

Earth
Charter
Cities

THE EARTH CHARTER CITIES

MANIFESTO



THE EARTH CHARTER PREAMBLE

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward, we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

Earth, Our Home

Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. The forces of nature make existence a demanding and uncertain adventure, but Earth has provided the conditions essential to life's evolution. The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters, and clean air. The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.

- Excerpt from the Earth Charter (2000)



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CITIES AS ENGINES OF THE ECONOMY



In this document we refer to *Earth Charter Cities* as cities of any size whose governing institutions have adopted the Earth Charter and are putting it into practice in a coherent way.

Cities are important engines of our world. Most of the resilience and the well-being of the human community of life is delivered by cities. More and more people live in cities. At the moment, cities host over 50% of the world's population. It is expected that by 2025 over 75% will live in an urban environment. Growth in Africa and Asia as well as the formation of mega-cities seize our attention, but the largest share of the growth will take place in smaller towns and villages.

Cities are full of opportunities, but they also present many problems. Rapid urbanization often poses a threat to the environment, human health, and fair distribution of resources and funds. Excessive growth of cities may hinder urban productivity and efficiency. The dynamics of our enormous economy, driven by our total population and the dominant patterns of

production and consumption that characterize our society at large, impose a burden on our biosphere. Resources are being depleted, the environment destroyed, species are becoming extinct and communities of people in their own habitat undermined. Ecological systems, biodiversity, fertile soil, clean water and unpolluted air show signs of scarcity. They are not only the source of our life, but also a source of concern. Whereas cities increasingly become the engines of the economy, we must ensure they are highly efficient. The harmful effects of our economic activities and the ecological and social implications need to be assessed and managed with higher proficiency. In many cases the benefits are not fairly distributed. Injustice and poverty cause suffering and conflict.

- Gerben van Straaten, CEO & Founder World of Walas (2009)



EARTH CHARTER CITIES TO THE CHALLENGE

Earth Charter Cities choose to accept the guidance of the *Earth Charter*. *Earth Charter Cities* ensure valuable and sustainable (re) development. The Earth Charter City makes the choice to be an important part of a global partnership to care for the Earth and for the whole community of life. We are sensitive to perils and weaknesses in our system and we are ready to bring substantial changes into our values, institutions and our ways of life.

The *Earth Charter City* focuses on quality, engaging exactly those values that allow us as humans and as a society to be more, instead of to have more. Policy makers especially must be aware that their local decisions have far-reaching effects on others, on nature and on the climate. Simultaneously, changes in climate, the environment and ecosystems have a large impact on the local situation in and around cities.

We urgently need to share a vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the growing global community. All *Earth Charter Cities* together contribute to a global partnership with the world community, with the Earth, with nature and with our future generations. An individual *Earth Charter City* has a partnership with its ecology, the urban community, and the people and nature in its immediate (peri-urban) environment.

We have the knowledge and technology to care for everyone and to reduce the negative impacts of cities on the environment and society. Cities serve as the engines of the economy, friendly and sustainable and they allow for diversity.

The urban realm of an *Earth Charter City* is used in an optimal and sustainable fashion. It does not let itself be guided by unbridled expansion and growth. It focuses on careful compaction and density. This allows the city to relieve the impact on the rural countryside, the villages and nature. Not only the city, even those rural areas can thus create new qualities and new values.

Earth Charter Cities strive for a sustainable future for many generations to come. The city is an ecosystem that is an intricate part of the Earth. Ecological integrity is an important guideline. As an economic engine, the city is committed to develop meaningful values and a sustainable economy that includes everyone. Such cities offer many new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world. The social, cultural, political and spiritual challenges are respectfully intertwined. Together they lead the way to unprecedented innovation and value added solutions.



EARTH CHARTER CITIES IN ACTION



Inspired by and strongly associated with the Earth Charter, *Earth Charter Cities* want to deliver a significant contribution to a sustainable future. The *Earth Charter Cities* concept becomes manifest through 16 different principles, accessible and useful to all citizens and urban organizations, businesses, communities, governments and institutions to inspire and to guide them towards a new future.

The principles will be developed progressively into a more actionable support of this objective. The development and enhancement of accessible knowledge and the incorporation of best practices will be shared with any interested knowledge institution or individual.

CITIES ARE NOT HELPLESS BUT VITAL, HELPFUL AND RESOURCEFUL.

“Whenever and wherever societies flourished and prospered rather than stagnated and decayed, creative and workable cities have been at the core of the phenomenon... Decaying cities, declining economies, and mounting social troubles travel together. The combination is not coincidental.”

- Jane Jacobs

Unprecedented increases in world population and rapid urbanization have overburdened our ecological and social systems. Cities are vibrant melting pots where all challenges we face as the community of the human world as well as the community of life on Earth become manifest. Our global health and safety are threatened. These trends are perilous - but not inevitable. Cities particularly can have healing effects. Under the right conditions, cities have an organic resilience full of knowledge, creativity and innovation. Whereas cities represent the major drawbacks of our current society, they also have the capacity to develop the strong points for the future. This is not new.

The first phases of rapid urbanization led to illnesses and epidemics of unprecedented magnitude. These cities were then forced to find the solutions. Hygiene, medical care, improved construction techniques, clean drinking water and sewer systems are examples of urban innovations that have improved welfare and prosperity. Similarly, under the pressure of the current global situation, cities have the ability to make the necessary innovations and improvements. Cities can lead us to new prosperity. In order to achieve this, we must recognize the urgency to change our ways and be prepared to make better choices. It is necessary that we deploy a robust set of social, cultural, ecological and economic values by using the Earth Charter Initiative as our guidance.



I. THE EARTH CHARTER CITY CONTRIBUTES CAREFULLY AND ACTIVELY TO THE RESPECT AND THE CARE FOR ALL LIFE FORMS

1.

The *Earth Charter City* is aware of its fundamental position on the Earth. It develops and maintains itself with respect for the Earth and life in all its diversity.

a.

The *Earth Charter City* recognizes that all beings are interdependent and every form of life, each society and each culture has value, regardless of its value for humans in their city.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* contributes strongly to the intellectual, artistic, ethical and spiritual potential of humanity and respects the intrinsic dignity of all people.

2.

The *Earth Charter City* cares for all life forms with understanding and shows compassion and love.

a.

Cities and the people who live there put a significant claim on natural resources. Cities are major consumers in all cases. The *Earth Charter City* recognizes its duty to manage and use the Earth's natural resources with great care. The *Earth Charter City* recognizes its obligation to protect the environment and strives to prevent damage to the environment.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* protects the rights of the people within the city and beyond.

c.

Earth Charter Cities are stable havens where freedom and the development and exchange of knowledge flourish. Cities and their institutions represent power and means of authority. The *Earth Charter City* recognizes this and shows utter responsibility within this framework of increased freedom, knowledge and power to promote the common good.

3.

The *Earth Charter City* builds a democratic and just society that is sustainable, and peaceful, in which anyone can participate with influence.

a.

The *Earth Charter City* ensures that its communities at all levels will safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide opportunities for everyone to live up to his or her full potential.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* recognizes the importance of diversity and is all-inclusive. It excludes nobody, and welcomes anyone's participation in urban development, urban management and the city's social, cultural and economic life. The *Earth Charter City* promotes social and economic justice, and allows everyone to achieve a meaningful existence.

c.

The *Earth Charter City* does all this in a way that is ecologically responsible.

4.

The *Earth Charter City* secures the bounty and beauty of the city and its surroundings for present and future generations. The *Earth Charter City* has equal respect for the bounty and beauty of the Earth.

a.

The *Earth Charter City* recognizes that the freedom of each generation to act is limited by the needs of future generations. The *Earth Charter City* determines its own future in its present actions considering the needs of future generations.

b.

Cities are key drivers of social and cultural values, of traditions, knowledge and institutions. The *Earth Charter City* protects this precious heritage of traditions, culture and institutions that support the long-term prosperity of human and ecological communities for future generations. In order to achieve the comprehensive goals of *Earth Charter Cities*, the following is necessary:



II. EARTH CHARTER CITIES AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5.

Cities are ecosystems within the larger ecosystem of Earth. The *Earth Charter City* is well aware that it is part of the ecological system on Earth. It is committed to protect that ecological system against harm and careless use. It has special concern for biological diversity and natural processes that sustain life.

a.

The *Earth Charter City* recognizes, promotes and protects its urban biodiversity.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* contributes to the protection of ecosystems in its own environment, to the ecosystems on Earth on which it depends economically and for its welfare, and it promotes the recovery of endangered species.

c.

Ecosystems of the Earth give us many economic and socio-culturally relevant services, such as drinking water, hydro-power, pollination of crops by insects and birds, opportunities for recreation, construction materials, medicines and climate regulation. The *Earth Charter City* is aware of the importance of these ecosystem services for its welfare. In cost-benefit analysis for new developments, the value of ecosystem services is explicitly included.

d.

Urban policy makers should be aware that their local decisions have far reaching consequences for the climate and the ecological system of Earth. At the same time they must be aware that changes in climate and ecosystems can have great influence on local welfare. The *Earth Charter City* is committed to special knowledge in this area, to highly effective information and a long-term vision.

e.

The *Earth Charter City* makes clear what impact the city has on the climate and the environment. The movement of resources and materials is registered. All advantages and disadvantages will be charted in an ecological footprint. Based on the knowledge of these ecological footprints, new ecological footprint strategies will be developed.

f.

Urban planners and architects know the Earth Charter and the principles of *Earth Charter Cities*. The design of urban development in *Earth Charter Cities* will put the ethics of sustainability and welfare of users over the aesthetics of the designs and also over the importance of the volumes of development. Design provides quality and efficiency over quantity and pure financial gain.

6.

***Earth Charter Cities* adopt methods of development and management that optimize the regenerating power of the Earth and the regenerating power of urban cycles of resources and materials. They prevent damage to the environment. They use a preventive approach if the knowledge of certain practices is inadequate.**

a.

Renewable resources and materials. The size of the community on Earth puts a growing pressure on natural resources and raw materials. Non-renewable resources are scarce, are being depleted and often have harmful effects. The applicability of renewable materials and methods is an important theme. Whenever possible, *Earth Charter Cities* employ renewable natural resources and materials.

b.

Reuse. Reduce the use and especially the consumption of materials used in construction projects and systems of production and consumption. Reuse and recycle them. *Earth Charter Cities* develop various recycling systems for reuse of whole objects, reuse of components for similar applications and for completely new applications. In the process of recycling materials, *Earth Charter Cities* chose methods that avoid loss of quality: downcycling. The reuse and recycling of materials derived from demolition of urban districts and buildings are a priority for each *Earth Charter City*.

c.

Redevelopment. Due to changing economic conditions and processes the use of many original buildings and urban areas has expired. This leads to abandonment of urban and industrial heritage, an atmosphere of neglect and impoverishment, ecological damage and unsafe conditions. The buildings offer a development capacity that support more sustainable land use. *Earth Charter Cities* constantly anticipate changing use. If possible, buildings will be reallocated for new users. Material deterioration and further decay are avoided.

d.

Recycling systems and waste. The *Earth Charter City* makes sure that waste from households, businesses and from the demolition of buildings will be processed for reuse through recycling systems. The remaining waste is to prevent damage to the environment and to be assimilated by ecological systems. In extreme cases, if this is not possible, waste will be stored safely with the highest possible care. Toxins, nuclear waste and organic waste will be treated with utmost precision.

7.

***Earth Charter Cities* are prudent with the use of natural resources and natural minerals. They protect the health of ecosystems. They promote the use of renewable resources and materials, prevent harmful reduction of the Earth's resources, and they avoid exceeding the regeneration speed.**



a.

Earth Charter Cities acknowledge the dependence of all beings on natural resources. Even plants and animals depend on a constant support by the resources of the Earth to meet their needs.

b.

Earth Charter Cities make careful use of natural resources and prevent harm and exhaustion. If possible, they apply renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products and marine life.

c.

The *Earth Charter City* acts with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and it relies increasingly on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

d.

Water in all its forms is vital for the *Earth Charter City*. The *Earth Charter City* guarantees sufficient, clean drinking water to everyone. In addition, water is important in areas such as hydroelectricity, careful drainage of excess rainwater, sanitary systems, navigable rivers and natural harbors and the recreational function of water. When possible, the *Earth Charter City* deploys natural and organic filtering systems and it promotes the reuse of water.

e.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes clean air. It prevents all forms of air pollution and ensures a significant reduction of CO₂ and other substances harmful to air quality. It acknowledges that clean air and healthy forests on Earth are strongly connected.

f.

Cities are major users of natural raw materials. The *Earth Charter City* uses renewable raw materials. When this is not possible, it uses non-renewable raw materials and resources such as fossil fuels extracted and transported in a manner that prevents significant environmental damage and that ensures that the depletion of resources is minimal.

g.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes efficient mobility.

h.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes the responsible use of biological materials and products. They avoid the introduction of pests and harmful organisms, including exotic and manipulated organisms.

i.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes the multiple use of biomass because of the high reuse capability, the development of new and renewable materials like (bio) plastics and as a new source of energy.

8.

Earth Charter Cities are eco-efficient engines of a sustainable society in which ecology, economy and justice are balanced and serve the entire community on Earth.

a.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes a clean and safe urban environment and ensures the use of resources and resource systems to serve everyone and makes sure that everyone can participate.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* treats all living beings with respect and courtesy. It prevents cruelty to animals.

c.

The *Earth Charter City* provides opportunities for its residents and businesses, both in their capacity as consumer and producer, to use new energy sources.

d.

The *Earth Charter City* guarantees the right to clean drinking water, clean air, food security, uncontaminated soil, shelter and safe sanitation, and it reserves the required national and international resources in an eco-effective manner.

e.

The *Earth Charter City* prohibits the accumulation of radioactive, toxic or other dangerous substances.

f.

The *Earth Charter City* does not permit the use and storage of nuclear, biological and toxic weapons, nor other weapons of mass destruction.



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III. EARTH CHARTER CITIES, ECONOMY AND VALUE

9.

The *Earth Charter City* constitutes a sustainable urban system with an efficient density of functions, a compact use of space, and a diversity of people, functions, and natural and constructed elements.

a.

Density. Modern patterns of urbanization and growth increase their claim on available space. Urban growth is associated with expansion. Average densities of cities have decreased significantly. With growing mobility, there is a tendency for cities to need more urban land per capita. The *Earth Charter City* promotes an optimal and effective density.

b.

Diversity and multi-functionality. Traditionally the city is a shelter, a marketplace and a catalyst for social enhancement. Urban amenities are important to achieve this. Houses, shops, crafts, businesses, houses of worship, urban societies, health care, art, culture and education have a coherent presence in the *Earth Charter City*. The *Earth Charter City* ensures diversity of functions in the city as a whole and in each of its districts. All amenities are accessible and available for each citizen.

c.

Compact cities. Higher density and improved diversity enable a sustainable compact city. The *Earth Charter City* realizes an ethically and aesthetically responsible, sustainable and comprehensive condensation. The *Earth Charter City* thereby improves the quality of ecology and energy, economy, society and culture. The compaction is achieved through new developments as well as redevelopments of existing urban areas. This

enables the surrounding landscape, agricultural areas and nature to be safeguarded against further harm.

d.

Efficiency. Because of its compact size, diversity and strategy for effective density, the *Earth Charter City* achieves a higher efficiency of its urban functions. Investment in the quality of the public domain can be realized more easily. The *Earth Charter City* promotes improvements to city infrastructure and the implementation of environmental and social sustainability of existing homes and buildings.

e.

Human scale. The *Earth Charter City* focuses on the community of people and provides all its residents, including children and the elderly, good access to all amenities, accessibility of the public realm, and squares and sidewalks that provide dwelling qualities in addition to their function of mobility. Housing is mixed with daily functions such as shopping, culture, social institutions and work. Building blocks never exclude access to people to go inside or out, they consist of short blocks with high accessibility and transparency at street level. The *Earth Charter City* is safe and friendly.

f.

Organic growth. A complex and intense symbiosis of various functions in cities is not a form of chaos. On the contrary, this diversity represents a dynamic and complex form of high order and effectiveness. The *Earth Charter City* accepts the power of organic growth and thus the inevitable gradualness of meaningful new developments that arise from within the urban community.

10.

Earth Charter Cities ensure that economic activities and institutions at every level promote human and urban development in a just and sustainable manner.

a.

The *Earth Charter City* achieves its objectives through interdisciplinary partnerships. Collaboration between different government levels, and between city governments, business, social and cultural institutions, and citizen representation leads to sustainable and fair economic development. The *Earth Charter City* promotes cooperation among cities to share knowledge and experience in these matters.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* and its interdisciplinary partners participate at all levels of planning and regulations for sustainable economic development that protect and restore the environment and attack the cumulative, impactful, and global consequences of its actions. The *Earth Charter City* principles are an integral part of all development initiatives and decisions.

c.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes equal economic opportunities for all. It puts an end to poverty, unjust social inequality and to the unequal valuation of similar activities.

d.

The *Earth Charter City* puts an end to corruption in all public and private institutions. It protects its citizens who defend themselves against corruption.

e.

The *Earth Charter City* imposes the burden of proof regarding possible harmful ecological effects on those who develop new projects. It holds the responsible party liable for such damage. Developers make it clear in the budgets of their plans to what extent they will directly and indirectly invest in sustainability.

f.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes the internalization of the environmental and social cost of goods, services and developments in the sales price. Consumers are given the opportunity to identify those products that meet the highest standards of sustainability. Harmful activities of citizens and businesses will be burdened with an ecological tax, which has a justified relation to the undesired use.



11.

***Earth Charter Cities* promote a sustainable and fair economy in all aspects.**

a.

Fair business. The economy of the *Earth Charter City* provides a harmonious mix of people, planet and profit, which focuses on the creation of sustainable real value in economic, environmental and social respects. It promotes transparency of economic processes, production methods and project development.

b.

Fair trade. The *Earth Charter City* promotes sustainable development in local, regional and global trade. Producers receive a fair price for their products, in proportion to the actual cost of production. Fair trade ensures that all trade supports the use of sustainable resources, environmental protection and progressive labour standards.

c.

Fair labour. *Earth Charter Cities* guarantee that work in the city is characterized by human dignity, fair employment and just remuneration. *Earth Charter Cities* will definitely not allow child labour.

d.

Fair production. *Earth Charter Cities* promote production and products that meet high environmental and social standards. The *Earth Charter City* challenges producers to deploy production methods that are clean and fully eco-effective. It prefers the development of recycling systems and the radical re-engineering of production processes and methods.

e.

Fair Finance. The *Earth Charter City* promotes fair and equitable savings and credit systems.

f.

Fair markets. The *Earth Charter City* demands multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public interest, and it holds them accountable for the consequences of their actions. *Earth Charter Cities* are committed to markets that show a just balance between demand and supply, allowing for fair and equitable market mechanisms.

g.

Fair international relations. The *Earth Charter City* promotes fair distribution of wealth within and between countries. They contribute to the strengthening of developing countries by enhancing the intellectual, financial, technical and social resources and the liberation of onerous international debt.

12.

Through good and purposeful governance, *Earth Charter Cities* generate employment and income by creating a climate in which education, creative development, economic renewal and the development of people and businesses are evident.

a.

Earth Charter Cities are cities where companies like to establish themselves, cities with room for innovation and sustainable development.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* provides a reliable business environment and promotes the presence of sufficient, appropriate employees.

c.

Earth Charter Cities provide good education and academic development. They support scientific and technical cooperation on sustainability, fair trade, economic processes and social justice. They are attentive to the needs of developing countries.

d.

Earth Charter Cities encourage creativity. Creativity serves as an engine for art and culture. Creative cities are resilient and vital.

e.

Earth Charter Cities promote processes of innovation and they create a climate of education, entrepreneurship, creativity and collaboration that offers good prospects for innovation. They promote in particular the development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies.



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IV. SOCIAL AND VITAL

'Being human itself is difficult, and therefore all kinds of settlements (except dream cities) have problems. Big cities have difficulties in abundance, because they have people in abundance. But vital cities are not helpless to combat even the most difficult of problems.'

- Jane Jacobs

13.

Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when they are created by everybody. -Jane Jacobs

a.

Earth Charter Cities are cities where people like to live. The *Earth Charter City* provides a pleasant, safe and healthy living and working environment, good employment opportunities and adequate opportunities for training, personal development and deployment.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* is committed to fair and sustainable value development in economic and financial terms, but surely in social terms as well. This refers not only to impulses on a city level, but also to vital neighbourhoods with a wide variety of facilities in which residents and businesses prosper.

c.

The *Earth Charter City* excludes no one. It takes care of all its residents. Particular attention is paid to children, the elderly and to people in a disadvantaged situation.

d.

The *Earth Charter City* provides strength to its community. It enables its people to take care of their environment, their habitat and their interrelationships. The *Earth Charter City* supports the community of its people to townscape their city. It enforces the meaningful participation of all interested individuals and organizations in decision-making, planning, urban design, the public realm and the environment.

e.

The *Earth Charter City* designates the responsibility for the environment and the social standard of living to where they are most effectively implemented. Besides the administrative levels that are best equipped, this care and responsibility will be shared with the community of entrepreneurs, residents and social institutions.

f.

The *Earth Charter City* guarantees a visible, accessible and transparent government with democratic institutions at all levels. It is responsible for transparent and accountable governance and it promotes full participation in decision-making.

g.

The *Earth Charter City* institutes effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress. Regulations, permits and decisions are clear and transparent, accessible and equal to all.

h.

The *Earth Charter City* protects the rights to freedom of speech, expression, peaceful assembly, association and dissent.

14.

Earth Charter Cities activate their inhabitants and make those features that are relevant to the development and deployment of people accessible to all.

a.

The *Earth Charter City* enables each person by means of education and educational aids to secure a safe and sustainable livelihood. It provides social security and social relief for those unable to care for themselves.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* provides everyone, especially children and youth, with educational opportunities that enable them to contribute actively to sustainable development.

c.

The *Earth Charter City* gives everyone access to modern infrastructure such as the internet and other contemporary means of information technology and communication technology.

d.

The *Earth Charter City* enables all people to participate in economic, social, cultural and spiritual activities under equal conditions.

e.

The *Earth Charter City* recognizes the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living.

f.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes the contribution of the arts, the humanities and the sciences to sustainable education.

g.

The *Earth Charter City* protects and restores special places of cultural, historical and spiritual significance.

h.

The *Earth Charter City* recognizes the importance of authentic and historic buildings and areas in its town. The *Earth Charter City* will safeguard the urban heritage for posterity and will show respect for its own history. It makes heritage accessible to all and promotes the creative and cultural development of people in those locations.



15.

Earth Charter Cities uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity. They confirm that equality and equity are prerequisites for sustainable development.

a.

The *Earth Charter City* eliminates all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, language, and national, ethnic or social origin.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* ensures the rights of women and girls, and ends all forms of violence against them. It recognizes the equality and equity between women and men and ensures universal access to education, health and economic opportunities.

c.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social and cultural life as full and equal partners, decision makers, leaders and beneficiaries.

d.

The *Earth Charter City* ensures the safety of families and anyone in its urban community.

e.

The *Earth Charter City* guarantees the right of everyone to the respectful exercise of spirituality, knowledge and faith connected with the cultural origins and identity of the individual or the group. It has a special regard for the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

f.

The *Earth Charter City* recognizes and preserves the existence of traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all cultures that contribute to environmental protection and human welfare.

g.

The *Earth Charter City* recognizes that peace and security are created by the right relationships with oneself, city residents, one's own culture, other cultures, other ways of life, the Earth and the universe at large to which we all belong. The *Earth Charter City* encourages and supports mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation between all. The *Earth Charter City* uses non-provocative systems of security and public order.

16.

The *Earth Charter City* offers its residents a standard of living based on sustainable values at economic, social, cultural and spiritual levels, and strives for the welfare of everyone and those of the urban community in general.

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(Article 25 Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

a. The *Earth Charter City* maintains the right of everyone to receive clear and timely information on all development plans and activities that will influence them or in which they have an interest.

It ensures that all information that is essential for human health and environmental protection remains available in the public domain.

b.

The *Earth Charter City* enhances the role of mass media in raising awareness of ecological and social challenges.

c.

The *Earth Charter City* eradicates poverty. It accepts it as an ethical, social and environmental imperative. It gives attention to those who are forgotten, protects the vulnerable, helps those who suffer, and enables them to develop their skills and pursue their aspirations.

d.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes the participation of everyone in the economic process and the social and cultural society. It is committed to participation and reintegration of individuals with a distance to a normal employment situation and those who deserve special attention because of illness, disability and unemployment.

e.

The *Earth Charter City* upholds the right of all persons, without discrimination, to physical health and mental wellbeing. It strives for a healthy life, to grow up in welfare and health, and the welfare and health of the elderly. It guarantees universal access to healthcare for everyone. The *Earth Charter City* ensures the loving nurture of all family members.

f.

The *Earth Charter City* promotes the availability of clean water and healthy food for everyone. It is committed to using environmentally and socially responsible produced food products that have low transport volume. It promotes the use of animal friendly methods of production. It resists the availability of food derived from methods that cause extreme, prolonged, or avoidable suffering, or derived from fishing methods that cause the avoidable catching of non-targeted species.



WORLD OF WALAS

Walas Concepts creates vital cities and vital neighbourhoods. We love people. We see opportunities for impoverished urban areas where others only see problems and we bring them back to life. We like abandoned factories and other old buildings. We think people like to experience those places, and use them to deploy all kinds of vibrant activities. We believe in their power of authenticity, in the historic meaning and their old souls. Old buildings are generous and we think we can turn them into great places to live, to work, to create and to reside. We are convinced that these places are vital places that provide something for everyone, only because, and only when we create them together with everyone. Through this colourful palette of urban functions in which they, the users and the residents, feel

good, we create a vital and sustainable city together: social, cultural, coherent and sincere, fair and honest, economically and ecologically balanced, and therefore valuable and efficient.

HG (Gerben) van Straaten, CEO of World of Walas, is author of the *Earth Charter Cities* Manifesto. He believes that cities, troubled as they may be sometimes, hold the solution to a sustainable future of our Earth. Team Walas is dedicated to use the Earth Charter and the *Earth Charter Cities* manifesto as its guidance. We hope many will follow.

Please Contact us if you would like more information.

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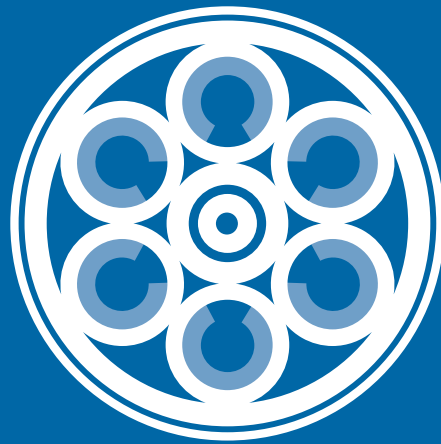
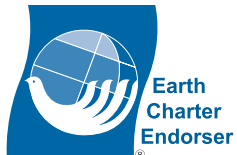
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