

THE EARTH CHARTER	THE EARTH CHARTER (Reframed)
<p>Preamble</p>	<p>Preamble</p>
<p>We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future.</p> <p>As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile,</p> <p>the future at once holds great peril and great promise.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future.</p> <p>As we 7 billion homo sapiens on our finite planet continue to increase in number and our collective unsustainable effects on the planet's eco-system continue to dominate a living system that is increasingly interdependent and fragile (because it is being based on common, finite resources),</p> <p>the future at once holds great peril and great promise.</p> <p>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 interdependent Earth community with a common destiny - to fill the niche we are born into with ever increasing complexity that in turn seems to provide ever increasing awareness / consciousness of the Universe. At this point in the evolution of life on planet Earth, we Homo Sapiens are the life form that can transform the energy of our Source, our Sun into an emerging source of consciousness. We humans are an important link in the energy chain between Light and Consciousness (& Understanding & Prediction.) We are a small, but important part of a very complex system that requires the vitality of all its elements to be a vibrant total system of Life.</p> <p>As a side note, our observation of the Universe (as described in the Universe Story) indicates that our source of energy, the Sun has enough hydrogen & helium (fuel) to fuse for another 5 billion years – in the process of becoming a giant red star that expands in diameter to eventually encompass the orbit of Mercury, Venus and Earth. However there are phenomena occurring on Earth itself (non-anthropocentric) that will probably make our planet uninhabitable after another 500 million years. But that's a long</p>

<p>We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.</p> <p>Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.</p>	<p>time to continue the evolution of life – particular since we have reached our physical limits of population and must now evolve in new dimensions – in the areas of cooperation, collaboration, complexity (that is manageable and responsible and moral), consciousness, compassion, connectedness, curiosity, and creativity</p> <p>We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature (all life as well as the non-living systems that create our habitable niche), universal human rights, universal non-human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace – a culture of non-violence where humans make choices that do not prevent another living being from reaching their potential and provide opportunities for growth to their potential.</p> <p>Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.</p> <p>Of the many reasons we are here on this planet at this moment in this habitable niche of the Universe is to continue to extend the path from the Light to Consciousness – to extend our ability to look back at the Light and understand how and where we have come from as well as to fully take in the present and curiously peer into the unknown and seek more knowledge and wisdom to live in the future.</p>
<p>Earth, Our Home</p>	<p>Earth, Our Home</p>
<p>Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe.</p> <p>Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. The forces of nature make existence a demanding and uncertain adventure, but Earth has provided the conditions essential to life's evolution.</p>	<p>Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe.</p> <p>Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life where chemistry runs backward driven by the incoming energy of the Sun. Life exists in a microcosm of the Universe where basic elements can come together into new relationships, where order can increase and entropy can decrease - while still immersed in the greater Universe that continues to expand and increase in entropy (disorder). The forces of nature make existence a demanding and</p>

<p>The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters, and clean air.</p> <p>The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples.</p> <p>The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.</p>	<p>uncertain adventure, but Earth has provided the conditions essential to life's evolution on a journey of ever increasing complexity with ever expanding awareness and consciousness.</p> <p>The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its interdependent ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters, and clean air.</p> <p>The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples – of all living beings. Homo Sapiens must learn to Borrow / Return every atom of Earth's resources at its original or higher energy level for sustainable use by future generations of all life. Consumption of anything is synonymous with death.</p> <p>The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust. Earth's vitality is a direct function of the amount of Sun's energy we (all life) can harvest. We currently are running (unsustainably) on ancient one-time only reserves of energy – and we have experienced the exhilaration, the high of living at such a high rate of energy expenditure. 7 billion humans have effectively harnessed ___ billion machine slaves powered by ancient sunlight to do our work to extend our capabilities to increase our knowledge of the Universe, etc. Now we must transition to Sunlight as that source of euphoria and evolving consciousness.</p>
<p>The Global Situation</p>	<p>The Global Situation</p>
<p>The dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental devastation, the depletion of resources, and a massive extinction of species.</p> <p>Communities are being undermined.</p> <p>The benefits of development are not shared equitably and the gap between rich and poor is widening. Injustice, poverty, ignorance,</p>	<p>The dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental devastation, the depletion of resources, and a massive extinction of species.</p> <p>Communities are being undermined.</p> <p>The benefits of development are not shared equitably and the gap between rich and poor is widening. Injustice, poverty, ignorance,</p>

<p>and violent conflict are widespread and the cause of great suffering.</p> <p>An unprecedented rise in human population has overburdened ecological and social systems. The foundations of global security are threatened. These trends are perilous—but not inevitable.</p>	<p>and violent conflict are widespread and the cause of great suffering.</p> <p>An unprecedented rise in human population has overburdened ecological and social systems. The foundations of global security are threatened. These trends are perilous—but not inevitable.</p>
<p>The Challenges Ahead</p>	<p>The Challenges Ahead</p>
<p>The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another or risk the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life.</p> <p>Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living. We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more.</p> <p>We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all and to reduce our impacts on the environment. The emergence of a global civil society is creating new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world.</p> <p>Our environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual challenges are interconnected, and together we can forge inclusive solutions.</p>	<p>The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another or risk the destruction of destroy ourselves and the diversity of life.</p> <p>Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living. We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more.</p> <p>We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all and to reduce our impacts on the environment. The emergence of a global civil society is creating new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world.</p> <p>Our environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual challenges are interconnected, and together we can forge inclusive solutions.</p>
<p>Universal Responsibility</p>	<p>Universal Responsibility</p>
<p>To realize these aspirations, we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities.</p> <p>We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world.</p> <p>The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being,</p>	<p>To realize these aspirations, we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities.</p> <p>We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world.</p> <p>The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of</p>

<p>gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.</p>	<p>being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.</p>
<p>We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community.</p> <p>Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed.</p>	<p>We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community.</p> <p>Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed.</p>
<p>Principles</p>	<p>Principles</p>
<p>I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE</p>	<p>I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE</p>
<p>1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity. a. Recognize that all beings are interdependent and every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings. b. Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.</p>	<p>1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity. a. Recognize that all beings are interdependent and every form of life has value regardless of its (perceived) worth to human beings. b. Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.</p>
<p>2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love. a. Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.</p>	<p>2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love. a. Accept that with the right to own “Borrow” natural resources comes the duty /responsibility to assure that every atom of that resource is Returned /Recycled and can be made available for use by future generations – anything less is unsustainable consumptive behavior that cannot be tolerated on a finite planet.</p> <p>The concept of “Mine-ing” is obsolete (it is still being used but is unsustainable and therefore insane). An individual cannot consider a natural resource “Mine” as our indigenous people know full well. All resources belong to all beings present and future. We are borrowing these resources from Earth with the full understanding that every atom must be Returned (and made available for use by future generations) when we no longer have a viable use for them (every atom must be Recycled).</p>

<p>b. Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.</p>	<p>We can no longer be “Mine-ing” – such behavior is unsustainable.</p> <p>We must instead be “Our-Owe-ing” Extracting resources to use responsibly during our lifetimes is certainly a right (and an expectation of all life forms.) Based on the natural diversity we around us, the Universe seems to encourage sustainable creativity – emergence – the creation of something more from nothing but the basic elements on Earth by putting these elements together in new and imaginative ways never before seen – this is a good thing.</p> <p>Accept that with the right to manipulate / use natural resources to form new relationships (human creations) comes the duty /responsibility to ‘prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.’¹</p> <p>b. Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.</p>
<p>3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.</p> <p>a. Ensure that communities at all levels guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone an opportunity to realize his or her full potential.</p> <p>b. Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is ecologically responsible.</p>	<p>3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.</p> <p>a. Ensure that communities at all levels guarantee human (and non-human) rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone (every living being – plant or animal) an opportunity to realize his or her or its full potential.</p> <p>b. Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is ecologically responsible.</p> <p>Justice is the ongoing effort to assure that the powerful / privileged (mentally or physically) do not take advantage of the less privileged or lessen their opportunity to reach their potential. On a</p>

¹ ”prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people” is a packed arrangement of concepts. Environmental harm includes the disruption of any non-living system – it includes the assembly of raw materials to create weapons of mass destruction (bombs, herbicides, insecticides, toxic chemicals dumped into the common air, water, soil); it includes the damming of waterways that form the pathway to spawning areas (of salmon), the building of super highways / walls that are migration barriers; the elimination of any habitable niche. How do we remove the perceived need to build weapons of mass destruction? – by delving deeper into the reason why such weapons are even thought to be required – by using our intellect to find ways to manage conflict non-violently – in a manner that does not prevent another from reaching their potential -

	<p>finite planet, hoarding cannot be tolerated – this is when a particular individual (or group) believes it is their right to accumulated resources beyond their need to subsist at the expense of all other living beings. Hoarding (wealth, resources, power, ...) is a mental illness within a sustainable social order, is not live serving, is an injustice and is not in right relations with All of Life.</p> <p>Hoarding has no redeemable value in a natural (non-human) or human sustainable system.</p>
<p>4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations. a. Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations. b. Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities.</p>	<p>4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations. a. Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations. b. Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities.</p>
<p>In order to fulfill these four broad commitments, it is necessary to:</p>	<p>In order to fulfill these four broad commitments, it is necessary to:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY</p>
<p>5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.</p>	<p>5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.</p>
<p>a. Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and regulations that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all development initiatives. b. Establish and safeguard viable nature and biosphere reserves, including wild lands and marine areas, to protect Earth's life support systems, maintain biodiversity, and preserve our natural heritage. c. Promote the recovery of endangered species and ecosystems. d. Control and eradicate non-native or genetically modified organisms harmful to native species and the environment, and prevent introduction of such harmful organisms. e. Manage the use of renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products, and marine life in ways that do not exceed rates of regeneration and that protect the health of ecosystems.</p>	<p>a. Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and regulations that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all development initiatives. b. Establish and safeguard viable nature and biosphere reserves, including wild lands and marine areas, to protect Earth's life support systems, maintain biodiversity, and preserve our natural heritage. c. Promote the recovery of endangered species and ecosystems. d. Control and eradicate non-native or genetically modified organisms harmful to native species and the environment, and prevent introduction of such harmful organisms. e. Manage the use of renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products, and marine life in ways that do not exceed rates of regeneration and that protect the health of ecosystems.</p>

<p>f. Manage the extraction and use of non-renewable resources such as minerals and fossil fuels in ways that minimize depletion and cause no serious environmental damage.</p>	<p>f. Manage the extraction and use of non-renewable resources such as minerals and fossil fuels in ways that minimize eliminate depletion and cause no serious environmental damage.</p> <p>As of 2012, we are beyond minimizing the depletion / consumption of natural resources. We must immediately adhere to a new global ethic that</p>
<p>6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.</p> <p>a. Take action to avoid the possibility of serious or irreversible environmental harm even when scientific knowledge is incomplete or inconclusive.</p> <p>b. Place the burden of proof on those who argue that a proposed activity will not cause significant harm, and make the responsible parties liable for environmental harm.</p> <p>c. Ensure that decision making addresses the cumulative, long-term, indirect, long distance, and global consequences of human activities.</p>	<p>6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.</p> <p>a. Take action to avoid the possibility of serious or irreversible environmental harm even when scientific knowledge is incomplete or inconclusive.</p> <p>A general rule is ZERO DISCHARGE - simply avoid releasing any substance produced during a production process can do harm to any living being – or can change / alter the eco-system in any way (e.g. addition of green house gas such as CO2 at a rate that cannot be offset by another process – human or natural; cutting down a mature tree before planting and growing a new one;)</p> <p>b. Place the burden of proof on those who argue that a proposed activity will not cause significant any harm, and make the responsible parties liable for environmental harm.</p> <p>c. Ensure that decision making addresses the cumulative, long-term, indirect, long distance, and global consequences of human activities.</p> <p>The planet is finite, we have a common atmosphere, common oceans, common soil. There is no such thing as an acceptable waste. All output from one human process must be able to be an input to another natural or human process – without lowering the energy level of the planet. Any withdrawal must be paid back –</p>

<p>d. Prevent pollution of any part of the environment and allow no build-up of radioactive, toxic, or other hazardous substances.</p> <p>e. Avoid military activities damaging to the environment.</p>	<p>with interest.</p> <p>Example1: I want to burn some wood for a fire. I intend to pay back this energy within a year – I had planted a number of trees and we will start harvesting mature trees next year. No interest required.</p> <p>Example 2: I want to burn some wood for a fire. I plan to pay back the energy in about 20 years when trees I planted 20 years ago will have matured and can be harvested. There is interest on that transaction – the borrower will pay back the withdrawal at a 5 % annual interest rate (no compounding)– in 20 years that’s equivalent to 100% or one additional tree.</p> <p>d. Prevent pollution of any part of the environment and allow no build-up of radioactive, toxic, or other hazardous substances.</p> <p>Until nuclear scientists develop a technique to fully utilize the radioactive waste from a nuclear power plant, no new nuclear plants can be developed. There are alternatives despite what the nuclear, coal, oil and gas companies would have you believe.</p> <p>e. Avoid military activities damaging to the environment.</p> <p>As of 1945, when the United States dropped two nuclear bombs on Japan, war became obsolete as a sane way of resolving international conflicts. Just because war is still being used in 2012 does not negate the fact that war is obsolete. Humanity (and the rest of life on the planet) cannot survive a war between countries that have nuclear arsenal – in a war, the side about to be destroyed by “conventional techniques” has nothing to lose – why not inflict as much damage to your enemy as you can as you go down? Use the nukes or lose them!</p>
<p>7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.</p>	<p>7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.</p>

<p>a. Reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used in production and consumption systems, and ensure that residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems.</p> <p>b. Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.</p> <p>c. Promote the development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies.</p> <p>d. Internalize the full environmental and social costs of goods and services in the selling price, and enable consumers to identify products that meet the highest social and environmental standards.</p> <p>e. Ensure universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.</p>	<p>a. Reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used in production and consumption systems, and ensure that residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems.</p> <p>No waste, zero discharge. In a sustainable world - one that we must learn to live in – every atom of earth’s resources that is extracted and borrowed must be returned for future use by later generations. No more land fills. No more dumping into the oceans to dispose of waste . There will be no waste because nothing can be created that becomes unusable by another process. No incinerating and dumping the elements into the atmosphere where they become dispersed and no longer available to future generations.</p> <p>b. Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly only on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. This is traceable to a law of physics and is NOT negotiable. Burning of ancient reserves of hydrocarbons must end immediately and forever. These reserves may be used if there energy state is not reduced (NOT BURNED)</p> <p>c. Promote the development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies.</p> <p>d. Internalize the full environmental and social costs of goods and services in the selling price, and enable consumers to identify products that meet the highest social and environmental standards.</p> <p>e. Ensure universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.</p> <p>Sustainable Life on a finite planet requires, demands a stable population. Two species may conceive two species. All incentives to encourage human families with more than two children are to be abolished. This ethic is based on a law of physics and is NOT negotiable despite what current cultures, religions, personal desires</p>
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<p>f. Adopt lifestyles that emphasize the quality of life and material sufficiency in a finite world.</p>	<p>might suggest. Conception prevention is required beyond two.</p> <p>f. Adopt lifestyles that emphasize the quality of life and material sufficiency in a finite world.</p>
<p>8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.</p> <p>a. Support international scientific and technical cooperation on sustainability, with special attention to the needs of developing nations.</p> <p>b. Recognize and preserve the traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all cultures that contribute to environmental protection and human well-being.</p> <p>c. Ensure that information of vital importance to human health and environmental protection, including genetic information, remains available in the public domain.</p>	<p>8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.</p> <p>a. Support international scientific and technical cooperation on sustainability, with special attention to the needs of developing nations.</p> <p>b. Recognize and preserve the traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all cultures that contribute to environmental protection and human well-being.</p> <p>c. Ensure that information of vital importance to human health and environmental protection, including genetic information, remains available in the public domain.</p> <p>Collective Learning (i.e. Education) that passes knowledge/wisdom from one generation to the next is of critical importance as human awareness continues to increase – as our lives and social orders become more and more complex we must develop better ways to transfer key knowledge to the next generation.</p> <p>Education of All must be a priority.</p>
<p>III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE</p>	<p>III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE</p>
<p>9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.</p> <p>a. Guarantee the right to potable water, clean air, food security, uncontaminated soil, shelter, and safe sanitation, allocating the national and international resources required.</p> <p>b. Empower every human being with the education and resources to secure a sustainable livelihood, and provide social security and</p>	<p>9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.</p> <p>a. Guarantee the right to potable water, clean air, food security, uncontaminated soil, shelter, and safe sanitation, allocating the national and international resources required.</p> <p>b. Empower every human being with the education and resources to secure a sustainable livelihood, and provide social security and</p>

<p>safety nets for those who are unable to support themselves. c. Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and enable them to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.</p>	<p>safety nets for those who are unable to support themselves. c. Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and enable them to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.</p>
<p>10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner. a. Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations.</p> <p>b. Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.</p> <p>c. Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and progressive labor standards. d. Require multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public good, and hold them accountable for the consequences of their activities.</p>	<p>10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner. a. Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations.</p> <p>Eliminate elements of social systems that perpetrate hoarding (the separation of wealth, the accumulation of power, etc.). This separation always leads to abuse of the less privileged by the more privileged when there is an excess (of wealth, power, resources,...).</p> <p>b. Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.</p> <p>Recall the ancient wisdom related to the disdain of usury</p> <p>c. Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and progressive labor standards. d. Require multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public good, and hold them accountable for the consequences of their activities.</p>
<p>11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity. a. Secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them. b. Promote the active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal</p>	<p>11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity. a. Secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them. b. Promote the active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal</p>

<p>c. Protect the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, association, and dissent.</p> <p>d. Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.</p> <p>e. Eliminate corruption in all public and private institutions.</p> <p>f. Strengthen local communities, enabling them to care for their environments, and assign environmental responsibilities to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively.</p>	<p>c. Protect the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, association, and dissent.</p> <p>d. Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.</p> <p>e. Eliminate corruption (personal gain alone) in all public and private institutions.</p> <p>f. Strengthen local communities, enabling them to care for their environments, and assign environmental responsibilities to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively.</p>
<p>14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.</p> <p>a. Provide all, especially children and youth, with educational opportunities that empower them to contribute actively to sustainable development.</p> <p>b. Promote the contribution of the arts and humanities as well as the sciences in sustainability education.</p> <p>c. Enhance the role of the mass media in raising awareness of ecological and social challenges.</p> <p>d. Recognize the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living.</p>	<p>14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.</p> <p>a. Provide all, especially children and youth, with educational opportunities that empower them to contribute actively to sustainable development.</p> <p>b. Promote the contribution of the arts and humanities as well as the sciences in sustainability education.</p> <p>c. Enhance the role of the mass media in raising awareness of ecological and social challenges.</p> <p>d. Recognize the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living.</p>
<p>15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.</p> <p>a. Prevent cruelty to animals kept in human societies and protect them from suffering.</p> <p>b. Protect wild animals from methods of hunting, trapping, and fishing that cause extreme, prolonged, or avoidable suffering.</p> <p>c. Avoid or eliminate to the full extent possible the taking or destruction of non-targeted species.</p>	<p>15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.</p> <p>a. Prevent cruelty to animals kept in human societies and protect them from suffering.</p> <p>b. Protect wild animals from methods of hunting, trapping, and fishing that cause extreme, prolonged, or avoidable suffering.</p> <p>c. Avoid or eliminate to the full extent possible the taking or destruction of non-targeted species.</p> <p>Harvesting of any life form for the energy to sustain another life must be transitioned with respect.</p>
<p>16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.</p> <p>a. Encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation among all peoples and within and among nations.</p>	<p>16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.</p> <p>a. Encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation among all peoples and within and among nations.</p>

<p>b. Implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve environmental conflicts and other disputes.</p> <p>c. Demilitarize national security systems to the level of a non-provocative defense posture, and convert military resources to peaceful purposes, including ecological restoration.</p> <p>d. Eliminate nuclear, biological, and toxic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p>e. Ensure that the use of orbital and outer space supports environmental protection and peace.</p> <p>f. Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.</p>	<p>b. Implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve environmental conflicts and other disputes.</p> <p>c. Demilitarize national security systems to the level of a non-provocative defense posture, and convert military resources to peaceful purposes, including ecological restoration.</p> <p>d. Eliminate nuclear, biological, and toxic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p>e. Ensure that the use of orbital and outer space supports environmental protection and peace and evolving consciousness.</p> <p>f. Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.</p> <p>Recognize the peacefulness is the measure of the absence of violence and the presence of opportunity to pursue one’s potential. Violence is any action that prevents a living being from pursuing their potential. Opportunity is any action that assists another living being on their path toward fulfillment of their potential.</p>
<p>The Way Forward</p>	<p>The Way Forward (needs some additional inspiration)</p>
<p>As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. Such renewal is the promise of these Earth Charter principles. To fulfill this promise, we must commit ourselves to adopt and promote the values and objectives of the Charter.</p>	<p>As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning.</p> <p>Such renewal is the promise of these Earth Charter principles.</p> <p>To fulfill this promise, we must commit ourselves to adopt and promote the values and objectives of the Charter.</p>
<p>This requires a change of mind and heart. It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility.</p> <p>We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures will find their own distinctive ways to realize the vision.</p>	<p>This requires a change of mind and heart. It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility.</p> <p>We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures will find their own distinctive ways to realize the vision.</p>

<p>We must deepen and expand the global dialogue that generated the Earth Charter, for we have much to learn from the ongoing collaborative search for truth and wisdom.</p>	<p>We must deepen and expand the global dialogue that generated the Earth Charter, for we have much to learn from the ongoing collaborative search for truth and wisdom.</p>
<p>Life often involves tensions between important values. This can mean difficult choices. However, we must find ways to harmonize diversity with unity, the exercise of freedom with the common good, short-term objectives with long-term goals.</p>	<p>Life often involves tensions between important values. This can mean difficult choices. However, we must find ways to harmonize diversity with unity, the exercise of freedom with the common good, short-term objectives with long-term goals.</p>
<p>Every individual, family, organization, and community has a vital role to play. The arts, sciences, religions, educational institutions, media, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and governments are all called to offer creative leadership.</p>	<p>Every individual, family, organization, and community has a vital role to play. The arts, sciences, religions, educational institutions, media, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and governments are all called to offer creative leadership.</p>
<p>The partnership of government, civil society, and business is essential for effective governance.</p>	<p>The partnership of government, civil society, and business is essential for effective governance.</p>
<p>In order to build a sustainable global community, the nations of the world must renew their commitment to the United Nations, fulfill their obligations under existing international agreements, and support the implementation of Earth Charter principles with an international legally binding instrument on environment and development.</p>	<p>To build a sustainable global community,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nations of the world must renew their commitment to the United Nations, • fulfill their obligations under existing international agreements, and • support the implementation of Earth Charter principles with an international legally binding instrument on environment and development.
<p>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.</p>	<p>Let ours be a time remembered for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the awakening of a new reverence for All Life, • the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, • the quickening of the struggle for justice, peace, and right (mutually beneficial) relations, • the joyful celebration of life, and • the promotion of evolving consciousness.