

The World Revolution Agenda

Full version

Includes:

1. Overviews of issues/problems
2. Policy objectives with descriptions/comments

(Working Draft – 9/10/02)

Peace, War & Conflict

War & Conflict

Overview

Since the end of the Second World War in 1945 there have been over 250 major wars in which over 23 million people have been killed, tens of millions made homeless, and countless millions injured and bereaved. In the history of warfare the twentieth century stands out as the bloodiest and most brutal - three times more people have been killed in wars in the last ninety years than in all the previous five hundred. (War: An Overview, Peace Pledge Union)

One year into the new millennium the world still wrestles with a welter of problems left over from the 20th century. There are still more than three dozen major active conflicts (those with over 1,000 casualties, both military and civilian) in the world. (Center for Defence Information, The Defence Monitor)

In armed conflicts since 1945, 90 per cent of casualties have been civilians. (New Internationalist - Issue 311 "Peace") 3 out of 4 fatalities of war are women and children. (Source: UN World Food Programme, 1998.)

War and internal conflicts in the 1990s forced 50 million people to flee their homes. (UNDP Human Development Report 2000)

Objectives

Adopt and implement the Global Action Plan to Prevent War
Strengthen, promote, and increase peaceful Conflict Resolution initiatives
Promote International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law
Full and timely payment of U.N. assessments and reliable funding for U.N. peacekeeping (Campaign to End Genocide)
Strengthen Local Capacities for Conflict Resolution (Hague)
Strengthen the United Nations' Capacity to Maintain Peace (Hague)
Prioritise Early Warning and Early Response (Hague)
Strengthen Mechanisms for Humanitarian Intervention (Hague)

Children and conflict

Overview

In the wars of the last decade, more children were killed than soldiers. Child victims of war include an estimated 2 million killed, 4 to 5 million disabled, 12 million left homeless, and more than 1 million orphaned. (Source: UNICEF, State of the World's Children, 1995, p. 2.)

Objectives

Ensure humanitarian assistance and protection to children in situations of armed conflict (Hague Appeal)

Rehabilitate and reintegrate children who have been exposed and traumatized by violent conflict

(Canada Conference)

(Security Council Resolution 1261 on the involvement of children in armed conflict)

Child soldiers

Overview

In dozens of countries around the world, children have become direct participants in war. Denied a childhood and often subjected to horrific violence, some 300,000 children are serving as soldiers in current armed conflicts. These young combatants participate in all aspects of contemporary warfare. Because of their immaturity and lack of experience, child soldiers suffer higher casualties than their adult counterparts. (Human Rights Watch)

Objectives

Adoption of, and adherence to the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (to the Convention on the Rights of the Child)

(The Optional Protocol prohibits the military recruitment and use in hostilities of any person younger than eighteen years of age)

The recognition and enforcement of the (the Optional Protocol by all armed forces and armed groups, both governmental and non-governmental

Strong and consistent pressure by governments, international agencies and the public against those governments and armed groups that recruit children for military service. (HRW)

Demobilization and rehabilitation programs that offer former child soldiers the counseling and vocational training they need to rejoin civilian society and make a new life for themselves. (HRW)

Women and Conflict

Overview

During armed conflict, women and girls are continually threatened by rape, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking, sexual humiliation and mutilation. They are at heightened risk in all settings, whether at home, in flight or in camps for displaced people. (UNIFEM, Women, Peace & Security)

Objectives

End Violence Against Women in Times of Armed Conflict (Hague Appeal)

Arms Trade

Overview

Irresponsible arms transfers fuel violent conflict, undermine sustainable development, and contribute to countless human rights abuses throughout the world. The United Nations estimates that in the 1990s conventional weapons were used to kill more than 5 million people and force 50 million to flee their homes. Millions more lost their property, their livelihood or their loved ones. The devastation continues today. Many of the weapons and ammunition used to commit such crimes were obtained through international arms transfers - arms transfers that could have been stopped. (Stop the Terror Trade, Arias Foundation)

Objectives

Adoption of the International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers

(This International Code of Conduct would govern all arms transfers, including conventional weapons and munitions, military and security training, and sensitive military and dual-use technologies. The Code stipulates that any country wishing to purchase arms must meet certain criteria, including the promotion of democracy, the protection of human rights, and transparency in military spending. It would also prohibit arms sales to nations that support terrorism and to states that are engaged in aggression against other nations or peoples.)

Adoption of the Framework Convention on International Arms Transfers
(Arias Foundation)

(The Framework Convention is proposed as a legally binding agreement setting out core principles and mechanisms relating to international transfers of arms. The Convention would require States to adopt and implement national mechanisms for the explicit authorisation of international transfers of arms. The Convention would ban the transfer of arms that could be used to seriously violate internationally established standards of human rights, humanitarian law and non-aggression. It would also require exporting states to avoid the sale of weapons that could have an adverse impact on sustainable development or regional peace and security, would facilitate the commission of violent crimes, or could be easily diverted.)

End government subsidies and support for arms exports;
End exports to oppressive regimes;
End exports to countries involved in an armed conflict or region of tension
End exports to countries whose social welfare is threatened by military spending
Support measures which will regulate and reduce the arms trade and lead to it eventually end. (CAAT – Campaign to End Arms Trade, UK)

Small Arms & Light Weapons

Overview

More than 500 million small arms and light weapons are in circulation around the world – one for about every 12 people. They were the weapons of choice in 46 out of 49 major conflicts since 1990, causing four million deaths – about 90 per cent of them civilians, and 80 per cent women and children. (UN Conference Brochure - Illicit trade in Small Arms, 2001)

Objectives

Controlling and reducing the proliferation, availability, legal trade, illicit transfer, and use of small arms and light weapons

Controlling availability and access to small arms:

Controlling legal transfers between states

Controlling the availability, use and storage of small arms within states

Preventing and combating illicit transfers

Collecting and removing surplus arms from both civil society and regions of conflict (IANSA)

Chemical and Biological Weapons

Objectives

Universal Adherence To and Implementation Of the Biological Weapons Convention

(The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is a legally binding treaty that outlaws biological arms. After being discussed and negotiated in the United Nations' disarmament forum starting in 1969, the BWC entered into force in 1975. (Arms Control Association))

Universal Adherence To and Implementation Of the Chemical Weapons Convention

(The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is a multilateral treaty that bans chemical weapons and requires their destruction within a specified period of time. The treaty is of unlimited duration and is far more comprehensive than any prior international agreement on chemical weapons. (Arms Control Association))

Landmines

Overview

The global landmine crisis is one of the most pervasive problems facing the world today. It is estimated that there are between 60 and 70 million landmines in the ground in at least 70 countries. Landmines maim or kill approximately 26,000 civilians every year, including 8,000 to 10,000 children. At least 75% of landmine victims are civilians. (Adopt-a-Minefield)

Objectives

An international ban on the use, production, stockpiling, and sale, transfer, or export of antipersonnel landmines

The signing, ratification, implementation, and monitoring of the Mine Ban Treaty (Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction)

Increased resources for humanitarian demining and mine awareness programs (ICBL)

Increased resources for landmine victim rehabilitation and assistance (ICBL)

A global freeze on the manufacture and use of cluster bombs pending new international humanitarian law to deal with their effects. (Landmine Action, UK)

New legislation that would make the users of all explosive munitions, including cluster bombs, fully accountable and responsible for their clearance after a conflict is over. . (Landmine Action, UK)

Military Spending

Overview

Current global military spending has reached \$781 billion annually; more than the total income of the poorest 45% of the global population. (Source: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Report, The State of the World's Children, 1999. World Bank, World Development Indicators, 1998.)

Objectives

Implementation of the Women's Peace Petition, which calls for a 5% reduction a year for 5 years in military spending and the reallocation of these substantial resources toward human security programs and peace education. Hague Agenda (Women's Peace Petition)

Nuclear Weapons

Overview

The threat of nuclear weapons has been a fact of life on earth for more than half of the 20th century. The size of nuclear arsenals worldwide peaked in the 1980s and remains at approximately 30,000 warheads today, including strategic and tactical weapons. Despite the end of the Cold War, some 5,000 nuclear weapons are on hair-trigger alert, ready to be launched on a few minutes notice. (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War)

Objectives

The abolition (elimination / prohibition) of nuclear weapons

Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

(The Nuclear Weapons Convention would be an international treaty on the abolition of nuclear weapons. It would prohibit the use, threat to use, possession, testing, development, transfer, and acquisition of nuclear weapons and obliges countries to eliminate their existing stockpiles within an agreed timeframe. (LCNP))

Remove weapons off of 'hair-trigger alert'

Reduction of nuclear arsenals to much lower / very low levels (200 or so warheads each)

Promoting a No First Use policy on the nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Testing

Overview

Since 1945, there have been 2,046 tests worldwide, about one nuclear test every nine days for the last fifty-one years. Wherever nuclear weapons testing has occurred for whatever reasons there have been environmental problems. Radioactivity has leaked into the environment from underground nuclear tests, large areas of land are uninhabitable as a result of atmospheric and underground nuclear testing, and indigenous people, their children and their children's children's health and livelihoods have been affected by nuclear weapons tests. (Greenpeace)

Objectives

Full adoption of, implementation and adherence to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

(The comprehensive test ban (CTB) treaty will prohibit all nuclear weapon test explosions or other nuclear explosions anywhere in the world. In order to verify compliance with its provisions, the treaty establishes a global network of monitoring facilities and allows for on-site inspections of suspicious events. (Arms Control Association))

Non-Proliferation

Objectives

Full adoption of, implementation and adherence to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

(The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which entered into force in 1970, seeks to inhibit the spread of nuclear weapons. Its 187 signatories are classified in two categories: nuclear-weapon states (NWS)—consisting of the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—and non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS). Under the treaty, the five NWS commit to pursue general and complete disarmament, while the NNWS agree to forgo developing or acquiring nuclear weapons. (Arms Control Association))

Genocide & War Crimes

Objectives

(Ratification of the) International Criminal Court - full financial and political support of UN Member States

(Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide)

Increasing and improving the effectiveness of the UN in preventing and stopping genocide, including:

Creation of effective early-warning structures to detect and analyze the warning signs of violent conflict and genocide; Reform of UN decision-making structures so that action to prevent or stop genocide cannot be blocked by the Security Council veto

Enhancement of the political will to support governments' efforts to take effective action to prevent and stop genocide.

Establishment of a powerful and effective United Nations rapid response capacity for all peace operations

Full and timely payment of U.N. assessments and reliable funding for U.N. peacekeeping
(End Genocide)

Enhancement of the political will to support governments' efforts to take effective action to prevent and stop genocide.

Promote International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law

Human Rights & Social Justice

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(Conceived as 'a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations,' the Universal Declaration has become just that: a yardstick by which to measure the degree of respect for, and compliance with, international human rights standards. The Declaration consists of 30 articles setting forth the civil and political, and economic, social and cultural rights to which all persons are entitled, without discrimination. (PDHRE)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Ageing

Adopt the UN Principles for Older Persons as a legally binding charter of rights, to which all governments are accountable. (HelpAge)

Full implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

(The Madrid Plan: specifies that ageing should be mainstreamed into global development agendas; calls for the right to development for older persons; urges governments to include older persons in national development and social policy processes (such as poverty reduction strategies and national development plans); contains detailed sections on growing areas of concern for older people and their families, such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, violence and abuse, access to health services and social protection; calls for effective collaboration and partnership between government, civil society, international agencies and the private sector with older. (HelpAge))

Children

Overview

Children suffer many of the same human rights abuses as adults, but may also be targeted simply because they are dependent and vulnerable. Children are tortured and mistreated by state officials; they are detained, lawfully or arbitrarily, often in appalling conditions; in some countries they are subjected to the death penalty. Countless thousands are killed or maimed in armed conflicts; many more have fled their homes to become refugees. Children forced by poverty or abuse to live on the streets are sometimes detained, attacked and even killed in the name of social cleansing. Many

millions of children work at exploitative or hazardous jobs, or are the victims of child trafficking and forced prostitution. (Amnesty International Report - Children: The Future Starts Here)

Objectives

Full implementation and adherence to Convention on the Rights of the Child

(The CRC spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere – without discrimination – have: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life. The Convention protects children's rights by setting standards in health care, education and legal, civil and social services. States that are party to the Convention are obliged to develop and undertake all actions and policies in the light of the best interests of the child. (UNICEF)

Child soldiers

(see above) Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Child Labor

Overview

At least 250 million children between the ages of five and 14 are working in developing countries. Approximately 120 million of these children work full time, and tens of millions of these work under exploitative and harmful conditions. (U.S. Department of Labor, By the Sweat and Toil of Children)

Objectives

ILO Convention 182 – Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor)

ILO Convention 138 – Minimum Age Convention (Convention Concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment)

Women

Objectives

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

(The Convention or CEDAW, as it's known, is an international Bill of Rights for women. The treaty is the most comprehensive international agreement on the basic human rights of women. CEDAW obligates those countries which have ratified or acceded to it to take "all appropriate measures" to ensure the full development and advancement of women in all spheres -- political, educational, employment, health care, economic, social, legal, and marriage and family relations. It also calls for the modification of social and cultural patterns of conduct in order to eliminate prejudice, customs, and all other practices based on the idea of inferiority or superiority of either sex.)

The active participation of women in significant numbers in all decision and policy-making forums. (Hague Appeal for Peace)

Beijing Platform for Action

Civil & Political Rights

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Torture

Full adoption of, implementation and adherence to Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

(The convention has created universally applicable standards to ensure that no person is subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. Countries that ratify the Convention are obligated to prohibit and refrain from torture, without exception. In becoming party to the UN Convention, governments have committed themselves to preventing torture in their own country, and to providing for the needs of torture victims, including "the means for as full rehabilitation as possible")

Criminal Justice

Death Penalty

Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (for the abolition of the death penalty)

(The Protocol is of worldwide scope. It provides for the total abolition of the death penalty but allows states parties to retain the death penalty in time of war if they make a reservation to that effect at the time of ratifying or acceding to the Protocol.)

Universal abolition of the death penalty / capital punishment.

Gay & Lesbian

Overview

Every day, in countries throughout the world, the fundamental human rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people, and people with HIV and AIDS are violated. These abuses include: murder; incarceration; forced psychiatric "treatment"; torture; arbitrary arrest and detention; denial of the freedoms of association, press, and movement; denial of the right to seek refuge/asylum; immigration restrictions; forced marriage; the revocation of parental rights; and numerous other forms of discrimination. (IGLHRC)

Objectives

Protect and advance the human rights of all people and communities subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status. (IGLHRC)

Secure the full enjoyment of the human rights of all people and communities subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation or expression, gender identity or expression, and/or HIV status. (IGLHRC)

Labor

Overview

Millions of workers around the world still toil under inhumane working conditions. In the new global economy, corporations from developed countries are increasingly moving their production to developing countries, where they can take advantage of cheap labor under sweatshop conditions. Workers must toil extremely long hours in labor intensive jobs with low pay and often unsanitary and unsafe conditions. In many countries there is little or no labor law enforcement, and many workers are prevented from joining organizations to advance their interests. (Int'l Labor Rights Fund)

Objectives

ILO Core Conventions / Core Labor Standards

(Core labour standards are inalienable rights, which all workers should enjoy by virtue of being human beings. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines these standards as including such basic tenets such as freedom of association, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the abolition of the most hazardous forms of child labour, and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.) (War on Want)

Convention 87 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (1948)

Convention 98 - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (1949)

Convention 100 - Equal Remuneration

Convention 111 - Discrimination in Employment

Convention 29 - Forced Labour

Convention 105 - Abolition of Forced Labour

Convention 138 - Minimum Age

Convention 182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour

Working Conditions are Safe and Hygienic. - A safe and hygienic working environment shall be provided, bearing in mind the prevailing knowledge of the industry and of any specific hazards. (Ethical Trading Initiative)

Living Wages are Paid - Wages and benefits paid for a standard working week meet, at a minimum, national legal standards or industry benchmark standards, whichever is higher. In any event wages should always be enough to meet basic needs and to provide some discretionary income.

Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining are Respected. - Workers, without distinction, have the right to join or form trade unions of their own choosing and to bargain collectively.

Working Hours are Not Excessive. - Working hours comply with national laws and benchmark industry standards, whichever affords greater protection.

No Harsh or Inhumane Treatment is Allowed. - Physical abuse or discipline, the threat of physical abuse, sexual or other harassment and verbal abuse or other forms of intimidation shall be prohibited.

Human Trafficking

Overview

Trafficking in persons is a modern-day form of slavery, involving victims who are typically forced, defrauded or coerced into sexual or labor exploitation. It is among the fastest growing criminal activities, occurring both worldwide and in individual countries. Annually, at least 700,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked worldwide, including 50,000 persons into the United States. People are snared into trafficking by various means. For example, physical force is used or false promises are made regarding a legitimate job or marriage in a foreign country to entrap victims into prostitution, pornography and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation or slavery-like labor conditions in factories and fields. Victims suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, passport theft, and physical restraint. (U.S. Dept. of State, Office to Monitor Trafficking in Persons)

Objectives

End worldwide the human trafficking in persons

Racism & Ethnicity

Objectives

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

(Under the Convention, States parties are pledged: To engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against individuals, groups of persons or institutions, and to ensure that public authorities and institutions do likewise; Not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by persons or organizations; To review government, national and local policies and to amend or repeal laws and regulations which create or perpetuate racial discrimination; To prohibit and put a stop to racial discrimination by persons, groups and organizations; and To encourage integrationist or multiracial organizations and movements and other means of eliminating barriers between races, as well as to discourage anything which tends to strengthen racial division.)

(UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities)

(World Conference Against Racism)

Refugees

Overview

Today, no continent, and barely any country, in the world is untouched by the global refugee crisis. At the beginning of 2000 an estimated 14 million people were living as refugees, uprooted from their homes and forced to cross an international border.

Huge though they are, the global refugee numbers hide an even greater displacement crisis: that of the internally displaced, those people who are forced to flee their homes, often for the very same reasons as refugees - war, civil conflict, political strife, and gross human rights abuse - but who remain within their own country, do not cross an international border, and hence are not eligible for protection under the same international system as refugees. There are an estimated 30 million internally displaced persons in the world - the number may be even higher. (Human Rights Watch)

Objectives

(Convention for the Protection of Refugees)

New protections for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Indigenous Peoples

Overview

Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing in those territories, or parts of them. At least 350 million people worldwide are considered to be indigenous. Most of them live in remote areas in the world. Indigenous peoples are divided into at least 5000 peoples ranging from the forest peoples of the Amazon to the tribal peoples of India and from the Inuit of the Arctic to the Aborigines in Australia. Very often they inhabit land which is rich in minerals and natural resources. Indigenous peoples face serious difficulties such as the constant threat of territorial invasion and murder, the plundering of their resources, cultural and legal discrimination, as well as a lack of recognition of their own institutions. Today many indigenous peoples are still excluded from society and often even deprived of their rights as equal citizens of a state. (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs)

Objectives

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

ILO Conventions 107, 169
ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 169

(Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)

Corruption

Promote transparency in all areas of government and business activity. Promote initiatives to reduce corruption.

Environment

Strengthen international environmental law and its implementation by, i.a., promoting the concept of a basic right to a clean and healthy environment (Hague Appeal)

Agenda 21

Global Warming & Climate Change

Overview

If present rates of emissions of carbon dioxide continue, the Earth will experience a 1C (1.8F) warming by 2030 at the latest, and a 3C (5.4F) increase in temperature before the end of the next century. This amounts to a warming rate 10 to 100 times more rapid than the fastest warming period in the last 10,000 years. Global warming would have tremendous consequences including: Widespread extinction of plant and animal species. Sea level rise and coastal flooding. Adverse impact on agriculture. Increases in severe storms such as hurricanes, cyclones, and typhoons. (Rainforest Action Network)

Objectives

Adoption, implementation & ratification of the Kyoto Protocol (to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change)

(Increase use of) renewable energy, clean energy
Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases
Decrease use of fossil fuels.

Phase in clean, sustainable energy solutions and phase out fossil fuels
Reduce/end government subsidies for fossil fuel industries
Major investments must be made in renewable energy
Immediate international action must be taken to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases
The greenhouse gas reduction targets agreed for Kyoto are only a fraction of what is needed (Greenpeace)

GM Foods

Biosafety Protocol

(The Protocol sets international standards on the use of bioengineered products -- also known as Genetically modified organisms (GMOs).). It aims to promote the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, known as GMOs, resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It takes into account risks posed to human health and focuses on transboundary movements.).

Toxic Chemicals (Hazardous Waste)

The Stockholm Convention

Biodiversity

Overview

The Earth's species are dying out at an alarming rate, up to 1000 times faster than their natural rate of extinction. Some scientists estimate that as many as 137 species disappear from the Earth each day, which adds up to an astounding 50,000 species disappearing every year. (Rainforest Action Network)

Species have been disappearing at 50-100 times the natural rate, and this is predicted to rise dramatically. Based on current trends, an estimated 34,000 plant and 5,200 animal species - including one in eight of the world's bird species - face extinction. (Convention on Biological Diversity)

The best estimates are that between 10 and 20 percent of all species will be driven to extinction in the next 20 to 50 years. The current and impending rate of human-caused extinctions is conservatively estimated to be 100 to 1,000 times the background extinction rate. (Union of Concerned Scientists)

Objectives

The Convention on Biological Diversity

Forests

Overview

Half of the forests that originally covered 46% of the Earth's land surface are gone. Only one-fifth of the Earth's original forests remain pristine and undisturbed. (Natural Resources Defense Council (? / Rainforest Action Network))

Forests cover about a quarter of the world's land surface, excluding Greenland and Antarctica. Global forest cover has been reduced by 20 percent since pre-agricultural times, and possibly as much as 50 percent. Less than 40 percent of forests globally are relatively undisturbed by human action. (World Resources Institute)

Objectives

Decrease & reduce deforestation,
(Rio Conference – Forest Principles Declaration)

Freshwater

Overview

The world's freshwater systems are so degraded that its ability to support human, plant and animal life is greatly in peril. As a result, many freshwater species are facing rapid population decline or extinction, and an increasing number of people will face serious water shortages. By 2025, at least 3.5 billion people or nearly 50 percent of the world's population will face water scarcity. More than 20 percent of the world's known 10,000

freshwater fish species have become extinct, been threatened, or endangered in recent decades. (World Resources Institute)

Marine & Oceans

Overview

We are in the midst of a global marine crisis. Earth's coastal and marine resources, and the ecosystems upon which they depend, are showing signs of collapse. (World Resources Institute)

As a result of destructive human activity, the health of our oceans and the life they support is in jeopardy. Commercial whaling much reduced from its former scale but still in existence, has severely depleted whale populations worldwide, driving some to the brink of extinction. Fish stocks are plummeting in virtually every ocean and sea. Seabirds, hundreds of thousands of sea turtles and marine mammals are entangled and drowned by irresponsible fishing practices every year. (Greenpeace USA)

Overfishing

Overview

World fisheries face a grim forecast. Forty-five years of increasing fishing pressure have left many major fish stocks depleted or in decline. Sixty percent of the world's important fish stocks are "in urgent need of management" to rehabilitate them or keep them from being overfished. (World Resources Institute, Resources at Risk)

Objectives

Greenpeace Principles for Ecologically Responsible Fisheries

To cut the numbers and fishing power of large-scale fishing fleets in half by 2005 (Greenpeace)

Coral Reefs

Overview

Covering less than 0.2% of the ocean floor, coral reefs contain perhaps 1/4 of all marine species.

Coral reefs are among the most endangered ecosystems on earth. Coral reefs in 93 of the 109 countries containing them have been damaged or destroyed by human activities. In addition, human impacts may have directly or indirectly caused the death of 5-10% of the world's living reefs, and if the pace of destruction is maintained, another 60% could be lost in the next 20-40 years. (Environmental Defense Fund)

Objectives

Desertification

Overview

Desertification threatens nearly one quarter of the land surface of the globe. The environmental impacts of desertification include a reduction in crop yields, a loss of plants and a deterioration in the quality of plant foodstuffs available to humans and animals. (The Guardian newspaper, Desertification special report, The Arid Expansion)

Objectives

Convention to Combat Desertification

Wildlife

Overview

Thousands of species of plants and animals are under increasing threat. Every day, added pressures such as loss of habitat, illegal trade, over-hunting, pollution, and the effects of climate change and economic development take their toll on the world's wildlife. (World Wide Fund for Nature, Species Program)

Endangered Species

Wildlife Trade

Overview

The international trade in wildlife is big business, estimated to be worth billions of dollars annually and to involve more than 350 million plants and animals every year. Along with the loss of habitat and increased local exploitation of wildlife resources, unregulated international trade can pose a major threat to the survival of threatened and endangered species. (TRAFFIC, WWF / IUCN)

Objectives

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

(The Convention accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 plant and animal species depending on their biological status and the impact that international trade may have upon this status. The member countries, known as CITES Parties, act together by banning international commercial trade in an agreed list of species threatened with extinction. (TRAFFIC))

Poverty & Economic Development

Aid (Development Assistance)

Developed nations to fulfill pledge of giving 0.7% of GDP for Overseas Development Assistance (and ensuring a poverty eradication priority)

[Strive to achieve over 1%, or 1.5% percent of GNP for ODA]

Ending tied aid (ActionAid)

Millennium Development Goals

Fully fund, implement and adhere (achieve) to the UN Millennium Development Goals

Tobin Tax

0.1% - 0.25% taxes on international currency speculation (yielding \$100-\$300 billion dollars in revenue)

HNWI Wealth Tax ('Robin Hood' Tax)

[3% annual wealth tax (for approx. 10 years) on the 7 million individuals worldwide ('high net worth individuals' or HNWI's) whose financial net worth exceeds \$1 million – yields approx. 810 billion dollars per year in revenues). Revenues to be used for poverty eradication, economic development, and the Millennium Development Goals.]

Debt Relief

Overview

The debt burden is the biggest single barrier to development in the Third World, the most powerful tool that western nations use to keep whole countries in bondage. It is estimated that the Third World pays the developed North nine times more in debt repayments than they receive in aid. Africa alone spends four times more on repaying its debts than it spends on health care. (DebtChannel.org - OneWorld.net - Beginner's guide to debt)

In 1997 the foreign debts of 'developing' countries were more than two trillion (million million) US dollars and still growing. The result is a debt of \$400 for every man, woman and child in the developing world – where average income in the very poorest countries is less than a dollar a day. (New Internationalist - Issue 312 "Debt")

Objectives

Increase debt relief for poor countries and ensure that they are not spending more on debt relief than on health or education (Oxfam GB?)

Full debt / complete debt cancellation (bi-lateral and multi-lateral) for poor countries / HIPC countries / Least Developed Countries

HIPC Initiative

Poverty

Overview

Although poverty has been dramatically reduced in many parts of the world, a quarter of the world's people remain in severe poverty. In a global economy of \$25 trillion, this is a scandal - reflecting shameful inequalities and inexcusable failures of national and international policy. (UNDP Human Development Report 1997)

Half the world's people live on less than \$2 a day. 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 per day. (World Bank)

Objectives

Reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty (earn less than \$1 dollar per day) by half by the year 2015 (Millennium Development Goal)

Provide necessary resources (especially from developed countries) to achieve the Poverty MDG.

Food & Hunger

Overview

Hunger continues to plague an estimated 793 million people around the world. Every day, 24,000 people die from hunger and other preventable causes. Nearly 160 million children are malnourished worldwide. (Oxfam America - Hunger Fact Sheet)

Objectives

Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015.

Education

Overview

Today, there are still 125 million children who never attend school. Another 150 million children of primary age start school, but drop out before they can read or write. One in four adults in the developing world – 872 million people – is illiterate, and the numbers are growing. Girls account for two-thirds of the children not in school. Oxfam UK - Education Now Campaign- the issues

Objectives

Implement the Education for All Plan (Dakar Framework for Action)

Achieve universal primary education for all children by 2015. (UN MDG's)

Free and compulsory, quality public basic education for all children (GCE)

Abolish fees and charges for public primary education

Fund the Education For All Action Plan. (The price for realising Education for All is an additional \$8 billion a year)

Donor countries to increase aid to basic education to at least 8% of total aid budgets (NGO Declaration – Education for All).

Increased public expenditure on basic education (GCE). Governments need to spend at least 6% of GNP on education (NGO Declaration – Education for All)

Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. (Dakar Framework)

Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults (Dakar Framework)

Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, (Dakar Framework)

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education by 2015. (MDG's)

Endorse the World Bank education action plan and secure at least an additional US\$4 billion per year from the G8 for its implementation (Oxfam GB – Education Now campaign)

Water and Sanitation

Sanitation

Halve the number of people without adequate sanitation by 2015.
Secure adequate sanitation for all by 2025.

Water

Halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015.

Increase the funds available for water and sanitation in support of these targets

Women and Development

Overview

Millions of women in developing countries live in poverty. Women are still the poorest of the world's poor, representing 70 percent of the 1.3 billion people who live in absolute poverty. Nearly 900 million women have incomes of less than \$1 a day. (UNIFM, Strengthening Women's Economic Capacity)

Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, and yet earn only 10% of the world's income and own less than 1% of the world's property. (World Development Indicators, 1997, Womankind Worldwide)

Objectives

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Gender Equality in Education

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education by 2015.

Maternal Health

Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio by 2015.

Children and Development

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Child Mortality

Reduce by two-thirds by 2015 the under-5 child mortality rate.

Health

Overview

880 million people lack access to basic healthcare, and 1.3 billion lack access to safe drinking water. 17 million people die each year from curable diseases, including diarrhea, malaria and tuberculosis. 5 million of these people die due to water contamination. (Oxfam America - Fact Sheet)

Each day in the developing world, 30,500 children die from preventable diseases such as diarrhea, acute respiratory infections or malaria. Malnutrition is associated with over half of those deaths. (Bread for the World (UNICEF, World Health Organization))

AIDS & Other diseases

Have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

Have halted and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases by 2015.

Fully finance the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (\$10 billion per year)

Essential medicines should be accessible and affordable to developing countries (MSF)

Increased research into neglected diseases

Child Mortality

Reduce by two-thirds by 2015 the under-5 child mortality rate.

Maternal Health

Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio by 2015.

Environmental Sustainability

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Cities & Urban issues

The Habitat Agenda (Global Plan of Action adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996)

(The Habitat Agenda was adopted by 171 governments at Habitat II, Istanbul 1996. The Agenda provides a practical roadmap to an urbanizing world, setting out approaches and strategies towards the achievement of sustainable development of the world's urban areas.)

Slum Dwellers

Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Other

Remove or decrease agricultural subsidies by developed nations (totalling \$300 billion per year)

Other

Corporations

Human Rights Principles and Responsibilities for Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises

The U.N. Global Compact

Corporations and businesses should:

Human Rights

support and respect the protection of international human rights within their sphere of influence; and
make sure their own corporations are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
the effective abolition of child labour; and
the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Human Rights Principles for Companies (Amnesty International)

All companies should adopt an explicit company policy on human rights which includes public support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Companies should establish procedures to ensure that all operations are examined for their potential impact on human rights, and safeguards to ensure that company staff is never complicit in human rights abuses.

All companies should ensure that any security arrangements protect human rights and are consistent with international standards for law enforcement.

All companies should take reasonable steps to ensure that their operations do not have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights by the communities in which they operate.

All companies should ensure that their policies and practices prevent discrimination based on ethnic origin, sex, color, language, national or social origin, economic status, religion, political or other conscientiously held beliefs, birth or other status.

All companies should ensure that their policies and practices prohibit the use of chattel slaves, forced labor, bonded child laborers or coerced prison labor.

All companies should ensure that their policies and practices provide for safe and healthy working conditions and products.

All companies should ensure that all employees are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, as well as a fair means of collective bargaining without discrimination, including the right to form trade unions and to strike.

All companies should ensure just and favorable conditions of work, reasonable job security and fair and adequate remuneration and benefits.

Companies shall not engage in or support the use of child labor as defined by applicable national laws and relevant international standards.

All companies should establish mechanisms to monitor effectively all their operations' compliance with codes of conduct and international human rights standards.

(Reporting initiative)

Democracy

Promote the establishment of democratic governance, and strengthening of democratic institutions where they already exist.

Trade & WTO

Ensuring that WTO rules are subordinate to environmental, public health and labour standards internationally agreed (War on Want)

Democratising the WTO to give poor countries a stronger voice

Agricultural Subsidies

Improving market access for poor countries and ending the cycle of subsidised agricultural over-production and export dumping by rich countries. In addition, changing WTO rules so that developing countries can protect domestic food production (Oxfam Make Trade Fair Campaign)

Other

Prohibiting rules that force governments to liberalise or privatise basic services that are vital for poverty reduction (Oxfam Make Trade Fair)

Ending the use of conditions attached to IMF-World Bank programmes which force poor countries to open their markets regardless of the impact on poor people

Establishing new intellectual-property rules to ensure that poor countries are able to afford new technologies and basic medicines, and that farmers are able to save, exchange, and sell seeds.

Global governance

The reform and democratization of the United Nations, including democratic strengthening of the General Assembly and extending consultative rights to civil society representatives, non-governmental organisations and parliamentarians at all levels of the UN.

The recommendations of the Commission on Global Governance, including the participation of civil society in global governance.

The reform of the United Nations Security Council to make its composition more representative and its decision-making process more transparent.