



Earth Charter Introductory Course

This course builds on the understanding that the current challenges humanity is facing come from a sense of disconnection with the essence of our lives and other beings, as well as a lack of shared values and an ethical global consciousness.

This course offers an opportunity to deepen the knowledge about:

- **the ethical foundation of the Earth Charter and**
- **the worldview that is articulated in it.**



Learning Objectives

- Understand why and how the Earth Charter was created and its relevance to current times.
- Get to know and internalize foundational concepts, values and ethical principles of the Earth Charter.
- Understand and find ways to put into practice values and principles articulated in each Pillar of the Earth Charter.
- Find synergies between the Earth Charter and other international or regional instruments [i.e. the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals and others].
- Be acquainted with sensitive issues around some principles of the Earth Charter.



16 Principles of the Earth Charter

<https://earthcharter.org/read-the-earth-charter/>

Course Format

This is an online non-facilitated course, therefore sessions follow the model of asynchronous learning, where participants have flexibility to complete the sessions when it is convenient for them.

The course has an introduction and six sessions; participants can complete this course in six hours, and there is a maximum time of 2 months for registered participants to complete the course.

Content is presented in different formats (videos and readings). There are questionnaires to assess understanding and achievement of course objectives.

Participants Profile

This course is open to all people interested in learning about the values and principles of sustainability articulated in the Earth Charter, deepening their knowledge about it and finding practical ways to implement it.



The Earth Charter and Its Systemic Nature

Course Sessions & Themes



The course is divided into seven parts, which focus on each section the Earth Charter.

Introduction

This session will give a general sense of what the Earth Charter is and background information of why and how it was created.

Session 1: Preamble

This is the first part of the Earth Charter; some foundation principles are presented here.

Session 2: Pillar I

Respect and Care for the Community of life

Session 3: Pillar II

Ecological Integrity

Session 4: Pillar III

Social and Economic Justice

Session 5: Pillar IV

Democracy, Non Violence and Peace

Session 6: The Way Forward

In this session several examples and case studies will be presented about how the Earth Charter is put into action in different parts of the world.

Upon completion of the course sessions, participants will receive a certificate of completion.

Course webpag: <https://earthcharter.org/courses/earth-charter-course/>

Course Developers



Mirian Vilela

Executive Director of the Earth Charter International Secretariat and the Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE. Mirian has been working with the Earth Charter Initiative since early 1996. She is coordinating the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter. She was a member of the UNESCO Expert Reference Group for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and has been a professor on Sustainable Development at the University for Peace since 2005.



Alicia Jimenez

Director of Programmes at the Earth Charter International (ECI) Secretariat in Costa Rica. She is a biologist with a MSc in Resource Development from Michigan State University in the US and since 1998 has been working in the field of conservation and sustainable development. She worked in the IUCN Mesoamerica's Regional Office and the National University of Costa Rica, and has been involved as a visiting professor at the University for Peace. In 2006, she joined ECI, where she oversees the promotion of the Earth Charter, especially in Latin America, Africa & Middle East and Asia Pacific.

Institution



This course was developed under the framework of the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter, coordinated by the Earth Charter Center for Education. The Chair is a collaborative effort between UNESCO, Earth Charter International, and the University for Peace to develop educational programmes and research activities related to education, sustainability, and ethics using the Earth Charter as a fundamental reference.



Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development

The Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development, established by Earth Charter International, has a mission to “promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care of the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace,” with a special focus on education.

For more information, please visit <https://earthcharter.org/>