



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR: 25 YEARS OF THE EARTH CHARTER: TURNING CONSCIENCE INTO ACTION

7-8 November, 2025. Ananindeua, Pará, Brazil



FBOMS
Fórum Brasileiro de Orgs
e Movimentos Sociais
para o Meio Ambiente e
Desenvolvimento





On 7 and 8 November, 2025, the International Seminar: 25 Years of the Earth Charter was held, a pre-COP30 event that brought together representatives from the Brazilian federal government, local governments, civil society, academics, and young people from various places, creating a space for intergenerational dialogue and cooperation around the principles of the Earth Charter. This special meeting aimed to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Earth Charter, a fundamental milestone in building a global ethic for sustainability, social justice, and peace, as well as to offer a space for the exchange of experiences and dialogues to clarify how to position the Earth Charter in the context of COP30.

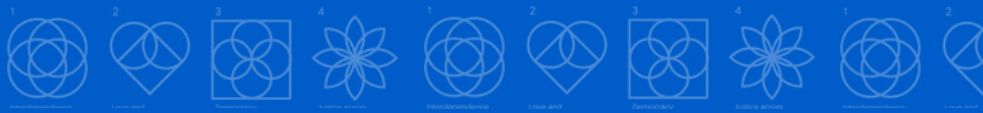


The event's opening featured the participation of:

- Márcia Helena Lopes, Minister of State, Ministry of Women, Federal Government of Brazil
- Daniel Santos, Mayor, city of Ananindeua
- Alessandra Haber, Federal Deputy, Pará
- Pedro Ivo Batista, President, Terrazul Alternative Association
- Nelton Friedrich, Director of the Department of River Basin Revitalization at the Ministry of Integration
- Lavito Bacarissa, Executive Secretary of the CNODS of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic
- Artur Moret, Environmental Health Coordinator at Funasa

As well as active participation throughout the event of:

- Mirian Vilela, Earth Charter International
- Marcos Sorrentino, Director of the Department of Environmental Education, Ministry of Environment and Climate, Brazil
- Alexandre Diniz, President of the Salvaterra Institute



In her speech, Minister Marcia Helena Lopes emphasized:

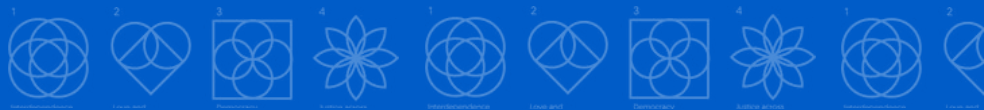
“If the Earth Charter offers us a path, it is up to us — governments, organizations, movements and communities — to transform that path into action: feminist, democratic, inclusive action deeply committed to life.” Find the minister's full speech [here](#).



The mayor of Ananindeua, Daniel Santos, highlighted the transformation the municipality has been undergoing, especially regarding advancements in basic sanitation.

“The municipality of Ananindeua is today an example in basic sanitation. We are working to transform the city, promoting land regularization and preserving our green areas. COP is being held in Pará, and all municipalities should participate and have their voice heard in this process,” stated the mayor.





During his speech, Daniel Santos also warned of the imminent danger of constructing a landfill [or a 'waste dump'] in an area with important springs, located in a region near the municipality of Acará. According to him, the site would be used to receive solid waste from Belém and other municipalities in the region, which represents a serious environmental threat. Following this, the mayor gave the floor to Jéssica Fraga, representative of the “Lixão Aqui Não” (No Dump Here) movement, who reinforced the warning about the risks that the landfill project represents for this vital ecosystem.

Federal Deputy Alessandra Haber reaffirmed Ananindeua and Pará's commitment to sustainable development that combines progress, responsibility, and environmental preservation, also highlighting the Earth Charter as an important guiding instrument.



Pedro Ivo Batista highlighted the relevance of the Earth Charter as an ethical framework in building more just and sustainable societies, especially in the context of COP30, marked by challenges, dilemmas, and contradictions. He also expressed gratitude for the support received from the municipality of Ananindeua.

“The Global Ethical Stocktake is a space that this COP opens to promote philosophical reflection on the centrality of life and on why we have not yet been able to achieve what has already been agreed upon — an exercise for which the Earth Charter serves as an ethical compass,” he stated.



Nelton Friedrich highlighted the richness of the Earth Charter and the importance of its worldview centered on life, interdependence, responsibility towards future generations, and the ethics of care. He also recalled the work he developed when he coordinated the Cultivating Good Water program at Itaipu Binacional, which used the Earth Charter as an ethical reference.

On this occasion, the municipal government of Ananindeua signed a Commitment Letter, reaffirming its commitment to working with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementing the principles of the Earth Charter.

The document formalizes the mayor's commitment to considering the 16 principles of the Earth Charter in the formulation of public policies and municipal strategic planning.

The official opening ceremony was preceded by a cultural presentation featuring a local music and dance group.

Next, a video was shown with a message from Leonardo Boff, Earth Charter Commissioner, in which he offered an inspiring reflection on the importance and relevance of the Earth Charter for the current times.



The first Panel discussion of the seminar addressed Pillar I of the Earth Charter: "Respect and Care for the Community of Life," and included the participation of:

- Lavito Bacarissa, Executive Secretary of the CNODS of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic
- Marcos Sorrentino, Director of the Department of Environmental Education, Ministry of Environment and Climate, Brasília
- Pablo Solon, Solon Foundation, Bolivia
- Sila Apurinã, Amazon Working Group, GTA, Brazil
- Larissa Bombardi, IPSA, Brazil/Belgium



This panel was moderated by Ana Laíse, from the Terrazul Alternative Association and Teia Carta da Terra, and Sernio Vasconcelos, Lawyer.

The contributions included reflections on the meaning and challenge of maintaining a commitment to Respect and Care for the Community of Life.

Lavito Bacarissa commented on the value of the Earth Charter and its complementary relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said that, as part of the effort to rebuild the social space within the current government, the National SDG Commission is being re-established, with the aim of strengthening social participation in this process.

“We understand that we need to think differently, expand our consciousness, and reclaim the humanist narrative... In this process, we see the complementary role between the Earth Charter and the SDGs.”

Marcos Sorrentino highlighted that:

“We need to put the issue of funding for environmental education on the agenda... It is not possible to continue making political commitments aimed at educators committed to cultural and value transformations, but with few resources allocated to this and few practical definitions and orientation on this topic in international negotiations.”



Pablo Solón reflected on anthropocentrism and the patriarchal view of life as the roots of the crisis we are experiencing. He asked:

“How do we move forward on our path toward a non-anthropocentric society? What is a non-anthropocentric society? It is a society that does not place human beings at the center, but rather Mother Earth, life, nature—of which we are a part—at the center of society.”



He stated:

“We are experiencing this current crisis and climate collapse because we have applied an anthropocentric policy to address contemporary problems. Nature is not an object, an environment, a thing, or a natural resource. Nature is a being that has rights, it is a subject... It is important to see the economy as a subsystem of nature, and not as something that governs it. The Earth Charter helps us move away from the limited vision of anthropocentrism and embrace a life-centered perspective. The guarantee is not in the letter of the law, but in the daily struggle.”

Sila Apurinã stated that “The Earth Charter calls us to unite knowledge, ethics, and spirituality... To speak of territory is to defend the reality of traditional communities, who also depend on the territory, just as they depend on water and all the natural resources we need to live. How will we care for our common home if we are increasingly living in times of individualism? Caring for our common home involves recognizing our responsibility and interdependence.”



Larissa Bombardi shared the results of her research on the use of pesticides in Brazil. She stated that the country has registered a 160% increase in the use of these substances in agricultural production in recent years. According to research, more than 56,000 people were poisoned by pesticides last year. She also presented data on the 10 best-selling active ingredients among chemical pesticides in Brazil, products mostly manufactured by European companies, but whose use is prohibited in Europe.

The second Panel discussion addressed Pillar II of the Earth Charter – Ecological Integrity, and included the participation of:

- Pedro Arrojo, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water, Spain
- Luiza Maria Vieira, shellfish gatherer from the Warrior of the Waters Collective Movement, Ceará, Brazil
- Rajendra Singh, President of NGO Tarum Bharat Sangh, India
- Rosa Helena Neves, Salvaterra
- Moderator: Sérgio Ribeiro, Cirat



Pedro Arrojo Agudo spoke about the paradox of the global water crisis, where it is not so much a crisis of scarcity, but the consequence of unsustainable management of aquatic ecosystems and inequitable water management... He said: "The Earth Charter clashes with the vision of progress, and prioritizes the principles of sustainability, equity, democratic governance and peace. From its coherence, the Earth Charter does not ignore the importance of the productive uses of water, but above all, prioritizes the functions of water as the basis for life... from this coherence we need to carry out an ethical reflection, guided by philosophy and the ethics of care. An ethical reflection on the multiple functions, uses and values that are at stake in water management and that allows us to discern and establish priorities."

Luiza Maria Vieira shared about the Eco-Women project in the coastal zone of Ceará, supported by Alternativa Terrazul and the Ministry of Women, which strengthens a network of women fishers, shellfish gatherers, farmers, and traditional women who care for the environment and connect their work with the Earth Charter. These women have their



survival based on what they cultivate from the mangroves and the richness derived from the ecosystem in which they live. They understand the importance of caring for and maintaining the ecological integrity of the mangroves so that they can continue to make a living from what they harvest and share, demonstrating how their lives and traditions are interconnected with their context, local territory, and ecosystem.

Rajendra Singh explained how his organization, Tarun Bharat Sangh, founded in 1985, has helped revitalize rivers and ensure water security for rural communities in Rajasthan, India. Through participatory processes, community-led initiatives, and traditional water conservation methods, various structures such as johads (small earthen dams) and anicuts (diversion dams) have been built. The initiative involves communities in a common goal: collecting rainwater and sustainably managing watersheds. This work has successfully revitalized several rivers in Rajasthan, bringing life and water back to many previously arid villages, and also contributing to food production.

Rosa Helena Neves shared about an education and training project for young people using the Earth Charter, led by the Salvaterra Institute, and her desire to continue and expand this work.

The third Panel addressed Pillar III of the Earth Charter – Social and Economic Justice, and included the participation of:

- Adilson Vieira, GTA and Teia Carta da Terra Brasil
- Abadia Moreira Dias, Leader of the Kalunga Quilombo, Goiás, Brazil
- Alice Gabino, Standing Amazon, Brazil
- Moderators: Joao Cláudio Arroyo, Unama/Teia Carta da Terra Brasil and Renata Natividade, Municipal Secretary of Security and Social Defense of Ananindeua



The day concluded with the pre-premiere of the series "21st Century Survival Manual," featuring an episode about the Brazilian Cerrado, and included the presence of film director João Amorim.



The second day of the Seminar began with a fantastic presentation of the play "Gandhi, a Human Leader," a monologue developed and performed by the actor João Signorelli, a work he has been performing for 20 years. This performance served as an introduction to Panel 4 on Pillar IV of the Earth Charter: Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace, which included the participation of:

- Nobuyuki Asai, Soka Gakkai International, SGI, Japan
- Vanessa Dourado, ATTAC, Argentina
- Lorena Kélvia, Reaver Network, Brazil
- Paulo Lamac, Spokesperson for the Sustainability Network, Brazil
- Moderators: Livia Noronha, Secretary of Human Rights of Ananindeua and Byani Sanches



Nobuyuki Asai shared examples of SGI initiatives promoting democracy, nonviolence, and peace, such as the "Seeds of Hope and Action" exhibition, which connects the SDGs and the Earth Charter with the purpose of raising awareness and inspiring transformative actions. He also mentioned the work developed by the Soka Amazon Institute in the areas of environmental education and reforestation in Manaus.

Vanessa Dourado offered a reflection on a life-centered worldview, in contrast to the anthropocentric and patriarchal view, highlighting the contributions of the Earth Charter to this debate.

Lorena Kélvia presented the work of the Reaver Network – an Environmental Network for the Enhancement of Restoration Ecosystems, the result of a union of teenagers and young people from the Northeast of Brazil who seek to address the socio-environmental struggle. She explained that Reaver was created with the mission of captivating, raising awareness, and organizing young people about the importance of this struggle, aiming to guarantee environmental health for teenagers and young people in Northeast Brazil.

A video message from Moema Viezzer was shown.



Panel 5 was about the Global Ethical Stocktake and included the participation of...

- Dulce Pereira, President of IDS, Brazil
- Rubens Born, National Coordinator of FBOMS/Esquel Foundation, Brazil
- Vahíd Vahdat, Bahá'í Community of Brazil
- Mirian Vilela, Executive Director, Earth Charter International, Costa Rica
- Moderators: Paulo D. Branco, Instituto Fronteiras do Desenvolvimento and Salete Aquino, URI

The members of the panel were invited to share:

"What does this call proposed by the Global Ethical Stocktake (GES) mean for each individual, based on their journey and the organizations they represent?"

Among the responses, the idea that the GES represents an opportunity to bring reflection, awareness, and ethical commitment to the center of decision-making processes and actions, and not to their margins, stood out. The importance of collaborating and dialoguing on these themes was also highlighted, positioning the Earth Charter as an ethical compass, for example, in the context of a just energy and technological transition.

The GES's call was understood as the beginning of an awakening to the fact that confronting the climate crisis is not limited to issues of financing, adaptation, mitigation, or technology, but involves, above all, an ethical commitment to the common good, based on solidarity and shared and differentiated responsibility.

Next, each panelist answered different questions posed by the GES. To conclude, everyone was invited to reflect on how they envision the two initiatives—the GES and the Earth Charter—cooperating in responding to the challenges of the 21st century, especially in the face of the climate emergency.

The desire to see the GES initiative expanded was highlighted, meaning that the process should be extended to other COPs, and that the Earth Charter, both as a document and as a global movement and institution, should continue to actively engage with and contribute to this process. This is with the purpose of grounding climate action in the ethics of care, respect, and shared responsibility.





Rubens Born said that the Earth Charter is a cornerstone and serves as a solid foundation for both the GES and the issues in the climate crisis agenda. He added that we should seek to amplify the voice of the Earth Charter over the next 10 years.

Vahid Vahdat invited the audience to consider ethics as a force for transformation.

Dulce Pereira, referring to the need to think from the perspective of territories and the Brumadinho and Mariana disasters, asked what is the cost of acting unethically? Is ethical reflection and decision-making precisely the missing link?

Mirian Vilela reiterated her desire that reflections and dialogues on ethics and on the GES not be considered marginal in major discussions and decisions, but rather essential elements capable of guiding decisions in all pillars of the climate issue: mitigation, adaptation, new technologies, financing, and climate governance.

At the close of the dialogue session, Mirian Vilela, on behalf of Earth Charter International, offered a recognition to Pedro Ivo Batista, president of Alternativa Terrazul, for his dedication and tireless work over more than 20 years in promoting the Earth Charter.





Panel 6 – Youth, Earth Charter and the Climate Issue

- Vitória Régia, Coordinator of Tapeba Youth
- Luisa Zetterström, Friends of the Terrazul Alternative Association
- Helena Marques, Youth for Climate
- Nilton Tatto, Federal Deputy and President of the Environmental Parliamentary Front
- Lucélia Santos, Actress and Environmental Activist
- Igor Gomid, Master Professor at UFPA
- Moderators: Lila Shalamar, Terrazul Alternative Association and Emanuel Antunes, Harmony Director of Portela

Helena Marques and Luisa Zetterström presented the results of the Earth Charter Youth Meeting held in September, where they reinterpreted the Earth Charter, incorporating the anxieties of today's youth and creating an Earth Charter deck of cards. They believe in the importance of generating diverse interpretations and ways of expressing the Earth Charter. They highlighted the importance of the enchantment that the Earth Charter's message evokes. The cards in the youth deck are still being translated into English and Spanish.

Igor Gomid shared some data related to climate science.

Nilton Tatto reflected on the relationship between generations, beginning with the unresolved challenges that the older generation is leaving for the younger generation, and reflected on the challenges of working within the institutional framework of government.

Lucélia Santos made an observation about how everything envisioned in the Earth Charter is still far from being fulfilled, and how important it is for contemporary generations to unite to confront the climate crisis.

In the days following this event, and within the framework of COP30, there was a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Earth Charter at the University of the Amazon in Belem on 13 November, and a launch by the Editorial Board of the Federal Senate of the COP30 Collection with various publications including the Earth Charter and a primer for children on 15 and 18 November.





The event was organized by the Terrazul Alternative Association (affiliated with the Earth Charter International), in partnership with the Salvaterra Institute, the International Center for Water and Transdisciplinarity (CIRAT), and the Earth Charter Brazil Network. The initiative had the support of the Amazon Working Group (GTA), the Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and Development (FBOMS), the Earth Charter International itself, and especially the Municipality of Ananindeua.

The event had the support and coordination of Vera Guedes, Deputy Secretary for Combating Climate Change in Ananindeua, in addition to the collaboration of several municipal employees.

Links: [Ananindeua City Hall News]

<https://www.ananews.com.br/noticia/9216/ananindeua-se-consolida-como-protagonista-no-debate-climatico-durante-evento-paralelo-a-cop-30>

<https://www.ananews.com.br/noticia/9215/forum-internacional-destaca-a-representacao-de-ananindeua-nos-debates-da-agenda-climatica>

