

Further

1 September 15, 2011

2 Declaration of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference
3 Chair's Text

4 Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011

5 Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens

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14
15 **INTRODUCTION**

16
17 The participants of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, assembled from 3-5 September 2011 in Bonn,
18 Germany, seat of UN organizations and conventions working for sustainable development worldwide and home
19 to an interdisciplinary cluster of NGOs and institutions working in the fields of volunteerism, environment and
20 development;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

64 GENERAL STATEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

117 *Recognizing* that biodiversity and linguistic diversity are inseparable, connected and interdependent, and alarmed
118 at the increasing loss of linguistic diversity causing loss of traditional knowledge, which is essential for
119 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

184 GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 185 AND POVERTY ERADICATION

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

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

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

197 We call on governments and other stakeholders to make systematic use of population data and projections to
198 anticipate and plan for population dynamics and address associated challenges in a pro-active manner.
199 Recognizing human rights and freedoms, governments should enlarge individual choices and opportunities by

Further

200 ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning, empowerment of women, and
201 investment in education, particularly of disadvantaged children and youth, and girls and young women.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

232 For these reasons we call upon governments to:

233 ensure extraction of materials only in a sustainable way and on a sufficiency basis, and that these
234 resources are utilized efficiently;

235 ensure the reuse of waste as raw material for new products to maximize the lifecycle and take action
236 through providing the right incentives for research and development;

237 phase out fossil fuel subsidies, setting up environmentally and socially friendly fiscal incentives, and
238 operationalizing wide-ranging innovative sources of finance, such as the proposed Financial Transaction
239 Tax ("FTT");

Further

- 240 facilitate the transition to an ecologically-based, resilient, fair, fully inclusive and humane agriculture,
241 and the establishment of a participatory mechanism to oversee the transition. The world's millions of
242 smallholder farmers, especially women, need to be politically empowered and given access to
243 appropriate resources, and fair markets;
- 244 implement a just transition to sustainable economies as fast as possible through an unprecedented level
245 of cooperation and policy coherence at the local, state, national and international levels, for South-South
246 and triangular cooperation, by the sharing of green technologies and know-how, by restructuring
247 regulatory, taxation, and expenditure policies, and by establishing democratic oversight of economic
248 policy decision making;
- 249 create green jobs and to "green" existing jobs with a special focus on youth, women and disadvantaged
250 groups;
- 251 replace or supplement GDP and other traditional economic metrics with broader indicators;
- 252 institute sustainable procurement standards, including ones encouraging the use of recycled products and
253 renewable energy;
- 254 strengthen local economies and avoid the destruction of forests and biodiversity through the support to
255 independent certification systems, based on robust principles, applied through transparent and balanced
256 participatory processes, ensuring the rights and interests of indigenous peoples and local communities,
257 and with independent, on-the-ground, monitoring, reporting and verification. Governments and the
258 private sector should pledge concrete and systematic support and promotion of such multi-stakeholder
259 managed forest certification systems, in all parts of the world, with particular emphasis on the tropical
260 rainforests;
- 261 promote mutual supportiveness between trade and sustainable development and environmentally-
262 friendly fair trade products;
- 263 regulate the economy to put an end to speculation on food and global commons;
- 264 promote local alternative economies, such as time banks, complementary monetary systems, and to
265 rethink the monetary system to be based on carbon standard.

266 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Further

- 280 We call for the strengthening of national and international environmental laws, the establishment of an
281 International Environmental Court and the strengthening of domestic judiciaries to deal with environmental
282 disputes.
- 283 We call for the establishment of Ombudspersons for Future Generations at global, national and local levels, who
284 will advocate for sustainable development as envisaged and defined by the Brundtland Commission: “to enhance
285 the well-being and prospects of present and future generations to meet their needs”, serve as an auditor at the
286 heart of governments and deal with citizens complaints.
- 287 We call for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to create a framework convention
288 on corporate environmental and social responsibility (“CSR”) for the accountability of corporate investments for
289 all companies listed on stock exchanges worldwide and take into account the ISO 26000 standard on corporate
290 accountability.
- 291 We move for the adoption of an intergovernmental mechanism or instrument to assess the environmental, health
292 and socio-economic impacts of new and emerging technologies, in line with the precautionary principle. We call
293 for the outright ban on technologies that put the planet at grave risk.
- 294 We call for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to create a framework convention
295 on international sustainability impact assessment, requiring the assessment of the sustainability implications for
296 certain projects, plans, programs, policies and legislative instruments.
- 297 We call on the Rio + 20 conference to launch negotiations for the establishment of an international convention
298 on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration that deals with access to information, public participation and
299 environmental justice.
- 300 We further call on the Rio + 20 conference to encourage the development of regional conventions on Principle
301 10, to invite interested States to accede to the Aarhus Convention and to mandate UNEP to develop a robust
302 program to implement the 2010 Bali Guidelines on Principle 10.
- 303 We call for strengthening existing UNEP bodies and upgrading UNEP to the status of a high-level body in the
304 UN system.
- 305 We call for the widespread ratification and effective implementation of all multilateral environmental
306 agreements.
- 307 We call on national governments to ratify and effectively implement the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, the
308 only global environmental treaty that has not yet entered into force.
- 309 We call on the UN to mainstream sustainable development into the “Delivering As One” process.
- 310 We call upon governments to ensure that Free Prior Informed Consent (“FPIC”) is implemented with regard to
311 development decisions, and other decisions such as REDD+, that impact indigenous peoples, indigenous groups
312 and tribal and local communities.
- 313 We call on corporations to engage youth to make sustainable development initiatives a key part of their work,
314 taking local communities into consideration.
- 315 We call upon all stakeholders for openness to new ways to volunteer by connecting and engaging people through
316 internet and other new technologies.
- 317 We recommend that collaborative strategies between communities and the private sector through CSR
318 programmes, such as employee volunteering, enhance existing volunteer opportunities to contribute to
319 sustainable peace and development worldwide.

Further

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

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

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

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

332 We call upon:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further

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

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

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

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

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

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

377 We note with appreciation the contributions of the UN Volunteers over the last 10 years and the marking the
378 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers.

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

381 SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES:

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

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

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

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

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

Further

395 **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE:**

396 We note that streamlining management of multilateral environment agreements, drawing on the foundations of
397 community participation and governance structures and education for sustainable development, can provide
398 better understanding to resolve complex sustainability issues.

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

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

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

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

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

413 **OTHER ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT RIO + 20**

414 **EDUCATION AND LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

415 We acknowledge the necessity to reaffirm the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further

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

435 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

475 By 2030, national governments reorient all national aims and objectives towards achieving sustainable societies

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476 and will mainstream sustainable development into all national educational policies and curricula.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

510 20% increase in total food supply-chain efficiency – reducing losses and waste from field to fork;

511 20% increase in water efficiency in agriculture – more nutrition and crop per drop;

512 20% increase in water use efficiency in energy production – more kWh per drop;

513 20% increase in the quantity of water reused;

514 20% decrease in water pollution;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

555 **SDG - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:** By 2030, global agricultural production is transformed from
556 industrial to sustainable. Chemical inputs, herbicides, and pesticides are largely replaced with organic and
557 biological alternatives. Interspersed natural areas are protected and restored as sources of pollination, pest control
558 and soil fertility. Food for export is secondary to food for local consumption. Cultivated crop strains are
559 diversified, as are production techniques and the mix of agricultural producers. Best management practices
560 reduce erosion by 90% and nitrogen runoff by 50% or more. Local ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples,

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561 traditional, and local communities is utilized to identify resilient crops and cultivation practices that provide
562 maximum protection against climate change.

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

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

574 Give strong and increasing support to small scale farming, producing healthy foods through targeted research,
575 extension services and enabling conditions, and wherever possible, vegetarian diets, and to ensure womens'
576 property and inheritance rights.

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

579 SDG - GREEN CITIES: By 2030, cities have developed and are implementing action plans to address transport,
580 public health and environmental needs in a harmonious and integrated way. By 2030, from the local to national,
581 government policies foster compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented, urban development that minimizes energy
582 use and maximizes residential health and that reflects the concept of a society for all ages. All new buildings
583 meet green building standards by 2030. By 2030, city transport needs are or remain predominantly met by mass
584 transport, walking and bicycling. Quality of life is also improved for residents by 2030, providing access to green
585 buildings with urban rooftop gardens, clean water, clean energy, waste management systems and sustainable
586 transport. By 2030, urban areas with significant storm water pollution issues reduce impervious surface area by
587 30% below 2012 levels.

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

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

602 SDG - ACCESS TO INFORMATION: By 2022, governments will enact and implement Freedom of Information
603 laws giving people the right to obtain accurate and truthful information held by their government, especially on
604 the environment. Governments will actively make available to all stakeholders useful, accurate and truthful well-

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605 publicized data and information in appropriate formats and languages, including on the internet. These laws
606 should include whistleblower protection and should extend to information disclosure by corporations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

642 We welcome the recognition of the work of the United Nations Volunteer program as the focal point for the
643 follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, and request it to continue to raise awareness of the
644 contribution of volunteerism to sustainable development, to act as a convener on the subject for the various

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645 interested stakeholders, to make available networking and reference resources and to provide technical
646 cooperation to developing countries, at their request.

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

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

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