



THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

22 March 2006

To: Earth Charter Focal Points and Network Colleagues

From: Alan AtKisson and Mirian Vilela

Re: Earth Charter International Council

EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Council Co-Chairs

Steven Rockefeller (United States)
Erna Witoelar (Indonesia)

Council Members

Zainab Bangura (Sierra Leone)
Mateo Castillo (Mexico)
Rick Clugston (USA)
Marienella Curi (Bolivia)
Camila Argolo Godinho^ (Brazil)
Wakako Hironaka (Japan)
Li Lailai (Peoples Republic of China)
Song Li (Peoples Republic of China/USA)
Alexander Likhotal+, (Russia/Switzerland)
Ruud Lubbers (Netherlands)
Brendan Mackey (Australia)
Julia Marton-Lefèvre (Hungary/Costa Rica)
Elizabeth May (Canada)
Oscar Motomura (Brazil)
Dumisani Nyoni^ (Zimbabwe)
Henriette Rasmussen (Greenland)
Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria)
Kartikeya Sarabhai (India)
Tommy Short* (USA)
Mary Evelyn Tucker (USA)
Razeena Wagiet (Republic of South Africa)

+ *Founding Organization - Green Cross International*

* *Founding Organization - Earth Council Alliance*

^ *Youth Representative*

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Alan AtKisson, Sweden
International Transition Director

Mirian Vilela, Brazil
Director, Earth Charter Center for
Education for Sustainable Development

We are happy to report to you that the Earth Charter Steering Committee has approved the formation of the Earth Charter International Council. This Council now officially takes on responsibility for governing the Earth Charter Initiative. The Steering Committee itself, which is to be thanked as a group for over five years of service as a leadership body, has now been phased out.

A list of the new Councilors appears on the following page (and to the left). The Council will have its first meeting on 2-4 April, 2006, at the University for Peace in Costa Rica.

The governance changes to the Earth Charter Initiative, as well as many other key decisions and activities that were undertaken or initiated during 2005, are summarized in the attached Annual Report for 2005. A more colorful version of this report, with photos etc., will also be forthcoming.

Please note that the Earth Charter Commission also continues to exist. The Commission's continuing role, as it determined during its meeting in Amsterdam on 6 November 2005, is to be an advisory body to the Earth Charter, Ambassadors for the Charter, and of course as the custodians of the Earth Charter text.

Also, an additional group of international Advisors will be formed during the next few weeks and formally established by the incoming International Council. The Council will also be considering a set of organizational changes that build on the Steering Committee's decisions of last year, and which we believe will strengthen the Earth Charter Initiative globally and support you in your work of helping to establish the Charter as a common ethical framework for sustainable development.

Our upcoming Council meeting is likely to be quite full, but of course, we very much want to hear from you about key issues or questions that you believe should be brought to the Council's attention. We will do our best present your thoughts to the Council at that meeting and in future communications. Please send your comments to either one of us, as soon as possible, so that we may review and summarize them for the Council.

We hope that you are as pleased as we are by the very diverse composition of this Council, comprised of 23 people from 18 countries. We are very excited to begin working with them to advance the Earth Charter Initiative and implement the vision of greatly expanded impact for the Earth Charter internationally.

With best regards,

Alan AtKisson

Mirian Vilela

The Earth Charter Center for Strategy and Communication

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