<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Interdependence of all life</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Love and responsibility</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>II</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Protect Earth’s diversity</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Prevent ecological harm</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>III</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Eradicate poverty</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Equitable human development</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IV</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Transparency and participation</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Integrate values into education</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Turning conscience into action.**

The Earth Charter is a document with sixteen principles inspiring a global movement for building a just, sustainable and peaceful world. It is the product of a decade-long, worldwide dialogue on shared values.

Founded by visionaries in the year 2000, we invite the visionaries of today to use the Earth Charter as a reference for decision-making and planning.

When you incorporate it in your life, and apply it to your business, school or community, you begin turning conscience into action to make all life on Earth thrive.

We know you’re ready. Now, let’s get to work!

www.earthcharter.org
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 begins to feel the twin blows of climate change and resource depletion, our survival at the dawn of the third millennium is increasingly at risk. The massive forces that are shaping our lives—globalization, rapid technological change, and heightened interdependence—create profound challenges and opportunities for all of us. Our decisions today will determine the health and well-being of future generations. We are the first generation to feel the impact of global warming and environmental degradation; we will not be the last to experience the results.

This Charter is a call to action for all of us—business, government, civil society, and the scientific community. It is a call to recognize our interdependence with the rest of humanity and with the global environment; to act to achieve a sustainable global society that provides for the needs of all present and future generations—without compromising the ability of the planet itself to fulfill those needs.

The Global Situation

The dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental degradation, the depletion of natural resources, and social injustice. The interconnection of social, environmental, and human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace makes it clear that the current economic paradigm cannot continue unchecked. Fundamental changes are needed in the way we think, act, and organize our societies to create a just and sustainable world.

The Challenges Ahead

The choices we make form a global partnership to care for Earth and all its inhabitants. The protection of all life and the diversity of life. Fundamental changes are needed in the way we think, act, and organize our societies to create a just and sustainable world. We must think and act in new ways and work together to promote the common good.

I. Respect and Care for the Community of Life

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
   - Acknowledge that all living beings, plants and animals, and every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings.
   - Affirm that all forms of life are the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.

2. Ensure a just and democratic community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
   - Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.
   - Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.

3. Promote the democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.
   - Ensure that communities at all levels guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone an opportunity to realize their full potential.
   - Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is compatible with the conservation of the environment.

4. Secure Earth’s beauty and bounty for present and future generations.
   - Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is limited by the needs of future generations.
   - Promote in present and future policies, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth’s human and ecological communities.

In order to fulfill these four broad commitments it is necessary to:

II. Ecological Integrity

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth’s ecological systems, with special concern for biodiversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
   - Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and policies that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all development initiatives.
   - Protect at all levels productive and life support systems, including terrestrial, aquatic, and marine areas, to protect Earth’s life support systems, maintain biodiversity, and preserve our natural heritage.

6. Ensure the recovery of all forms of life, and the resilience and diversity of ecosystems.
   - Control and eradicate non-native or genetically modified organisms harmful to native species and the environment, and prevent their introduction into ecosystems.
   - Manage the use of renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products, and marine life in ways that do not exceed rates of natural renewal and biological productivity.

7. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
   - Tackle the problem of avoidable irreversible environmental harm even when scientific knowledge is incomplete or inconclusive.
   - Place the burden of proof of potential harm on those who argue that a proposed activity will not cause significant harm, and make the responsible parties liable for environmental harm.

8. Ensure that decision making addresses the cumulative, long-term, indirect, and global consequences of human activities.
   - Prevent pollution of any part of the environment and no build-up of radioactive, toxic, or other hazardous substances.
     - Avoid military activities damaging to the environment.

9. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth’s regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.
   - Reduce, reuse, and recycle the material that is used in production, consumption, transportation, and generation of energy, and increase significantly the recycling of resources.
   - Increase energy efficiency, and significantly increase the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.
   - Promote development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

10. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and widespread application of the knowledge acquired.
    - Support international scientific cooperation and sustainability, with special attention to the needs of developing nations.

II. Social and Economic Justice

11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.
    - Secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them.
    - Promote the active participation of all genders in the definition and implementation of policies and programs.

12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, health, and social justice, including equal participation in decision making and protection against violations to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.
    - Eliminate discrimination in all its forms, such as that based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religious beliefs and practices, and national, ethnic or social origin.
    - Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledges, lands and resources and to their related practices of sustainable livelihoods.

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.
    - Protect the right of everyone, without discrimination, to participate in development plans and activities which are likely to affect them or in which they have an interest.
    - Support local and regional and global civil society, and promote the meaningful participation of all interested parties in planning and decision making.
    - Protect the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, association, and dissent.
    - Promote effective and equitable application and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.

IV. Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace

    - Encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation among all people.
    - Implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict and to address situations of violence and resist environmental conflicts and other disputes.
    - Strengthen national security systems to the level of a non-aggressive, cooperative, and expanding global society.

15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
    - Promote especially, especially, children and women, as well as indigenous peoples and cultures, including human beings, and the environment.

16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.
    - Encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation among all people.
    - Protect the right to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, association, and dissent.
    - Implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict and to address situations of violence and resist environmental conflicts and other disputes.
    - Strengthen national security systems to the level of a non-aggressive, cooperative, and expanding global society.

In order to fulfill these four broad commitments it is necessary to:

The Way Forward

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to take a new beginning. Such a transformation of the Earth Charter principles must lead and promote the values and objectives of the Charter.

This requires a change of mind and heart. It requires a new vision of global interdependence and sustainable responsibility. We must imagine together, develop and apply the agenda of a sustainable way of life—locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures within their own distinctive ways to make the transition. We must draw extensively from the local experience, encourage cultural diversity, and promote the respect and understanding of different cultures.

We need action, and we need it now. The time to act is now. The time to take responsibility, to act to secure a sustainable future, for all life, for the planet, for our children’s children, for the health of the planet and the health of all living beings, for the future of humankind, for the future of life on Earth, for the future of Earth.

We appeal to all the peoples of the Earth to work together to build a global community that respects and values all life. The Earth Charter provides a common road map to a sustainable future. We invite all to join us on this journey towards a sustainable future, to act now to build a sustainable world for the health of all life on Earth, for the health of the planet, for the health of humankind, and for the health of the planet.

The Earth Charter is a call to act. We can no longer afford the luxury of inaction. We must act to secure a sustainable future for all life on Earth, for the health of the planet, for the health of humankind, and for the health of the planet.