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Declaration of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference
Chair’s Text
Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011

Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens

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INTRODUCTION

The participants of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, assembled from 3-5 September 2011 in Bonn, Germany, seat of UN organizations and conventions working for sustainable development worldwide and home to an interdisciplinary cluster of NGOs and institutions working in the fields of volunteerism, environment and development;

Noting that the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference is a major stakeholder event aimed at contributing to the two volunteer-focused sessions of the UN General Assembly scheduled to take place on 5 December 2011 in New York to mark the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (“IYV + 10”);

Further noting that the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference also aims to inform the preparatory process towards the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio + 20”) in Rio de Janeiro, 4-6 June 2012;

Bearing in mind the objective of the Earth Summit (“Rio + 20”), as mandated in the UN General Assembly Resolution A/64/236, to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges that include the themes of green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development and the institutional framework for sustainable development;

Mindful of the failure of States to subsequently address the urgency conveyed in the opening paragraph of Agenda 21: “Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with perpetuation of disparities between nations, and a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystem on which we depend for our well being”; (Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

Noting the need to reaffirm and renew Agenda 21, which, in section 3.7, stresses that “sustainable development must be achieved at every level of society …. Governments, in cooperation with appropriate international and non-governmental organizations, should support a community-driven approach to sustainability”;

Recognizing that the strength of sustainable development is its inherent nature to interlink problems and solutions across a wide spectrum of “issue silos”;

Further
Further

Guided by the outcome documents of the major global summits of the 1980s and the 1990s, Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development’s Johannesburg Plan of Implementation ("JPOI"), and the Cochabamba Peoples’ Agreement;

Recalling that the Earth Charter, together with the Culture of Peace, can play a vital role in helping to inspire renewed political commitment expected for Rio + 20 and to guide the transition to a sustainable, just and peaceful society with respect and care for the entire community of life;

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular Principle 10, on the need to ensure participation of all concerned citizens in environmental decision-making as well as access to environmental information and environmental justice and Principles 20-22 on the need to promote participation of women, youth, and indigenous peoples;

Reaffirming the importance of attaining the goals set in the International Conference on Population and Development (“ICPD”), the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the UN Millennium Development Goals (“MDGs”);

Further guided by General Assembly Resolution 63/153 of 18 December 2008 inviting Governments and other stakeholders to carry out activities focused on marking the IYV + 10;

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly, in op. para. 16 of A/RES/63/153, “requests the UN Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the tenth anniversary of the International Year under the item entitled “Social development”, and to be pursued by the United Nations Volunteer program, its partners and the other relevant parts of the United Nations system;

Aware of the need for a follow-up to the 2011 IYV+10 and noting that the momentum created has contributed to increase the vibrancy of volunteerism nationally, regionally and globally with the involvement of more governments, more civil society organizations, more private sector partners, and more people from a broader cross-section of societies;

GENERAL STATEMENTS

Recognizing that human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature;

Alarmed at the increasing loss of biodiversity; the rate of desertification, deforestation, especially in the tropics and forest degradation globally; the collapse of fishery resources, and the aggravated effects resulting from global warming;

Recognizing that biodiversity and linguistic diversity are inseparable and alarmed at the loss of traditional knowledge caused by the loss of linguistic diversity;

Concerned about climate change and its effects, including exacerbating biodiversity loss as well as ocean acidification and the collapse of glaciers, ice caps and polar ice shelves;

Recognizing that billions of people remain in poverty and that poverty often has a female face;

Recognizing as well the lack of consistent and sustainable sources of energy for both the developed and the developing world, unsustainable agriculture, and rises in food prices;

Taking note of the inter-relationships among the environmental challenges, climate change, food crisis and monetary and financial instability, aggravated by the unprecedented concentration of resources and flagrant inequities among people;
Further

Noting that solutions based on de-regulated markets have accentuated the problems and have brought adverse consequences to humanity; and that commitments on financing for development have not been fulfilled;

Also recognizing that the current monetary, financial, commercial and economic system, along with unequal power relations, are the main drivers for the active process of environmental, moral and spiritual impoverishment;

Recognizing that peace, the promotion of the Culture of Peace, and respect for human rights are constitutive elements for sustainable development and that the large expenditures being allocated to warfare and military activities, including research, in particular for the use of nuclear weapons, represent a serious threat to the planet affecting the lives of people everywhere, and pose unacceptable risks, particularly storage of nuclear waste and uranium mining on the sacred lands of indigenous peoples, and potential nuclear reactor damage posed by natural and human-made hazards;

Calling upon Member States of the UN and all stakeholders to take immediate action in addressing the alarming crisis and famine in the Horn of Africa;

Acknowledging that sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being requires that interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully understood, recognized, appropriately managed and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance, States should promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies including linguistic policies, to meet the needs of current and future generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;

Recognizing that the regime of internationally agreed development goals is the foundation for sustainable development, and that the business-as-usual practices and policies should not be accepted;

Highlighting the need for youth empowerment through formal and non-formal education in sustainable development, as well as through participation at all levels and at all stages of decision-making processes;

Acknowledging the important role of formal, non-formal, informal and vocational learning and life-long education for sustainable development;

Acknowledging synergies and inter-relationships between gender equality and sustainable development, the importance of girls’ and women’s participation in decision-making in sustainable development processes and governance at all levels, and their role as “agents of change”; and the need to ensure their full contribution to building green economies and sustainable societies;

Committed to promoting respect for cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity and fostering solidarity and reciprocity among peoples, including indigenous peoples and nations and an alliance and partnership among civilizations;

Aware of the important role the media and modern means of communication play for raising awareness and facilitating collaboration, promoting sustainable behavior and developing south-south news distribution mechanisms;

Recognizing that people and nature are interdependent and that the “global commons” – the air and oceans, for examples – are resources on which we all rely, we encourage communities, governments and other stakeholders to manage and share the responsibility of making decisions on safeguarding and increasing the fruits of nature and society that form the foundation of a green economy;

Recognizing that biodiversity and linguistic diversity are inseparable, connected and interdependent, and alarmed at the increasing loss of linguistic diversity causing loss of traditional knowledge, which is essential for maintaining biodiversity;
Further

120 Recognizing that the implementation of the sustainable development agenda requires, besides strong political
121 actions and political leadership, the everyday, voluntary actions of millions of people and civil society
122 organizations across the globe;

123 Recognizing and enhancing the impact of volunteering for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and
124 for the development of sustainable livelihoods, keeping in mind the long history of volunteer engagement in
125 environmental issues, it will be important to acknowledge that the role of citizen engagement and volunteer
126 action will become even more significant in assuring an environmentally sustainable future and a green economy
127 in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, particularly as we approach Rio + 20;

128 Recognizing the role of volunteerism to achieve sustainable societies by fostering social inclusion and as a
129 means to involve and benefit all segments of society, including women, children, young people, older persons,
130 people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, and those excluded and vulnerable due to
131 social, linguistic or economic reasons;

132 Recognizing, that volunteerism, as a type of non-formal education, offers opportunities for young people to take
133 responsibility for their livelihoods, acquire skills and capacities and act as positive role models for other youth;

134 Reaffirming that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at mobilizing communities to
135 achieve the MDGs and, inter alia, such areas as poverty eradication, community-centred sustainable
136 development, health, including sexual and reproductive health, disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery
137 management and peacekeeping;

138 Recognizing that volunteerism, in taking centre stage for inspiring the global development dialogue, should lead
139 the way for the efforts of all stakeholders to develop a shared vision of partnership for the growth of the global
140 commons in areas such as education, both at the micro-level in families and at the national level, youth activism
141 through the arts and through online journalism, and through innovative, continuing methods of self-organization
142 and collective action, which should be documented and promoted by appropriate global information systems;

143 Highlighting the crucial contribution of volunteering in post-conflict contexts to construct sustainable societies
144 by rebuilding institutions, local capacity, and social cohesion through various forms of volunteering;

145 The NGOs here present in Bonn, Germany, on 5 September 2011, declare the following on the matters of a green
146 economy in the context of poverty eradication, sustainable lifestyles, education and life-long learning for
147 sustainable development, civic engagement in sustainable development governance and volunteerism:

148 RIO + 20 and Civic Engagement

149 We call on governments to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals set out below;

150 We encourage all stakeholders to become involved in Rio + 20 and to make their own commitments to
151 sustainable development;

152 We call on governments to:

153 come to Rio + 20 represented by Heads of State or Government, with concrete commitments to take
154 individual and collective actions towards sustainable development and address gaps and emerging issues, based
155 on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

156 produce a politically-binding outcome document that recommits governments to achieve sustainable
157 development;
Further

generate an appendix to the outcome document containing country commitments to form the foundation
of a global registry of sustainability actions and major stakeholder commitments, which include robust
monitoring and reporting provisions;

We call for the preparation and implementation of green economy roadmaps that consider and address the
commonly agreed Rio Principles, for the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals in critical areas, and for the
implementation of governance reforms to foster the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable
development and poverty eradication, by fostering civic engagement and volunteerism and for improving the
institutional framework for sustainable development.

We call for replacement of the current inefficient, unsustainable and inequitable economic, monetary, financial
and commercial models with policies that advance rather than detract from sustainable development goals and
that build rather than deplete the stocks of natural, human, built and social capital on which human well-being
ultimately depends. We propose that where the current economy aids inequity, destruction and greed, it should
be replaced by an economy that cares for the human-earth community.

We call for the establishment of the proposed Financial Transaction Tax to help build social protection systems
in the most vulnerable countries, the Least Developed Countries (“LDCs”), and contribute to sustainable climate
adaptation, strengthen civil society worldwide and support more sustainable and equitable economies.

We call for improved access to information technology, especially for young people, to facilitate growth towards
healthy communities in every sense – civic engagement, health, gender, education, food security and social
stability.

We call upon the UN General Assembly to proclaim 21 December each year as International Low-Carbon
Lifestyle Day, to be a day of reflection to live more simply and sustainably by recognizing the food-energy-water
nexus, and that the Secretary-General invite UN Member States, intergovernmental bodies, agencies and
programmes of the UN system, international institutions, cities, civil society and interested individuals and
volunteers to mark the day with appropriate low-carbon events worldwide.

We hereby call upon governments to work in partnership with civil society, the private sector and international
institutions to fulfill the commitments set forth in this declaration before and at Rio + 20.

GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND POVERTY ERADICATION

We are concerned that the current economic model, which promotes unsustainable consumption and production
patterns, facilitates a grossly inequitable trading system, fails to eradicate poverty, assists exploitation of natural
resources to the verge of extinction and total depletion, and has induced multiple crises on Earth, needs to be
replaced by sustainable economies in community, local, national, regional and international spheres.

We are concerned that the prevailing economic development model built on policies such as privatization,
export-led development, structural adjustment, deregulation, substitution of technology for nature, and driven by
the goal of GDP growth suffers from a series of market and institutional failures that render it inefficient,.unsustainable, inequitable, and an incorrect vehicle for advancing sustainable development goals.

We acknowledge the need to establish a new way to measure the progress towards a sustainable development
with gender-specific and other indicators, including, but not limited to, civic engagement, integrating them with
those of sustainable development, rather than only relying solely on a country’s GDP.

We call on governments and other stakeholders to make systematic use of population data and projections to
anticipate and plan for population dynamics and address associated challenges in a pro-active manner.

Recognizing human rights and freedoms, governments should enlarge individual choices and opportunities by
Further ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning, empowerment of women, and investment in education, particularly of disadvantaged children and youth, and girls and young women.

We call on the full and effective implementation of Agenda 21, the MDGs, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the ICPD to ensure young peoples’ rights to education, employment and health, emphasizing sexual and reproductive health, including access to contraceptives, and universal access to HIV prevention and treatment, through the understanding of linkages between social, environmental and population dimensions.

We call on governments to start a debate that recognizes the choices we have to make about human population as we consider the limits of the carrying capacity of the planet and the need to enable fair and equitable use of available resources and also leave space for wildlife and wilderness.

We are aware that the UNDP Human Development Index piloted for the first time social indicators such as education, gender equality and life expectancy to measure development, and that when governments implement the Universal Social Protection Floor Initiative there will be a significant improvement of human well-being.

We recognize further that the market and institutional failures take the form of prices that do not reflect their true environmental and social costs, underinvestment in natural, human, built and social capital, harmful and perverse subsidies, restricted access to information about production technologies and their impacts, lack of democratic economic governance, increasing unemployment and inadequate indicators of progress.

We are convinced that green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should be economic systems that foster citizen participation; require social justice and equity and gender equality; protection of ecosystems; creation of economic sufficiency, and that aims for the core idea that green economies enhance sustainable development and prosperity of all nations; ensure the wellbeing of all people; respect the rights, cultures, languages and wisdom of indigenous peoples and local communities; safeguard animal welfare and conserve biodiversity for future generations, while stressing that green economy does not replace sustainable development.

We acknowledge that a just transition to green economies within sustainable societies is in the context of sustainable development, elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty, climate justice, and equitable investment in people’s education, health, and decent work and right livelihoods.

We acknowledge also that green economies within sustainable societies should also ensure gender equality, democracy, improve human well-being, reduce environmental risks, and ensure that jobs and social benefits are distributed equitably among all peoples;

Considering that sustainable economies should be based on far-sighted policy-making, we need pathways to the green economies, low carbon development and new monetary policies with clear and binding targets and timetables.

For these reasons we call upon governments to:

- ensure extraction of materials only in a sustainable way and on a sufficiency basis, and that these resources are utilized efficiently;
- ensure the reuse of waste as raw material for new products to maximize the lifecycle and take action through providing the right incentives for research and development;
- phase out fossil fuel subsidies, setting up environmentally and socially friendly fiscal incentives, and operationalizing wide-ranging innovative sources of finance, such as the proposed Financial Transaction Tax ("FTT");
facilitate the transition to an ecologically-based, resilient, fair, fully inclusive and humane agriculture, and the establishment of a participatory mechanism to oversee the transition. The world’s millions of smallholder farmers, especially women, need to be politically empowered and given access to appropriate resources, and fair markets;

implement a just transition to sustainable economies as fast as possible through an unprecedented level of cooperation and policy coherence at the local, state, national and international levels, for South-South and triangular cooperation, by the sharing of green technologies and know-how, by restructuring regulatory, taxation, and expenditure policies, and by establishing democratic oversight of economic policy decision making;

create green jobs and to “green” existing jobs with a special focus on youth, women and disadvantaged groups;

replace or supplement GDP and other traditional economic metrics with broader indicators;

institute sustainable procurement standards, including ones encouraging the use of recycled products and renewable energy;

strengthen local economies and avoid the destruction of forests and biodiversity through the support to independent certification systems, based on robust principles, applied through transparent and balanced participatory processes, ensuring the rights and interests of indigenous peoples and local communities, and with independent, on-the-ground, monitoring, reporting and verification. Governments and the private sector should pledge concrete and systematic support and promotion of such multi-stakeholder managed forest certification systems, in all parts of the world, with particular emphasis on the tropical rainforests;

promote mutual supportiveness between trade and sustainable development and environmentally-friendly fair trade products;

regulate the economy to put an end to speculation on food and global commons;

promote local alternative economies, such as time banks, complementary monetary systems, and to rethink the monetary system to be based on carbon standard.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We call for the establishment of a global sustainable development coordinating mechanism and parallel institutions at the national level, empowered to pursue system-wide policy coherence for the Bretton Woods and UN institutions to advance sustainable development principles, pathways, and policies in a coordinated manner. Such a mechanism must involve interactive multi-stakeholder forums and regular meetings of Heads of State and Government to assess developments and provide leadership in economic, social and ecological issues, to lead and oversee the global sustainable production and consumption governance process, and to help secure consistency and coherence in the policy goals of all the major international organizations.

We call for the establishment or reform of Subcommittees on Sustainable Consumption and Production to be operated within National Councils for Sustainable Development, with a mandate to advise all national agencies working on sustainable consumption and production and national representatives on the Intergovernmental Sustainable Consumption and Production Mechanisms. Sufficiently resourced National Councils on Sustainable Development should be in place to drive the transition to green economies and develop a national sustainable green economy roadmap for each Member State of the UN by 2017.
Further

We call for the strengthening of national and international environmental laws, the establishment of an International Environmental Court and the strengthening of domestic judiciaries to deal with environmental disputes.

We call for the establishment of Ombudspersons for Future Generations at global, national and local levels, who will advocate for sustainable development as envisaged and defined by the Brundtland Commission: “to enhance the well-being and prospects of present and future generations to meet their needs”, serve as an auditor at the heart of governments and deal with citizens complaints.

We call for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to create a framework convention on corporate environmental and social responsibility (“CSR”) for the accountability of corporate investments for all companies listed on stock exchanges worldwide and take into account the ISO 26000 standard on corporate accountability.

We move for the adoption of an intergovernmental mechanism or instrument to assess the environmental, health and socio-economic impacts of new and emerging technologies, in line with the precautionary principle. We call for the outright ban on technologies that put the planet at grave risk.

We call for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to create a framework convention on international sustainability impact assessment, requiring the assessment of the sustainability implications for certain projects, plans, programs, policies and legislative instruments.

We call on the Rio + 20 conference to launch negotiations for the establishment of an international convention on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration that deals with access to information, public participation and environmental justice.

We further call on the Rio + 20 conference to encourage the development of regional conventions on Principle 10, to invite interested States to accede to the Aarhus Convention and to mandate UNEP to develop a robust program to implement the 2010 Bali Guidelines on Principle 10.

We call for strengthening existing UNEP bodies and upgrading UNEP to the status of a high-level body in the UN system.

We call for the widespread ratification and effective implementation of all multilateral environmental agreements.

We call on national governments to ratify and effectively implement the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, the only global environmental treaty that has not yet entered into force.

We call on the UN to mainstream sustainable development into the “Delivering As One” process.

We call upon governments to ensure that Free Prior Informed Consent (“FPIC”) is implemented with regard to development decisions, and other decisions such as REDD+, that impact indigenous peoples, indigenous groups and tribal and local communities.

We call on corporations to engage youth to make sustainable development initiatives a key part of their work, taking local communities into consideration.

We call upon all stakeholders for openness to new ways to volunteer by connecting and engaging people through internet and other new technologies.

We recommend that collaborative strategies between communities and the private sector through CSR programmes, such as employee volunteering, enhance existing volunteer opportunities to contribute to sustainable peace and development worldwide.
Further

We recommend the incorporation of volunteerism, citizen engagement and volunteers in all global, national and local plans and priorities for peace, sustainable development and human well-being to commit to the creation of an enabling environment in which citizen engagement and voluntary action can flourish.

We recommend promotion of youth volunteering strategies that engage young people as agents for sustainable development and peace.

We recommend the documentation and exchange of best practices on the role of volunteers, particularly at the community level, in peace, sustainable development and human well-being efforts, including at each stage of disaster management — prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery;

We recommend the creation of an academy of Olympics Volunteers to be facilitated by the past directors of Olympic Volunteer programmes in Host Cities of the Olympic Games, with the close cooperation of interested NGOs and members of the International Olympic Committee family, and that volunteerism be officially recognized as the fourth pillar of the Olympic Movement, along with sports, culture and the environment;

We call upon:

Governments to recognize the power, economic and social value of volunteerism to achieve national development goals and well-being, and to provide a supportive environment for sustaining volunteerism with resources and support for infrastructure, as well as recognition of the values of civic participation;

The Private Sector to actively engage in employee volunteering and partnerships in enhancing capacities of volunteers involving organizations for achieving sustainable peace and development;

The Media to communicate to the public the value of volunteerism and join as a stakeholder in promoting a supportive environment for community engagement and volunteerism;

Civil Society to mainstream volunteerism and civic engagement strategies into sustainable peace and development programming;

Educational Institutions and Academia to integrate volunteerism and an understanding of civil society into curricula and similar structures to promote a deeper and more universal understanding of civic service and volunteering;

The Research Community to carry out more research and studies on, but not limited to, the value and impact of volunteerism on development and the role of volunteering in crisis prevention and response, and to develop new indicators of progress that incorporate citizen engagement, voluntary action and human well-being;

Faith Traditions to affirm volunteering for peace and development as an appropriate response to the spiritual call to service and human well-being;

Volunteerism Involving Organizations to ensure the effectiveness and accountability of volunteerism through sound governance, development of capacity to manage volunteers, and for monitoring and evaluation of impact;

All Stakeholders to call for a World Volunteer Coalition to provide a platform for promotion, knowledge sharing, capacity development, and collective actions on volunteerism;

Governments, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to renew efforts to implementing General Assembly Resolution A/RES/56/38 and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on measures to support volunteerism and look forward to further actions by the UNGA to
Further

commemorate IYV+10 and to continue to call for global recognition, support, and advocacy for volunteerism for sustainable peace and development;

We call on governments and stakeholders to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development and human well-being through a gender sensitive community-centered approach that utilizes the significant role, contributions and value of volunteers to address sustainable development, livelihoods, fair trade, food insecurity, energy, forestry, water, health, HIV/AIDS, disasters and other issues;

We call on the actors of the “Arab Spring” to establish their own NGOs quickly, and to apply for association with the UN Department of Public Information, so as to communicate with the UN, and to disseminate information about the UN to their constituents and other NGOs, thus compensating as soon as possible for wasted years under dictatorships with denial of freedom of expression;

We call on NGOs in the Middle East and North Africa, and the Arab region, to ask their governments to invite the UN Department of Public Information to host the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference;

We further call on the NGO/DPI Executive Committee to adopt the following theme for any conference dedicated to, or hosted in, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Arab region: “Diversity: The Only Path to Sustainable Peace and Development”;

We call on governments to acknowledge the importance of civil society organizations for the promotion of volunteerism and to recognize that strengthening the dialogue and interaction between civil society and the United Nations contributes to the expansion of volunteerism;

We note with appreciation the contributions of the UN Volunteers over the last 10 years and the marking the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers.

We note with appreciation the efforts of all UN DPI/NGO Conference participants to increase awareness of volunteerism through global outreach, information sharing and education.

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES:

We are convinced that our planet and the human-earth community will only survive, thrive and prosper by a shift to an economy that is sustainable and equitable, and focused on the elimination of the extremes of wealth and poverty through the actions of responsive citizens and volunteerism.

We note that unsustainable consumption and production patterns have been major contributors to climate change and poverty, and that sustainable development can only be ensured if humanity, directed and led by government policies, embraces humane, sustainable, low-carbon lifestyles and adopts sustainable livelihoods.

We note that sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods must be built on sustainable consumption and production in our globalizing world and equity among generations, genders, nations, cultures and languages.

We acknowledge that sustainable consumption, in particular, needs to consider the minimization of the environmental impact of purchasing decisions and the maximization of the social impact of our purchases.

We reaffirm consequently, that individuals, families and communities are key actors in achieving sustainable consumption and production and should be empowered and enabled through education in everyday life competencies to assume responsibility for achieving sustainable lifestyles all around the world.
Further

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE:
We note that streamlining management of multilateral environment agreements, drawing on the foundations of community participation and governance structures and education for sustainable development, can provide better understanding to resolve complex sustainability issues.

We denounce the growing scarcity of resources to civil society organizations, oppressive action against social movements and the increasing criminalization of environmental and indigenous movements in many countries by governments and large multi-national corporations.

We further reaffirm that civic participation, including volunteering, has been a valuable partner in a broad spectrum of peace and sustainable development activities, with the overriding goal of poverty eradication and the betterment of the human condition, among a number of other causes;

We also recognize the contributions of civil society, NGO movements, trade unions, social entrepreneurs, and volunteer alliances and associations, ready to share responsibility with local and national governments in their communities.

We note the threats to freedom of expression, association and assembly. It is vital that the principles enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders are respected in law and practice.

We reaffirm that genuine involvement of youth, women, and wider civil society in decision-making processes and partnerships, as stressed in Agenda 21, Section 3, is critical to the success of sustainable development initiatives.

OTHER ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT RIO + 20

EDUCATION AND LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
We acknowledge the necessity to reaffirm the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

We are convinced that the shift to a sustainable society is deeply dependent on the educational system;

We affirm that education should address the material, social and spiritual dimensions of human development, and in its fullest sense, education must provide the space for value-based sustainable learning;

We call for the respect and inclusion of ethnic languages in the educational system, as these languages comprise the complexity of their respective environments, and to take into consideration the potential of a neutral international language that combines ease of learning and clarity with neutrality, and therefore can be seen as inherently sustainable;

We call upon educational institutions to increase their participation in the transformation process for a sustainable society, in order to enhance capacity building of communities in which these institutions are located, to create an environment in which satisfying and sustained education can take place, developing national respect for education in natural, cultural and world heritage, thereby mainstreaming education for sustainable development in lifelong learning;

We recognize that music as a natural resource, and as a global commons, should be used in education to connect generations and global communities, to give voice to all and to participate in issues of global concern in providing solutions to global challenges;

We are aware that successful education and learning in all its forms are dependent on the full support of governments at all levels, the private sector, policy makers and the civil society;
Further

We suggest the construction of laboratory schools in the context of post-conflict development that will teach skills through a variety of tools, including sports, to develop holistically minded citizens.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

To achieve the goals of Rio + 20 in an ambitious, time-bound and accountable manner, we call upon governments in accordance with human rights, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities to adopt the following draft Sustainable Development Goals together with the sub-goals, reasons and clarifications relating to each goal:

The goals below are aspirational. While some of these are based on commitments already made by governments and other stakeholders, others are proposed on the basis of advanced thinking among civil society organizations.

SDG – SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: By 2020, consistent with the Biodiversity Strategic Plan adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (“CBD COP10”), the human ecological footprint is reduced so that it remains within the Earth’s biological carrying capacity. In accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, we call on nations and populations engaged in wasteful overconsumption to reduce their impacts and help increase the consumption of vital goods and services for impoverished nations and peoples, so they also can enjoy reasonably high standards of living that provide equitable access to health care, decent work opportunities and education.

By 2020, governments should promote production processes that reflect the best available technologies for eco-efficiency, recycling, remanufacturing, reuse of waste materials, product durability and longevity. Wasteful practices such as planned obsolescence are identified and eliminated. Public procurement standards and incentives reward leading corporations that share and disseminate best green practices worldwide. By 2020, the majority of the world’s goods and services are procured by governments from sources certified by objective third parties as sustainably produced.

This goal is tied to the preparation and implementation of sustainability or green economy roadmaps, that consider and address commonly agreed sustainability principles, adopt sustainable development goals in critical areas, and implement governance reforms to foster the transition to a green economy and to improve the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Further, establish a set of Millennium Consumption Goals for the period 2012-2020 towards creating an intergenerational and internationally shared right to equitable consumption opportunities and ensuring quality of life and wellbeing of all people by 2020, while eradicating all kinds and levels of poverty, respecting animal welfare and embedding sufficiency based sustainable economies.

SDG – SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS, YOUTH & EDUCATION: By 2015, nations commit to the principle of sustainable livelihoods as a right for all people and implement monetary, fiscal and language policies to encourage full and decent work. By 2020, biodiversity and ecosystem service considerations are mainstreamed within existing rural development platforms and initiatives to conserve sustainable livelihoods in indigenous and local communities that depend on natural capital for survival.

By 2015, governments incorporate within development frameworks as a priority, investments in the education, health and employment of young people, who constitute a large proportion of the population of developing countries and face disproportionate levels of poverty, unemployment, gender discrimination and ill health. Governments should support comprehensive policies, youth participation and multisectoral programmes that empower present and future generations to fully and freely exercise their human rights, fulfill their aspirations and be productive citizens.

By 2030, national governments reorient all national aims and objectives towards achieving sustainable societies
Further and will mainstream sustainable development into all national educational policies and curricula.

By 2020, consistent with the Biodiversity Strategic Plan adopted at CBD COP10, governments ensure that people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the step they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

SDG - CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY: By 2050, governments should have reached clear pathways towards climate sustainability that regulates the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees C. Emissions of greenhouse gases should be reduced to 25% of 1990 levels by 2020, 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 80% by 2050. Carbon taxes and tariffs should be in place to provide incentives for low-carbon development and manufacturing, finance GHG emissions reduction projects, REDD+ and other offset mechanisms, and green infrastructure solutions to help vulnerable communities adapt to climate change.

Developed countries, as the main cause of climate change, in assuming their historical responsibility, must recognize and honor their climate debt in all of its dimensions as the basis for a just, effective, and scientific solution to climate change. The above goal shall include the equitable sharing of remaining atmospheric space, considering past use and consumption and mid and long-term emission reduction targets that are in line with what the science requires.

SDG – CLEAN ENERGY: By 2030, at least 50% of the world’s energy supply comes from renewable sources. By 2020 energy demand is reduced through efficiency and conservation by at least 20%. By 2030 energy poverty is eliminated by providing universal access to modern energy services from renewable sources.

SDG - BIODIVERSITY: Governments are urged to honor their commitments to implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, in particular those related to the Green Economy such as Target 2: “By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems”; and Target 3: “By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts.” We urge governments to support investments in natural infrastructure and ecological restoration and to facilitate the development of markets that value the regulatory services provided by ecosystems.

SDG – WATER: By 2030, governments will achieve universal availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems and production, adequate sanitation, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks to people, environments and economies.

This goal is over and above the achievement of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. The right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation shall be recognized as a human right and it shall be the responsibility of all states to respect such right. As an interim goal, by 2015 the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water, and without access to basic sanitation, shall be halved as agreed in the JPOI.

By 2020, local, municipal and national governments and all stakeholders commit to achieve the following intermediate targets:

20% increase in total food supply-chain efficiency – reducing losses and waste from field to fork;
20% increase in water efficiency in agriculture – more nutrition and crop per drop;
20% increase in water use efficiency in energy production – more kWh per drop;
20% increase in the quantity of water reused;
20% decrease in water pollution;

SDG – HEALTHY SEAS AND OCEANS (BLUE ECONOMY): By 2020, consistent with the Strategic Plan for
Further

Biodiversity, governments establish at least 10% coastal and marine areas. By 2030, oceanic dead zones will be recovered by reducing nitrogen runoff from land by 50% or more. By 2020, Marine Protected Areas will be established in at least 25% of each Exclusive Economic Zones (“EEZ”) and the high seas in representative networks capable of restoring minimum viable populations of all at-risk stocks, protecting marine biological diversity, and maximizing benefits to commercial and subsistence fishers in surrounding waters. By 2015, the use of bottom trawling, dynamite fishing, electro-fishing, poisons and other unsustainable practices will be eliminated. By 2030, reverse the decline of fish stocks and create sustainable and diverse and abundant fish stocks, supported by healthy habitat to provide for the needs of all users, and by 2015, ban the practice of shark finning.

We also make the following policy recommendations: (a) reduce plastic pollution in the oceans, including by banning or taxing single-use plastics, supporting the use of recycled plastics in new products, and holding manufacturers responsible for plastics through their entire life cycle; (b) establish an international monitoring network for ocean acidification to enable the identification of vulnerable regions and industries and to provide an early warning system for industries already experiencing harm; (c) designate the high seas of the Central Arctic Ocean as a zone for international scientific cooperation, where extractive and polluting activities are suspended until we have a better understanding of the area and the potential effects of such activities; and (d) schedule, as a matter of urgency, an intergovernmental conference to address the multiplying threats to ocean areas beyond the jurisdiction of individual nations.

SDG – HEALTHY FORESTS: By 2020, all remaining frontier forests are protected from conversion and degradation, consistent with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted at COP10, with a well-resourced and equitably governed REDD+ mechanism in place, which respects the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities and other environmental and governance safeguards, to reward developing countries for protection and sustainable management of their forests, not only for carbon capture and storage but for their wider ecological services. A policy of no net loss of forestland, globally and nationally, is also achieved by 2020. At that time, all new forest areas cleared will be offset by ecologically sound restoration of forests in nearby areas. Restoration of over 150 million hectares of cleared or degraded forest landscapes is achieved by 2020, with the creation of millions of new jobs and enhanced livelihoods, improved security and adaptation to climate change.

Reduce deforestation emissions by key corporations and their supply chains committing to avoid the purchase of products that cause deforestation, such as soy or cattle from deforested lands in the Brazilian Amazon, palm oil from deforested agricultural land in Indonesia, or illegal wood and wood products throughout the world.

Additionally, for stakeholders everywhere to undertake and/or participate in large-scale, environmentally and socially responsible reforestation efforts.

Measures proposed under the Clean Development Mechanism (“CDM”) must be carefully examined by the communities depending on forests for their subsistence, as we see that they favor already important land-grabbing and the destruction of their livelihoods.

At Rio+20, we call on governments to pledge concrete and systematic support and promotion of multi-stakeholder managed forest certification systems, in all parts of the world, with particular emphasis on tropical rainforests.

SDG – SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: By 2030, global agricultural production is transformed from industrial to sustainable. Chemical inputs, herbicides, and pesticides are largely replaced with organic and biological alternatives. Interspersed natural areas are protected and restored as sources of pollination, pest control and soil fertility. Food for export is secondary to food for local consumption. Cultivated crop strains are diversified, as are production techniques and the mix of agricultural producers. Best management practices reduce erosion by 90% and nitrogen runoff by 50% or more. Local ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples,
Further, traditional, and local communities is utilized to identify resilient crops and cultivation practices that provide maximum protection against climate change.

This goal should also include sustainable and humane food systems that provide healthy food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems, farmer resilience, and ensure good animal health and welfare that can also provide food for generations to come with minimal negative impact to the environment, through agro-ecological farming systems. We consider the right to keep their own seeds as an important issue of farming.

A sustainable and humane food system should promote food sovereignty of communities, empower small-scale food producers in food and agricultural governance, and also encourage local production and distribution infrastructures with equal opportunities for men and women farmers, and the important role of youth in this area, and makes nutritious food available, accessible, and affordable to all, while at the same time providing sustainable livelihoods to producers through the payment of fair prices for their products. Sustainable food systems must be based on food sovereignty and the right for small-scale peasants, women’s groups and local communities to plant and exchange their seeds and share their knowledge.

Give strong and increasing support to smallscale farming, producing healthy foods through targeted research, extension services and enabling conditions, and wherever possible, vegetarian diets, and to ensure women’s property and inheritance rights.

Recognize and support by all means possible, the important role and special needs of women as the primary producers and purchasers of food, along with the implementation of women’s property and inheritance rights.

**SDG - GREEN CITIES:** By 2030, cities have developed and are implementing action plans to address transport, public health and environmental needs in a harmonious and integrated way. By 2030, from the local to national, government policies foster compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented, urban development that minimizes energy use and maximizes residential health and that reflects the concept of a society for all ages. All new buildings meet green building standards by 2030. By 2030, city transport needs are or remain predominantly met by mass transport, walking and bicycling. Quality of life is also improved for residents by 2030, providing access to green buildings with urban rooftop gardens, clean water, clean energy, waste management systems and sustainable transport. By 2030, urban areas with significant storm water pollution issues reduce impervious surface area by 30% below 2012 levels.

**SDG - SUBSIDIES AND INVESTMENT:** By 2020 at the latest, consistent with the Biodiversity Strategic Plan adopted at CBD COP10, harmful incentives, including subsidies, for fossil fuel production, unsustainable agricultural, fisheries and forest practices, and those harmful to biodiversity, are eliminated, phased out or redirected to promote renewable energy, sustainable practices and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. By 2015, governments commit to a minimum investment of 2% of GDP per year to foster the transition to a green economy, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.

**SDG - NEW INDICATORS OF PROGRESS:** By 2020, nations supplement or replace GDP with a new measure of sustainable economic welfare based on best available information at that time. Economic performance and the forecasted effects of policy changes will be measured by this new metric. We encourage a process of continuous improvement and refinement of the new measure over time and an international process to set standards and make available common methods and data sources. We also encourage the adoption of several other headline indicators of environmental, economic, social, cultural and linguistic sustainability to provide a measure of progress towards the green economy transition, such as civic participation, improved well-being and achievement of sustainable development goals.

**SDG - ACCESS TO INFORMATION:** By 2022, governments will enact and implement Freedom of Information laws giving people the right to obtain accurate and truthful information held by their government, especially on the environment. Governments will actively make available to all stakeholders useful, accurate and truthful well-
Further publicized data and information in appropriate formats and languages, including on the internet. These laws should include whistleblower protection and should extend to information disclosure by corporations.

**SDG - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** By 2022, governments need to ensure that voluntarism and citizen engagement are incorporated in all global, national and local action plans for implementation of sustainable development and human well-being, to commit to the creation of an enabling environment for citizen engagement and voluntary action, and will include mandatory public participation in (a) major development project approvals and environmental impact assessment procedures, (b) drafting of national level sustainable development policies, laws and regulations and (c) administrative decisions such as pollution permitting.

**SDG - ACCESS TO REDRESS AND REMEDY:** By 2022, governments will adopt and implement laws ensuring effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings concerning sustainable development, including redress and remedy. In particular, they will ensure that the costs of such proceedings are reasonable and affordable to affected people and that access to such proceedings is available through expansion of legal standing and other means to interested people and organizations.

**SDG - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED:** By 2022, governments will adopt laws that obligate government agencies to take appropriate measures to provide information and engage affected people living in poverty, women and other disadvantaged groups when making sustainable development decisions.

**SDG – BASIC HEALTH:** By 2015, to support attainment of the health MDGs, and to contribute to health, well-being and sustainable development, ensure universal access to health care and services, wherever feasible, free at the point of use for women and children, and including sexual and reproductive health, and thus strengthen the resilience of people and communities to the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation.

We call on governments to foster sustainable health systems as an indispensable condition for sustainable development of societies through provision of essential health services, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and production of healthy cross-sectoral public policies.

We endorse the finalization of a global mercury treaty by February 2013 that will aggressively limit the global use and trade in mercury and reduce global mercury emissions;

We recommend a ban on the export of mercury and the mining of mercury for export and secure the agreement by chlor-alkali and mining companies not to place mercury into commerce and take responsibility for ensuring its safe management.

We recommend the creation new partnerships around the responsible sourcing of raw materials for production and the regulation of specific harmful chemicals.

We call for the further strengthening the World Health Organization in this process.

We call on governments to address social determinants of health as a means of reducing global health inequities through acknowledging that all policies affect health. Health equity is paramount towards sustainable societies.

We call on governments to make direct and relevant interventions to improve young peoples' health ensuring their role as agents of change for a sustainable society, and to ensure the development of financing mechanisms for health systems.

We welcome the recognition of the work of the United Nations Volunteer program as the focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, and request it to continue to raise awareness of the contribution of volunteerism to sustainable development, to act as a convener on the subject for the various
Further interested stakeholders, to make available networking and reference resources and to provide technical cooperation to developing countries, at their request.

We call upon the United Nations, through its regular budgetary process and mechanisms, to enable the UN Department of Communications and Public Information (“DPI”) to host this annual Conference and to provide DPI with consistent and predictable financial and human resources that are needed to do so.

We thank the people and Government of Germany and the city and Mayor of Bonn for their warm welcome and for hosting the 64th annual Conference of the UN Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations.

We ask that all parties involved with UN conferences on increase their efforts towards reducing the ecological footprint of these events and hereby setting a positive example.