Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the UN Earth Summit, and Mikhail Gorbachev, president of Green Cross International, launched a civil society initiative to draft the Earth Charter through a worldwide multicultural and multisectoral consultation with the support of the Dutch government.

A major Earth Charter+5 gathering takes place in Amsterdam in November. The Earth Charter Education Center is established.

The ECI Council adopts a new strategic plan that emphasizes the decentralized expansion of the Earth Charter Initiative. The first online youth course (E-GLO - Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity) and educational workshops were implemented.

The first Online Professional Development Programme on Education for Sustainable Development was offered.

The UN World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) recommends the creation of "a new charter" that will set forth the fundamental principles of sustainable development.

Consultations around the Earth Charter take place as part of the Earth Summit preparatory process. However, governments fail to reach an agreement.

In March, the Earth Charter Commission meets in Paris at the UNESCO headquarters to finalize the document. The Earth Charter is officially launched on 29 June at the Peace Palace in The Hague. A Steering Committee is formed to oversee the next phase of the initiative.

UNESCO adopts a resolution (32C/17) recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development and encourages Member States to use it as an educational instrument.

The first Earth Charter International Conference "Ethics for Sustainability: New Perspectives on Leadership, Decision Making and Education", was hosted at the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development in Costa Rica.

A second UNESCO resolution was adopted reiterating its recognition to the Earth Charter as an important educational instrument. By this time, the Earth Charter is available in 65 languages.

UNESCO adopts a resolution (32C/17) recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development and encourages Member States to use it as an educational instrument.

A new Earth Charter International Council is formed to succeed the Steering Committee and to oversee the work of the Secretariat.

The first Online Professional Development Programme on Education for Sustainable Development was offered.