

Declaration of the 7th Global Conference on Human Development

Introduction:

We, the participants of the 7th Global Conference on Human Development represent every sector of society and over 40 nations.

We declare that ordinary people have deep wisdom about the development that affects their own lives.

When we share our wisdom and create solutions together, what we create is more wise than any one person.

Ordinary people, working together, can create practical solutions that will address the most serious challenges of our world.

When ordinary people are involved in both planning and implementation of development that affects their lives, real change happens.

Our overall vision includes:

- A new definition of leadership, with grassroots involvement for people development and more equity in power structures
- Broad citizen participation, government accountability and cultural tolerance, and overcoming inequalities and domination
- Adequate education as a human right for all adults and children
- Access to sufficient quality food, health systems and health education for all, with global partnership for funding
- Healthy clean environment for all, including effective recycling systems and sustainable energy use
- Improved livelihood of communities to make the world safer for all living beings
- Increased technical assistance and constant flow of information to share know-how
- Sustainable income systems

We recognize that there exists a range of significant underlying obstacles blocking our progress toward the human development outcomes we wish to realize:

These obstacles include:

- Systemic Exclusion that blocks participation
- Short-term thinking that blocks creative solutions for imagining and creating the future
- Inequality and disparity between the rich and the poor
- Lack of respect for basic freedoms in some areas
- Conflict
- Fear of change – stuck in the past with what is familiar
- Dependencies that block individual and collective action
- Poor coordination/ communication which blocks effective action
- Addictive, comfortable habits are easier than good environmental habits
- Focus on the individual rather than the community which blocks collective action
- Lack of unity of purpose
- Feelings of helplessness that blocks concrete action
- Few educational opportunities
- Action at inappropriate levels blocks coordination and progress
- Control image of leadership that blocks necessary collaboration and cooperation
- Focus on the economy not the ecosystem
- Lack of awareness of connections between humans and the environment that blocks effective action
- Entrenched attitudes (racist, sexist, etc.)

We propose to:

- Encourage communication across sectors
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- Strengthen transparency and accountability of NGO's, governments, UN etc.
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- Highlight positive demonstrations and examples (historical, present, future)
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- Encourage and develop collaborative and visionary leadership
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- Organize communities and civil society
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- Make violence and war not a legitimate option
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- Encourage cross-cultural interchange and connectedness between people, trade, and ideas
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- Provide multiple streams of education
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- Influence consumer choices and habits toward simple living
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- Use technology and internet to connect people to work together
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- Strengthen corporate social responsibility and service