Peoples' Sustainability Treaties

alternative pathway for a sustainable transition

Synthesis Report for Rio+20

June 2012, Rio de Janeiro

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Acknowledgements

Please find the entire Peoples' Sustainability Treaties in full text at www.sustainabilitytreaties.org

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Introduction to the Peoples' Sustainability Treaties

Failure at Rio+20 is unacceptable. Even if the official process once again proves inadequate to the task of redirecting development toward sustainability, we have an opportunity to leverage the emerging global citizens movement to lead us in our transition to a future we would actually prefer. It is imperative that civil society organizations (CSOs), peoples' movements, and concerned citizens the world over, not make the historical mistake of simply reacting to weak international actions on sustainable development. We need to proactively drive the agenda forward, providing the vision, leadership, and commitment to forge a process that moves us firmly forward in a fundamental transition toward a just and sustainable planet.

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaties initiative is an open invitation to civil society to come together to develop an independent, collective outcome for a sustainable future beyond Rio+20. The treaties have been produced by civil society organizations in parallel with the official UNCSD 2012process, to strengthen the Rio+20 People's Summit and all independent efforts giving expression to people's visions and voices. Beyond the current formulations, the treaties are part of a forward-looking process, which, beyond Rio+20, will become a living enterprise in the service of our necessary transition to a more sustainable world order.

Rio+20 provides a unique opportunity to convene and organize global civil society towards advancing a movement toward a global citizenship that helps forge a shared and preferable future. The Peoples' Sustainability Treaties (PST) are intended to provide a platform for our collective voice to support a growing campaign for advancing a coherent movement. Toward this end, we are organizing a series dialogues and activities across diverse venues in Rio, with the aim of building a basis for such a post-Rio campaign. All PST participants, as well as other likeminded organizations and individuals, will collectively voice their opinions, aspirations, plans and commitments to advance a movement capable of shifting public awareness and institutional global policy in a manner that serves the desired transition.

The PST Platform for advancing a sustainability transition based on the emerging global citizens movement hopes to inspire an alternative shared vision and effective strategy for realizing a sustainable and just future. Consciousness and action must rise to the level of a unified global society. It seems likely that the dominant institutions of the world may indeed prove too timid or too conflicted to meet the environmental and social challenges of our time. Therefore, an appropriate response requires us to imagine the awakening of a new social agency: a coordinated global movement striving on all fronts towards a just and sustainable planetary civilization. A plan for advancing this transition, post Rio+20, will be ready for discussion at the Rio+20 Peoples' Sustainability Platform.

So far, fourteen treaty circles have opened the dialogue on ways to collectively move toward a genuinely sustainable future. These are summarized in the sections that follow. This begins a long-term process for each treaty that will continue to evolve and grow, remaining open to all. Additional treaties are expected to take shape, even as the current ones morph, build commitment, and launch the action plans outlined here.

The most current version of the entire set of Peoples' Sustainability Treaties can always be found at:
http://www.sustainabilitytreaties.org

Vision for a New World

Another world is possible! We, the people, intend to define this potentiality, and we commit to our transition toward increasingly sustainable futures on earth.

Time for the Sustainability Transition - navigating our planetary phase
It is clear that humanity, embedded within our planetary system, is approaching a level of self-awareness and of consciousness that might well permit our global, regional and local democratic institutions to reflect, for the first time, the conditions necessary for an honest occupation of the twenty-first century. As our civilization enters this new planetary phase, we become increasingly aware that we face unprecedented threats and challenges. But our growing awareness of our surging interdependencies makes possible as well the radical transformations toward a shared destiny. We recognize that a failure on our part to close the ominous gap between the requirements and challenges imposed by this new phase in our "full world" planetary development, and our abilities to evolve beyond the constraints imposed by entirely obsolete ways of thinking can, at the very least, prove catastrophic to our planetary system. This calls for a Sustainability Transition, one that envisions a profound and historical transformation in the world-views and values that shape the organizing principles of human society. These necessarily new ways of thinking, and the urgently needed transformation in our values, attitudes and beliefs, must emphasize human solidarity, affinity with nature, and a dramatic re-emphasis on the idea of a decent quality-of-life for all.

A New Social Order – the necessary governance-architecture for a just and equitable society
In one way, our primary challenge is to recognize the legitimate, even necessary role of civil society and of a post-national citizenry, viewed as an integral part of a planetary system that expresses itself as a nested formation of global, regional and local phenomena—interpenetrated and deeply interlinked. From within such a vision, we need to grow the processes of democratic global governance in a manner that implements the necessary transition toward planetary sustainability, even as we reorganize how we manage our collective affairs. In short, the great opportunity and burning imperative embedded in this breathtaking Planetary Phase in the continued evolution of human civilization is the emergence of a coherent set of world-views and practices that inform our global citizenry.

A New Ecological Order – transformation into honourable lifestyles and livelihoods that respect our planet
The dominant model of development has entirely failed to lift large sections of humanity out of unacceptable levels of poverty, misery and desperate want. It has also dramatically increased the inequitable gap between the wealthy and the poor, in a world where real wages stagnate even as work productivity rises exponentially. What's worse, it does all this while degrading planetary bio-geo-chemical processes and laying waste to natural landscapes, and destroys the resource base for future generations. The status quo in development is predatory of both nature and people, ecologically unsustainable, and socio-economically inequitable. In this context, we propose a radically different vision of human well-being, one that is in tune with nature and respects other species, promotes socio-economic equity amongst all people, enhances the cultural, material, economic, social, and political opportunities for all, empowers each person and community to take part in decision-making affecting their lives, even as it leaves the natural world a better and much improved place.

A New Economic Order - a system of sustainable economies
The world comprises many economies, at many levels—not just the global economy, or the national economy, but a plethora of regional and local economies as well. Any alternative economic system should promote all these economies, and not just the globalized capitalistic-corporate monolith. A green economy that focuses on a singular growth-driven, high technology, free-market, Intellectual Property Rights-dominated system, is no green economy at all. What is needed is a vision of a networked system of decentralized, community based, sustainable economies in a diversity of settings, which stands on a foundation of ecological integrity, social accountability and an economically equitable distribution. The core idea is that all these economies are made sustainable, not just a drive to maintain a singular, monopolistic and dominant global corporate-capitalist economy. A truly just and sustainable economic order will be one that increases the resilience of natural ecosystems, enhances the quality of life for all individuals, and creates a level of prosperity that allows all of humanity the opportunity to attain its full potential. A New Economic Order will be one that leaves both humans and the planet better off, in perpetuity.

1. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on the Rights of Mother Earth

The People's Sustainability Treaty on the Rights of Mother Earth recognizes and acts on the reality that we are all part of a planetary system, an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings with a common destiny. Existing governance systems that incorrectly assume humans to be separate from Nature have wrought great destruction, degradation, and disruption of Mother Earth, putting life as we know it today at significant risk. Existing economic systems further treat the natural world as property that can be exploited and degraded, rather than as an integral ecological partner with its own rights to exist and thrive, leading to dangerously unbalanced relationships between humans and Mother Earth.

The proposed 'green economy' mistakenly presumes that we can protect Mother Earth by forcing the environment to fit within an economic system that is causing the destruction in the first place. The current trend toward the privatization of the natural world serves only to accelerate ongoing planetary degradation.

A Mother Earth-based governance, rather than economy-based or development-based governance, is necessary to recognize the rights of ecosystems and species – including humans – to exist, thrive and evolve. In an interdependent living community, it is not possible to recognize the rights of only human beings without causing an imbalance within Mother Earth. To guarantee human rights, it is necessary to first assure the rights of Mother Earth. Accordingly, this Treaty recognizes the following key principles as its primary focus: the inherent rights of Mother Earth, the responsibilities of humans to Mother Earth and to the overall well-being of human and environmental communities, and the need to focus on "sustainable communities" and a balanced respect for all life.

This Treaty also calls for specific commitments to Mother Earth by the U.N. and its Member States. These include adopting and implementing the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, and establishing international and national courts to adjudicate environmental crimes. The Treaty calls on scientists and economists to research and apply scientific and economic models that maximize the rights of humans as well as Nature, to assure our well-being and sustainability. Further, it calls upon the business community to implement such practices and adopt integrated "cradle to cradle" production policies that ensure a zero waste approach toward production and consumption.

Principles of the Rights of Mother Earth
- **Principle #1:** Inherent Rights of Mother Earth
- **Principle #2:** Responsibilities of human beings to Mother Earth and the overall well-being of human and environmental communities
- **Principle #3:** Focus on "sustainable communities" and a balanced respect for all life

2. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Ethical and Spiritual Values for Sustainable Development

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Ethical and Spiritual Values for Sustainable Development recognize our Earth as a single sacred community bound together in interdependent relationships. Earth is a communion of subjects who deserve our respect and care, not a collection of objects to be exploited for short-term economic gain.

The failure to place economics into the broader context of humanity's ecological, social and spiritual existence has led to a corrosive materialism in the world's more economically advantaged regions, and persistent conditions of deprivation among the masses of the world's peoples. Spiritual and ethical values are central to building an ecological civilization.

The Outcome Document from Rio+20 should acknowledge the importance of a comprehensive ethical framework (as exemplified by the Earth Charter) as a guide for sustainable development and ensure that governments make good on past commitments to Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals, and other intergovernmental agreements.

We need to commit to fully engage in the paradigm shift towards common but differentiated responsibilities and global empathy with all our brothers and sisters, and the whole community of life on Earth. Manifestations of this global empathy such as the Earth Charter, the Charter for Compassion, and the Uppsala Interfaith Climate Manifesto will guide our way towards strengthened interfaith collaboration for creating a more just, peaceful, and sustainable future.

We need to commit to tread more lightly on Earth and regard it as our sacred duty to lead through example and demonstrate sustainable living in our religious and spiritual communities.

Principles on Ethical and Spiritual Values for Sustainable Development are:
- **Principle #1:** Equitable distribution of wealth
- **Principle #2:** Economic equity and fairness
- **Principle #3:** Intergenerational Equity
- **Principle #4:** Precautionary Approach
- **Principle #5:** The Right to Development
- **Principle #6:** Internalization of Externalities
- **Principle #7:** Information, Participation and Accountability
- **Principle #8:** Sustainable Consumption and Production
- **Principle #9:** Just Transition
- **Principle #10:** Redefine Well-Being
- **Principle #11:** Gender Equality
- **Principle #12:** Safeguard Biodiversity and Prevent Pollution of Any Part of the Environment

3. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Radical Ecological Democracy

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Radical Ecological Democracy is based on the conviction that the prevalent model of development is ecologically unsustainable, and socio-economically inequitable.

Humanity is on a collision course with the Earth: this conclusion is overwhelmingly clear from the spate of recent studies on biodiversity loss, climate change, ocean depletion and other aspects, but also from the experiences and observations of people around the planet as they see their life-support systems crumble. This ecological crisis is compounded by, and linked to, the daily crisis of economic survival of over half of humanity, living in destitution, hunger, and deprivation.

This prevalent model of development has not only failed to lift this section of humanity above unacceptable levels of poverty, but has also greatly increased the inequities between the wealthy and the poor, and led directly to the ecological unsustainability we see around us. It is fundamentally flawed in that it is predatory of both nature and people, ecologically unsustainable, and socio-economically inequitable. Its current avatar of economic globalisation, imposed on so-called 'developing' countries and often welcomed by their own economic and social elite, has only further exacerbated the above effects.

Governance of natural resources remains highly centralized in most parts of the world, with inadequate scope for decision-making by citizens. Nor do strategies based on the market or on financial measures, provide a solution. There is an urgent need to envision, and move towards, fundamentally different pathways to human well-being.

Such pathways, which can broadly be called Radical Ecological Democracy, are based on the following principles:

- **Principle #1:** The functional integrity of ecological processes and biological diversity;
- **Principle #2:** Equitable access of all human beings to conditions of human well-being;
- **Principle #3:** The right of each citizen and community to meaningfully participate in crucial decisions;
- **Principle #4:** The responsibility of each citizen and community to ensure such decision-making is based on the principles of ecological sustainability and socio-economic equity;
- **Principle #5:** The integrity of the diversity of environments and ecologies, species and genes, cultures, ways of living, livelihoods, ecologies, and polities;
- **Principle #6:** Collective thinking and working, respecting both common custodianship and individual freedoms;
- **Principle #7:** The right of nature and all species, as part of the 'community of life';
- **Principle #8:** The ability to be resilient in the face of forces of change;
- **Principle #9:** Local rural and urban communities as the fundamental unit of governance, linked with each other at bioregional and ecosphere levels.

4. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Equity

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Equity recognizes the deep systemic changes required to substantially end inequalities, eradicate poverty, prioritize human well-being, protect the right to sustainable development for all, achieve environmental justice, and bring about peace between peoples. We decry the economic and political systems that perpetuate these blights on humanity, and condemn international negotiations and institutions which delay the move towards these necessary systemic changes. Reducing inequality is critical to the needed transformation to sustainability. Inequality erodes trust and undermines cooperative solutions to urgent social, economic, environmental and political problems. There must be real movement toward greater equality before humankind can hope to successfully negotiate and implement the agreements needed to confront global environmental change and bring about sustainable development and human security.

The way forward cannot be based on piecemeal reforms and after-the-fact transfers, but must instead tackle the fundamental, underlying mechanisms and policies which inform, generate and protect growing inequality. Economic systems which inherently generate ever-larger concentration of economic and non-economic wealth must be replaced by institutions and mechanisms which incorporate democratic and community-based decision-making and support shared prosperity. We must also develop social programs and campaigns to confront and overturn inequalities in social status and dehumanizing perceptions of different categories of humanity, including differences in gender, race, ethnicity, religion, health, ability, and other fundamental human attributes. Finally, organized civil society itself, along with educational, religious, civic, cultural and business institutions, must undertake a review of their own internal policies and practices to determine how they impact others and perpetuate inequalities, and introduce changes to empower the voices and full participation of those who have been excluded or marginalized.

The principles articulated in this treaty include both moral and pragmatic values which relate to our common humanity, including equity as fundamental human right, equity as essential to well-being, equity as the foundation of sustainable societies, equitable rights to sustainable development between peoples, and equity through systemic change which alters underlying social, economic and political structures and mechanisms.

Principles on Equity are:
- **Principle #1.** Equity as Fundamental Human Right
- **Principle #2.** Equity as Foundation of Sustainability
- **Principle #3.** Equity as Essential to Well-being
- **Principle #4.** Equitable Right to Sustainable Development
- **Principle #5.** Economic Activity as Means
- **Principle #6.** Equity at All Scales
- **Principle #7.** Equity in All Dimensions
- **Principle #8.** Equity Through Systemic Change

5. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Rights for Sustainability

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Rights for Sustainability endorses existing declarations on human rights and recalls the human rights-related principles of the original Rio Declaration. We affirm that sustainable development is impossible without a continuous respect and care for the implementation of human rights as made explicit in Agenda 21.

However, in considering the relation between the challenge of implementing human rights and the challenge of implementing sustainable development, we also call for awareness of the insight that a full implementation of human rights would not automatically lead to sustainable development. This claim advances from the recognition that *fair and effective sustainable development governance concerns a fair and effective organisation of our human socio-economic interactions* (hereafter called the 'global socio-economic dynamic', which should be taken to include the local, the national and the regional).

Sustainable development is a *collective human responsibility* that also implies *specific individual human rights* with regard to 'knowing', 'expressing opinions' and 'decision making'. In other words, human rights for sustainable development are not only about combating poverty and providing equal access to basic needs (water, food, energy, health care and shelter) and justice, but also about having equal access to that kind of knowledge generation and decision making that recognises limits to knowing and plurality of opinions.

The principles that underpin a human rights based approach *to* sustainable development governance relate to the possibility of protecting, enabling and stimulating the full potential of human beings *for* sustainable development governance. This implies that fair and effective sustainable development governance requires *rights and responsibilities* for every human being. As we claim that *before we all can become equally responsible, we first need to have equal opportunities*.

The rights for sustainability are centred around three principles:

- **Principle #1:** the right to be protected from unjust excrescences *of* the global socio-economic dynamic and the right to have access to and participate *in* the global socio-economic dynamic;
- **Principle #2:** the right to participate in policy-supportive knowledge generation and deliberation for sustainable development governance;
- **Principle #3:** the right of future generations to enjoy own freedoms of choice in deliberating sustainable development governance.

6. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Consumption and Production

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Consumption and Production recognizes that we actually live in a world where economic growth is been promoted and the currently Western-dominated sustainable consumption and production discourse is to encourage consumers to play their roles as active market actors to buy green or more sustainable products. Such an approach reflects a weak sustainable consumption concept we can no longer accept. The future WE, the global civil society, want is different! We reject the notion of a blindly growth-based economy. Instead we call to change the systemic causes of unsustainable consumption and production, as these are keeping poverty alive on earth and are triggering processes such as climate change.

Sustainable consumption and production systems should implement sustainability as in wellbeing of all people and ensure social equity, protect the ecological balance and create economic sufficiency. Paradigm changes, including the absolute reduction of natural resource use, achievement of sustainable land use as well as changes in lifestyles and values are necessary, which include deep economic reforms as well as legally binding tools in media and advertising. Along with the principles of a green and fair economy we propose the following principles for strong sustainable consumption and production governance:

- **Equitable Consumption** calling for a fair but limited share of resources for everyone on earth
- **Well-being** based on the provision the conditions for fulfilling basic needs, which is necessary (but not sufficient) for a good life.
- **Efficiency** providing relief for that half of the world's poor who currently lack adequate access to resources but avoiding an increase of absolute resource use.
- **Sufficiency** through engaging in life from a sense of personal wholeness rather than a desperate longing for materialistic greed and mindless accumulation of wealth.
- **Sustainable Societies** ensuring social equity and ecological balance through appreciating the well-being generated outside markets from household production and voluntary work.
- **Decentralized Governance** as sustainability will prove its ability to resilience on the community level.

More and more people – whether organized or just as engaged individuals – have started to develop new ways of experiencing and experimenting with sustainable lifestyles based on a strong form of sustainable consumption. The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Consumption and Production is committed to already evolved principles that promote sustainable lifestyles such as the 'Mother Earth Principle' including the 'Planetary Boundaries Principle', the principles for societies and social rights which includes the 'Dignity Principle' as well as the 'Justice Principle', and the principle of ethics in governance including the 'Precautionary Principle', the 'Resilience Principle', and the principle of 'Equal and Differentiated Responsibility'.

It further proposes the following principles for strong sustainable consumption and production governance:

- **Principle #1:** Equitable Consumption
- **Principle #2:** Well-being
- **Principle #3:** Efficiency
- **Principle # 4:** Sufficiency
- **Principle #5:** Sustainable Societies
- **Principle #6:** Decentralized Governance

7. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Economies

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Economies emphasises recognises that the world is in search of an alternative economic system, one that can address the conflicts inherent in the prevalent overly globalized corporate-capitalist economy: immense wealth for a fortunate few and crippling destitution for far too many, amazing technological prowess on the one hand and a compromised planet on the other. The much-needed transition to a new economic system envisions profound transformations in the fundamental values and organizing principles of society; new values and development paradigms that emphasize quality of life and material sufficiency for all, human solidarity and greatly enhanced global equity, affinity with nature, and ecological sustainability.

At the root of the flaws in the current economic model lies an implicit, dominant theory of single-minded economic purpose: namely to achieve continuous economic growth, as measured principally by GDP, by relying on "free markets" without strong enough instruments to deal with their negative impact on human and ecological well being. Similarly, the current discourse on the Green Economy runs the risk of being little more than an effort to "green-wash" the existing "brown" economy. It is imperative that this be avoided! The ancillary goals of poverty alleviation and sustainable human and ecological development should, instead, be brought front and centre, and the notion of a "green economy" should be recast into a robust mechanism for attaining a multiplicity of development goals.

Not Just a Single Global Economy! Sustainable Economies! The world is comprised of multiple, nested and interpenetrated systems of economic activity. All of these, from the very local to the overarching global, must be moved toward sustainability.

Equity within Planetary Limits as the Foundation of a System of Sustainable Economies: Any socio-economic system that is evolved in place of the status quo must take full account of planetary thresholds, limits, and boundaries.

Changing How We Measure Success for the World's Diverse Economies: We know only what we measure or assess. If all we measure is economic growth, removed from planetary processes, then that is all we will value. A holistic concern for the ecosphere which included humans must take account of well-being in multiple ways.

A Planetary System of Sustainable Economies, networked across spatial and temporal scales and interconnected in ways that enhance democratic representation and collaboration, must be entirely consistent with the dynamic behaviour of the ecosphere within which it is embedded, so that ecosystems are left sufficiently resilient in their ability to absorb external shocks. The potentially emerging System of Sustainable Economies, by virtue of its firm anchoring in localism, must remain committed to equity and to fairness and structured in such a way as to minimize the incidence of distortive externalities.

Principles of sustainable economies are;
• **Principle #1:** The Earth Integrity and Planetary Boundaries Principle
• **Principle #2:** The Resilience-by-Localization Principle
• **Principle #3:** The Equity, Dignity and Justice Principle
• **Principle #4:** The Inclusive Governance Principle
• **Principle #5:** Beyond-GDP and the Precautionary Principle
• **Principle #6:** Sufficiency and the Polluter-Pays Principle
• **Principle #7:** The Internalizing Externalities Principle
• **Principle #8:** The Restitution of Natural Capital and Human Capital Principle

8. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Development Goals

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognizes that the SDG's present an opportunity to approach current development challenges such as poverty alleviation and environmental protection, which are often considered disparate, in a holistic manner, addressing social well-being within global environmental constraints, ensuring equity for all in terms of gender/intergenerational, income, and resource. SDGs would define future international development strategy, and serve as part of the post-2015 framework to continue build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after their deadline.

Thematic areas proposed for the SDGs are to include; food, water, energy, cities, oceans, natural systems to support human welfare, and green jobs. Certain broad thematic issues may be more appropriately addressed across the targets and indicators of all SDGs, rather than comprising a specific goal in its own right.

- **Poverty eradication** (an overarching goal to which all SDGs contribute);
- **Equality** (including gender, resource, income, and intergenerational equality);
- **Resilience** (to both the natural disasters and the effects of climate change);
- **Sustainable Consumption and Production** (in sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods);
- **Planetary Boundaries** (environmental limits).

Principles for Sustainable Development Goals are:
- **Principle #1:** Universality: globally agreed and relevant for all countries, involving international overriding goals, with countries developing their own pathways to targets.
- **Principle #2:** Focused on poverty eradication: SDGs have to aim at eradicating poverty by addressing its root causes.
- **Principle #3:** Rights-based approach: SDGs must be conceived under the language and action of a rights based approach, upholding the Principle of Non-Regression.
- **Principle #4:** Comprehensiveness: each goal must integrate social, environmental and economic dimensions, and interconnect these areas.
- **Principle #5:** Measurability: SDGs must have clear and transparent indicators, along with near-term benchmarks within the longer-term scope of the goals.
- **Principle #6:** Participation and inclusiveness: The design and implementation of SDGs must involve widespread consultation, representation and active participation of all stakeholders.
- **Principle #7:** Transparency and accountability: decisions, commitments and responsibilities around SDGs have to be clearly defined, as well as specific accountability tools.
- **Principle #8:** Coordination and coherence: work around SDGs needs the involvement of different institutions and organizations at national and international level.
- **Principle #9:** Equity: the work towards the achievement of SDGs has to deliver in a way that ensures an equal distribution of wealth, resources, rights.
- **Principle #10:** Alignment with MDG review and post-2015 process: The SDG process must be incorporated into the MDG review process, and then integrated into the post-2015 development framework.

9. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Development Governance

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Development Governance recognizes that good governance is fundamental to sustainable development. Therefore, it is highly important that one of the two key themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is the institutional framework for sustainable development. The main challenge posed to decision-makers is how to align the vast number of local, national and global institutions and initiatives responsible for the various aspects of sustainable development, and how to interconnect such a wide range of goals, priorities, commitments, and information. Successful co-ordination of national objectives with regard to potential global consequences will play an important role in strengthening the sustainable development institutional framework at Rio+20.

Despite expansion and proliferation in the number of institutions and initiatives (more than 900 environmental treaties in the past 40 years), environmental problems have continued to grow. The 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment calculated that not only were we degrading 15 of the 24 ecosystem services identified. Moreover during the second half of the 20th Century humans have altered the structure and functioning of the world's ecosystems more substantially than any other time in human history. Nevertheless, the current framework is highly scrutinised, and how to successfully manage not only our impact on ecosystems, but also socio-economic systems, remains under ongoing debate.

The reality remains that sustainable development is not, and cannot, be encompassed in an individual institution. Its cross-cutting nature makes it hard to implement; which is further exacerbated by silo thinking in governments and other organisations. The environmental, social and economic dynamics of the issues vary considerably country by country and regulatory institutions usually act autonomously in their management strategies. Successful co-ordination of national objectives with regard to potential global consequences will play an important role in strengthening the sustainable development institutional framework at Rio+20.

Any future sustainable development governance system implemented at Rio+20 should be conceptualised by the following fundamental principles:
- **Principle #1: Inclusiveness**: a coherent, holistic institutional framework must fully integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development.
- **Principle #2: Equally Representative and Responsive:** ensuring Stakeholders have the ability to choose who represents them, and that those representing are democratically elected.
- **Principle #3: Flexible**: Any initiatives must have the scope for adaptation in reality of changing scientific evidence, priorities and the circumstances of stakeholders.
- **Principle #4:** Focused on Functions: Framing the mechanism around functions will help determine what form of institutional body will be most effective.
- **Principle #5**: Access to Information: introduces accountability, transparency and democratic empowerment to the membership and wider public, into the decision-making process.
- **Principle #6**: Global Public Goods: international governance of global public goods and their consumption should enhance and rebalance their relationship with private goods.
- **Principle #7**: A Rights Based Approach: ensuring the rights of all groups are equally respected in any governance decision (Intergenerational rights must also be considered).

10. Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability, recognising the role of business and industry sector in sustainable development, stress that the time has come to move past voluntary initiatives; and therefore we call for a Corporate Responsibility and Accountability Convention to be established at Rio+20 for an international policy framework on mandatory reporting.

The first instance of corporate responsibility being directly tackled in this dialogue was in Principle 16 of the 1992 Rio Declaration, through the "polluter pays principle." Agenda 21 provided a framework for corporate social responsibility, acknowledging the importance for governments to encourage improved corporate environmental management. Despite these endeavours, however, businesses by and large continued to externalise environmental and social costs. Therefore, at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and in the subsequent Johannesburg Plan of Implementation an agreement determined that the international community should "promote corporate responsibility and accountability and the exchange of best practices in the context of sustainable development". The period since then has been accompanied by a considerable expansion in sustainability reporting, indexes, and investment (ILO Conventions, Basel Protocol, Vienna Ozone Protocol, OECD Anti-Bribery Convention). The largest initiatives include the Global Reporting Initiative, UN Global Compact, the ISO 26000 standard, the Principles of Responsible Investment, among others.

A Convention on Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability should seek to ensure that corporate activities (especially by large corporations) are aligned with the UN's Business and Human Rights Framework, and align the different frameworks for corporate social responsibility and accountability currently in use. This will scale up the practice of corporate social responsibility and will level the playing field for companies' operations as well as ensuring their meaningful contribution to sustainable development and internationally recognised human rights.

The time has come to move past voluntary initiatives; and therefore we call for a Convention on Corporate responsibility and Accountability under the following principles:

- **Principle #1. Human rights:** Businesses should respect and protect internationally recognized human rights.
- **Principle #2. Transparency and disclosure:** Businesses should provide timely, accurate and verifiable disclosure of their social, economic and environmental impacts.
- **Principle #3. Environmental performance:** Businesses have to play an active role in environmental protection and in the sustainable use of natural resources.
- **Principle #4. Business ethics:** Businesses must conduct their activities in a way that is fair and ethical for their stakeholders, competitors, and governments in a way that enhances social benefits.
- **Principle #5. Labour practices:** Businesses have to comply with internationally agreed labour practices guaranteeing freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- **Principle #6. Anti-corruption:** Businesses have to implement policies and practices to fight against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
- **Principle #7. Access to remedy and redress:** States have to provide citizens and communities that are negatively affected by corporate practices the possibility to seek remedy and redress.
- **Principle #8. Responsiveness to Consumers:** Businesses' relation to consumers have to based on fair marketing, and the protection of consumer health and safety.
- **Principle #9. Worker Participation and Shared Ownership:** Businesses should move toward a participatory model of management.

11. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Transitioning to a Zero Fossil Fuel World

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Transitioning to a Zero Fossil Fuel World calls for humanity to undertake a concerted effort toward ending our global addiction to fossil fuels. It shall bring together all that are ready to embrace the vision of a sustainable world society, and create the framework for a pathway towards implementing energy equality.

Despite efforts to transform the world's energy infrastructure and create a thriving sustainable pathway to development, renewable energy remains as minor player in the energy sector today. In this age of Globalization, it will not be easy to end our addiction to oil, nor will it be without opposition. Neither citizens of the energy-rich nations, nor citizens of energy-poor nations, have a real say in the type of energy being used, nor into how it is disseminated throughout the world.   This essential monopoly on power must come to an end. It is time that we stop borrowing from the world's energy reserves and from tomorrow, and begin to establish a viable energy solution based on the earth's effective resources and the planet's carrying capacity.

Access to the earth's energy resources is a cornerstone of any sustainable development goal or strategy. We must not only begin to address the disparity between energy-rich and energy-poor nations, but we must also transform our current energy appetites and recognize the true "cost" of our fossil fuel addiction. Not only through the price we pay at the pump, but also the price we pay through environmental degradation, loss of human life, and climate change.

Throughout the history of development, wealth has been concentrated around the ability to access and extract the world's fossil resources—and the wealthy nation states have borrowed from the world's future. This fossil fuel based economy destabilized the global climate and continues to undermine the prospects for political, social and economic stability for both current and future generations. If we are to expect "sustainable Development" principles and a new "green" economy to be successful, we must embrace a renewable, sustainable and comprehensive energy plan that is rooted in energy equality and sustainable technologies and local resources.

Principles for a zero fossil fuels world are:
Principle #1: Sustainability
Principle #2: Well-being
Principle #3: Mother Earth Rights
Principle #4: Precaution
Principle #5: Equity
Principle #6: Decentralization

12. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Environmental Education for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Environmental Education for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility (EE for SSGR) recognizes environmental education as a right of all, and as a political act. It can be formal, non-formal, informal, grounded in critical, trans-disciplinary and innovative thinking in any place or time, promoting the transformation and the construction of Sustainable Societies. EE for SSGR have to be in the core of daily life/lifestyle; of education management; political, economical and environmental managements, with environmental and social justice, with an effective participatory democracy that assures the social control and economical, cultural and spiritual development of communities. It is a process that empowers citizens to have a shared Planetary Identity in each learning sustainable communities overcoming the separation between society and nature. A Planetary Action Plan has been designed claiming for a wider and articulated commitment to build a strong Planetary Network on Environmental Education for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility. It comprises: articulations between EE local and global networks; preparation of the Planetary Network on EE for SSGR to be launched during Rio+20; structuring a wide survey of different EE indicators; developing a communication plan of the Network of Education for Sustainable Societies; organizing global meetings.

Principles of Environmental Education for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility are:
- **Principle #1:** Education is the right of all; we are all learners and educators.
- **Principle #2:** Environmental education, whether formal, non-formal or informal, should be grounded in critical and innovative thinking in any place or time, promoting the transformation and construction of society.
- **Principle #3**: Environmental education is both individual and collective. It aims to develop local and global citizenship with respect for self-determination and the sovereignty of nations.
- **Principle #4**: Environmental education is not neutral but ideological. It is a political act.
- **Principle #5**: Environmental education must involve a holistic approach and thus an interdisciplinary focus in the relation between human beings, nature and the universe.
- **Principle #6**: Environmental education must stimulate solidarity, equality and respect for human rights involving democratic strategies and an open climate of cultural interchange.
- **Principle #7**. Environmental education should treat critical global issues, their causes and interrelationships in a systemic approach and within their social and historical contexts.
- **Principle #8**: Environmental education must facilitate equal partnerships in the processes of decision-making at all levels and stages.
- **Principle #9**: Environmental education must recover, recognize, respect, reflect and utilize indigenous history and local cultures, as well as promote cultural, linguistic and ecological diversity.
- **Principle #10**. Environmental education should empower all peoples and promote opportunities for grassroots democratic change and participation. This means that communities must regain control of their own destiny.
- **Principle #11**. Environmental education values all different forms of knowledge. Knowledge is diverse, cumulative and socially produced and should not be patented or monopolized.
- **Principle #12**. Environmental education must be designed to enable people to manage conflicts in just and humane ways.
- **Principle #13**. Environmental education must stimulate dialogue and cooperation among individuals and institutions in order to create new lifestyles which are based on meeting everyone's basic needs, regardless of ethnic, gender, age, religious, class, physical or mental differences.
- **Principle #14**. Environmental education requires a democratization of the mass media and its commitment to the interests of all sectors of society.
- **Principle #15**. Environmental education must integrate knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and actions. It should convert every opportunity into an educational experience for sustainable societies.
- **Principle #16**. Education must help develop an ethical awareness of all forms of life with which humans share this planet, respect all life cycles and impose limits on humans' exploitation of other forms of life.

13.   Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education

This Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education recognises the mounting concern for the future of people and planet but also fresh opportunities to act through commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Universities and colleges of higher education have a long history of engaging with the generation of knowledge and shaping social and scientific paradigms that influence everyday life. They are well positioned to link the regions, transcend disciplinary boundaries as well as local and global dimensions of development. They are recognised for their influence on policy directly, as well as indirectly, through the education of policy makers and for shaping history.

However, authoritative documents have consistently argued that before higher education can genuinely contribute to sustainable development, it must transform itself. Those signing the Treaty agree that:

- Transformation is complex and a long term ambition and must begin by recognising that the sustainable development agenda demands a paradigm shift in education.
- Transformation must be guided by vision and clarity of purpose.
- Transformation of knowledge structures is required and structures must be changed to allow for a more integrated approach to sustainable development.
- Transformation requires fostering respect for and understanding of different cultures and embraces contributions from them.
- Transformation of lifestyles as well as professional competences is required and universities and colleges must promote less carbon intensive, less consumerist, healthier lifestyles across campuses and through external partnerships.
- Transformation requires the development of innovative competences.
- Transformation requires effective leadership.
- Transformation strategies need information and decision-making tools that can provide relevant data and real-time dashboards that can bridge the gaps between strategic policy, academic development and operational issues are needed.

Those signing this Treaty are seeking pathways and possibilities for progressing sustainability in higher education. They are committing to contribute towards societies that are fair, participatory, future facing and peaceful and able to restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, as well as promote human development in an equitable and inclusive manner.

Evolving Principles of higher education are;
- **Principle #1:** To be transformative, higher education must transform itself
- **Principle #2:** Efforts across the higher education system must be aligned
- **Principle #3:** Partnership underpins progress
- **Principle #4:** Sustainable development is an institutional and sector-wide learning process
- **Principle #5**: Facilitating access to the underprivileged
- **Principle #6:** Inter- and trans- disciplinary learning and action
- **Principle #7:** Redefining the notion of quality higher education
- **Principle #8:** Sustainable development as a whole-of-intuition commitment

14. Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on a Charter of Universal Responsibility

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on a Charter of Universal Responsibilities recognises that there is no such international reference text pertaining to the obligation to assume responsibility, to evaluate the impacts of far-reaching decisions and to account for the consequences of actions, whether the actors are individuals, organizations, corporate businesses or governments. Responsibility for safeguarding the environment and ensuring a life of dignity for the present and future generations is a common task that has to be shared by all, be it at different degrees. A new international ethical founding text is needed, a "third pillar" for international life, as an indispensable complement to the Charter of the United Nations, which covers peace and development, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A Charter of Universal Responsibilities will be certain to stimulate the application of the principle of precaution, to encourage sustainable use of natural resources, and to enhance social equity and well-being. Moreover, it can provide an international legal base to counteract breaches of responsibility at various levels and sectors of human activity. The question is whether the political debate and the governmental discussions on these themes will address the fundamental crisis underlying the current environmental, economic, financial and social crises, i.e. the absence of an unequivocal agreement on the essential question of who is responsible for what and accountable to whom. Considering the huge common challenges the world is facing, the governments, representing their people, should show the world their determination to declare and assume their share of responsibilities—along with those of civil societies— setting out a roadmap to a new founding pillar of international life: a Charter of Universal Responsibilities.

The treaty calls upon governments to support any initiative from a country or a group of countries aiming to start up a process at the international governmental level that will set a roadmap to the adoption of a *Charter of Universal Responsibilities*.

Principles of Human Responsibilities are;
- **Principle #1:** The exercise of one's responsibilities is the expression of one's freedom and dignity as a citizen of the world community.
- **Principle #2:** Individual human beings and everyone together have a shared responsibility to others, to close and distant communities, and to the planet, proportionately to their assets, power and knowledge.
- **Principle #3:** Such responsibility involves taking into account the immediate or deferred effects of all acts, preventing or offsetting their damages, whether or not they were perpetrated voluntarily and whether or not they affect subjects of law.
- **Principle #4:** Such responsibility is imprescriptibly from the moment damage is irreversible.
- **Principle #5:** The responsibility of institutions, public and private ones alike, whatever their governing rules, does not exonerate the responsibility of their leaders and vice versa.
- **Principle #6:** The possession or enjoyment of a natural resource induces responsibility to manage it to the best of the common good.
- **Principle #7:** The exercise of power, whatever the rules through which it is acquired, is legitimate only if it accounts for its acts to those over whom it is exercised and if it comes with rules of responsibility that measure up to the power of influence being exercised.
- **Principle #8:** No one is exempt from his or her responsibility for reasons of helplessness if he or she did not make the effort of uniting with others, nor for reasons of ignorance if he or she did not make the effort of becoming informed.

Coming Together: A Way Forward

One key objective of the Peoples' Sustainability Treaties process is to help lay out a blueprint that will allow us to navigate successfully and seamlessly beyond the 2015 Millennium Development Goals phase that is now upon us, and to establish a trajectory for a constructive and vigorous post-MDG global Sustainable Development Goals phase. This Treaty process will, at least in part, have served its purpose if it is successful in moving civil society organizations and global citizenry along a path toward deeper, more meaningful and more constructive engagement with global governance. In this, it is hoped, the process will help actualize the much needed Sustainability Transition and the burgeoning global citizens movement.

Each of the treaties begins a process of articulating a concrete and widely-held set of commitments, and shaping indicative Action Plans around which we might all rally. It is our hope that the work to date will provide a strong initial launch for a growing effort to establish a well-developed and cohesive framework for the post-MDG 2015 period.

As we prepare to engage what The Great Transition Initiative calls "the planetary phase" of human civilization, the interwoven forces of a globalizing culture, a hyper-linked network of communicative technologies, and an increasingly fragile system of post-national commerce weave together to both homogenize and to diversify our portfolio of ideas about potential planetary futures. It would be wise for us to actively seek out ideas and processes that would help cohere local structures to countervail the behemoth of corporate-driven globalization, while at the same time building an alternative planetary civilization rooted in a commitment to the whole human family and the health of the ecosphere we all share.

In the formation of a global citizens movement, one that might simultaneously build upon the globalization of the grassroots and the localization of the planet, we need to think constructively about ways in which we might articulate an agenda for action that more coherently spells out the needs of humanity and of the planet, as perceived by civil society. This Treaties process is intended to lay the foundations of just such a conversation, one that might shed light on a new set of values and priorities which might shape the conversation that will articulate the parameters of a globalized citizenry.

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