

EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL

Turning Conscience into Action for a Thriving Earth



“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.”



Earth
Charter®
INTERNATIONAL

[The Earth Charter, Preamble]



Turning Conscience into Action for a Thriving Earth

The Earth Charter involves:

A DOCUMENT with sixteen principles to build a more just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century.

It articulates a mindset of global interdependence and shared responsibility that offers a vision of hope and a call to action.

A MOVEMENT that involves thousands of individuals and organizations, active in 89 countries around the world, that are working towards realizing the vision enunciated in the Earth Charter document.

An ORGANIZATION comprised of Earth Charter International (ECI) and its Education Center.

ECI is the organization that powers the Earth Charter global movement by providing guidance, networking, and educational opportunities to turn conscience into action.

BACKGROUND

Discussions around the Earth Charter started during the preparatory process of the Earth Summit held in 1992. Then between 1994 and 2000, a world-wide multicultural and multi-sectoral consultation process and research on values and principles of sustainability took place to identify elements that should comprise the Earth Charter document. The drafting of the Earth Charter was completed and formally launched by the Earth Charter Commission in 2000. Since then, the global movement of social activists, teachers, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, international law experts, and leaders in government who are voluntarily using, implementing, and promoting the Earth Charter has steadily grown.





Mission, Goals & Objectives

The mission of Earth Charter International is to contribute to the transition to sustainable ways of living on the planet.

OUR GOALS

- Raise awareness worldwide of the Earth Charter and promote understanding of its inclusive ethical vision.
- Promote the adoption and use of the Earth Charter as an ethical guide and the implementation of its principles.
- Encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter.
- Promote recognition and use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate the development of a global network of Earth Charter supporters and activists with the collaboration of advisors, affiliates, volunteers and partner organizations.
- Create and disseminate high-quality communications and educational materials for the use of millions of people.
- Ensure that the Earth Charter serves as a guide in efforts to address urgent challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and conflict resolution.
- Undertake training programmes to help participants put the Earth Charter in action.

The ECI Secretariat coordinates and supports the Earth Charter global movement. It functions from the University for Peace in Costa Rica.





OUR WORK

The ECI Secretariat guides and make connections with individuals and organizations to bring the Earth Charter vision to people from different fields, such as education, youth activism and business. It manages communications with the larger Earth Charter movement and promotes the use of the Earth Charter as an educational instrument, ethical reference, and international soft law document.

AREAS OF WORK

DIALOGUE

- Facilitate dialogue and stimulate the exchange of views on initiatives and principles of sustainability [through virtual and in-person events].
- Support key international discussions, efforts, and initiatives.
- Engage the Earth Charter network on global governance initiatives.

EDUCATION

Offer a variety of courses and programmes that highlight the importance of incorporating sustainability values and principles into the processes of learning and decision-making.

It does so through its Education Center and the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter.

NETWORKING

- Offer multiple platforms to share information among organizations and individuals that are using the Earth Charter around the world.
- Help connect people and organizations to foster collaboration and partnerships towards achieving the Earth Charter mission.
- Develop resource materials and tools to be used towards advancing the EC mission.

Over the past 20 years, ECI has:

- Engaged, empowered and educated young leaders from around the world to contribute to the transition towards sustainability.
- Inspired and trained educators from all levels and regions of the world to incorporate the values and principles of sustainability in their sphere of work.

THE EARTH CHARTER AND ITS SYSTEMIC NATURE

Pillar I
Respect and
Care for the
Community of
Life



Pillar II
Ecological
Integrity



Pillar III
Social and
Economic
Justice



Pillar IV
Democracy,
Nonviolence
and Peace



EARTH CHARTER MOVEMENT IN NUMBERS

107 AFFILIATES & PARTNERS
95 YOUNG LEADERS
IN 89 COUNTRIES

2,000+ ALUMNI
50,000 ENDORSEMENTS
300,000 PEOPLE REACHED BY WORKSHOPS,
COURSES AND PRESENTATIONS

WORKING TOWARDS A MORE JUST, SUSTAINABLE AND PEACEFUL WORLD



“Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.”

[The Earth Charter, The Way Forward]

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