The Challenges Ahead
The choice is ours: a global partnership for a sustainable way of life or a world of poverty, despair, and terminal environmental degradation.

Universal Responsibility
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, and with all our fellow creatures. In this way we can fulfill the promise of humanity and create a better world for all.

To these ends, we...
The Earth Charter is an ethical framework for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society. It is centrally concerned with the transition to sustainable ways of living and human development. The Earth Charter recognizes that ecological protection, the eradication of poverty, equitable economic development, respect for human rights, democracy, and peace are interdependent.

The Earth Charter is the product of a decade-long, cross-cultural, global civil society dialogue on common goals and shared values. The creation of the Charter remains the most open and participatory worldwide consultation process ever associated with the drafting of an international declaration.

Many thousands of people and hundreds of organizations contributed to the drafting process contributing to the declaration’s strength and legitimacy.

Contributed to the drafting process contributing to the

The initiative’s goals are to:

1. Raise awareness worldwide of the Earth Charter and to promote understanding of its inclusive ethical vision.
3. Promote the use of the Earth Charter as an ethical guide and the implementation of its principles by civil society, business, and government.
4. Encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, faith groups, local communities, and other settings.
5. Promote use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.

These goals are guided by the mission statement of the Earth Charter Initiative:

The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the environment and sustainable development law; as a values framework for creating sustainable development policies and plans at all levels; as an educational tool for developing understanding of the choices facing humanity and for the need to modify and improve organizational mission statements, codes of conduct, programmes, activities and publications of business and professional organizations; as a catalyst for multi-sectoral, cross-cultural, and interfaith dialogue on global ethics and important social and ecological values and their interrelationships; as a soft law instrument to provide an ethical foundation for the ongoing development of international law; as a guide in assessing progress towards sustainability through audits and reviews; and as a call to action and a guide to a sustainable way of life that can inspire commitment, cooperation, and change.

What does endorsement of the Earth Charter mean?

Endorsement of the Earth Charter by individuals or organizations signifies a commitment to the spirit and aims of the document. It indicates an intention to use the Earth Charter in ways that are appropriate given the situation and to cooperate with others in working for the implementation of its principles. Endorsement builds support for the Earth Charter Initiative and social change.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE?

You can participate in the Earth Charter Initiative by:

1. Disseminating the Earth Charter and raising awareness about it.
2. Endorsing the Earth Charter and encouraging endorsement by organizations to which you belong.
3. Fostering social and ecological values and their interrelationships in your home, workplace, and local community.
4. Chairing and other settings. Thank you for your encouragement and support for the Earth Charter Initiative and social change.

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