

The Iowa Declaration

WE, PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND CITIZENS OF THE WORLD,

HAVING MET AT IOWA CITY, IOWA FROM 12 TO 14 APRIL 1995 AND AT OTHER TIMES PRECEDING TO CELEBRATE THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY,

DETERMINED

to save the world from the scourge of war, which often in our lifetimes has brought untold sorrow to humankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and

to protect and preserve the integrity and sustainability of our earth-space environment, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained,

DO HEREBY DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN MOVEMENTS FOR HUMANE GOVERNANCE THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE AND, IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS COMMITMENT, TO DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE FOLLOWING CONCRETE GOALS WHICH, SEPARATELY AND TOGETHER, CONSTITUTE OUR COVENANT WITH THE WORLD BY THE YEARS 2010-2020:

1. a democratic constitutional framework for global institutions on global matters, supported by a global tax regime and including a global court system with compulsory jurisdiction (*democratic global governance*);

2. general and complete disarmament with a comprehensive global security structure in place under civilian control (*demilitarization/peace*);

3. global and regional human rights regimes with compulsory law-making and law-enforcing jurisdiction (*human rights/social justice*);

4. a basic needs regime and the eradication of base poverty and maldevelopment for all humankind (*economic well-being/development*);

5. global and regional environmental regimes with compulsory decision-making authority and control (*sustainable ecological balance*);

AND TO THESE ENDS, CONVINCED THAT WE ARE AT AN OPEN MOMENT IN HISTORY WHEREIN REALITY--NEVER FIXED--CAN BE SIGNIFICANTLY TRANSFORMED, AND RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND TRANSNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS, WE CALL UPON THE UNITED NATIONS, ITS MEMBER STATES, AND INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS EVERYWHERE TO TAKE JOINT AND SEPARATE ACTION IN RESPECT OF THE

FOLLOWING SHORT-TERM (1995-2000) AND INTERMEDIATE-TERM (2000-2010) TRANSITIONAL OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

A Short-Term Transitional Objectives/Strategies (1995-2000)

Facilitating Political Processes

1. Establish and actively participate in coalitions, cadres, and cells of concerned citizens resolved to fulfill globally-oriented peace and justice agendas for local and national governments, including: (a) active and informed citizen participation in political processes; (b) fair, equitable, and restorative criminal justice systems; (c) the elimination of racism, sexism, and religious and other forms of social intolerance; (d) enlarged provision for quality education, adequate housing, expert health care, and income sufficient to ensure every person's potential; and (e) effective laws and policies to ensure an ecologically sound and healthy natural environment.
2. Support individuals for office, both electoral and appointive, who commit to the values of a just world order within a globally-oriented policy framework for the governance of their local and national societies.
3. Initiate a continuing summit of the world's religious leaders, moral philosophers, and other qualified persons who are committed to global governance to develop and recommend solutions to the principal problems dividing humanity, especially the problems of war, civil and political injustice, poverty and maldevelopment, ecological degradation, and socio-political alienation.

Democratic Global Governance

4. Work to ensure strong financial and political support of a reformed and revitalized United Nations system that takes seriously (a) an equitable sharing, of power within the UN Security Council and General Assembly; (b) faithful adherence to principles of gender equality; and (c) increased participation by, and/or representation of, citizen action organizations (CAOs, also known as NGOs), indigenous peoples, and other under-represented groups.
5. Publicize and promote the United Nations Decade of International Law, including submission to the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in respect of all treaties entered into after 1994, and otherwise work to expand and strengthen the world rule of law.
6. Support the movement for an international criminal code and court to deal with individuals and groups who engage in crimes against humanity, terrorism, torture, and other heinous behaviors that fall below standards of basic human decency.

Demilitarization/Peace

7. Campaign for a five-year, fifty percent reduction of national defense budgets (redesignated "national security budgets") that will (a) significantly reduce spending on offensive weapons systems; (b) provide for peacekeeping and peacemaking training and planning as part of the military mission; (c) encourage and adequately fund economic conversion programs for defense-related industries; and (d) allocate the resulting savings to meeting basic needs both

domestically and globally and to United Nations peacekeeping and other multilateral peace operations.

8. Facilitate the successful resolution of an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the illegality of the threat and use of nuclear weapons.
9. Work to establish a continuing United Nations Conference on World Security and Cooperation (analogous to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) and equivalent regional forums to define and develop mechanisms and institutions for the reduction of nuclear, "conventional," biological, and chemical arms, the clearing of land mines, the regulation of the arms trade, and the peaceful resolution of national and international disputes.
10. Promote the creation of a small but permanent and reliably financed United Nations peacekeeping force both for humanitarian intervention in civil wars and instances of genocide and for monitoring and moderating violent conflicts between States.
11. Advocate and help to inculcate a culture of non-violence at an levels of social organization and, to this end, develop popular and institutional support for both public and private conflict mitigation and dispute resolution initiatives, including an expanded right of individual and group petition to United Nations and regional bodies, peace teams, environmental negotiations, and reconciliation projects involving interpersonal and intergroup conciliation, mediation, arbitration, and other means of peaceful settlement.

Human Rights/Social Justice

12. Assist in the investigation and exposure of human rights violations everywhere, especially where egregious State behavior is involved, and, to these ends, help especially to enforce the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and to secure worldwide ratification and enforcement of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1966 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.
13. Work to (a) promote the work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; (b) ensure that the United Nations and regional organizations receive and act on early warning of inter-ethnic conflicts; (c) establish regional human rights courts where they do not now exist; (d) further the World Decade for Human Rights Education launched by UNESCO in December 1994; and (e) encourage all nations to develop action plans stating how they will promote and protect internationally recognized human rights.
14. Help to implement "The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000" of the 1985 United Nations World Conference to Review and Approve the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, participate in the 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, and support its adopted "Platform of Action" promoting equality, development and peace.
15. Promote the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and, to this end, (a) facilitate strong institutional and financial support to meet at least the basic needs of the more than 50 million refugees and other displaced persons presently existing; (b) expose and help to remove the conditions of militarism and maldevelopment, among others, that produce

refugees and other displaced persons; and (c) otherwise help to cause refugee and displaced person status to be only a temporary evil of human existence.

16. Endeavor to inaugurate and strengthen economic and political democracy in all societies throughout the world.

Economic Well-Being/Development

17. Help to bring about an effective worldwide basic needs regime, supported by an equitable global tax scheme capable of maintaining it and by an appropriate monitoring and regulation of transnational enterprises, each governed by principles of decentralization of production and consumption and by maximum community participation in decision-making, involving especially representatives of labor in local and national communities.
18. Strive to eradicate economic misery and maldevelopment among the world's poor by (a) encouraging radical national and international debt reduction programs, including the equivalent of bankruptcy proceedings, for heavily indebted developing countries; (b) supporting efforts to cause all wealthy countries to commit at least 0.7% of GDP for genuine and appropriate economic and technological assistance; (c) working to empower the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or a substitute Economic Security Council to integrate issues of socioeconomic development and security; and (d) helping to facilitate among all global and regional developmental agencies and institutions, especially the World Bank (IBRD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the International Development Association (IDA), more democratic decision-making processes and enhanced communication, coordination, and accountability.
19. Promote economic security and equal opportunity for working men and women everywhere by (a) supporting the work of the International Labour Organisation to achieve full employment, the raising of living standards, and improvements in the conditions of work; and (b) encouraging greater access to labor-intensive services in the services regime of the newly formed GATT World Trade Organization (NWO).

Sustainable Ecological Balance

20. Prioritize and act upon Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and, to these ends, work to secure universal ratification of, among other agreements, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its progeny, the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity.
21. Initiate and promote a multilateral convention against ecocide that would make it a crime, in time of peace or war, intentionally to disrupt or destroy a human ecosystem in whole or in part.

B. Intermediate-Term Transitional Objectives/Strategies (2000-2010)

Facilitating Political Processes

1. Continue to establish and actively participate in coalitions, cadres, and cells of concerned citizens resolved to fulfill globally-oriented peace and justice agendas for local and national governments (as recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 1, above).
2. Continue to support individuals for office who commit to the values of a just world order within a globally-oriented policy framework for the governance of their local and national societies (as recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 2, above).
3. Continue to sponsor and promote summits of the world's religious leaders, moral philosophers, and other qualified persons who are committed to global governance to develop and recommend solutions to the principal problems on the human agenda (as recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 3, above).

Democratic Global Governance

4. Further ensure strong financial and political support to a reformed and revitalized United Nations system (as recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 4, above) by, among other things, charging interest on unpaid United Nations dues and assessments and taxing international arms sales, international currency trading, and the transnational pollution of the "global commons."
5. Continue to promote the world rule of law and help to strengthen the international criminal code and court recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 6 (above) and established in 1995-2000.

Demilitarization/Peace

6. Continue to support the United Nations Conference on World Security and equivalent regional forums established in 1995-2000 to facilitate arms reduction, the clearing of land mines, the regulation of the arms trade, and the peaceful resolution of national and international disputes.
7. Work to provide effective United Nations and regional monitoring, inspection, evaluation, and reporting of the worldwide arms trade and all arms transfers.
8. Strive to eliminate all nuclear weapons and all nuclear power projects that could contribute to weapons production, and work to prohibit unconditionally the development, manufacture, and testing of all nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons on a worldwide basis.
9. Help to establish "non-provocative defense" national security systems and continue to advocate a culture of non-violence and peaceful settlement of disputes (as recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 11, above).

Human Rights/Social Justice

10. Continue to investigate and expose human rights violations, especially where egregious State behavior is involved and, to this end, continue to enforce the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and an other fundamental human rights agreements and conventions.

11. Endeavor to require all nations to develop action plans stating how they will promote and protect internationally recognized human rights and redouble support for (a) the World Decade for Human Rights Education launched by the United Nations in December 1994, (b) the work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, (c) United Nations and regional efforts to receive and act on early warning of inter-ethnic conflicts, and (d) the use of established regional human rights courts whenever possible.
12. Help to ensure that women are guaranteed equity in all policy- and decision-making offices in the United Nations and in all legislative and executive offices in government, business, and professional organizations throughout the world.
13. Redouble support of the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (as recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 16, above).

Economic Well-Being/Development

14. Strive to ensure adequate nutrition for all people through the world and, to this end, make adequate nutrition a first call on resources and secure the establishment of a global food agency to implement the right to food that would consolidate and give focus to the diverse food programs currently in existence.
15. Work to empower the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide basic health services for all human beings, including effective, medically safe, and non-coercive family planning on a universally available basis.
16. Further support and work for a serious and effective worldwide basic needs regime (as recommended in Transitional Objective/Strategy 17, above), and to this end promote the formal establishment of, among other things, a new System of National Accounts and broader Quality of Life indicators to provide a framework and criteria for development projects funded by United Nations agencies and other international institutions.
17. Continue to work toward the eradication of economic misery and maldevelopment among the world's poor (as recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 18, above).
18. Further help to achieve economic security and equal opportunity for working men and women everywhere (as recommended in Short-Term Transitional Objective/Strategy 19, above).
19. Endeavor to secure the widespread adoption of a Global Code of Conduct for transnational corporations and State trading associations that would be accountable to the values of a just world order as well as the test of profitability.

Sustainable Ecological Balance

20. Continue to act upon Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), paying particular attention to safeguarding the genetic and biological diversity of flora and fauna throughout the world.
21. Work to secure the universal ratification and enforcement of a multilateral convention against ecocide that would make it a crime, in time of peace or war, intentionally to disrupt or destroy a human ecosystem in whole or in part.

FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE TIME IS LONG OVERDUE WHEN OUR ENTIRE PLANET MUST BE VIEWED AS THE BEGINNING AND END OF HUMAN IDENTITY AND LOYALTY. TO THIS END, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO A NEW GEOPOLITICAL ETHOS OF PLANETARY STEWARDSHIP OR CITIZENSHIP. TO THINK AND FEEL AND ACT AS A GLOBAL CITIZEN IS, WE BELIEVE, ESSENTIAL TO THE REALIZATION OF A REVITALIZED UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE GENERALLY. WE CALL UPON EVERYONE EVERYWHERE AND AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION TO JOIN WITH US IN THIS STRUGGLE.

The Iowa Declaration was adopted at a symposium of 240 concerned citizens held 12-14 April 1995 at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, USA to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The symposium, entitled "UN50: Preferred Futures for the United Nations," was co-sponsored by the Iowa Division of the United Nations Association-USA, the International and Comparative Legal Studies Program of the University of Iowa, the World Order Models Project (New York City), and The Stanley Foundation (Muscatine, Iowa) in cooperation with the American Society of International Law (Washington, DC), the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research of the University of Iowa, the United Nations Association-USA (New York City), and the United States Institute of Peace (Washington, DC). The Declaration originated among the organizers of the symposium and in six preparatory community forums held in Iowa and in Illinois, Jamaica, and Nigeria during 1994-95, co-sponsored by the Iowa Division of the United Nations Association-USA, the Iowa Humanities Board (a State Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities), The Stanley Foundation, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). For additional copies of the Declaration, contact: Iowa Division of the United Nations Association-USA, 20 East Market Street, Iowa City, IA, 52245-1728 (Phone/Fax: 319-337-7290; E-Mail: unaiowa@inav.net).