realization of every person and group responsibility and participation in the developing socioeconomic crisis
- **Techno-Scientific Progress:** Should be re-oriented toward creation of energy, water and resources, creating environmentally clean products, recycling, purification of territories, technologies assuring health, and reducing global energy consumption.

Kamchatka Regional Version of the Earth Charter: comments

- The Regional Earth Charter must reflect interests of peace, nature and socio-economics, which are specific to Russia and the Kamchatka Region.
- The Regional Earth Charter must be a complex document, forming perspectives of sustainable development of Kamchatka in all major spheres: ecology, economy, social and political life.
- The Regional Earth Charter must be a document aimed at forming new ethics and a new philosophy of natural management, new relationships of society and individuals with nature.
- The Regional Earth Charter must give recommendations on building legal and economic mechanisms of implementation of its principles as well as mechanisms of motivation of people in these principle's implementation through observing their vital interests.
- The Regional Earth Charter must have great practical and ideological significance and to become the Document on high theoretical, educational and methodological level, providing for reliable guidelines in the process of orientation of all regions towards the principles of sustainable development of Humanity.
- The Regional Earth Charter must consider existing international and national conventions, agreements and other documents (and drafts) on this matter.

Uzbekistan

The following points are additional clauses proposed by the National Commission on Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan as a result of a consultation process on the working document for Benchmark II (of October 1998).

- **Principle #5:** Reword to say "To prevent and not compensate the damage to the environment."
- **Principle #5(b):** Add "to implement evaluation of the environmental impact and ecological tolerance of the territory."
- **Principle #6:** Reword to say "To defend, for the sake of equity, the right for a friendly environment and acceptable lifestyle, which can ensure optimal conditions for physical, intellectual and spiritual development."
- **Principle #10(a):** Add "To ban all experiments in genetic engineering which may be considered as anti-human and immoral."
- **Principle #11(b):** Add "To reduce radically all types of waste by its processing and re-use."
- **Principle #11(d):** Add "To recognize drinking water as a top priority resource."
- **Principle #11(e):** Add "To use non-exhaustible principles of agriculture."
- **Principle #17:** Add "To ensure participation of all people on Earth."
- **Principle #18:** Add "To ensure public rights for information access."
- **Principle #19:** Add "To ensure and support openness, honesty and accountability."
- **Principle #20:** Add "To acknowledge freedom of confession and knowledge for everyone."
- **Principle #22:** Add "To bring home this Declaration to every person on Earth. To recognize the vital importance of this Document for the protection and salvation of our planet."

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Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina

The following comments were translated from the Argentinean National Earth Charter Committee's report on the results of their consultation on Benchmark draft I.

General

- Separate and group what are ideas and principles from what are actions.
- The charter is a living document of action and awareness and it is necessary to carry out a change in paradigms. For this change of paradigm to take place we must walk on the path of love.

Preamble

- Remove "We are part of an evolving universe."
- Remove "Human beings have acquired the ability to radically alter the environment and evolutionary process." Add instead, "Human beings have radically altered the environment and its natural processes." Add a phrase about the situation of risk that we are now in, and that we will face in the future.
- Add to "The challenges before us require a change of paradigm through a compassionate ethic. Associations must be forged in new forms, promoting the cooperation of local, regional, bioregional, national and international levels.
- Need a better and more precise description of what situations constitute a risk of life.

Principles

- **Principle #4:** Reword to say, "Establish justice, and defend the rights of all people without exclusion of life, liberty and security, in an adequate environment for human health and spiritual well-being."
- **Principle #5:** Add "Share equitably the benefits of natural resource use, scientific development, technology, production."
- **Principle #7:** Reword to say, "Translate love into action, to eradicate violence in all forms, recognizing that peace is the wholeness."
- **Principle #9:** Replace "Reaffirm" with "Recognize" and remove second sentence.
- **Principle #10:** Replace "Affirm" with "Recognize."
- **Principle #11:** Remove "with a special concern for women and girls," and add "without any distinction."
- **Principle #12:** Reword beginning to say "Educate, promote, and create a consciousness within youth who are also responsible for change."
- Add two additional principles to say:
 1. "Value, respect and make good use of the wisdom of older persons."
 2. "Reevaluate the practical role that scientists, ancestors (etc.) have in sustainable development."

Bolivia

The following comments were translated from the report received from the Bolivian National Earth Charter Committee in November 1998. These comments demonstrate reactions towards the Benchmark I draft, as well as articulate fundamental principles that reflect Bolivian sentiment regarding the values of sustainable development and living.

Preamble

- “We give thanks for the heritage that we have received from past generations and embrace our responsibilities to present and future generations”: this is not an acceptable statement because the current crisis situation is a product of the actions of past generations. There exists a historical responsibility to assume an obligation between present and future generations.
- The preamble lacks the force to demand an obligation for change in both people and nations.

Principles

- The structure of the principles is a complicated mixing of concepts that do not coherently demonstrate the feelings essential to the Earth Charter.
- There is a lack of order in the relation of the principles to their thematic relevance.
- **Principle #2:** Does not reflect a true principle; the expression must arrive at a line of action and objective.
- **Principle #3:** The term “reproduction” does not correspond with modes of “production and consumption.” There is some confusion between whether the reference of this principle is toward the economy or population.
- **Principle #4:** Must eliminate the second part of this principle because it is too specific and does not mention the other human rights that one deserves.
- **Principle #6:** There is no need to differentiate between sustainable development and social development because sustainable development implies social development.
- **Principle #8:** Should better express more the line of action relating to this principle.
- **Principle #9:** This principle would have to be interpreted exclusively by other groups who have a transcendental role in the protection and care of the Earth, including traditional communities, not originators.
- **Principle #10:** Must substitute “gender equality” with “gender equity.”
- **Principle #11:** Must substitute the reference to children with “women of all ages.”
- **Principle #12:** Youth are not the only accountable agents of change. We must recognize the role of fundamental actors before making them accountable.
- **Principle #13:** This is not in the same form as the other principles. We must consider that science and technology must be in the service of sustainability, and can therefore better the quality of life.
- **Principle #14:** This is not a principle; without action there is no guarantee that sus-

tainable communities will be built. Knowledge and values are not sufficient; other types of resources are needed.

- **Principle #15:** The term “compassion” should be replaced with “be respectful.”
- **Principle #17:** Should not be a separate principle because it complements Principle #2.
- **Principle #18:** Should be the first principle because it constitutes the fundamental base of the Earth Charter.

Principles Highlighted

- **Shared Responsibility:** We must have a global alliance to fulfill the objectives of sustainability.
- **Integrity:** Politics must be interdisciplinary and multisectoral and incorporate economic, social, environmental and cultural dimensions.
- **Equity:** Intergenerational and gender equity, including future generations and equity between all humans.
- **Participation:** in democracy to guarantee that governments work toward sustainable development on local, regional and global levels.
- **Conservation:** This is necessary to guarantee the existence of our natural resources for future generations. It includes the preservation of our natural, cultural and historical heritage.
- **Interculturalness:** Consider our grand ethnic and cultural diversity.
- **Solidarity:** Express actions of cooperation and practice a dialogue to generate the synergy necessary to build a sustainable society.
- **Autodetermination:** Nations must be interdependent and contribute to the solutions of global problems that affect all systems.
- **Precaution:** Persons and nations have the obligation to prevent actions that cause harm. We must take precautionary measures and not wait for harm to be produced.
- **Peace and Security:** Both are needed to establish equilibrium in human relations and in nature.

Brazil

The Brazilian contribution to the Earth Charter was received in December 1998, in the format of a National Earth Charter, which reflects the Brazilian perspective toward the Earth Charter. The following points represent aspects of the Brazilian Charter which contains 19 principles.

1. Respect Earth and promote all manifestations of life. The Earth and all living beings possess an intrinsic value and dignity.
2. Recognize diversity as an expression of infinite wealth and the mystery of life.
3. Care for Earth, taking the responsibility to protect and restore biodiversity and the integrity of the planet's ecosystems.
4. Refuse all political, economical and cultural action that threatens the environment and human dignity. Demand action for damage caused.
5. Adopt a sustainable way of living, which ensures for present and future generations, peace, justice and development in a healthy environment.
6. Patterns of production and consumption are responsible for the extreme degradation of Earth. Human action must substitute these patterns for models of sustainable development, promoting the balance between conservation and development, while preserving nature and promoting social values.
7. Promote equity and social justice, decreasing difference of income and access to the planet's wealth, ensuring the right to education, knowledge, practical skills and work with dignity.
8. Affirm equilibrium in the equality and reciprocity between genders as requirements for humanity, which are incompatible with the criminal practices of the sexual trade.
9. Promote the participation of children, youth, women and local communities as agents of change, looking for global friendship, cooperation, solidarity, and bio-sustainability – that converge and generate a planetary citizenship.
10. Promote access to urban and rural land, eliminating the concentration of property and guaranteeing the social function of property.
11. Promote mechanisms and nets of solidarity and community cooperation, both nationally and internationally, which dignify human existence.
12. Promote democracy, the participation of civil society, justice and respect for human rights, which are necessary for the improvement of institutions.
13. Create conditions for all people to have access to a better quality of material, spiritual and psychological life conditions, including basic services of education, public health, mass transportation, suitable and dignified housing and nourishment because healthy living cannot exist without a healthy environment.
14. Always articulate social justice with ecological justice, which implies overcoming discrimination concerning gender, sexual choice, religion, ethnicity, illness and ideology, showing solidarity with those who suffer and with those who are excluded from society.

15. Recognize that Indigenous, black and other traditional peoples have knowledge that is vital in order to care for and protect Mother Earth, reassuring the right to their territories, culture, and spirituality and their sustainable forms of production.
16. Share equally the benefits and uses of natural resources as well as scientific technological development among nations.
17. Assure people's rights, especially those who have the largest reserves of biodiversity, concerning production of biotechnology and protection against bio-piracy (i.e. Illegal encroachment onto reserves) assuring respect of bio-ethics.
18. Strengthen the production and the dissemination of information, which allows for monitoring environmental conditions and indicators of human development with clarity and social control.
19. Create mechanisms of taxation of speculative capital within the industrial financial system and war industries in order to establish an international fund to support socio-environmental projects with objectives to eradicate poverty and promote cooperation among nations

Costa Rica

The following comments have been taken from the Costa Rica report defining the consultation results of the working document for Benchmark II (of October 1998) draft in November 1998.

Principles

- **Principles #1 and #2** are similar in essence. Either combine the two or make a stronger distinction between them.
- **Principle #1b:** Do not need to separate human dignity from human potential.
- **Principle #2a:** Disagree with the concept of a "human family."
- **Principle #3:** Before we can create a global partnership, we need to promote a partnership and understanding between all living things.
- **Principle #3a:** We do not agree with the usage of "Design and manage." Alternatively, use "Promote and guide."
- **Principle #4a:** The conservation of the biodiversity of air and a component about cultural diversity should be added to this principle.
- **Principle #5:** Add to this, "damage prevention and mitigation should be taken at the same time."
- **Principle #8c:** Must revise the concept of "unnecessary wants," because it is an ambiguous term and cannot be understood in this context.
- **Principle #9b:** Replace the concept "Empower," with "Give opportunities."
- **Principle #10:** Use "management of democracy" rather than "governability" and include private enterprise in this principle.
- **Principle #12:** Add "Do not conceive of motives that destruct living beings."
- **Principle #13:** We object to the use of "renewable resources." What does renewable mean? This must be more specific.
- **Principle #16:** Include "research" in the knowledge statement.
- **Principle #17:** Access to health care is a very broad concept and we think that it would be convenient to revise this principle to include the rights of the elder/older generations to health care.
- **Principle #18:** We object to the sentiment in this point. It is in contradiction with #11
- **Principle #20c:** The mechanisms mentioned must have more precision in their true environmental and social benefits; otherwise it just relates to market value.
- **Principle #21:** Perhaps this point would be better understood in the framework of "Next steps in our growing awareness...Let the Earth Charter ethic of peace..."

Principles of the Costa Rican Proposal

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Love
- Peace
- Equality
- Solidarity
- Consciousness
- Justice
- Tolerance
- Conservation

Cuba

Consultation Results and Suggestions:

The Cuban National Committee has given an extensive analysis of their position in regards to the values represented by the Earth Charter. They have proclaimed eight specific principles, which illustrate their position. Each principle is accompanied by an explanation, which outlines the specific interpretation of each principle. The following are highlights from these results.

- Foreword and background of the human condition and situation of the planet, stressing the importance of interdependence and issues/responsibilities of developed or industrialized countries versus developing countries.

Proclamations

- The necessity for a global alliance in view of the issues which are critical for all of humanity.
- The imperative need for equitable economic and social order.
- The unconditional respect for each nation's right to peace and sovereignty.
- The unavoidable need to eradicate poverty and improve standards of living.
- Respect for all forms of life.
- Changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns.
- Full recognition of economic, political and social rights and their relationship with the right to a healthy environment.
- Recognizing the participation of every social group to the decision-making processes and the roles played by the community.

Dominican Republic

The following highlights are from the Earth Charter National Consultation of the Benchmark I draft in the Dominican Republic in August 1998. This report contains information of the position of the Dominican Republic regarding the Earth Charter process.

- The committee notes the importance of “Promoting the development of an appropriate culture of values for natural resources and the environment, realizing their vital importance and economy through educational and informational programs.”
- **Principle #1:** Add “Respect life on Earth, our ocean, beaches.”
- **Principle #4:** Add the right to use natural resources equitably and rationally.
- **Principle #5:** Need a clearer idea of what sharing equitably, between rich and poor, the benefits of natural resources is. This principle must address the obligation of rich countries to maintain an environment of peace on the planet and improve the ecosystems.
- **Principle #9:** Add “peasant families and communities” to this principle.
- **Principle #13:** Should say, “Advance and put into practice.” In addition, the importance of traditional knowledge and local communities in caring for the Earth should be established.
- **Principle #16:** Reinforce the responsibility of responding to the harm caused to the Earth both directly and indirectly.

Values of Sustainable Development that Must Be Part of the Earth Charter

- Respect for and defense of the lives of all human beings, all nations, and all communities in equality of conditions
- Respect for the spirituality of communities and of our cultural identity
- Dignity (the human right to receive basic services of health care, nutrition, education and housing)
- Competitive worth
- Integration – coordination
- Equality of all types
- Equitable distribution of resources
- Social, civic, economic and environmental commitment and responsibility
- Cooperation
- Solidarity
- Justice
- Harmony in different levels of development
- Truth

El Salvador

The Salvadoran contribution to the Earth Charter was compiled in November 1998, after a consultation on the Benchmark draft I.

- **Principle #1:** This principle is relevant to Salvadoran society as society and family are connected. However in practice, how we are and how we must be, are different.
- **Principle #2:** This principle is a priority in El Salvador, however many do not recognize its importance.
- **Principle #3:** There is a lack of social co-responsibility in respect to the protection and preservation of the environment.
- **Principle #4:** Include the creation of governmental bodies at different levels (local, regional, national), support and development of more space for the participation of civil society and a call for the governmental sector to be conscientious.
- **Principle #5:** To be able to translate this principle into practice it is necessary to quantify our natural assets, and carry out a social distribution of these assets with a basis in a dialect of responsibility and rights.
- **Principle #6:** Consider the necessity of creating mechanisms that permit the distribution of resources, and the adjustment of the financial system to function in the development of the country.
- **Principle #7:** Consider the creation of mechanisms for dialogue and cohesion within society, for education in reconciliation and tolerance, for equality of all types with special respect to the child, and for the involvement of institutions and the government in civil society.
- **Principle #9:** This principle can be further developed to include the importance of respecting cultural diversity, valuing indigenous cultures, reviving and maintaining our historical memories and procuring support for indigenous communities with more territorial space and other facilities that can contribute to their preservation.
- **Principle #10:** Add the adjustment of education and cultural change to promote equality of all types.
- **Principle #13:** Address the facilitation of access to general information in developing countries, for our children and youth and the development of investigative research and technological development policy.
- **Principle #14:** There is a need to develop a total change in ways of thinking, to educate future generations.
- **Principle #15:** We must create a culture of protection and respect for nature in all its forms and legislation for protection of all species in danger, with the utmost speed.
- **Principle #16:** In order for this principle to be put into practice, laws must be developed, with policies and strategies, as well as educational programs and a change in responsibilities of all towards the environment.
- **Principle #18:** It is necessary to add solidarity, tolerance and altruism.

Mexico

The following comments were synthesized from the report sent from Mexico. These comments resulted from a consultation of Benchmark draft I, in October 1998, which included members of many different sectors of Mexican society: NGOs, government, private, and academic.

General comments

- It is important to give major emphasis to the right to education and access to information that is truthful, timely and impartial.
- There must be a democratization of means of communicating.
- There is a necessity for economic development and productive work respecting nature.
- Women require a special part within the charter, which is not just about reproduction but also about the equality of all types, including the equality of opportunities in professional development.
- We must eliminate all forms of discrimination with respect to sexual choice.
- We must add a principle about global justice, establishing the same rights for all human beings, the use of resources and the necessity assuming a different form of responsibilities between northern and southern countries.
- Economic growth from the perspective of sustainability is important.
- There must be coherence between what we say and what we do.

Principles

- **Principle #1:** Explicitly include environmental education
- **Principle #2:** Add "Intercede on behalf of environmental improvement."
- **Principle #7:** Add "Practice nonviolence, with special reference to women and children."
- **Principle #8:** It is not clear who is to determine who empowers the people to participate in decision-making.
- **Principle #9:** Change the word "Reaffirm."
- **Principle #11:** This is an important statement. However, it can contradict the beliefs and ideologies of particular people.
- **Principle #12:** Improve formal and informal environmental education.
- **Principle #13:** Include the establishment of natural protected areas.
- **Principles #14 and 16:** These need clarification.

Nicaragua

Earth Charter consultations were held in Nicaragua with representatives from approximately 34 indigenous communities and 14 youth organizations. The following points have been taken from this consultation report on Benchmark draft I.

Indigenous

- The Charter cannot be called "The Earth Charter." It should be called "The Charter of Our Mother Earth."
- Mother Earth is alive and has spirit, she suffers, and she feels wounds and damaging blows.
- The world has lost much moral value, but indigenous communities still have strong moral potential.
- Equality: We cannot look at this only on a horizontal perspective, where we are all equals in the human species. We must recognize that as human beings we have had different opportunities and visions in which some have abused others. Because there are the very rich, the poor and the very poor, when we talk about development we must talk about offering the most opportunities to the most poor, those within indigenous communities, with special concern for women and children.
- Justice: Governments do not respect our (indigenous) systems and applications of justice.
- Sustainability: The indigenous have lived sustainably. Through time we have sustainable technologies that have respected our lifestyle.
- This charter must not only be an international instrument of ethics, but also be constructed as a new form of conduct and life in relation to Mother Earth.

Youth

- Education: must be a major part of this important document.
- Solidarity: We consider that these ethical values must be integrated as a guide for each one of us as members of society.
- **Principle #1:** Create a humanity conscious of protection and love for the Mother Earth.
- **Principle #9:** Reword to say "Respect the culture of indigenous communities, maintaining their knowledge and promoting a sustainable level of education and health. Conserve the territories that have historically been occupied and used by them, as guardians who care for and protect Mother Earth."
- **Principle #11:** Eliminate "Women and children" and add "Youth and adolescents."
- **Principle #17:** Reword to say "Protect and restore places of outstanding ecological, cultural, aesthetic, spiritual and scientific value and all those that promote psychosocial development."
- Add "Promote the participation of youth as agents for responsible change in the sustainability of local, bioregional and regional areas."

- It is important to refer to the value of morality. We are all affected by the lack of moral value and how it impedes the modification of management of production and consumption.
- Add to Preamble: "We give thanks to those who one way or another contributed to the sustainable conservation of our natural resources."

Paraguay

A consultation process on the Earth Charter Benchmark I draft document took place in Paraguay between May and November 1998. The following points have been taken from the report submitted. The following is a list of values that are seen as priorities in Paraguayan society. They are arranged in order of importance.

- Justice
- Equity
- Respect
- Sustainability
- Cultural responsibility
- Sincerity
- Honesty
- Equality of opportunities
- Responsible participation
- Democracy
- Liberty
- Solidarity
- Women
- Childhood
- Confidence
- Humility

General Comments

- Review the concept of property of Earth.
- Overcome poverty with sustainable development.
- Register the wisdom of use of medicinal plants.
- Appeal to the armed forces to broadcast and disseminate information within their reach.
- Recognizing the importance of the education of children.
- Carry out joint institutional actions.

Peru

The following questions and comments were compiled by the Spiritual Consultative Council in the Andean Region of Peru. The consultation undertaken was on the Benchmark I draft.

Questions posed

- Is this Charter a Charter for all those who inhabit the Earth, or just for those in a certain sector?
- Who should formulate an "Earth Charter?" Who has the right, morals and ethics to create this Charter?

Preamble

- First paragraph: Add "The Earth, like Mother, is the genesis and all living being's home and we are part of an evolution in progress."
- Second paragraph: Add "Mother Earth is healing herself... We have made our world a home of the sufferings of excesses and the bad habits of humans. A change and a deep reorder are ethically, morally and spiritually imperative."
- Third paragraph: Add "The alternative is in us; to be humble and to recognize that we are the children of Mother Earth or participate in the destruction of the diversity of life."

Principles

- Include the word "Mother" when referring to Earth, say "Mother Earth."
- **Principle #1:** Reword to say "To respect the Earth as Mother and origin of all forms of life. Mother Earth and each form of life, including human life, has the same value as we have a common origin and this value must be respected independently of the utilitarian value that man imposes."
- **Principle #2:** Reword to say "Care for the Earth as the giver of all life and as our great home."
- **Principle #4:** Reword to say "To promote and practice justice, defending without discrimination the right, for all people, to life, responsible freedom, education, information and security, in a natural environment for health and well-being."
- **Principle #7:** Reword to say "To practice as a medium for reaching harmonious and -balanced relationships with oneself, with neighbors, with other forms of life and with Mother Earth."
- **Principle #10:** Reword to say "To combat all types of discrimination and assume gender equality as a prerequisite for human development and a sustainable environment."
- **Principle #11:** Omit in entirety

Venezuela

The national Earth Charter Committee for Venezuela has rewritten the Preamble and all 18 principles of the Benchmark I draft. The following points are highlights taken from these results.

Preamble

- The National Committee would like the Earth Charter to be renamed “Charter for the Earth,” because they feel that humanity cannot speak on behalf of the Earth.
- Reword to say “We are members of an interdependent community with a magnificent diversity of cultures.”
- Reword to say “Our world, affected by ecological devastation, violence, poverty and other suffering, demands definitive and essential changes.”
- Add “Each person must adopt a balance between themselves and their communities, as well as between having and being, unity and diversity, the short and long term, using and nurturing.”

Principles

- Reword to say “taking precautionary actions in case of risk of irreversible damage to the environment.” (**principle #2**)
- Remove “human health and spiritual well-being” **from principle #4**. Add “education and security” to the rights of all people.
- Rewrite **principle #10** as follows, “Oppose all types of discrimination and assume that equality is a prerequisite for reaching environmental sustainable development.”
- Eliminate **principle #11**, “Rights of sexual reproduction and health.”

WORKING DRAFT
THE LATIN-AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN EARTH CHARTER
CUIABÁ-MATO GROSSO, DECEMBER 13TH, 1998.

Mother Earth is alive and home to all living beings. In this perception emerges the dimension of what is sacred and this is manifested in attitudes of reverence, respect, and care which are fundamental to our lives.

The lack of foresight and the misuse of knowledge and power threaten the fabric of life and the foundations of local and global security.

We assume, as a universal initiative, the need to provoke a fundamental change in the attitudes, values and behaviors of human beings and of nations, which are destined to promote the adoption of sustainable life forms in order to better relationships between humans and humans and nature.

To face this challenge we must share the universal responsibility, being aware of our rights and responsibilities in a different manner.

These ethics will promote social, economic, political, environmental and cultural integrity, as foundations of sustainable development.

In solidarity with one another and the community of life, we the peoples of the world, commit ourselves to action guided by the following interrelated principles:

1-Respect

To the Earth, life, spirituality and cultural diversity.

2-Solidarity

To translate into practice support, cooperation, communication, and dialogue.

3-Equity

To eliminate inequalities through the democratization of opportunities, satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations and the overcoming of all types of discrimination.

4-Justice

To affirm the rights and responsibilities of humanity in all its diversity.

5-Participation

To strengthen democracy, guaranteeing the governability and facilitation of self-determination in all decision-making.

6-Peace and security

Not only in the absence of violence, but rather establishing an equilibrium in human relationships and relationships with the natural world.

7-Honesty

As the basis to support transparency and trust.

8-Conservation

To guarantee the existence of life, and Earth and the preservation of our natural, cultural and historical heritage.

9-Precaution

As the obligation to foresee, and take precautionary action where there is risk of irreversible or serious damage to the environment.

10- Love

As fundamental for a harmonious and caring relationship that fosters a commitment and responsibility to action.

Embracing the principles of this living Charter, we can grow in a family of cultures, which allows the development of all potentials for human beings in harmony with the community of the Earth. We must preserve an unbreakable faith in the possibilities of the human spirit and a deep sense of belonging to the universe. Our best actions will incorporate the integration of knowledge and compassion.

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Other Constituencies

Alliance for a Responsible and United World

The following suggested principles are the 1998 contributions forwarded by the Alliance for a Responsible and United World.

- To preserve humankind in its wealth and the planet in its integrity, diversity and unity must be conciliated at every level
- Recognition of others is the foundation of all relationships and all peace.
- The acceptance of the constraints entailed by the preservation of the common good is indispensable to the exercise of freedom.
- Material development is at the service of human development.
- Innovation is not an aim in itself, it is a means to serve human development and the safe-keeping of the planet.

Pacifica Graduate Institute

Summarized below are the responses and comments of the Pacifica Graduate Institute Community regarding the Earth Charter Benchmark I draft. These comments were received in the fall of 1998.

- There is a need to broaden the scope of the Earth Charter to reflect an even more holistic relationship between Earth, environment, and its people, giving more voice to the spiritual elements of the Earth Charter.
- The opening line is too human centered. It would make a stronger point to simply say "Earth is home to all living beings."
- The first sentence of the Earth Charter should draw us in to the truth of a deep inter-connectivity. We would rather start with a mythical sense of connecting us to time-less flux, respectful of endless cycles of life and death. "Earth is our Life and our Death. From earth, Life is given and to earth each life returns to death."
- Add a Declaration of Interdependence at the beginning of the charter.
- We want the Earth Charter document to do more than preach to the choir of people who believe in its principles, so we believe such a statement [as the U.S. Constitution's Preamble] of identity and purpose is needed up front. For example, "Human beings are members of an interdependent community of life."
- The Prelude does not make clear its primary principles. It could be revised framing it like a legislative statement of fact, listing old and new facts or truths, which are the basis for the subsequent list of "principles." Whereas, the earth is our home and home to all living beings. Whereas, human beings are members of a co-evolving and inter-

dependent community of life-forms with a magnificent diversity of species and ecosystems.

- A document of this magnitude should stand for the Ages. It needs language appropriate to its magnificence - an archetypal language, words that will live in the hearts and minds of people.
- The statement about gender equality [clause #10] alienates some culture and nationalities, while a more careful and grounded use of language might accomplish the ends we seek, for instance language that addresses the need for more receptivity and inclusiveness (feminine) and less aggressive (male) quick fixes.
- The text is written from a masculine perspective in which active 'doing verbs' (i.e., promote, practice, treat, share, establish, etc.) are emphasized over more passive or feminine verb forms (i.e., watch, wait, listen, pray, console, reflect, hold, nurture, sustain.")

The Spiritual Consultative Council

Since August 1996, when the Spiritual Consultative Council held its first Earth Charter Workshop, Indigenous Peoples have had a number of meetings and activities to contribute to the consultation and drafting process. The major outcomes of these activities and gatherings are the following:

- The message Indigenous Peoples want to share with other sectors is that human beings must learn how to walk in balance with Mother Earth and tread gently.
- In order to disseminate their message, Indigenous Peoples wish to take part in fulfilling the process of compensating the damage caused to Mother Earth, due to the unsound exploitation of natural resources. If the voices of Indigenous Peoples are not heeded, according to their revelations, the voices of natural elements will speak louder and disequilibrium will lead to graver natural catastrophes throughout the world.
- For Indigenous Peoples, natural resources are precious assets, but they do not only have an economic value. On the contrary, indigenous spirituality encompasses the belief that all forms of life have a soul and, therefore, must be respected.
- The aforementioned belief has guided Indigenous Peoples to be successful in developing mechanisms and techniques in harmony with their environment. They are currently producing educational material to be used not only by indigenous societies but also by other interested sectors. This material is expected to contribute to raising awareness regarding ecological problems. This includes sustainable practices, learning-teaching experiences and spiritual, ethical and cultural values and principles.
- The Earth Charter is a process which aims to establish basic principles to guarantee the respect for the environment in the current phase of development. This document, therefore, is in accordance with the ultimate and sacred purpose of protecting Mother Earth, especially because there is a strong link between the Planet and indigenous spirituality.

- The Earth Charter, if it is to be a genuine peoples' document, must include the opinion and beliefs of different sectors, including indigenous spiritual and cultural values, especially those related to regaining the balance of the Planet. Among others, the Charter must take into consideration the following concepts, according the holistic philosophy of Indigenous Peoples:
- For Indigenous Peoples, women symbolize Mother Earth and, therefore, are sacred. Like Mother Earth, they bring life to the world and it is for life itself that human beings should learn to live in balance, respecting creation.
- Mother Earth, therefore, is alive. The changes that she is suffering from, are consequences of the destruction of her natural resources and the environment.
- Biosphere is a modern scientific term which the Oxford Dictionary refers as "regions of the Earth's crust and atmosphere, occupied by living organisms". This concept is limited to living being on the surface of Mother Earth and some forms of energy within the atmosphere. For Indigenous Peoples, however, the biosphere includes other elements, such as the living mineral world, the spiritual dimension and other sources of energy which come from beyond the atmosphere.
- To achieve the main goals of the Earth Charter, Indigenous Peoples call for the establishment of **a global partnership, based on the respect of different approaches, including traditional science and technology, as well as on ethical principles, universal values and profound commitments.**

Those who live on and share the same planet, must firmly believe in the need of constituting a global community, a partnership in which a common objective is recognized and respected: to safeguard Earth for future generations. (Spiritual Consultative Council)

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Annex

1 Introduction to the Earth Charter Initiative and Benchmark Draft II

2 Earth Charter Benchmark Draft II (April 99)

3 Earth Charter Benchmark Draft I (March 97)

4 Working Document for E. C. Benchmark Draft II (October 98)

5 Participants List

The annex 5 shows the available list of participants in some of the Earth Charter consultations. Please note that this list is not inclusive of all participants and involved countries within the campaign.

Annex 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE AND BENCHMARK DRAFT II

For over a decade diverse groups throughout the world have endeavored to create an Earth Charter. Hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals have been involved in the process. Representatives from government and nongovernmental organizations worked to secure adoption of an Earth Charter during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. However, the time was not right. A new Earth Charter initiative was launched by the Earth Council and Green Cross International in 1994.

An Earth Charter Commission was formed in 1997 to oversee the project and the drafting of the Charter. The Secretariat for the Commission is at the Earth Council in Costa Rica. In March, 1997, at the conclusion of the Rio+5 Forum in Rio de Janeiro, the Earth Charter Commission issued the Benchmark Draft Earth Charter. The Commission also called for ongoing international consultations on the text of the document.

During 1997 and 1998 thirty-five national Earth Charter committees were formed, and numerous Earth Charter conferences were held. Comments and recommendations from all regions of the world were forwarded to the Earth Council and the Drafting Committee. Guided by these contributions to the consultation process, the text of the Charter has been extensively revised. In April, 1999, the Earth Charter Commission issued Benchmark Draft II. The consultation process will continue throughout 1999 in order to provide individuals and groups with a further opportunity to make contributions to the drafting process. The Commission is planning to issue a final version of the Earth Charter early in the year 2000.

Objectives of the International Earth Charter Campaign

- to promote a worldwide dialogue on shared values and global ethics;
- to draft an Earth Charter that sets forth a succinct and inspiring vision of fundamental ethical principles for sustainable development;
- to circulate the Earth Charter throughout the world as a people's treaty, promoting awareness, commitment, and implementation of Earth Charter values;
- to seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations General Assembly by the year 2002.

A Declaration of Interdependence and Principles for Sustainable Development

As indicated by the Preamble of Benchmark Draft II, the Earth Charter is a declaration of interdependence and responsibility and an urgent call to build a global partnership for sustainable development.

The principles of the Earth Charter are closely interrelated. Together they provide a conception of sustainable development and set forth fundamental guidelines for achieving it. These principles are drawn from international law, science, philosophy, religion, recent UN Summit meetings, and the international Earth Charter conversation on global ethics.

The goal of sustainable development is full human development and ecological protection. The Earth Charter recognizes that humanity's environmental, economic, social, cultural, ethical, and spiritual problems and aspirations are interconnected. It affirms the need for holistic thinking and collaborative, integrated problem solving. Sustainable development requires such an approach. It is about freedom, justice, participation, and peace as well as environmental protection and economic well-being.

The Design of the Earth Charter

Some groups would prefer a short Earth Charter that is a prayer or poem or a declaration with five to ten principles only. Others strongly favor a more substantial document that is more like an intergovernmental declaration.

In an effort to address these different concerns, the Drafting Committee has created a layered document with a Preamble, sixteen main principles, fifty-five supporting principles, and a conclusion. The principles are divided into four parts. Part I contains four General Principles, which can be used as a very short articulation of the Earth Charter vision. Part II (Ecological Integrity), Part III (A Just and Sustainable Economic Order), and Part IV (Democracy and Peace), contain a total of twelve additional main principles that follow from the General Principles.

The supporting principles offer clarification and elaboration of the ideas in the main principles. The fifty-five supporting principles provide an overview of the many issues that have been raised by various groups in the course of the international consultation process. Those who favor a very short Earth Charter would like to see the supporting principles significantly reduced in number or eliminated. Others feel passionately that the supporting principles are an essential part of the Charter because they make explicit the practical meaning of the main principles with reference to critical issues. The supporting principles are especially important to groups that feel marginalized and excluded from decision making processes.

A further thorough analysis of the structure of the Charter and of the place and function of the supporting principles is underway. A Commentary on the principles is being prepared.

Three Ways to Present the Earth Charter Vision

- Use the four General Principles only as a short version.
- Use the two-page Abbreviated Version with the full Preamble, the sixteen main principles only, and a conclusion.
- Use the full document with the Preamble, the main principles together with the supporting principles, and the conclusion, "A New Beginning."

A Tree of Life

One can also present the Earth Charter as a Tree of Life. The Preamble forms the roots. The four General Principles are the trunk. The twelve additional main principles are the primary branches. The supporting principles are additional branches. Different groups or local communities can add their own branches and leaves.

The Earth Charter Website

Explore the Earth Charter website for more information. www.earthcharter.org

An Evolving Document and An Opportunity to Participate

Over the past three years, the text of the Earth Charter has continued to evolve in response to the global dialogue that has produced it. The process of development and refinement continues. All are invited to join and contribute to the process. Comments and recommendations should be forwarded to the Earth Council, Fax(506) 255 21 97; E-mail: <earthcharter@ecouncil.ac.cr> or Earth Charter Drafting Committee, c/o Steven Rockefeller, P. O. Box 648, Middlebury, VT 05753 USA, Fax: 802-388-1951; E-mail: rockefel@middlebury.edu.

Annex 2

THE EARTH CHARTER **Benchmark Draft II, April 1999**

Preamble

In our diverse yet increasingly interdependent world, it is imperative that we, the people of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations. We are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny.

Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. The well-being of people and the biosphere depends upon preserving clean air, pure waters, fertile soils, and a rich variety of plants, animals and ecosystems. The global environment with its finite resources is a primary common concern of all humanity. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.

The Earth community stands at a defining moment. With science and technology have come great benefits and also great harm. The dominant patterns of production and consumption are altering climate, degrading the environment, depleting resources, and causing a massive extinction of species. A dramatic rise in population has increased the pressures on ecological systems and has overburdened social systems. Injustice, poverty, ignorance, corruption, crime and violence, and armed conflict deepen the world's suffering. Fundamental changes in our attitudes, values, and ways of living are necessary.

The choice is ours: to care for Earth and one another or to participate in the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life.

As a global civilization comes into being, we can choose to build a truly democratic world, securing the rule of law and the human rights of all women, men, and children. We can respect the integrity of different cultures. We can treat Earth with respect, rejecting the idea that nature is merely a collection of resources to be used. We can realize that our social, economic, environmental, and spiritual problems are interconnected and cooperate in developing integrated strategies to address them. We can resolve to balance and harmonize individual interests with the common good, freedom with responsibility, diversity with unity, short term objectives with long term goals, economic progress with the flourishing of ecological systems.

To fulfill these aspirations, we must recognize that human development is not just about

having more, but also about being more. The challenges humanity faces can only be met if people everywhere acquire an awareness of global interdependence, identify themselves with the larger world, and decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life will be strengthened if we live with reverence for the sources of our being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in the larger scheme of things.

Having reflected on these considerations, we recognize the urgent need for a shared vision of basic values that will provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. We, therefore, affirm the following principles for sustainable development. We commit ourselves as individuals, organizations, business enterprises, communities, and nations to implement these interrelated principles and to create a global partnership in support of their fulfillment.

Together in hope, we pledge to:

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. *Respect Earth and all life,*

recognizing the interdependence and intrinsic value of all beings;

affirming respect for the inherent dignity of every person and faith in the intellectual, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.

2. *Care for the community of life in all its diversity,*

accepting that responsibility for Earth is shared by everyone;

affirming that this common responsibility takes different forms for different individuals, groups, and nations, depending on their contribution to existing problems and the resources at hand.

3. *Strive to build free, just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful societies,*

affirming that with freedom, knowledge, and power goes responsibility and the need for moral self-restraint;

recognizing that a decent standard of living for all and the quality of relations among people and with nature are the true measure of progress.

4. *Secure Earth's abundance and beauty for present and future generations,*

accepting the challenge before each generation to conserve, improve, and expand their natural and cultural heritage and to transmit it safely to future generations;

acknowledging that the benefits and burdens of caring for Earth should be shared fairly between present and future generations.

II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5. *Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain and renew life.*

1. *Make ecological conservation an integral part of all development planning and implementation.*
2. *Establish representative and viable nature and biosphere reserves, including wild lands, sufficient to maintain Earth's biological diversity and life-support systems.*
3. *Manage the extraction of renewable resources such as food, water, and wood in ways that do not harm the resilience and productivity of ecological systems or threaten the viability of individual species.*
4. *Promote the recovery of endangered species and populations through in situ conservation involving habitat protection and restoration.*
5. *Take all reasonable measures to prevent the human-mediated introduction of alien species into the environment.*

6. *Prevent harm to the environment as the best method of ecological protection and, when knowledge is limited, take the path of caution.*

1. *Give special attention in decision making to the cumulative, long-term, and global consequences of individual and local actions.*
2. *Stop activities that threaten irreversible or serious harm even when scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive.*
3. *Establish environmental protection standards and monitoring systems with the power to detect significant human environmental impacts, and require environmental impact assessments and reporting.*
4. *Mandate that the polluter must bear the full cost of pollution.*
5. *Ensure that measures taken to prevent or control natural disasters, infestations, and diseases are directed to the relevant causes and avoid harmful side effects.*

6. *Uphold the international obligation of states to take all reasonable precautionary measures to prevent transboundary environmental harm.*
7. *Treat all living beings with compassion, and protect them from cruelty and wanton destruction.*

III. A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC ORDER

8. *Adopt patterns of consumption, production, and reproduction that respect and safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.*
 1. *Eliminate harmful waste, and work to ensure that all waste can be either consumed by biological systems or used over the long-term in industrial and technological systems.*
 2. *Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy and other resources, and reduce, reuse, and recycle materials.*
 3. *Rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as the sun, the wind, biomass, and hydrogen.*
 4. *Establish market prices and economic indicators that reflect the full environmental and social costs of human activities, taking into account the economic value of the services provided by ecological systems.*
 5. *Empower consumers to choose sustainable products over unsustainable ones by creating mechanisms such as certification and labeling.*
 6. *Provide universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.*
9. *Ensure that economic activities support and promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.*
 1. *Promote the equitable distribution of wealth.*
 2. *Assist all communities and nations in developing the intellectual, financial, and technical resources to meet their basic needs, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life.*
10. *Eradicate poverty, as an ethical, social, economic, and ecological imperative.*
 1. *Establish fair and just access to land, natural resources, training, knowledge, and credit, empowering every person to attain a secure and sustainable livelihood.*
 2. *Generate opportunities for productive and meaningful employment.*
 3. *Make clean affordable energy available to all.*

4. *Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and respect their right to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.*
 5. *Relieve developing nations of onerous international debts that impede their progress in meeting basic human needs through sustainable development.*
- 11. Honor and defend the right of all persons, without discrimination, to an environment supportive of their dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being.**
1. *Secure the human right to potable water, clean air, uncontaminated soil, food security, and safe sanitation in urban, rural, and remote environments.*
 2. *Establish racial, religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic equality.*
 3. *Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources and to their related practice of traditional sustainable livelihoods.*
 4. *Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and judicial procedures, including redress and remedy, that enable all persons to enforce their environmental rights.*
- 12. Advance worldwide the cooperative study of ecological systems, the dissemination and application of knowledge, and the development, adoption, and transfer of clean technologies.**
1. *Support scientific research in the public interest.*
 2. *Value the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.*
 3. *Assess and regulate emerging technologies, such as biotechnology, regarding their environmental, health, and socioeconomic impacts.*
 4. *Ensure that the exploration and use of orbital and outer space supports peace and sustainable development.*

IV. DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

- 13. Establish access to information, inclusive participation in decision making, and transparency, truthfulness, and accountability in governance.**
1. *Secure the right of all persons to be informed about ecological, economic, and social developments that affect the quality of their lives.*
 2. *Establish and protect the freedom of association and the right to dissent on matters of environmental, economic, and social policy.*
 3. *Ensure that knowledge resources vital to people's basic needs and development remain accessible and in the public domain.*
 4. *Enable local communities to care for their own environments, and assign respon-*

sibilities for environmental protection to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively.

5. Create mechanisms that hold governments, international organizations, and business enterprises accountable to the public for the consequences of their activities.

14. Affirm and promote gender equality as a prerequisite to sustainable development.

1. Provide, on the basis of gender equality, universal access to education, health care, and employment in order to support the full development of every person's human dignity and potential.
2. Establish the full and equal participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political, and social life.

15. Make the knowledge, values, and skills needed to build just and sustainable communities an integral part of formal education and lifelong learning for all.

1. Provide youth with the training and resources required to participate effectively in civil society and political affairs.
2. Encourage the contribution of the artistic imagination and the humanities as well as the sciences in environmental education and sustainable development.
3. Engage the media in the challenge of fully educating the public on sustainable development, and take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by advanced information technologies.

16. Create a culture of peace and cooperation.

1. Seek wisdom and inner peace.
2. Practice nonviolence, implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict, and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve conflict.
3. Teach tolerance and forgiveness, and promote cross cultural and interreligious dialogue and collaboration.
4. Eliminate weapons of mass destruction, promote disarmament, secure the environment against severe damage caused by military activities, and convert military resources toward peaceful purposes.
5. Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by balanced and harmonious relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.

A New Beginning

As never before in human history, common destiny beckons us to redefine our priorities and to seek a new beginning. Such renewal is the promise of these Earth Charter principles, which are the outcome of a worldwide dialogue in search of common ground and shared values. Fulfillment of this promise depends upon our expanding and deepening the global dialogue. It requires an inner change--a change of heart and mind. It requires that we take decisive action to adopt, apply, and develop the vision of the Earth Charter locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Different cultures and communities will find their own distinctive ways to express the vision, and we will have much to learn from each other.

Every individual, family, organization, corporation, and government has a critical role to play. Youth are fundamental actors for change. Partnerships must be forged at all levels. Our best thought and action will flow from the integration of knowledge with love and compassion.

In order to build a sustainable global community, the nations of the world must renew their commitment to the United Nations and develop and implement the Earth Charter principles by negotiating for adoption a binding agreement based on the IUCN Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development. Adoption of the Covenant will provide an integrated legal framework for environmental and sustainable development law and policy.

We can, if we will, take advantage of the creative possibilities before us and inaugurate an era of fresh hope. Let ours be a time that is remembered for an awakening to a new reverence for life, a firm commitment to restoration of Earth's ecological integrity, a quickening of the struggle for justice and empowerment of the people, cooperative engagement of global problems, peaceful management of change, and joyful celebration of life. We will succeed because we must.

Annex 3

Earth Charter Benchmark Draft, 18 March 1997

Earth is our home and home to all living beings. Earth itself is alive. We are part of an evolving universe. Human beings are members of an interdependent community of life with a magnificent diversity of life forms and cultures. We are humbled before the beauty of Earth and share a reverence for life and the sources of our being. We give thanks for the heritage that we have received from past generations and embrace our responsibilities to present and future generations.

The Earth Community stands at a defining moment. The biosphere is governed by laws that we ignore at our own peril. Human beings have acquired the ability to radically alter the environment and evolutionary processes. Lack of foresight and misuse of knowledge and power threaten the fabric of life and the foundations of local and global security. There is great violence, poverty, and suffering in our world. A fundamental change of course is needed.

The choice is before us: to care for Earth or to participate in the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life. We must reinvent industrial-technological civilization, finding new ways to balance self and community, having and being, diversity and unity, short-term and long-term, using and nurturing.

In the midst of all our diversity, we are one humanity and one Earth family with a shared destiny. The challenges before us require an inclusive ethical vision. Partnerships must be forged and cooperation fostered at local, bioregional, national and international levels. In solidarity with one another and the community of life, we the peoples of the world commit ourselves to action guided by the following interrelated principles:

1. Respect Earth and all life. Earth, each life form, and all living beings possess intrinsic value and warrant respect independently of their utilitarian value to humanity.
2. Care for Earth, protecting and restoring the diversity, integrity, and beauty of the planet's ecosystems. Where there is risk of irreversible or serious damage to the environment, precautionary action must be taken to prevent harm.
3. Live sustainably, promoting and adopting modes of consumption, production and reproduction that respect and safeguard human rights and the regenerative capacities of Earth.

4. Establish justice, and defend without discrimination the right of all people to life, liberty, and security of person within an environment adequate for human health and spiritual well-being. People have a right to potable water, clean air, uncontaminated soil, and food security.
5. Share equitably the benefits of natural resource use and a healthy environment among the nations, between rich and poor, between males and females, between present and future generations, and internalize all environmental, social and economic costs.
6. Promote social development and financial systems that create and maintain sustainable livelihoods, eradicate poverty, and strengthen local communities.
7. Practice non-violence, recognizing that peace is the wholeness created by harmonious and balanced relationships with oneself, other persons, other life forms, and Earth.
8. Strengthen processes that empower people to participate effectively in decision-making and ensure transparency and accountability in governance and administration in all sectors of society.
9. Reaffirm that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples have a vital role in the care and protection of Mother Earth. They have the right to retain their spirituality, knowledge, lands, territories and resources.
10. Affirm that gender equality is a prerequisite for sustainable development.
11. Secure the right to sexual and reproductive health, with special concern for women and girls.
12. Promote the participation of youth as accountable agents of change for local, bioregional and global sustainability.
13. Advance and put to use scientific and other types of knowledge and technologies that promote sustainable living and protect the environment.
14. Ensure that people throughout their lives have opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values, and practical skills needed to build sustainable communities.
15. Treat all creatures with compassion and protect them from cruelty and wanton destruction.
16. Do not do to the environment of others what you do not want done to your environment.

17. Protect and restore places of outstanding ecological, cultural, aesthetic, spiritual, and scientific significance.
18. Cultivate and act with a sense of shared responsibility for the well-being of the Earth Community. Every person, institutions and government has a duty to advance the indivisible goals of justice for all, sustainability, world peace, and respect and care for the larger community of life.

Embracing the values in this Charter, we can grow into a family of cultures that allows the potential of all persons to unfold in harmony with the Earth Community. We must preserve a strong faith in the possibilities of the human spirit and a deep sense of belonging to the universe. Our best actions will embody the integration of knowledge with compassion.

In order to develop and implement the principles in this Charter, the nations of the world should adopt as a first step an international convention that provides an integrated legal framework for existing and future environmental and sustainable development law and policy.

Annex 4

Earth Charter (Working Draft for Benchmark Draft II – October 1998)

Preamble

At this unprecedented time of opportunity and danger, when life on Earth is being placed at risk, it is imperative that we, the People of Earth, declare our interdependence with and responsibilities to each other, the larger community of life, and the evolving universe. In the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms, we are one humanity and one Earth community with a common future.

Planet Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. With reverence for the sources of our being, we give thanks for the gift of life. We affirm that Earth's life support systems and resources are the common heritage of all and a sacred trust. Ensuring a healthy and beautiful Earth with clean air, pure waters, fertile lands, expansive forests, and plentiful oceans is a basic common interest of humanity.

The Earth community stands at a defining moment. With science and technology have come great benefits and also the ability to do great harm. Our patterns of production and consumption are degrading the environment, exhausting resources, and driving whole species to extinction. A dramatic increase in human numbers adds to the pressure on ecological systems. Injustice, inequitable disparities, poverty, lawlessness, and armed conflict deepen the world's suffering. The foundations of global security are threatened. Fundamental changes in our ways of living and relating are necessary.

The choice is ours: to care for Earth and one another or to participate in the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life. Our priorities must be redefined, building on the work that has already begun. We resolve to find new more just and sustainable ways of balancing self-interest and the common good, diversity and unity, freedom and responsibility, the economy and ecology, the needs of present and of future generations. In the quest for wholeness and happiness, having more is no substitute for being more--expanding ourselves intellectually, aesthetically, ethically, and spiritually.

The securing of human rights for all men and women is the foundation of freedom and justice and a prerequisite to creating socially and ecologically responsible communities. The realization of human rights and the protection of the biosphere are interdependent.

A shared ethical framework that is inclusive and integrated is urgently needed to guide deliberation and decision. Therefore, together in hope, and in solidarity with the community of life, we affirm the following principles and pledge ourselves to work for their implementation through individual, institutional, and collective efforts.

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Respect Earth and all life.
 - a) Recognize the interdependence and intrinsic value of all beings.
 - b) Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the human potential.
2. Care for Earth's community of life in all its diversity.
 - a) Accept the common responsibility to preserve and advance the common good, promoting the well-being of the planet and the whole human family, and
 - b) Let each individual, group, and nation embrace those distinct responsibilities that are rightfully theirs and that they have the means to fulfill.
3. Create a global partnership and secure justice, peace, and Earth's abundance and beauty for present and future generations.
 - a) Design and manage human affairs so that the Earth community as a whole is able to meet its basic needs now and in the future.
 - b) Be mindful that increased knowledge, power, and freedom bring increased responsibilities.

II. ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL FUNDAMENTALS

4. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems.
 - a) Conserve the biodiversity of land and sea, including the genetic diversity within species and the variety of ecosystems.
 - b) Conserve the ecological processes that sustain and renew life, ensuring the long-term biotic regulation of these processes.
 - c) Promote the recovery of endangered species and populations, and protect and restore their natural habitats.

- d) Establish systems of interconnected nature reserves, including wilderness areas, and other management systems to protect Earth's biodiversity, life support systems, and evolutionary processes.
5. Prevent harm to the environment, and when knowledge is limited, err on the side of caution.
- a) Stop activities that involve a threat of irreversible or serious harm even when scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive.
 - b) Give special attention in decision making to the cumulative, long-term, and global consequences of individual and local actions.
 - c) Recognize that even though attempts to remedy or compensate for harm are necessary, they are not a substitute for prevention.
6. Establish and defend the right of all persons to an environment supportive of their dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being.
- a) Secure the human right to potable water, clean air, uncontaminated soil, and food security.
 - b) Promote gender equality together with racial, religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic equality as a prerequisite to environmental justice and sustainable human development.
 - c) Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, and serve those who suffer.
 - d) Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources and their related traditional sustainable practices.
7. Live sustainably by adopting patterns of consumption, production, and reproduction that respect and safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community rights.
- a) See Part III, Guidelines for Implementing Sustainability.
8. Ensure that economic goals and the means of attaining them support and promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.
- a) Eradicate poverty, generate productive and meaningful employment, strengthen local communities, and improve the quality of life by means of sustainable development.
 - b) Seek to make access to Earth's resources fair and just for all.
 - c) Reduce unnecessary wants and promote the equitable distribution of wealth.

9. Make the knowledge, values, and skills needed to build just and sustainable communities an integral part of formal education and lifelong learning for all.
 - a) Recognize and encourage the contribution of the artistic imagination and the humanities as well as the sciences in environmental education and sustainable development.
 - b) Empower men and women at the local level through education.
10. Support and establish access to information, inclusive democratic participation in decision making, and transparency, truthfulness, and accountability in governance.
 - a) Enable local communities to care for their own environments, and assign responsibilities for environmental protection to the levels of government where they can be carried out effectively.
 - b) Assure the freedom of association and the right to dissent on matters of environmental and social policy.
 - c) Construct systems of world public accountability for transnational corporations, regional and international organizations, and governments.
11. Practice nonviolence and be an instrument of peace.
 - a) Create a culture of peace and cooperation with integrated strategies to prevent violent conflict.
 - b) Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by harmonious and balanced relationships with oneself, other persons, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.
12. Treat all living beings with compassion, and protect them from cruelty and wanton destruction.

III. GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABILITY

13. Do not use renewable resources such as water, soils, forests, grasslands, and fisheries in ways that exceed the regenerative capacity of ecological systems.
14. Eliminate harmful waste and other sources of pollution.
 - a) Regard nature as a model, and ensure that any waste material can be either consumed by biological systems or used over the long-term in technical systems.
 - b) Redesign the life cycle of products, reduce the resources used, reuse, and recycle.

- c) Do not introduce into the air, water, or soil wastes and substances that exceed the assimilation capacity of ecological systems.
 - d) Do not allow concentrations of substances in the environment that endanger the health of human beings and ecosystems.
15. Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as the sun, the wind, and biomass.
 16. Advance and put to use knowledge and technologies that facilitate sustainable living and environmental protection.
 - a) Help to make new ecological knowledge and beneficial technologies available to people throughout the world, strengthening local capacity for sustainability.
 17. Provide, on the basis of gender equality, universal access to health care, and secure the right to sexual and reproductive health, with special concern for women and girls.
 18. Do not do to the environment of others what you do not want done to your environment.
 - a) Strengthen and enforce international and national law requiring that states take all reasonable measures to prevent activities under their jurisdiction and control from causing transboundary environmental harm.
 - b) Prevent transfer of environmentally harmful activities or hazardous materials from one community or nation to another.
 19. Eliminate weapons of mass destruction, promote disarmament, and secure the environment against irreversible or severe damage caused by military activities.
 20. Create mechanisms and procedures that promote environmentally sound and socially responsible decision making in all sectors of society.
 - a) Adopt local, national, regional, and international sustainability strategies.
 - b) Promote interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration.
 - c) Establish market prices and economic indicators that reflect the full environmental and social costs of human activities.
 - d) Implement environmental impact assessments.
 - e) Create and respect environmental protection standards.
 - f) Monitor human environmental impacts and changes in environmental quality.
 - g) Share and disseminate information on best practices.

21. Let the Earth Charter ethic of peace, equity, and prevention of harm govern the exploration and use of orbital and outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies.

The creative possibilities before us are great. Our task is the reinvention of industrial-technological civilization and the peaceful management of change. The challenge is ethical and spiritual as well as scientific and technical. A commitment of both minds and hearts is needed. Our best thought and action will flow from the joining of knowledge and compassion.

The engagement of individuals as well as governments is of fundamental importance. The arts, business, the media, the religions, the schools, the sciences, other non-governmental organizations, and all civil society, including families and youth, have essential roles to play. Progress will require imaginative holistic thinking, a spirit of sharing and mutual support, and a willingness to make sacrifices for the larger good.

Our hope for the future is strengthened by the lives of the many men and women in all nations who in cities, towns, and agricultural communities are leading the way. Embracing the values in this People's Earth Charter, we can grow into a family of diverse cultures and vibrant communities that allows the full potential of all persons to blossom in harmony with the Earth community and the ever-changing universe.

In order to develop and implement the principles in this Charter, the nations of the world should adopt as a first step an international convention that provides an integrated legal framework for existing and future environmental and sustainable development law and policy.

Annex 5

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- CEPB/Private sector
- HUMAN RIGHTS PERMANENT ASSEMBLY
- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
- LEGISLATIVE POWER, Sustainable Development Commission,
- LIDEMA, Environment NGO
- MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS;
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION
- WOMEN PLATFORM

Brasil

- ALMEIDA, Rosangela, Goias/OAB
- ALVARENGA, María Auxiliadora, Minas Gerais Commission
- AZEVEDO, Sarah, Parana Commission
- BOFF, Leonardo, Río de Janeiro
- CAETANO, Expedita, São Paulo
- CAMARGO, Aspasia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- CARIM ANTONIO, Adalberto, Justice Tribunal of Amazon
- COLARES, Marco Antonio, O.A.B. Federal/Ceará Commission
- FERRAZ, Luciana, Terrauna Group/Brahma Kumaris/ São Paulo
- GADOTTI, Moacir, Paulo Freire Institute
- GOMES DOS SANTOS, Samuel, Human Rights Com./Mato Grosso do Sul
- HEEP, Zilda, Institute Cristal Universal
- LEONARDOS, Othon, District Federal Commission
- MALDONADO, Carlos, Creatio Institute, Com. State of Mato Grosso
- QUEIROGA, Emilia, State Commission, Minas Gerais
- SANTIAGO GUERRA FILHO, Willis, Commission State Ceará
- SOUZA NETO, Paulo, Goias Commission
- SZEMERE, Juan Ivan, Terrauna Group

Costa Rica

- ARAYA, Lizbeth, Student-UCR
- BARQUERO, Karla, Student- UCR
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- CASTILLO, Vilma, Ministerio de Educación, Comisión de Educación para la Paz y Medio Ambiente
- JIRON, Nikol, Student- UCR
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- LUJAN, Viviana, Student- UCR
- MATA, Alejandrina, UCR
- MAY, Roy, Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana
- MONTERO DIEN, Victor, Architect
- RAMIREZ, Elisabeth, Universidad Nacional
- ROJAS, Emile, Federación Costarricense de Organizaciones Ambientales-FECON
- UGALDE, Reynaldo, Ministerio de Educación Pública, Dep. de Educ. Ambiental
- ZUÑIGA, María Eugenia, Universidad Estatal a Distancia, Prog. De Educación Ambiental Comunitaria
- SOLERA, Eric, Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes

Dominican Republic

- RODRÍGUEZ, María Alt., Oficina Nacional de Planificación (ONAPLAN)
- TOLENTINO, LUIS, Dept- Inventario de Recursos Naturales, Subsecretaría Recursos Naturales, Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura.
- POLANCO, Dominga, Dep. Vida Silvestre, Subsecretaria Recursos Naturales, Secretaria de Estado de Agricultura.
- TRONCOSO M., Bolívar, Secretaria de Estado de Turismo
- BÁEZ, José Enrique, Plan Nacional Quisqueya Verde
- VALENZUELA, Yocasta, Secretaria de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores
- ALVAREZ, Moisés, Capacidad 21
- DE JESÚS, Indhira, Oficina Seguimiento Cumbres Mundiales
- TATIS, Rolando, Corporación Dominicana de Electricidad (CDE)
- SÁNCHEZ, Rosa, Universidad APEC
- RODRÍGUEZ, Milagros, Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE)
- ESPINAL, Aida, Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)
- HENRÍQUEZ, Ana Mercedes, INTEC-ECOLÓGICO - IDIBIO
- CAMILO, Grisell Pilar, INTEC-ECOLÓGICO
- MILLARD, María Teresa, INTEC-ECOLÓGICO
- MORILLO, Francisca Ant., Colegio Infantil La Escuelita
- MIR, Celeste, Instituto Dominicano de Investigaciones Biológicas-Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
- GIRÓN, Royster, Fundación Ecológica Renacer
- CANELA, Rómulo, Junta para la Protección y Desarrollo de la Cuenca del Río Yaque del Norte (JUNTAYAQUE)
- BATISTA CRUZ, Andrea, JUNTAYAQUE
- ARIAS, Nancy, JUNTAYAQUE
- ABREÚ, Ana Hilda, JUNTAYAQUE
- PERALTA, Margarita, Instituto Dominicano de Tecnología Industrial (INDOTEC)

El Salvador

- BORG B. Enrique Dr., Vicepresidencia de la República, Consejo Nacional para el Desarrollo Sostenible
- NAVAS, Zoila Milagro, Presidenta de la Corporación de Municipalidades de la República de El Salvador, COMURES y CNDS
- VILLACORTA, Adolfo, Lic., Presidente del Fondo Ambiental de El Salvador
- CUCHILLAS, Orfilio, Confederación Salvadoreña de Cooperativas de R.L.
- MACHUCA, José Rafael, Comisión de Salud y Medio Ambiente de la Asamblea Legislativa y CNDS
- GAMERO, Julio Dr., Comisión de Salud y Medio Ambiente Asamblea Legislativa
- ENRÍQUEZ, Alberto, Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo FUNDE

- HERNÁNDEZ, Alma Dinora, Foro de Mujeres para la Integración Centroamericana
- AGUILAR, María Eugenia, Instituto para el Rescate Ancestral Indígena Salvadoreño, RAIS
- SACA, Antonio, Secretario Ejecutivo de la Asociación Salvadoreña de Radiodifusión ASDER
- PÉREZ, Oscar Antonio, Asociación de Radios y Programas Participativos de El Salvador ARPAS
- DE TESAK, Ildiko, Dra., Organización Empresarial Femenina
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- De MEJIA, Teresa, Directora del Instituto de Protección al Menor
- GALICIA, Roberto, Presidente, Centro Nacional para la Cultura y el Arte CONCULTURA
- SERMEÑO; Mauricio, Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña UNES
- DÍAZ, Francisco, Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho FESPAD
- CAMPOS, Adalberto Elías, Director General de Educación Superior, Ministerio de Educación.
- BARRERA de MORALES, Lourdes, Secretaria Ejecutiva del Consejo Nacional de Atención Integral a la Personas con Discapacidades.
- HUEZO, Raul, Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Sostenible

Mexico

- MEDELLÍN, Enriqueta, Servicios de Educación Ambiental
- GUZMAN, Miguel Angel, Consejo Regional del Café de Coatepec A.C.
- SIUROB, María del Carmen, Centro de Información Ambiental
- MOROSINI, Francisco, Dirección General de Asuntos Ecológicos del Estado de Veracruz
- DE LA GARZA, Julián, Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Obras Públicas, Subsecretaria de Ecología, Gobierno del Estado de Nuevo León.
- MENDOZA; José Antonio, Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Rural
- FLORES, Antonio, Poder Ejecutivo del Estado de Mexico, Secretaria de Desarrollo Social y Protección Ambiental.
- JIMÉNEZ BACA, Héctor, Gobierno del Estado de Mexico, Secretaria de Ecología.
- -Comisión Estatal de Parques Naturales y de la Fauna
- PÉREZ, Sergio, Secretaría de Infraestructura, Medio Ambiente y Pesca. Dirección Forestal y de Fauna.
- GARCÍA MERAZ, Raúl, Ingeniería Ambiental Consultores S.A. de C.V.
- SANDOVAL, Jesús, Atlaz S.A. de C.V.
- REYNA V., Gilberto, Panatronic
- CAMPUZANO T., Victor, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- RODRÍGUEZ T., Rubén, UPAEP

- BURGUEÑO L., Fausto, Centro de Ciencias de Sinaloa
- PAREDES R., Silvia Ruth,
- ORTIZ REYNA, David
- ZEROMSKI, ANDRZEJ, Universidad de Guadalajara

Venezuela

- BENITEZ, Aimee, Environment Movement Member
- BUENAÑO, Gilberto, Centre of Integral Environmental Studies, Central University of Venezuela, Researcher
- FERREIRA, Clara, Green Cross Venezuela
- GONZÁLEZ, Eduardo, National Council of Technological and Scientific Research
- JIMÉNEZ, Jesús, Indigenous Parliament of America
- MARTINEZ, Alejandro, PARLAMAZ
- MUSSO, Judith, General Director, Development Office and International Relations (ODEPRI)
- NEHLIN, Sven, Vice-President, Venezuelan Association of Palm.
- RODRÍGUEZ, Mireya, Green Cross Venezuela
- RODRÍGUEZ, Alejandro, La Salle Natural Science Society.

Uruguay

- PAÉZ VILARO, Carlos, Artist
- RADA, Rubén, Musician
- BENEDETTI, Mario, Writer
- ZORRILLA, China, Actress
- FRANCESCOI, Enzo, Athlete
- TALICE, Rodolfo, Professor
- ARANA, Mariano, Intendente de Montevideo
- BATALLA, Hugo, Vicepresidente de la República
- CHIRUCHI, Juan, Ministro de Medio Ambiente

Canada

- CARELESS, BC Spaces
- CARSON, Patrick, Loblaws Companies Limited
- COUREY, André
- DAVIES, Kate
- HAXTON, Sharon A.
- MAY, Elizabeth, Executive Director, Sierra Club of Canada
- PURDEY, Stephen
- SUZUKI, Severn Cullis
- TIMMERMAN, Peter, Institute for Environmental Studies