



## EARTH DIALOGUES BRISBANE 2006 21 – 24 July 2006



Presented by Brisbane Festival 2006 and the Queensland Government in association with  
Brisbane City Council and Green Cross International

### APPEAL FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE

*We, the participants of Earth Dialogues Brisbane, recognise that our environmental, security and development challenges are interdependent. There can be no sustainable peace while the majority of the world's population lives in poverty. There can be no sustainable peace if we fail to rise to the global challenge presented by climate change. There can be no sustainable peace while military spending takes precedence over human development.*

*There is an urgent need to reexamine our priorities and underlying values in support of a just, sustainable and peaceful world. We must put the whole Earth at the center of our planning and concern. We should design our economies to meet our social goals, not vice versa. We should exercise compassion and commit ourselves to being good neighbours at local, regional and global levels. The environment and its biodiversity should be considered crucial elements in peace building, and recognized as fundamental to the achievement of all human development goals.*

1. Everyone needs to become an activist. People must become engaged in political processes in order to elevate sustainable development, justice and lasting peace onto political agendas.
2. It is imperative to take an holistic approach, to integrate natural resources, cultural, economic and demographic factors in order to understand and overcome global and regional threats and conflicts.
3. Poverty, human rights violations, and the absence of participatory processes are major obstacles to sustainable human development and the achievement of lasting peace and should not be tolerated. Action to address these problems must be accelerated.
4. All governments must honour their commitments to the Millennium Declaration and actively support the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Broad, long-term goals like the MDGs should be operationalised at the local level.
5. Climate change is the most serious threat we face. Drawing on commitments made under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, governments should develop frameworks based

on the sustainable and equitable principles of Contraction & Convergence to guide market mechanisms to limit greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric concentrations to a safe level.

6. We need to identify and pursue ways to promote sustainable, just human development without increasing our ecological footprints. More resources must be directed at acquiring information at spatial and temporal scales relevant to understanding earth systems and complex ecological processes and interactions, and to monitoring and modeling trends so as to enable corrective actions. Scientists, including government-funded scientists, must be free to carry out research and report to the public without political control.
7. We must acknowledge the capacity and capabilities of the marginalized and voiceless and empower vulnerable people. Everyone must demand that governments respect the rights, needs and identities of all members of their communities.
8. Urban poverty is a growing cause of instability and must be combated. Cities must be made more affordable and sustainable through housing schemes, and access to public services including water, sanitation, transport and healthcare.
9. Young people, the greatest natural resource of all, must be educated about sustainable development. The media is encouraged to be more responsible and thorough in its treatment of sustainable development issues, to reflect the growing concern of the public.
10. Citizens should insist on their role being enhanced from consultative, to active participation and genuine empowerment, particularly related to decision-making which directly affects their lives.
11. Citizens should call on their governments to transfer resources away from military expenditure towards areas such as environmental protection, reducing poverty, education and tackling infectious diseases, all of which contribute to lasting peace.
12. We recognize the Earth Charter as providing an ethical framework for sustainable development. We recommend that governments and local authorities endorse it as a primary guide to public policy, awareness raising and education.