

potential policy-implications of their work, and that policymaking can proceed from a sound research base.

The publications group at the Academy will focus on providing access to training and curriculum materials for like-minded research institutes around the world. In addition, the results of the programmes and interdisciplinary research at the Academy will be communicated through newsletters, journal articles, executive summaries, and final reports of seminars.

The Academy endeavours to assume an active role in the establishment of international networks for exchange of environment and development information to scientists, policymakers, and like-minded training institutes. As well, the Academy will facilitate due access to data on the global environment in an effort to promote its use in interdisciplinary research and decision-making processes.

IV. Geneva: A World Environment Centre

Geneva has a long tradition as a centre of international affairs; it is a place where agendas are set, multilateral treaties are negotiated, and conflicts are resolved. This has long been true for issues of war and peace, humanitarian aid, and economic policy. Geneva and its region are also playing an active role in addressing international environmental problems. This is demonstrated by the fact that there are numerous organizations with world-wide environmental interests located in the region.

The establishment of the International Academy of The Environment should be viewed as a new initiative in the general evolution of Geneva and the Lake Léman region as an important centre for global environmental concerns. The Academy is designed to serve as a centre for environmental management education and thinking. It organizes its programmes to serve best its international audience by working closely with the broad range of institutional resources and expertise present in the Geneva region.

The Morelia Declaration on the Need for an International Court of the Environment

A remarkable exchange took place recently in Mexico when leading environmentalists and other scientists, representatives from native tribes of North and South America, political activists, and writers — in all from 20 countries — spent a week together at Morelia discussing the state of the world as we approach the end of the millennium. Independently, but without exception, each participant expressed concern that life on our planet is in grave danger. Noting that:

* 24 thousand million tons of topsoil from cropland are being lost every year. If deforestation and other forms of land erosion continue at the current rate, the scientists present stated that, by the end of the decade, the Earth will have no additional farmland but a projected nearly one thousand million additional mouths to feed;

* The nuclear disaster of Chernobyl in 1986, which in varying degrees has subjected over 35 million people to radioactive assault, was only one of more than 100 nuclear accidents which took place over the last decade. At Morelia the scientist responsible for the clean-up of Chernobyl stated his belief that at least three nuclear catastrophes on the scale of Chernobyl are likely to take place by AD 2000;

* Seventy per cent of the world's population lives within 100 miles of the sea. The profligate use of fossil fuels, especially by the industrialized world, is rapidly and

V. Organization

The International Academy of the Environment was incorporated as a foundation on 22nd April 1991. On 1st July 1992, the Swiss Federal Council formally recognized the Academy as an institution of higher learning under the Federal Law on Universities, thereby entitling it to Federal subsidies. At the same time, the Federal Council endorsed the Governing Council of the Academy (Conseil de Fondation de l'Académie*), which includes representatives from the Swiss Government, the Government of the Canton of Geneva, the University of Geneva, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and other universities and international organizations.

The Academy budget will be of the order of 6.6 million SF in 1992, rising to a projected 8 million SF in 1994 — not including rental income from its real estate. The financing for 1991 for the Academy was assured by the University of Geneva and *ad hoc* subsidies from the Swiss Confederation (aid for developing countries, continued education, aid to Eastern European Countries, and others). The contributions from the Confederation and the Canton of Geneva are to be institutionalized, starting in 1992. In addition, the Academy will rely on matched support from international agencies, government ministries, the private sector, foundation grants, and fees for programmes targeted at industrialized countries.

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* The official language of which is English. — Ed.

irreversibly changing the global climate. Experts stressed that continued rising sea-levels and global warming will lead to massive flooding of coastal areas, creating millions of new environmental refugees on an even greater scale than we witness annually in countries such as Bangladesh; and

* Equable human survival depends *inter alia* on biological diversity. At current rates of environmental destruction — especially the wanton destruction of tropical forests in the Americas, Asia, and Africa — we may lose more than a million species within the next ten years, and a quarter of all living species within the next fifty years, accordingly.

I. We, the participants of the Morelia Symposium, urge the leaders of the world at the Earth Summit to be held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to commit themselves to ending ecocide and ethnocide, and we propose the creation of an *International Court of the Environment*, modelled on the International Court of Justice at The Hague.[†]

[†] Might this not be located most appropriately in Geneva, Switzerland, with its unique 'environment' of international organizations and demonstrated capability of accommodating them — as indicated in the recent booklet entitled *Geneva and the Environment: A Guide to International Activity and Organisations*, published by the International Academy of the Environment, 4 Chemin de Conches, 1231 Geneva, Switzerland: xi + 73 pp., 1992, and available on request from the Academy. — Ed.

II. Twenty per cent of the world's population consumes 80% of its wealth and is responsible for 75% of its pollution. We believe there is sufficient knowledge and technology available to reduce the obscene disparity of wealth. We demand a genuine transfer of knowledge and resources from North to South, rather than the dumping of obsolescent and inefficient technologies and products. There must be an immediate end to the international traffic in toxic waste, urgent reduction of the pollution of rivers and oceans by industrial waste and human sewage, an end to the unprincipled export of banned pesticides and other chemicals to the economically desperate countries of the Third World, and the immediate availability of information and means to allow people, individually and voluntarily, to pursue the goal of population stabilization.

III. Traditional societies are generally the best managers of biodiversity. For the last five hundred years the knowledge and the rights of the native American peoples have been ignored. We believe that respecting the interests of indigenous peoples, both in the Americas and throughout the rest of the world, who have too often and widely become exploited minorities in their own countries, is crucial for the preservation of biological and cultural diversity. We deplore the cultural pollution and loss of tradition which have led to global rootlessness — leaving humans, through the intensity of mass-marketing, vulnerable to the pressures of economic and political totalitarianism and habits of mass-consumption and waste which imperil the Earth.

IV. At the Earth Summit of June 1992 we demand that world leaders sign a Global Climate Change Convention.

Industrialized countries must make a minimum commitment to a 20% reduction of their carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000. We insist on rigorous implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Protection of the Ozone Layer. We also urge the signing of a convention to protect biological diversity, and the evidence of concrete progress in negotiations for a global forests treaty.

V. The proven economic folly of nuclear power, coupled to the probability of environmental catastrophe, necessitates the urgent substitution of nuclear energy by clean, safe, and efficient, energy systems. The military establishment must cease the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical, weapons and convert a significant proportion of military expenditure to expenditure on environmental security. To ensure this, we demand an end to secrecy and a right to freedom of information in all matters concerning the world's environment.

The participants at this propitious Symposium emphasize that environmental destruction cannot be confined within the boundaries of any nation state. We urge our fellow writers, environmentalists and other scientists, members of indigenous minorities, and all concerned people, to join us in demanding the creation of the above-proposed *International Court of the Environment* at which environmentally criminal activity can at least be brought to the attention of the entire world.

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The Halifax Declaration for a Sustainable Biosphere

At the invitation of the President, representatives from 33 universities in 10 countries on 4 continents assembled at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, during 9–11 December 1991, under the auspices of Dalhousie University, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the International Association of Universities, and the United Nations University, to address the role of universities in the quest for environmentally sustainable development. They were joined by representatives of a number of academic and scholarly organizations as well as of government and business. At the conclusion of the meeting, the following statement was issued:

Human demands upon the planet Earth are now of a kind and volume that, unless they are changed and reduced substantially, will threaten the future well-being of all living species. Universities and their graduates must be significant actors if those demands are now to be shaped into the sustainable and equitable forms which will be necessary for a wholesome future environment and livable world.

As the international community marshals its endeavours for a sustainable future, focused upon the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in June 1992, universities in all countries are increasingly examining their own roles and responsibilities. At Talloires, France, in October 1990, a conference of university presidents from every inhabited continent, held under the auspices of Tufts University, issued a declaration of environmental commitment that has attracted the support of more than 100 universities in

numerous countries. At Halifax, Canada, in December 1991, the specific challenge of environmentally sustainable development was addressed by the presidents of universities from Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere.

The Halifax meeting added its voice to those many others world-wide that are deeply concerned about the continuing widespread degradation of the Earth's environment, about the pervasive influence of poverty on the process, and about the unsustainable environmental practices that are now so widespread. The meeting expressed the belief that solutions to these problems can only be effective to the extent that the mutual vulnerability of all societies, in the South and in the North, East and West, is duly recognized, and that the energies and skills of people everywhere are employed in a positive, cooperative fashion. Because the educational, research, and public-service, roles of universities enable them to be competent and effective contributors to the major attitudinal and policy changes that are necessary for a sustainable future, the Dalhousie meeting urged the dedication of all universities to the following actions:

- 1) To ensure that the voice of your university is clear and uncompromising in its ongoing commitment to the principle and practice of sustainable development both within the university and at the local, national, and global, levels.
- 2) To utilize the intellectual resources of the university to encourage a much-improved understanding, on the part of society, of the interrelated physical, biological,