

**Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development
(RAED)**

Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

2000- 2001

AOYE has been invited by the Earth Council to broadly disseminate and inform the public of Egypt about the Earth Charter. Also AOYE was asked to get the adoption of the Charter by the Government of Egypt. The process started early this year after the signing of the MOU between the Earth Council and AOYE.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

1. Disseminating the Earth Charter and getting the public support by signing on it. This included the following:
 - a. Disseminating the Charter to a big number of Civil Society Organizations and representatives from NGOs, Syndicates, Universities, and others.
 - b. Disseminating the Charter to Media representatives.
2. Holding a National Workshop to launch officially the Charter and receive the Government support.

DETAILS

1. **Disseminating the Earth Charter and getting the public support by signing on it:**
 - a. The Civil Society:
 - It has been disseminated and distributed to more than 120 NGOs in Egypt. As a result of that 13 NGOs have officially supported the Charter by endorse it.

- It has been disseminated and distributed to 14 Universities. As a result of that we received official support from 5 of them.
- It has been disseminated and distributed to many specialized syndicates. As a result, we received support from three Syndicates.
- It has been disseminated and distributed to the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs. Both have supported the Charter.
- It has been distributed to other agencies like The League for Arab States.

One good example of the support we received was from the Maritime Scouting Society which is a big NGO and has members from many Schools, Institutes, Universities and many others. The MSS held a meeting gathered many of its members to officially support and sign on the Charter.

The total number of individuals who supported the Charter and signed for its support is more than 19,000 from the different organizations.

b. The Media:

Many programs and interviews were recorded and broadcast in different channels especially through the General Program Station and Greater Cairo Station.

A number of simplified episodes about the Charter were developed by the General Program. This had a great effect for raising awareness about the Earth Charter. A competition was organized in one of the most popular programs that attracted the audience. The winners received small prizes from AOYE.

Many TV programs of national and international channels covered the issue. This was behind the big propaganda about the charter.

The Press was very influential in the process of launching the Charter in Egypt. Many articles were written and published about it specially in the biggest two newspapers (Al-Ahram and Al-Akhbar) made many people to know about the charter.

2. The National Seminar:

A National Seminar was held in AL-AHRAM Newspaper on the 5th of August in order to present the Charter. Another objective of the seminar was to declare the results AOYE received from different actors. AOYE was planning to hold the Seminar in June or July but because of the heavy schedule of the CEO of EEAA, it was decided to hold the seminar on the 5th of August.

The seminar was attended by more than 100 representatives from different sectors. Many of them have already endorsed the Charter before they attended the seminar. The attendees were coming from government, NGOs, media, Universities and experts of various fields.

The seminar was moderated by Dr. Emad Adly, President of AOYE and chaired by the CEO of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency EEAA. The Seminar was highly recognized by 2 big Universities (Al-Azhar University and Helwan University). The Vice-President of each University attended the seminar.

After the opening of the seminar, Dr. Emad Adly made a slide presentation on the Charter with all its components.

After the presentation, a long discussion was opened where there were many remarks about the Charter that we can summarize as follows:

- The Charter is reflecting most of the ethical and spiritual values of the different religions. In this regard, the attendants welcomed all what came in the Charter.
- A recommendation was done to include the issue of the mines in the Charter; especially those remained from the 2nd World War because it is the responsibility of the countries which planted those mines to remove them from the Egyptian lands. The total number of mines in Egypt is more than 20 million. This is affecting the Sustainable Development process in Egypt.
- The fair distribution of the net profit from the products manufactured in developed countries, using raw materials produced in developing countries.
- A strong recommendation was done from the audience to disseminate the principles of the Charter to all actors in the field of Sustainable Development.
- Another recommendation was to call upon the Government of Egypt to coordinate with other countries from the region to support the Charter at the next WSSD.
- The most important decision that was made by the CEO of EEAA was to include the Charter among the National documents of the National Report for the WSSD. This means that the government of Egypt is officially adopting the Earth Charter.