



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.

1987

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.

1994



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.

2000

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

2005

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.

2008



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.

2014

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.

2019



1992

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



1997



The Earth Charter Commission convenes for its first meeting at the Rio+5 Forum in Rio de Janeiro. A first Benchmark Draft of the Earth Charter is released as a "document in progress" at the conclusion of the Forum. Ongoing worldwide consultations are organized.

2003

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.

2006

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

2012

The Earth Charter Center on Education for Sustainable Development Building at the University for Peace was inaugurated, and the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter was established. The Earth Charter Young Leaders course on Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics and other education courses began to be offered.

2016

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

