



**People's Declaration for the Sustainable Future of Planet Earth**  
**v2.0\***  
**18.12.21**

**01** The Paris Agreement is humanity's best chance; it must be affirmed and enforced by all governments and people, and rigorously monitored in collaboration with citizens and grassroots mechanisms.

**02** Equity must be a core focus when meeting the goals in the Paris Agreement; spreading responsibility according to the capabilities and historical contributions of countries and corporations is vital.

**03** Actions on the climate crisis must be participatory, enabling people at all levels to contribute to decisions on climate, particularly groups from countries least historically responsible for and most affected by the climate crisis.

**04** The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment must be included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protected at multiple levels of law; we should raise awareness & citizen engagement on human rights in relation to climate and the environment.

**05** This Declaration is grounded in the importance of Nature having intrinsic values and rights, and in all beings on Earth forming an interconnected whole; we must protect Nature from Ecocide legally, engaging communities and establishing multiple governing bodies to enable this.

**06** Education on climate change must be formally integrated, within the school syllabus and in governmental communications, and also informally disseminated through more accessible platforms, like social media, to reach as many as possible.

**07** To ensure a fair and just energy transition, we must ensure that countries and people with less means are supported through a gradual change, and recognize the shared responsibility between citizens, governments and corporations in enabling it.

\* This declaration has been prepared and validated by Global Assembly Members in response to the question: *how can humanity address the climate and ecological crisis in a fair and effective way?* An interim Declaration (v1.0) was validated on October 30, 2021 and presented to COP26 on November 1, 2021. This version (v2.0) is the final Declaration of the 2021 Global Assembly, approved on December 18, 2021.



## **Preamble**

Global Assembly is a first of its kind in the world, conceived to raise community voices at global level for the sustainable future of planet Earth.

We, Global Assembly Members, have been selected by a lottery process to represent the interests of the citizens.

The purpose of the People's Declaration is to deliver a flourishing earth for all humans and other species, for all future generations.

By uniting and rallying citizens in recognising the needs of all, we can build consensus to generate community-level solutions and become decision-makers.

In recognising world leaders and decision-makers as our main audience, responsible for making high-level decisions on the climate crisis, we will demand climate action using a strategic plan to achieve an equitable and sustainable solution to the climate crisis.

Every human, regardless of background, should have a voice.

We call upon corporations, everyone who pollutes the earth, the private sector and investors to be recognised as audiences of the People's Declaration, in order to hold them accountable for finding solutions to and implementing legal measures on the climate crisis.



**01** The Paris Agreement is humanity's best chance; it must be affirmed and enforced by all governments and people, and rigorously monitored in collaboration with citizens and grassroots mechanisms.

**(1i)** Countries, governments, and people worldwide must make every effort to reduce global emissions drastically and limit global warming to 1.5°C in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

**(1ii)** We believe that the Paris Agreement is humanity's best chance to avoid dangerous climate change. Parties to the Agreement have to adopt immediate measures for transitioning to a sustainable low-carbon economy. These measures include shifting financial support from fossil fuels to clean energy, improving energy efficiency, introducing carbon taxes, and tackling issues of overpopulation and overconsumption.

**(1iii)** In addition, parties have to support adaptation measures, especially by empowering vulnerable communities who will be worst affected by climate change.

**(1iv)** The Agreement has to be enforced and monitored by the United Nations, informed by science, within the framework of international regulatory law, and in collaboration with the relevant actors at all levels of governance, mass media and civil society. Breaches should be reported, resulting in financial penalties and sanctions for perpetrators.

**(1v)** Within enforcement, citizen monitoring shall be implemented with the support of grassroot mechanisms, such as Community Assemblies, and NGOs, with support from social media, private companies and local governments. Citizens' privacy must be safeguarded within these mechanisms.

**02** Equity must be a core focus when meeting the goals in the Paris Agreement; spreading responsibility according to the capabilities and historical contributions of countries and corporations is vital.

**(2i)** Strategies to meet Paris Agreement goals must be implemented in accordance with equity and global justice, acknowledging different starting points without leaving anyone behind.

**(2ii)** At the global scale, equity requires common but differentiated responsibilities. All countries have the common responsibility to fight climate change together in a spirit of solidarity. Each country must strive to implement the Paris Agreement to the best of its capabilities. Countries and corporations must assume differentiated responsibilities proportional to their historical and current emissions. This means top emitters must lead the fight against climate change.

**(2iii)** Countries with high standards of living and strong financial capability should assist countries needing support in building up autonomous capabilities for climate action, particularly in financial and technological terms. Institutional mechanisms should be established at all levels of governance to ensure effective and targeted use of assistance, in cooperation with civil society.

**(2iv)** At the national scale, equity requires that governments safeguard the livelihoods of all segments of society, particularly those of the disadvantaged groups.

**(2v)** Financial responsibility and consequences should be shared proportionally by countries and organizations that have benefited from nature, large corporations must support the enforcement of the future use of natural resources. This responsibility must be implemented by all, and can be applied as an incentive or as a penalty depending on different countries' wealth.

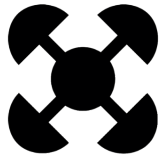
**03** Actions on the climate crisis must be participatory, enabling people at all levels to contribute to decisions on climate, particularly groups from countries least historically responsible for and most affected by the climate crisis.

**(3i)** The way decisions are made around climate change at the global level today is not democratic or fair enough. Powerful countries and large corporations have disproportionate influence over the process to the detriment of others.

**(3ii)** It is the legitimate right of people to participate in decisions which impact their lives. Citizen participation mechanisms such as Citizens' Assemblies must be expanded and made an integral part of climate decision-making at the global level as well as the regional, national, and local levels. We, the Global Assembly, are a living example that citizens from all around the world, representing all the diversity of humanity, can come together around an important issue such as climate change and make a meaningful contribution through their collective wisdom.

**(3iii)** The voices of the most affected people and areas have to be given more space in climate decision-making, including those of countries least responsible for and most affected by the climate crisis, disadvantaged social groups, indigenous peoples, women and children, and small-scale farmers.

**(3v)** Fairness, inclusion, and participation will lay the ground for effective and equitable climate policies.



**04** The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment must be included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protected at multiple levels of law; we should raise awareness & citizen engagement on human rights in relation to climate and the environment.

**(4i)** We uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which establishes our equal basic rights as human beings. It is a shame that after more than 70 years since the adoption of the UDHR, there are still gross human rights violations in many parts of the world. We must now take concrete steps to honor these fundamental rights.

**(4ii)** Climate change and ecological crisis undermine human rights as they lead to food insecurity, displacement, poverty, war, and disease. Basic rights of present and future generations depend upon a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. This has to be recognized by including a right to clean environment in the UDHR.

**(4iii)** Once in the UDHR, this right must also be enacted in international human rights law and be strictly enforced and monitored by organizations recognised at the international level (i.e. NGOs) and by participatory forums such as Community Assemblies.

**(4iv)** Countries must enact this right into their national, regional and municipal laws and report regularly and in a standardized way on its enforcement to the relevant bodies at all levels of governance, based on fairness, transparency and efficiency.

**(4v)** To raise awareness on human rights and the human values which bolster these rights, governments must promote education and community engagement for all.

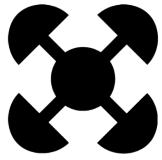
**05** This Declaration is grounded in the importance of Nature having intrinsic values and rights, and in all beings on Earth forming an interconnected whole; we must protect Nature from Ecocide legally, engaging communities and establishing multiple governing bodies to enable this.

**(5i)** We acknowledge that Nature has intrinsic value and rights, as stated in the Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth. The rights of Nature are inextricably linked with the rights of humans, they should be interpreted and applied harmoniously.

**(5ii)** All beings on Earth form an interconnected whole, each of them playing an essential role in sustaining ecosystems. We humans must remember that we are part of Nature. We must learn to coexist with other components of Nature and to approach them with care and respect. We must change our ways of life to protect the right to life and the right to exist of Nature with all its diversity.

**(5iii)** Ecocide has to be codified as a crime in the international and national laws, applicable to governments and corporations. It has to be firmly enforced alongside existing environmental protection laws.

**(5iv)** To raise awareness on Ecocide and the rights of nature, governments must promote education to all and large scale community engagement.



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**06** Education on climate change must be formally integrated, within the school syllabus and in governmental communications, and also informally disseminated through more accessible platforms, like social media, to reach as many as possible.

**(6i)** Formal and informal Education on climate change must be urgently prioritized, to foster citizen participation and inclusion from all age groups, or those without access to the education system and universal awareness mediums.

**(6ii)** Inequality of any form or nature must be recognised as a contributing factor to lack of information and action on the climate crisis.

**(6iii)** Education on the climate crisis and biodiversity should be approached through tackling media misinformation, reaching those who cannot access mainstream media, and promoting critical thinking to younger generations.

**(6iv)** Media companies, including social media, must take responsibility to encourage action on the climate and ecological crisis through positive influence and tackling misinformation by presenting expert opinions.

**(6v)** Climate environmental education, as a duty of governments, should be a subject in the schools syllabus and in informal education from an early age.

**(6vi)** Governments should introduce warnings on products that have high ecological footprints and enforce environmental protection regulations by law.

**(6vii)** Citizens must join together in recognition that we have the power to change minds and take action. The Global Assembly encourages all members to share videos and stories with the world in an effort to motivate change as well as to educate, and we encourage other community organizations to do the same.



**07** To ensure a fair and just energy transition, we must ensure that countries and people with less means are supported through a gradual change, and recognize the shared responsibility between citizens, governments and corporations in enabling it.

**(7i)** The transfer of wealth from countries with historical responsibility for the climate crisis to countries least responsible for the climate crisis in the implementation of the energy transition is fundamental to build equitable conditions for development. This should be implemented within a reasonable timeframe, and this must be legally enforced with clear responsibilities to ensure monitoring.

**(7ii)** We must cooperate globally to minimize disruption to major industries in the event of an energy crisis. This should include ensuring multiple sources of energy available to communities in need, sufficient funds, and a continuous energy supply to countries that may otherwise face rationing.

**(7iii)** We appreciate that the energy transition will have huge implications for livelihoods, such as jobs transformations, therefore there must be a gradual energy transition, to allow for a shift to new career paths.

**(7iv)** We should encourage information sharing by institutions and individuals on the energy transition, through channels available to everyone, to form new habits around energy use which will help preserve the environment.

**(7v)** We call for shared responsibility for the energy transition, to enable equitable consumption for healthy living and minimal damage to the environment, recognising the need for governmental, corporate and industrial responsibility alongside the behavioral change of citizens as the consumers of energy.

**(7vi)** We should assign clear primary responsibility to the parties most strongly implicated in the energy transition, such as fossil fuel corporations, and make damaging the environment a legal matter that is enforceable.