
Universal Declaration of the World's Ecological Rights

Preamble

The Human being is one of the living beings on Earth. Basic conditions of its life depend on the sustainment of life on Earth. Humans therefore share a common fate with their fellow-creatures and the other natural formations.

Therefore human intervention with effect on the existence of this community involves responsibility for these acts; responsibility is proportional to the degree of the intervention.

With regard to the fact that the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN has proved to be an effective tool to promote the goals expressed in the Declaration: in creating a lasting peace between nations, furthering beneficial conditions for mutual understanding and respect;

And considering that during the half-century that has passed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it became evident that the one-sided exercising of human's rights (as those rights were restricted exclusively to humanity's rights) against other beings and our whole natural environment has proved to be a potential threat from an ecological point of view – because in that way there is no justified and proportionate legal limit to the enforcement of human interests;

Whereas the off-balance of the nature and the deepening ecological crisis caused by the one-sided enforcement of human interests may pose a threat to humanity's future of similar magnitude to a world war (including the outbreak of armed conflicts due to the waning resources as well); that kind of vindication is obviously contrary to the original purpose of the UN Declaration: the creation of a basic legal framework for peace for the world;

Recognizing that if we want to ensure long-term conditions for peaceful coexistence of the living world and humankind (and also a peaceful coexistence between fellow-men), if we want to preserve the balance of nature and culture, then - not least in order to avoid the extinction of humankind - we need to expand fundamental human rights ecologically : we need to acknowledge the fundamental rights of our living fellows and the ecosystems;

Whereas the consumer-approach to environmental protection - which unilaterally enforces human interests and serves for securing a world-consumer human lifestyle - is not sustainable any more; and the one-sided enforcement of human interests threatens the survival of the world itself – this special symbiosis between nature and human culture;

Recognizing that in the third millennium it is now the world itself that must be protected, and that we need to re-define environmental protection as world protection: a profound expansion of ecological human considerations has to be done; that is the way to integrate human life (with its specific rights: the human rights) into a basic legal framework of the whole protected world, and to dissolve the opposition of man and nature and man's separation from the world;

Realizing and acknowledging the global ecological responsibility of humankind, Signatory Countries of this Declaration state that the man who has claims and exercises rights over the beings of the world has obligations as well towards those beings; thus Signatory States declare the fundamental rights of the beings of the world (i.e. the World's Ecological Rights) as follows:

A) Fundamental rights of all beings

Article I Right to exist

Every being, living and inert has inherent and inalienable right to exist, and has the right to respect for this right from human beings. One being's right to exist can only be limited by a fundamental right of another being.

B) Fundamental rights of living beings

Article II Right to the world

Every living being has the right to develop its role in the equilibrium of nature and has the right to the respect for this right (namely the right to the world) by human beings, especially the right to nature life conditions, right to its habitat and right to the preservation of its genetic identity.

Article III Right to be undisturbed

Every living being is entitled to be free from negligent, unnecessary and disproportionate human disturbance in its existence and in unfolding their role in the equilibrium of nature.

B) Responsibility of the interventor

Article IV Obligations of the Signatory States

Signatory States of the present declaration proclame their intention

- a) to endeavour to respect the above specified rights and freedoms in the course of their legal and other decision- and policy-making processes,
- b) to promote a progressively wider spread of a highly responsible mentality that shows respect for the fundamental rights of all living and inert beings; to shift to ecosystem-centered environmental protection from man-centered environmental protection. The means of that promotion are education and mass media in the first place.

It should be particularly considered that views that – with reference to human superiority – do not respect the fundamental rights of the world and of our fellow-creatures threaten with disruption of the ecological balance.

This Declaration aims to recognize and ensure the living and inanimate beings' fundamental rights, therefore any part of the Declaration should, in no way, be interpreted and/or applied as a restriction of existing future rights or laws that provide a stronger protection for living or inert beings.

Article V
Changing the UN Commission on Sustainable Development
into a World's Ecological Rights Commission

Signatory States invite the UN Commission on Sustainable Development:

- a) to an exact interpretation of the concepts and fundamental rights written in the present Declaration;
- b) to the application of the present Declaration, including the elaboration of a right enforcement mechanism, in particular the establishment of the institution of an Ombudsman for Future Generations and the appointment of the Ombudsman in charge of
- c) monitoring the legislation and judicature of the Signatory States in terms of complying with the world's ecological rights (the World Law)

Article VI
Definitions

World means part of the universe prevailingly known by humans, i.e. human life and its environment understood in the broadest sense.

The *world's fundamental rights* (also known as world rights) mean all the above named rights (1-3. Articles) of the animate and inanimate beings: the components of the world.
