

## **CHAPTER I**

### **THE UNITY OF THE WORLD**

**Article 1:** Everything that exists is part of the unfolding of an interdependent universe. All beings belonging to this universe have a common origin and are pursuing concurrent evolutionary paths. Therefore, the evolution and development of all humanity and each human being is an integral part of the evolution of the universe.

**Article 2:** All human beings belong inseparably to nature, upon which human culture and civilization have been constructed.

**Article 3:** Life on Earth is abundant and diverse. It is sustained by the uninterrupted functioning of natural systems that ensure the supply of energy, air, water, and nutrients for all living beings, which depend upon one another and the rest of nature for their existence, well-being and development. Every manifestation of life on Earth is unique and necessary, and therefore is owed respect and care regardless of its apparent value to human beings.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THE UNITY OF THE HUMAN FAMILY**

**Article 4:** All human beings belong inseparably to the human family and depend upon one another for existence, well-being, and development. Each human being is a unique expression and manifestation of life and has his or her own contributions to make to the development of life on Earth, irrespective of differences in race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic or other status. Furthermore, each is the beneficiary of fundamental and inalienable rights and liberties.

**Article 5:** All human beings have the same basic needs, and the same fundamental aspirations for their fulfillment. All individuals are the beneficiaries of the right to development,

which seeks to promote the achievement of the full potential of each person.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **HUMAN CHOICES AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**Article 6:** Altruism, compassion and love are intrinsic qualities of all human beings. These qualities nurture responsibility, which is an inherent aspect of every relationship in which human beings are involved. This capacity to act responsibly, in a conscious, independent, unique and personal way, is an inalienable creative quality of each human being. There is no limit to its scope or depth other than that which each person establishes for him or herself. The more it is accepted and exercised, the more it will grow and strengthen.

**Article 7:** Of all living beings, humans have the unique capacity to decide consciously whether to protect or to damage the quality and conditions of life on Earth. By reflecting on their membership in the natural world and their special position as participants in the unfolding of natural processes, people can develop an altruistic sense of universal responsibility toward the world as a whole for the protection of nature, the promotion of the highest possible evolutionary potential, and for the creation of those conditions which allow for the achievement of the highest level of spiritual and material well-being.

**Article 8:** At this critical point in history, human choices are crucial. In directing their actions towards achieving progress in society, human beings often have lost sight of their membership in the natural community and the indivisible human family, and their basic needs for a healthy life. Excessive consumption, abuse of the environment, and aggression among peoples have brought natural processes to a critical situation that threatens the Earth's survival. By reflecting on this, individuals will be able to discern their responsibility, and on this basis re-orient their conduct toward peace and sustainable development.

## CHAPTER IV

### A REORIENTATION TOWARD PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Article 9:** It is through the recognition that every form of life is unique and necessary, that every person is the beneficiary of the Right to Development, and that peace and violence have their origins in the consciousness of human beings, that a conscious sense of responsibility to act and think in a peaceful manner will be developed. Through this peaceful consciousness, individuals will understand the nature of the conditions necessary for their well-being and development.

**Article 10:** Conscious of their sense of responsibility towards the human family, the environment which they inhabit, and the necessity of thinking and acting peacefully, human beings will be obligated to act in a manner which is consistent both with the observance and respect of the inherent rights of people, and with the consumption of resources which is sensitive to the satisfaction of the basic needs of all.

**Article 11:** Upon recognizing that the members of the human family are responsible to themselves and to present and future generations for the conservation of the Earth, as protectors of the natural community and promoters of continued development, all people will pledge themselves to acting in a rational manner in order to achieve sustainable living.

**Article 12:** States have the responsibility to promote peace and sustainability, as well as to put into practice the educational objectives that further them. These objectives include the awakening of the consciousness of the interdependence among human beings and between human beings and nature, and the universal responsibility of the individual to solve, through attitudes and actions, the problems which have been created, in a manner which is consistent with the protection of human rights and fundamental liberties.