

NGO DECLARATION

We, who are Members of the Non-Governmental Organizations attending the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm, are honoured to address the Plenary Session of the Conference and to express to it the support and dedication of the bodies we represent. We have signed the statement which follows in our individual capacities. It does not necessarily reflect specific policies of the organizations whose representatives have signed it. But it does encompass their general areas of agreement.

We accept the principle that our planet's resources are limited, that its life support systems are vulnerable, that the combined effect to modern technology, consumption and population growth can place our whole planetary life at risk.

We accept the need for economic systems which do not exceed renewable resources and the carrying capacity of the environment. We accept social systems which are based upon the fair and equal sharing of material goods and of services and upon the pursuit of exponential growth where it alone is possible—in the goods of the mind and the spirit. We accept political systems which see the planet itself as a center of loyalty and renounce racial and political oppression, economic exploitation and the final environmental insult of war.

We believe that the Stockholm Conference marks the beginning of a new international consciousness of our planetary life. Man has thought of the planet as a place with unlimited resources to exploit, unlimited energies to manipulate, unlimited lands to develop and settle, and unlimited air and water to cleanse the world of the wastes produced by man. Now we realize that not one of these propositions is true. So great has been the technological thrust of our science and energy, so rapacious our consumption of non-renewable resources, so rapid our growth in numbers, so heavy the load we place on our life-supporting systems, that we began to perceive the finite qualities of the biosphere of soil, air and water which make up the environment of all living things in our planetary home.

This is a revolution in thought fully comparable to the Copernican revolution by which, four centuries ago, man was compelled to revise their whole sense of the earth's place in the cosmos. Today we are challenged to recognize as great a change in our concept of man's place in the biosphere. Our survival in a world that continues to be worth inhabiting depends upon translating this new perception into relevant principles and concrete action.

The following principles seem to us to flow from our new perception of the vulnerability of planet earth:

1. The main force of the master force of the modern world—science and its applications in technology—must be shifted to a new and sensitive appreciation of the delicate interdependencies between all forms of planetary existence and to scientifically sound management of the habitats and ecosystems upon which all life depends.

2. We must accept new economic perspectives. Developed economies which have tended increasingly to stress the highest production and consumption of material goods as the chief index of prosperity, must be redirected towards a more careful recycling of materials, use of energy and disposal of wastes and towards a

greater emphasis on non-material satisfactions—services, recreation, art, knowledge, civic amenity and, above all, altruism in the pursuit of the common good. At the same time the fundamental material needs of developing lands must take priority over high consumption standards in developed economies and among the elites in developing lands. Both in production and physical consumption, the world economy must come to be in balance with environmental carrying capacity. Exponential growth is possible only in the realm of mind and spirit. Equally, by means conforming to differing cultures, traditions and levels of population pressure, the world's peoples need to accept the aim of achieving levels of population which do not surpass the dependable productivity of natural resources.

3. Such a balance can be achieved only if we face honestly the problem of social justice and redistribution. Since endless economic growth for rapidly rising populations is not conceivable, resources which are basically limited have to be submitted to some principle of sharing and equality. In the planet at large, it is unacceptable that the third of the people who are technologically developed should continue to command three-quarters of the world's wealth. It is equally unacceptable within each society that a rich minority should enjoy a very large percentage of the society's material resources.

~~It is not political systems, incapable of interdependence in our shared biosphere has to be matched by a new dimension of planetary loyalty. Nations, races and cultures give the world its much-prized richness and diversity. But they can no longer be sources of aggression and destructive competition. We pledge ourselves to the support and improvement of the international institutions already established in the United Nations system. We look to further development of powerful and representative institutions to express our common political life at the regional and global levels. We reject all forms of racial oppression or political enslavement. Above all, we see in war the ultimate misuse of science, the baleful destroyer of all economic and social benefit and the final betrayal of our common humanity.~~

THE STOCKHOLM AGENDA: POLICY AND ACTION

1. Planning and Management of Human Settlements.

We wish to place special emphasis on the need for new research and action under the following headings:

a) General land use policies should secure the rational development and allocation of a scarce resource—the land itself—between a variety of different human needs—work, settlement and recreation—and preserve and maintain outstanding architectural monuments, archeological sites and areas of open space and natural beauty.

b) Urban and rural planning should secure public control of urban land uses and abolish the disparities between rural and urban settlements. It should create or restore true neighbourhoods and reduce or circumvent urban sprawl. It should also

bring the use of the automobile under control by devising orderly transport systems.

c) Policies should be introduced to reduce the human stress and physical deterioration which occur as a result of inadequate diets (particularly in infancy), the lack of decent housing, intolerable noise and the absence of any adequate assistance for responsible parenthood.

2. Environmental Aspects of Natural Resource Management

National land use planning should account responsibility for the regional and global impacts of national actions and should conform to the following principles and procedures:

a) Renewable natural resources must be subjected to ecologically sound sustained-yield management.

b) Rare or endangered animal and plant species, as well as unique natural sites and habitats, should be given complete protection.

c) The mining of fresh water, minerals and petroleum reserves must be regulated. The recycling of materials should become standard practice. Those who extract must be responsible for the restoration of mined and scarred landscapes to acceptable environmental standards.

d) Decisions on natural resource development should be preceded by examination of their environmental and social impacts. Where technical resources are not yet available for such evaluations, they should be developed as speedily as possible. The findings of such examinations should be made public prior to conclusive decision-making.

e) Nations should pool substantial funds and capabilities in research in a major international effort to develop clean and abundant energy sources as rapidly as possible.

f) Increased financial, technical and educational assistance should be made available to less developed nations to enable them to manage natural resources for sustained productivity.

3. Identification and Control of Pollutants of Broad International Character.

a) Governments must accept responsibility for any international pollution caused by the activities of their nations.

b) A United Nations world-wide Earth-watch to monitor the distribution, movement and disposal of pollutants will enable governments to regulate pollution and enforce compliance to the regulations. The United Nations must also accept responsibilities for enforcement.

c) Appropriate control and inducements must be introduced to secure industry's cooperation in the invention and introduction of non-pollutive technologies.

d) Since radioactive substances are the most dangerous and long-lasting pollutants, all testing of nuclear weapons should cease at once. The development of nuclear energy should proceed with the utmost caution and safeguards.

e) The use of biocides in war should be prohibited by international regulation.

f) The phasing out of such long-lasting pest control substances as the chlorinated hydrocarbons should be achieved with all possible speed on a worldwide basis. The process should be accompanied by intensive research into and production of effective and acceptable alternatives. Where their use is more expensive, developing lands should receive additional funds to cover the cost of abandoning cheaper but more damaging substances.

g) Since eroding soil is still mankind's most common pollutant, the greatest emphasis must be placed on sound practices of soil conservation. New efforts are also needed to return human and animal wastes to the soil.

h) Regional institutions should begin at once to supervise the health or the recovery of surface and underground water systems. Where such agencies exist, regular progress reports should be made available to governments and citizens.

4. Educational, Informational and Cultural Aspects of the Environment.

a) The United Nations should be responsible for a centralized exchange of environmental information. In planning such exchanges, account should be taken of existing collections and services and the advice of librarians and information specialists should be sought.

b) The United Nations should encourage the training and use of scientists in environmental sciences in all countries. It has a particular responsibility to assist their training and use in developing countries so that they can effectively participate in monitoring and managing the changing environment.

c) The essentially interdisciplinary, humanistic and ethical aspects of environmental education—the science of ecology, planetary loyalty, respect for life, care for others and a lack of all rapacity—should be stressed at every level of education and mass communication so that all people develop a primary love for their fellow human beings and for their native planet.

5. Environment and Development

a) We recognize that many of the worst environmental problems of the world—in particular the most dangerous impacts of disease and premature mortality—have their roots in destruction.

b) We affirm the over-riding necessity of moving at once to a significant redistribution of the world's resources in favour of the developing countries. The 0.7 per cent of GNP in grants and low-interest, long-term loans for emergency assistance proposed in the Pearson Report should be seen as the beginning of a planetary tax system.

c) Environmental regulations introduced in developed lands should be so designed as to place no unjustifiable barriers to the exports of developing countries.

d) Extra costs incurred by developing lands in order to protect or enhance environmental quality should be covered by additional flows of capital assistance from the developed states. The introduction of non-polluting technology is one aspect of a wider effort to see that developing nations avoid the environmental mistakes made by the already developed states. This need is particularly clear in the siting and planning of human settlements.

6. International Organizational Implications of Action Proposals.

a) We affirm our support for the proposal of a separate United Nations Secretariat for the Human Environment under an intergovernmental governing council.

b) We support the proposal for a special fund for the environment but regard the provision of \$100 million over five years as quite inadequate in relation to the magnitude and complexity of the task.

c) We request close cooperation between the Secretariat and the Non-Governmental Organizations, between citizen bodies and commercial and industrial interests concerned with quality of the environment. In order to secure a better balance of world representation, we request finances and other facilities for developing nations to enable them to take a more effective part in the proposed United Nations Secretariat for the Human Environment. The means of providing this support should be discussed by the Non-Governmental Organizations.