

Introduction to the process of drafting an Earth Charter input to the Rio+20 Zero Draft document

A major goal for our Earth Charter Rio+20 effort is to have national governments agree to an Outcome Document that expresses the Earth Charter's values and principles and that contains the implementation strategies necessary to realize them.

Our success in realizing this goal will depend on the relevance of our inputs to the major issues being debated in the preparatory process, and our capacity to mobilize supporters of the Earth Charter to weigh in on behalf of our recommendations throughout the negotiation process from November until June. We need your suggestions and support to succeed.

The first critical step in achieving this goal is sending our Earth Charter recommendations for the content and structure of the Outcome Document to the UN organizers of Rio+20. They state, “ All contributions from all stakeholders sent by November 1st will be collected, read and analyzed and finally assembled together in a compilation document that will be the basis for all further negotiations on the Outcome Document. “

To make effective recommendations we will need to:

a) address the three objectives and two themes of the Rio+20 conference. The objectives are: (1) securing renewed political commitment to sustainable development; (2) assessing the progress and implementation gaps in meeting already agreed commitments; and (3) addressing new and emerging challenges. The Member States have agreed on the following two themes for the Conference: (1) green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and (2) institutional framework for sustainable development (see <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>). In the list of background resources attached you should find the UNCSD Co-Chairs Guidance Note provides more detailed instructions for giving input.

b) focus our input to address the emerging critical issues. Over the past two years, many NGOs, UN agencies (particularly UNEP), and business groups have made proposals and developed position papers. The Bonn Declaration was created to respond to and refine much of this past work. Reading it will give you a good sense of the Rio+20 issues, and you may find recommendations in it you particularly wish to emphasize. We will need to distill out of all this material the set of issues that is most critical and opportune to respond to from an Earth Charter perspective.

c) apply the Earth Charter lens to the identified critical issues and create recommendations that demonstrate the contribution the Earth Charter makes to clarifying policy priorities and implementation strategies. Building on the above materials, we have put together an example of a very rough draft of Earth Charter based input into the Outcome Document. We invite you to edit this statement and add additional recommendations or comments and questions in [brackets].

All input will be available for you to review on this Writeboard during October. Mid-October we will put together a draft Earth Charter Input document to send to the UN. We will make this available for your review and comments. By the end of October we will submit to the UN this collective document and will expect that you can also help bring this to our government or constituencies.

Please go to the following link to access the Writeboard and offer your inputs directly in the document:

<http://123.writeboard.com/o7p8t3pqj8wl8dz2/login>

The password is: brundtland87

**Also, we would also like to know if and how you are involved in Rio+20 activities.
Thank you for your support of the Earth Charter.**

**Rick Clugston
Member of the ECI Council**