

Subject: Environmental Science And Ecology

Topic: International Actions

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# Principles of the Stockholm Declaration

1. Human rights must be asserted, apartheid and colonialism condemned
2. Natural resources must be safeguarded
3. The Earth's capacity to produce renewable resources must be maintained
4. Wildlife must be safeguarded
5. Non-renewable resources must be shared and not exhausted
6. Pollution must not exceed the environment's capacity to clean itself
7. Damaging oceanic pollution must be prevented

# Principles of the Stockholm Declaration

8. Development is needed to improve the environment
9. Developing countries therefore need assistance
10. Developing countries need reasonable prices for exports to carry out environmental management
11. Environment policy must not hamper development
12. Developing countries need money to develop environmental safeguards
13. Integrated development planning is needed

14. Rational planning should resolve conflicts
15. Human settlements must be planned to eliminate environmental problems
16. Governments should plan their own appropriate population policies
17. National institutions must plan development of states' natural resources
18. Science and technology must be used to improve the environment
19. Environmental education is essential
20. Environmental research must be promoted, particularly in developing countries

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21. States may exploit their resources as they wish but must not endanger others
22. Compensation is due to states thus endangered
23. Each nation must establish its own standards
24. There must be cooperation on international issues
25. International organizations should help to improve the environment
26. Weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated

‘One of our prominent responsibilities in this conference is to issue an international declaration on the human environment; a document with no binding legislative imperatives, but — we hope — with moral authority, that will inspire in the hearts of men the desire to live in harmony with each other, and with their environment.’ — *Professor Mostafa K. Tolba, Head of the Egyptian delegation to the Stockholm Conference, UNEP Executive Director 1975–93*

## **The birth of the United Nations Environment Programme**

The Stockholm Conference recommended the creation of a small secretariat in the United Nations as a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the UN system. This was established later in 1972 under the name of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and was headed by an executive director whose responsibilities included:

- \_ providing support to UNEP's Governing Council;
- \_ coordinating environmental programmes within the United Nations system;
- \_ advising on the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes;
- \_ securing the cooperation of scientific and other professional communities from all parts of the world;
- \_ advising on international cooperation in the field of the environment; and
- \_ submitting proposals on medium and long-range planning for United Nations programmes in the environment field.

UNEP's mission today is to 'Provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations'

- The foundation for some of these successes was laid by multilateral environmental agreements such as the:
  - \_ 1971 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar);
  - \_ 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage);
  - \_ 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and
  - \_ 1979 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).



- *The Ramsar Convention*
- The Ramsar Convention predates the Stockholm
- Conference, having been opened for signature in 1971.
- The convention, which became effective two years

- *The World Heritage Convention*
- The World Heritage Convention, negotiated in 1972, is administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It had 161 parties in mid-2001. Since 1972 when the Galapagos Islands were put under the aegis of UNESCO as 'a natural university of unique species', a total of 144 sites in different regions were designated as natural heritage sites as of December 2001. An additional 23 sites were of both natural and cultural significance (UNESCO 2001). The impact has been greater awareness of the importance of these sites for both present and future generations.

- **This is a kind of development that provides real improvements in the quality of human life and at the same time conserves the vitality and diversity of the Earth. The goal is development that will be sustainable. Today it may seem visionary but it is attainable. To more and more people it also appears our only rational option.’ — *World Conservation Strategy, IUCN, UNEP and***

- ***World Charter for Nature: general principles***
- The genetic viability on the earth shall not be compromised; the population levels of all life forms, wild and domesticated, must be at least sufficient for their survival, and to this end necessary habitat shall be safeguarded.
- \_ All areas of the earth, both land and sea, shall be subject to these principles of
- conservation; special protection shall be given to unique areas, to representative samples of all the different types of ecosystems and to the habitat of rare or endangered species.
- \_ Ecosystems and organisms, as well as the land, marine and atmospheric resources that are utilized by man [*sic*], shall be managed to achieve and maintain optimum sustainable productivity, but not in such a way as to endanger the integrity of those other ecosystems or species with which they coexist.

- *Our Common Future*, the
- Commission's final report, defined sustainable
- development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs', making it part of the environment lexicon (WCED 1987).

- The Commission highlighted environmental problems such as global warming and ozone layer depletion that were new at the time expressed concern that the rate of ‘change is outstripping the ability of scientific disciplines and our current capabilities to assess and advise’

## **Multilateral environmental agreements**

- Some of the major Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) of the 1980s are:
- the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
- the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (implementing the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer); and
- the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention).

- *Law of the Sea*
- Its environmental provisions include:
  - the extension of sovereign rights over marine resources, such as fish, within the 200-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZs);
  - obligations to adopt measures to manage and conserve natural resources;
  - a duty to cooperate regionally and globally with regard to environmental protection and research related to this protection;
  - a duty to minimize marine pollution, including land-based pollution; and restrictions on marine dumping by ships



- *The Montreal Protocol*
- The Montreal Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which entered into force in 1989 and had 182 parties as of December 2001, is one of the most successful examples of international environmental cooperation.

- **The Earth Summit**
- UNCED was attended by an unprecedented number of
- representatives of state, civil and economic society —
- 176 governments (UN 1993), more than 100 heads of
- state compared to the two who attended the 1972
- Stockholm Conference (Haas, Levy and Parson 1992),
- and an estimated 10 000 delegates, 1 400
- nongovernmental
- organizations (NGOs) and about 9 000 journalists
- (Demkine 2000). It is still the largest such
- gathering ever held.

- The Summit produced at least seven major
- achievements:
- \_ the Rio Declaration on Environment and
- Development (containing 27 principles);
- \_ *Agenda 21* — a blueprint for environment and
- development into the 21st century;
- \_ two major international conventions — the United Nations Framework
- Convention on Climate
- Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on
- Biological Diversity (CBD);
- \_ the Commission on Sustainable Development
- (CSD);
- \_ agreement to negotiate a world desertification
- convention; and
- \_ the statement of Principles for the Sustainable
- Management of Forests.

- **The Global Environment Facility**

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was created in
- 1991 as an experimental partnership involving UNEP,
- UNDP and the World Bank to generate ecological
- dividends from local and regional development by
- providing grants and low-interest loans to developing
- nations and economies in transition. Following the
- Summit, it was intended to be the financing
- mechanism for *Agenda 21*, and was expected to
- mobilize the necessary resources

- **Multilateral environmental agreements**
- *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*
- The ability of IPCC to provide evidence that climate change posed a real threat encouraged governments at the Summit to sign the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- *The Convention on Biological Diversity*
- The CBD came into force in 1993. It was the first global
- agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of
- biodiversity and serves as a blueprint for national
- action. The Convention establishes three main goals:
- the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable
- use of its components, and the fair and equitable
- sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic
- resources. Many biodiversity issues are addressed,
- including habitat preservation, intellectual property
- rights, biosafety and indigenous peoples' rights

- The *Millennium* Development Goals (MDGs) were developed out of the eight chapters of the [United Nations Millennium Declaration](#), signed in September 2000. The eight goals and 21 targets include
- **Eradicate [extreme poverty](#) and hunger**
  - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.
  - Achieve full and productive employment and [decent work](#) for all, including women and young people.
  - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

- **Achieve universal primary education**
  - Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
- **Promote gender equality and empower women**
  - Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.
- **Reduce child mortality**
- Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate



- **Improve maternal health**
  - Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.
  - Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.
- **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases**
  - Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
  - Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.
  - Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

- **Ensure environmental sustainability**
  - Integrate the principles of [sustainable development](#) into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources.
  - Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.
  - Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (for more information see the entry on [water supply](#)).
  - By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers.

- **Develop a global partnership for development**
  - Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and [poverty](#) reduction—nationally and internationally.
  - Address the special needs of the least developed countries. This includes tariff and quota free access for their exports; enhanced programme of [debt relief](#) for heavily indebted poor countries; and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous [official development assistance](#) for countries committed to poverty reduction.
  - Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.
  - Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

- In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable [essential drugs](#) in [developing countries](#).
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and