

# Introducing Bahá'í Principles to United Nations Dialogues and Conferences

Arthur Lyon Dahl  
International Environment Forum  
<http://iefworld.org>

Association for Bahá'í Studies  
Toronto, August 2014

# Environmental Sustainability

The precursors

BIC contributions to 40 years of  
international environmental debate

Interfaith dialogue

International Environment Forum

# The Precursors

## Richard St.Barbe Baker:

- Men of the Trees (1924), Shoghi Effendi first lifetime member (1929) → International Tree Foundation
- Save the Redwoods campaign (1930s)
- World Forestry Charter Gatherings (1945-1970s) opened with messages from Shoghi Effendi
- Reclaiming the Sahara Desert (1950s)
- Diverting highway to save redwoods, letter to government from US NSA at urging of UHJ (1960s)

# The Precursors

- Willie Willoya and Vinson Brown: *Warriors of the Rainbow* (1962) inspires Greenpeace
- First Earth Day, Washington D.C., 22 April 1970: Arthur Dahl lectures on environment and ethics in Virginia and Maryland high schools



“ As she stopped talking, the old woman and the boy looked to the east and they saw a great rainbow flaming in the sky where a thunderstorm had passed.

‘The rainbow is a sign from Him who is in all things,’ said the old, wise one. ‘It is a sign of the union of all peoples like one big family. Go to the mountaintop, child of my flesh, and learn to be a Warrior of the Rainbow, for it is only by spreading love and joy to others that hate in this world can be changed to understanding and kindness, and war and destruction shall end!’ ”

Willoya and Brown, *Warriors of the Rainbow* (1962)



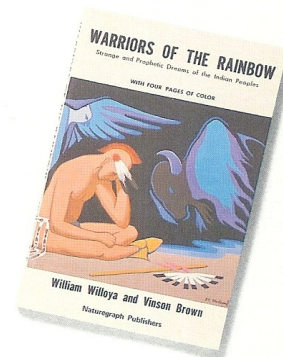
Written by William Willoya and Vinson Brown, the book contained a 200-year-old prophecy that seemed particularly relevant to the men on board the *Cormack*. There would come a time, predicted an old Cree woman named Eyes of Fire, when the earth would be ravaged of its resources, the sea blackened, the streams poisoned, the deer dropping dead in their tracks. Just before it was too late, the Indian would regain his spirit and teach the white man reverence for the earth, banding together with him to become Warriors of the Rainbow.

As the *Cormack* pulled away from Cormorant Island, Hunter passed around his copy of the book. “Predictably,” he wrote later, “the older men were less impressed than the youngsters. But rainbows *did* appear several times the following day and it all *did* seem somehow magical as we chugged through a maze of inlets and channels, sounds and bays.”

Leaving the shelter of land behind her, the *Cormack* soon found herself in heavier seas, being tossed by the rising swells as if she were a wooden barrel. By the time the boat reached the Gulf of Alaska the sea had turned the colour of granite, and most of the crew had taken to their bunks suffering from bouts of terrible sea sickness.

As they passed through Unimak Pass, the crew sought permission from the US Coast Guard to put in at Dutch Harbor, a naval security zone in the Aleutians, to stock up on supplies and fuel. Then they planned to move to a point just outside the 5-kilometre (3-mile) territorial limit at Amchitka. There, with cameras and tape recorders,

**The First Crew** From the left: (top) Hunter, Moore, Cummings, Metcalfe, Birmingham; (bottom) Fineberg, Thurston, Bohlen, Simmons, Darnell, Cormack.



**Prophetic Dreams** This book was a source of inspiration to Hunter and the younger crew members.

# The Greenpeace Story

# Bahá'í involvement with the United Nations



International Bahá'í Bureau, Geneva, 1926,  
with the League of Nations

Founding of the United Nations, San  
Francisco, 1945

Bahá'í International Community accredited  
1948

# The Process of Contributing to a Dialogue

# Conceptual process

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- Preparing a coherent text of problem definition and solutions

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- Consulting Baha'is with expertise in the field
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- Review and approval at the World Centre
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**BIC participation in  
40 years of  
international  
environmental  
debate**



# UN Conference on the Human Environment Stockholm 1972



# United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

- Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972
- 113 countries
- 134 accredited  
nongovernmental  
organizations incl. BIC
- global forum of NGOs

BIC statement:

*The Environment and Human Values*





# UN Conference on the Human Environment Stockholm 1972

Delegation of the Baha'i International Community ↓



BIC statement  
brochure

Stockholm  
1972

THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND  
HUMAN VALUES

A Bahá'í View

"The earth is but one country and mankind  
its citizens."

— Bahá'u'lláh

"If carried to excess, civilization will prove as  
prolific a source of evil as it had been of  
goodness when kept within the restraints of  
moderation."

— Bahá'u'lláh

MILJÖN  
och  
MÄNSKLIGA VÄRDERINGAR

Bahá'is syn på ett världsproblem

"Jorden är endast ett land och mänskligheten  
dess medborgare"

Bahá'u'lláh

"Civilisationen kommer, om den går till över-  
drift, att visa sig vara en källa lika alstrande  
till ondska, som den har varit till godhet, när  
den hållits inom moderationens gränser."

Bahá'u'lláh

DEN EGENTLIGA SJUKDOMEN

De mer iögonfallande orsakerna till de aktu-  
ella miljösymptomen får inte dölja karaktären  
hos den egentliga sjukdomen. Ingen enskild  
analys av problemen rörande den mänskliga  
miljön har avslöjat roten till de svårigheter,  
som möter världen idag: att världens sociala  
strukturer och de system av värderingar på vil-  
ka de byggts, inte kan tillgodose de nya mänsk-  
liga behoven.

Människan har utvecklat ett nytt förhållande  
både till sin naturmiljö och till medmänniskan.  
Den radikala omdaning av hennes fysiska  
miljö genom vetenskap och teknologi under det  
senaste århundradet har givit henne makt att  
kontrollera och modifiera naturkrafter. Den  
har eliminerat fysiska hinder för världsenhet,  
men samtidigt har detta skapat komplicerade  
och splittrade sociala förhållanden.

Som konsekvens av detta står vi då inför alter-



Bahá'í



BIC exhibit in NGO forum - Stockholm 1972

# The preparatory process for UNCED 1990-1992

- UNCED Secretariat in Geneva
- 4 meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee

1990 *Environment and Development*

1991 *Earth Charter*

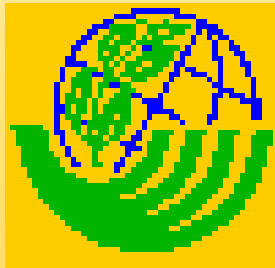
*International Legislation for Environment and Development*

- Working parties of experts
- Wide consultation with NGOs
- Each chapter of Agenda 21 negotiated, its costs calculated, and adopted by governments

# EARTH SUMMIT

## The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Rio de Janeiro, 1992



Rio Declaration

Agenda 21

Conventions on climate change and biodiversity

Declaration of forest principles

1,400 NGOs, 17,000 participants

BIC one of 13 NGOs presenting in plenary:

*Sustainable Development and the Human Spirit*





BIC monument in Rio de Janeiro

# Civil Society - Major Groups

- Stockholm 1972 - 134 NGOs 2 BIC
- Rio Earth Summit **Major Groups:**  
Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, Farmers
- BIC Office of Environment in NY
- Major BIC role in organizing global NGO forum in Rio; plenary; monument

# Implementation of Agenda 21: 1992-2013

## **Commission on Sustainable Development**

- Preparatory Committee (March)
- Meeting for 2 weeks in April-May
- Side events
- Parallel events
  
- 20<sup>th</sup> and last CSD 20 September 2013, replaced by the High Level Political Forum decided at Rio+20

*1993 World Citizenship: A Global Ethic for Sustainable Development*

*2010 Rethinking Prosperity: Forging Alternatives to a Culture of Consumerism*



# International Environment Forum

- Bahá'í-inspired professional organization founded in 1997
- More than 330 members in 60 countries
- Accredited by the UN as a scientific/technological organization to WSSD and Rio+20
- Annual conferences, web site ([iefworld.org](http://iefworld.org)), newsletter, statements, often partners with BIC







**IEF Conference, Oxford 2008**



# World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg 2002

## Johannesburg Declaration Plan of Implementation

*2001 Sustainable Development: The Spiritual Dimension*

*2002 Religion and Development at the Crossroads: Convergence  
or Divergence?*



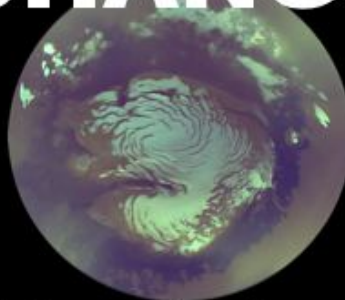
# WSSD parallel activities

BIC consulted with two Baha'i-inspired organizations, the International Environment Forum and the European Baha'i Business Forum (now ebbf - Ethical Business Building the Future) to organize:

- "Education and Values for Sustainable Development" in the Global Peoples' Forum
- "Dialogue on Indicators of Sustainability" in the Science Forum
- "Multiple Dimensions of Globalization" for the business community
- "Integrating Science into Local Communities" at the University of Witwatersrand
- Two stands at the Global Peoples' Forum: BIC and national Baha'i communities, and IEF and EBBF

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Permanent Mission of Tuvalu and the Bahá'í International Community invite you to a CSD-15 side event

*the* **ETHICAL**  
**DIMENSIONS** *of*  
**CLIMATE**  
**CHANGE**



**What Are the Moral and Ethical Issues of Climate Change, and What Practical Difference Would it Make if They Were Integrated Fully into Decision Making by Policy makers?**

**Monday 30 April 2007**  
**1:15—2:45 PM**  
**Conference Room B**  
**United Nations**

***Presenters:***

**H.E. Mr. Enele Sosene Sopoaga,**

Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations

**Mr. Om Pradhan,** United Nations Office of the High

Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS)

**Mr. Tony Barnston,** Director of Forecast Operations, International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia University

**Mr. Don Brown,** Project Coordinator, Collaborate

Program on the Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change, Rock Ethics Institute

**Dr. Arthur Dahl,** President, the International

Environment Forum, Consultant to and former Deputy Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

**Rabbi Lawrence Troster,** Fellowship Program Director, GreenFaith

**Cosponsors:**

UN Office of High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; UNEP Interfaith Partnership for the Environment; Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State University; International Environment Forum; and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development.

# BIC and climate change

2008

- *Seizing the Opportunity: Redefining the Challenge of Climate Change*

2009

- *Moral and Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change: Appeal to the World's Leaders*
- *Bahá'í International Community's Plan of Action on Climate Change*



# COP15 Copenhagen 2009







BIC/IEF delegations at Copenhagen 2009





BIC event Copenhagen 2009  
*Moral and Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change*



Victoria Thoresen, Sylvia et Onno Vinkhuyzen of IEF  
Climate Sustainability Platform, Copenhagen 2009





Planet Under Pressure, London 2012

# UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Advisory Group on International Environmental Governance

<http://agieg.iefworld.org/node/59>

## 15 Experts from major groups and regions

- rethinking the structure of governance
- innovation, social dimension for the green economy
- ethics of sustainability
- role of civil society
- local governance
- integration of sustainability everywhere
- needs of developing countries
- science and decision making
- governance beyond national sovereignty

# Incorporating the ethical dimension

International Environment Forum proposals to include ethical and spiritual considerations in UN policies and programmes:

- UN Permanent Forum on Ethics and Religion
- Office of Ethical Assessment in UN Secretariat

(IEF 2011)

# United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development



**RIO** United Nations  
**2012** Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development

**Rio+20**

Rio de Janeiro  
20-22 June 2012

*The future we want*

*Sustaining Societies:  
Towards a New 'We'*



# Rio+20 Rio Centro Conference Centre





# Rio+20





# The other Rio+20s

The intergovernmental conference had many side events, the Sustainable Development Dialogues, and a nearby exhibition and event space.

Apart from UNCSD, there were:  
Peoples' Summit in Flamengo Park  
Business summit at a big hotel  
Scientific forums in universities  
Indigenous peoples' forum

# Rio+20 Side Event - BIC

## Elimination of Extremes of Wealth and Poverty





# Rio+20 ICSU Science Forum



RIO+20  
United Nations Conference  
on Sustainable Development

## FORUM ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

11 to 15/2012  
JANEIRO

Hann-Wai Kuo

Janis Brugga

Ashok Khosla

Philip J. Vergragt

Leví Azeiteiro

Sylvia Linné

NIMA Conference  
Moderator

Organized by:



In partnership with:



Hosted by:

Ministério da  
Ciência, Tecnologia  
e Inovação





# Rio+20

## Global Research Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production





# Rio+20 - Peoples' Summit





# Rio+20 - Peoples' Summit - IEF

Changing mentalities and motivations: values for the sustainability transition







IEF Governing Board at Rio+20 2012 (minus 2)





O GLOBO

SEXTA-FEIRA, 15 DE JUNHO DE 2012

# Rio+20

**A crise econômica mundial pode se transformar no maior entrave para as negociações da conferência da ONU. E o alerta parte tanto de diplomatas quanto de economistas que estão no Rio**

## O que Erasmus pode esperar do futuro?

Um bebê de sete meses e meio, chamado Erasmus, é o mais jovem participante da Conferência das Nações Unidas para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável, a Rio+20. Sua mãe, a sueca Sylvia Karlsson, é professora de Estudos Ambientais da holandesa Wageningen University. Com 41 anos, esta ativista já esteve no Rio para um encontro de ONU e voltou agora, aos 41 anos, com o filho nos braços. Conseguiu credenciá-lo para a Rio+20.

Acomodado em seu carrinho, Erasmus morde seu próprio crachá de acesso aos pavilhões do Riocentro. E sorri, seu sorriso langüela e inocente de quem não sabe o que se passa.

— Ele está contente com a movimentação. Vai ser criada como um cidadão do mundo, preocupado com o mundo. Sabemos que essas mudanças são um processo de longo prazo. Erasmus está apenas começando a participar. E está otimista — garante a mãe, orgulhosa às repórteres Renata Makris e Márcia Foletto.

Erasmus não sabe. Nem podia saber. Mas a crise econômica mundial está minando as possibilidades de os negociadores da Rio+20 conseguirem amarrar um texto ambicioso para garantir um futuro decente para Erasmus e outros milhões de crianças pelo mundo. Muitas vão nascer na Suécia, no Brasil, em Bangladesh, na África do Sul, na China, na Alemanha.

Em 2050, a humanidade pode contar 9 bilhões de pessoas. Nessa data, Erasmus terá 38 anos. Praticamente a idade que sua mãe tem hoje. Ele não tem ideia de que, para suportar os 9 bilhões de pessoas, uma Terra só não chega. Será preciso uma e meia ou até duas. E quem poderá encontrar o planeta? A cada colchete que os diplomatas enfiam no documento final, a sorte de Erasmus fica um pouco mais incerta.

As indústrias precisam fazer sua parte, a ciência e a política também. E é preciso encontrar saídas para os oceanos e as florestas e também é indispensável garantir a diversidade de tipos (humanos) do planeta. Como o leitor encontrará nas próximas páginas.



Sylvia Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen and Erasmus, Rio+20, 2012

# Post 2015 dialogues

## **"Breaking Down the Silos: Integrating Environmental Sustainability in the Post-2015 Agenda"**

Final report of the Global Consultation on Environmental Sustainability in the Post-2015 Development Agenda led by UNDP and UNEP, 9 September 2013.

A quote from one IEF contribution was featured in the report:

*"In the interest of fairness and equity, governments need to agree on an international regulatory framework that would establish minimum social and environmental standards, ensure that corporations pay their fair share of taxes, prevent companies becoming so large that they have a monopoly position and are more powerful than governments, or too big to fail."* (Contribution to the e-discussion on the role of the private sector and markets by Arthur Lyon Dahl, President, International Environment Forum, Switzerland).

[inspired by recent Baha'i statements on corporate behaviour, and criticism in the Baha'i writings of "trusts" or corporations in a monopoly position]

# Post-2015 opportunities

- HLPF - High Level Political Forum every 4 years, 24 September 2013 - 2 days - heads of state/government.
- ECOSOC - annual ministerial session, 8 days, with regional preparations, national reports
- Global Sustainable Development Report
- Sustainable Development Goals (MDG +)





# Interfaith Activities



# BIC and interfaith dialogue

- Stockholm 1972
- Assisi 1986 (*A Bahá'í Perspective on Nature and the Environment*)
- Network (later Alliance) on Religions and Conservation 1987 (*Bahá'í Statement on Nature*)
- Summit on Religions and Conservation, Windsor Castle, 1995 (*Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Bahá'í Faith*)
- World Faiths and Development Dialogue, Lambeth Palace, London, 18-19 February 1998 (*Valuing Spirituality in Development*)
- UNDP/ARC Action Plans for Climate Change (2009) (*BIC Plan of Action on Climate Change*)
- Green Pilgrimage Network (2011) *Green Pilgrimage Network*

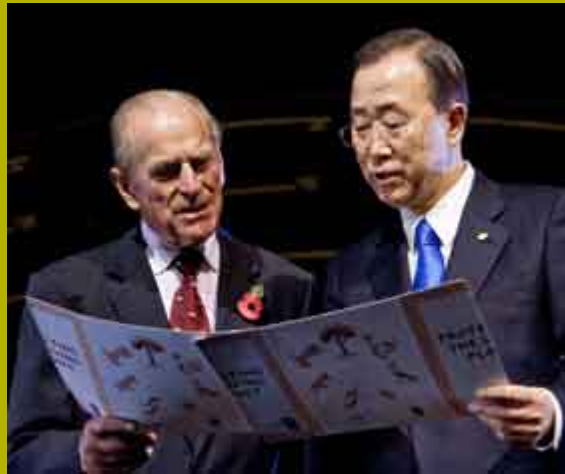
# Faith-based Action Plans for Climate Change 2009

- The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) and UNDP invited the major religions to prepare action plans on climate change and the natural environment
- These were presented at an event on 2-4 November 2009 at Windsor Castle co-hosted by the UN Secretary-General and Prince Philip

see <http://www.arcworld.org/> and  
<http://www.windsor2009.org/>



# The Windsor Celebration



# Bahá'í International Community

## Declarations on environment and sustainable development

- 1972 (UNCHE, Stockholm) The Environment and Human Values
- 1986 (WWF, Assisi) A Bahá'í Perspective on Nature and the Environment
- 1987 (WWF) The Bahá'í Statement on Nature
- 1990 (UNCED PrepCom) Environment and Development
- 1991 (UNCED PrepComs):  
Earth Charter  
International Legislation for Environment and Development  
Women and Men: Partnership for a Healthy Planet
- 1992 (UNCED, Rio de Janeiro) Sustainable Development and the Human Spirit
- 1993 (CSD1) World Citizenship: A Global Ethic for Sustainable Development
- 1995 (WWF/ARC, Windsor) Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Bahá'í Faith
- 1995 (Social Summit, Copenhagen) The Prosperity of Humankind
- 1996 (Habitat II, Istanbul) Sustainable Communities in an Integrating World
- 1998 Valuing Spirituality in Development
- 1999 Who Is Writing the Future? Reflections on the Twentieth Century



# Bahá'í International Community

## Declarations on environment and sustainable development

2001 Science, Religion and Development: Some Initial Considerations

2001 (WSSD PrepCom) Sustainable Development: The Spiritual Dimension

2002 (WSSD, Johannesburg) Religion and Development at the Crossroads: Convergence or Divergence?

2005 The Search for Values in an Age of Transition

2008 Eradicating Poverty: Moving Forward As One

2008 (COP14, Posnan) Seizing the Opportunity: Redefining the Challenge of Climate Change

2009 (COP15, Copenhagen) Moral and Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change: Appeal to the World's Leaders

2009 (PNUD/ARC, Windsor) Bahá'í International Community's Seven-Year Plan of Action on Climate Change

2010 (CSD18) Rethinking Prosperity: Forging Alternatives to a Culture of Consumerism

2011 Initial considerations regarding the elimination of the extremes of poverty and wealth

2011 Green Pilgrimage Network

2012 (Rio+20) Sustaining Societies: Towards a New 'We'


2012 Empowerment as a Mechanism for Social Transformation

# GLOBAL NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

- Climate change tipping points
- Extremes of wealth and poverty
- A generation without hope
- Gap between scientific urgency and political realism

Fundamental systems change is needed to transition to a sustainable society. There will be a need for dialogue for a long time to come



A serene sunset scene over a calm body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright, shimmering path of light across the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of palm trees frame the scene on both sides, adding a tropical feel. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

Bahá'í principles can make a significant contribution to the international dialogue on environment and sustainability

The goal is an organic change in human society towards sustainability

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*The Fi*  
Hunter  
Metcal,  
Fineber  
Simmo

*Proph*  
source  
the you





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Universal House of Justice, To the Baha'is of the World, Ridvan 2011

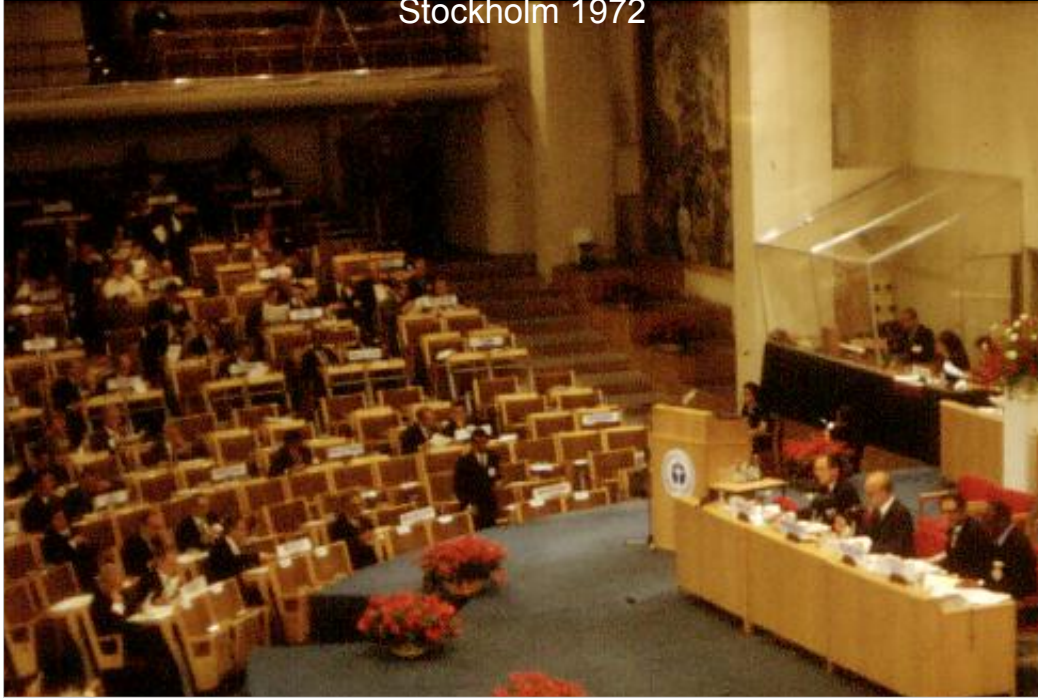


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based on Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 203-204

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brochure

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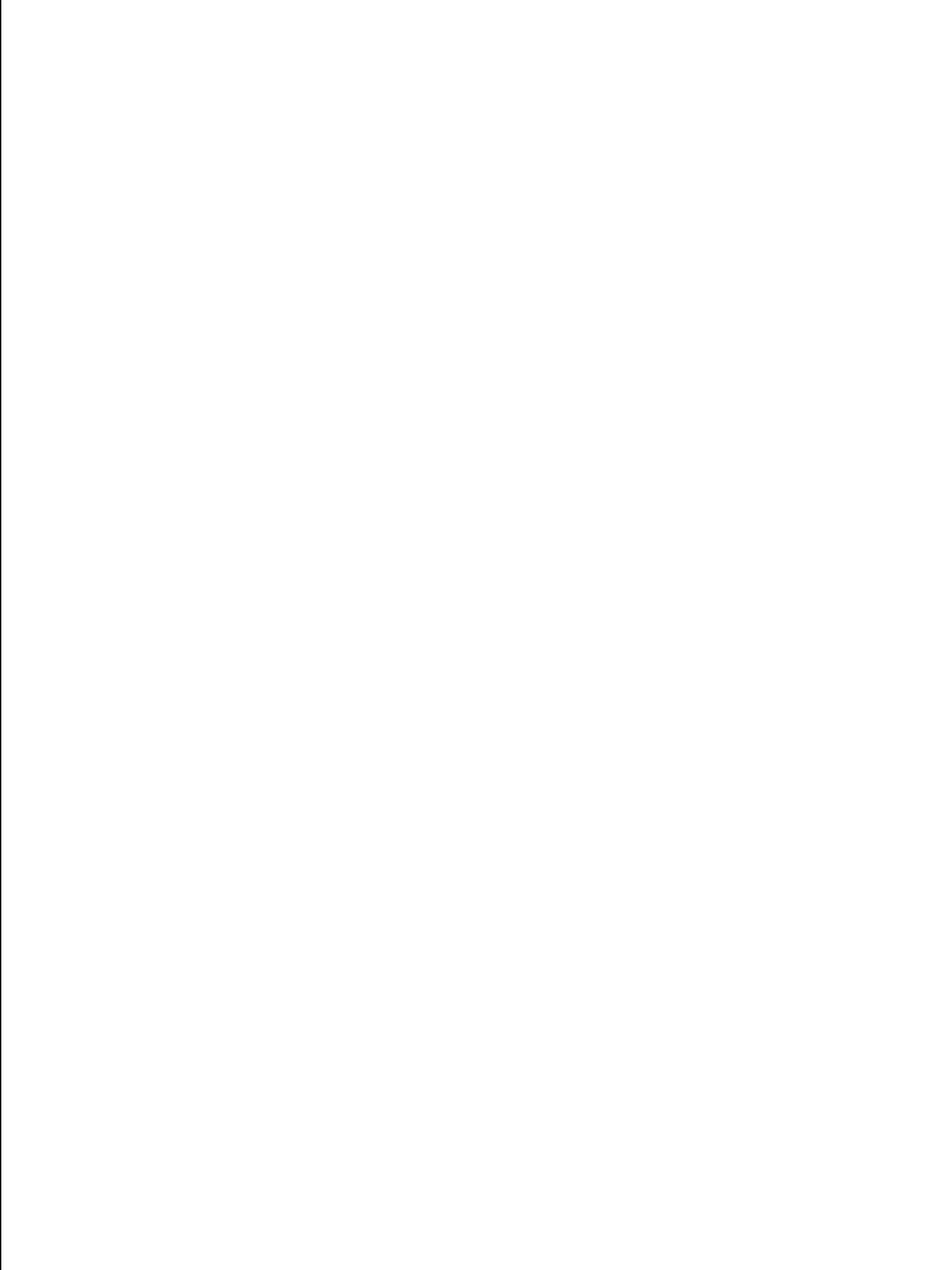
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- BIC Office of Environment in NY
- Major BIC role in organizing global  
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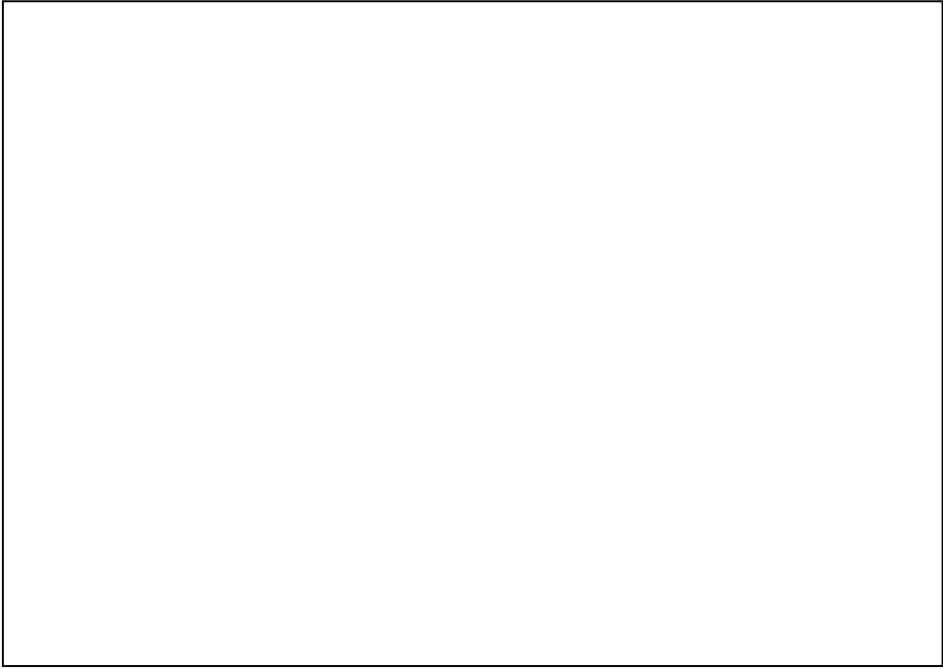




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- *Bahá'í International Community's Plan of Action on Climate Change*



# COP15 Copenhagen 2009



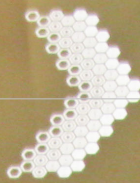


BIC/IEF delegations at Copenhagen 2009









# PLANET UNDER PRESSURE

2012 MARCH 26-29 LONDON

KNOW  
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SOLL

GLOBAL  
**IGBP**  
CHANGE



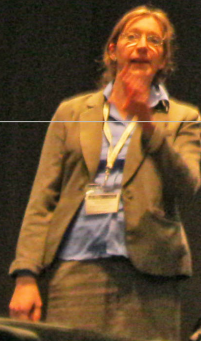
DIVERSITAS



IHDP

WCRP

And their Earth System Science Partnership



PLANET UNDER PRESSURE  
MARCH 26-29 LONDON

NEW EDGE CHANGE

## UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Advisory Group on International Environmental Governance

<http://agieg.iefworld.org/node/59>

15 Experts from major groups and regions

- rethinking the structure of governance
- innovation, social dimension for the green economy
- ethics of sustainability
- role of civil society
- local governance
- integration of sustainability everywhere
- needs of developing countries
- science and decision making
- governance beyond national sovereignty



## Incorporating the ethical dimension

International Environment Forum proposals to include ethical and spiritual considerations in UN policies and programmes:

- UN Permanent Forum on Ethics and Religion
- Office of Ethical Assessment in UN Secretariat

(IEF 2011)

IEF (2011). Submission to the Bureau of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by the International Environment Forum, 25 October 2011.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=510&nr=166&menu=20> and <http://iefworld.org/iefuncsd1> [accessed 16 February 2012]

# United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

**Rio+20**

Rio de Janeiro  
20-22 June 2012



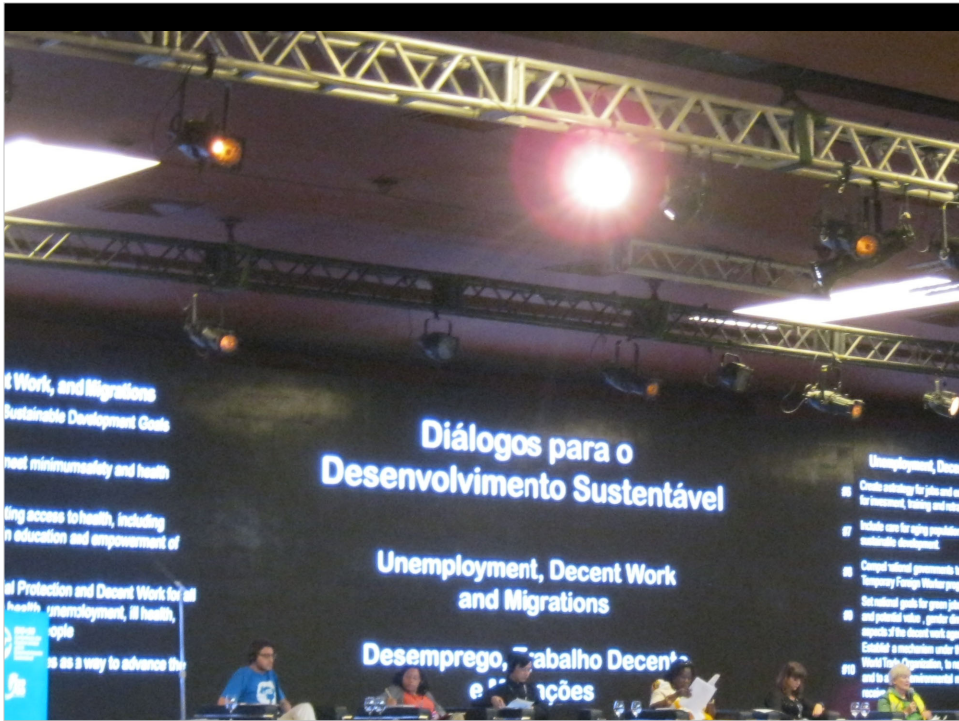
*The future we want*

*Sustaining Societies:  
Towards a New 'We'*

**RIO** United Nations  
**2012** Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development







Work, and Migrations  
Sustainable Development Goals  
... minimum safety and health  
... access to health, including  
... education and empowerment of  
... Protection and Decent Work for all  
... unemployment, ill health,  
... cycle  
... as a way to advance the

# Diálogos para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável

## Unemployment, Decent Work and Migrations

### Desemprego, Trabalho Decente e Migrações

- Unemployment, Decent Work and Migrations
- 01 Create strategies for jobs and income for investment, training and education
- 02 Include care for aging population in national development
- 03 Encourage national governments to improve Temporary Foreign Worker programs
- 04 Set national goals for green jobs and potential value, gender and aspects of the decent work agenda
- 05 Establish a mechanism under the World Trade Organization, to monitor and to support development in

## The other Rio+20s

The intergovernmental conference had many side events, the Sustainable Development Dialogues, and a nearby exhibition and event space.

Apart from UNCSD, there were:  
Peoples' Summit in Flamengo Park  
Business summit at a big hotel  
Scientific forums in universities  
Indigenous peoples' forum



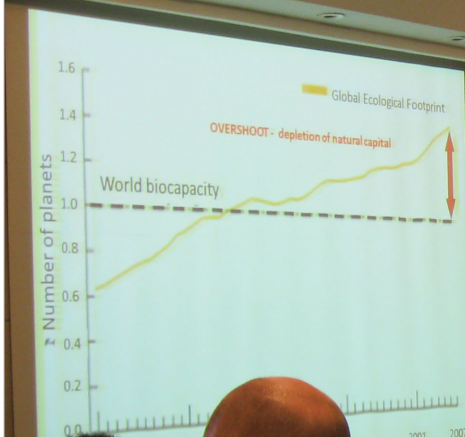
# Rio+20 ICSU Science Forum





# Rio+20

Global Research Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production



ESPM





Photo 20 - Peoples Summit - JFE









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Um bebê de sei  
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Nações Unidas  
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Rio-20. Sua mãe  
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para o Rio-20.  
Acomodado  
Erasmus mundi  
de acesso aos

# Post 2015 dialogues

## **"Breaking Down the Silos: Integrating Environmental Sustainability in the Post-2015 Agenda"**

Final report of the Global Consultation on Environmental Sustainability in the Post-2015 Development Agenda led by UNDP and UNEP, 9 September 2013.

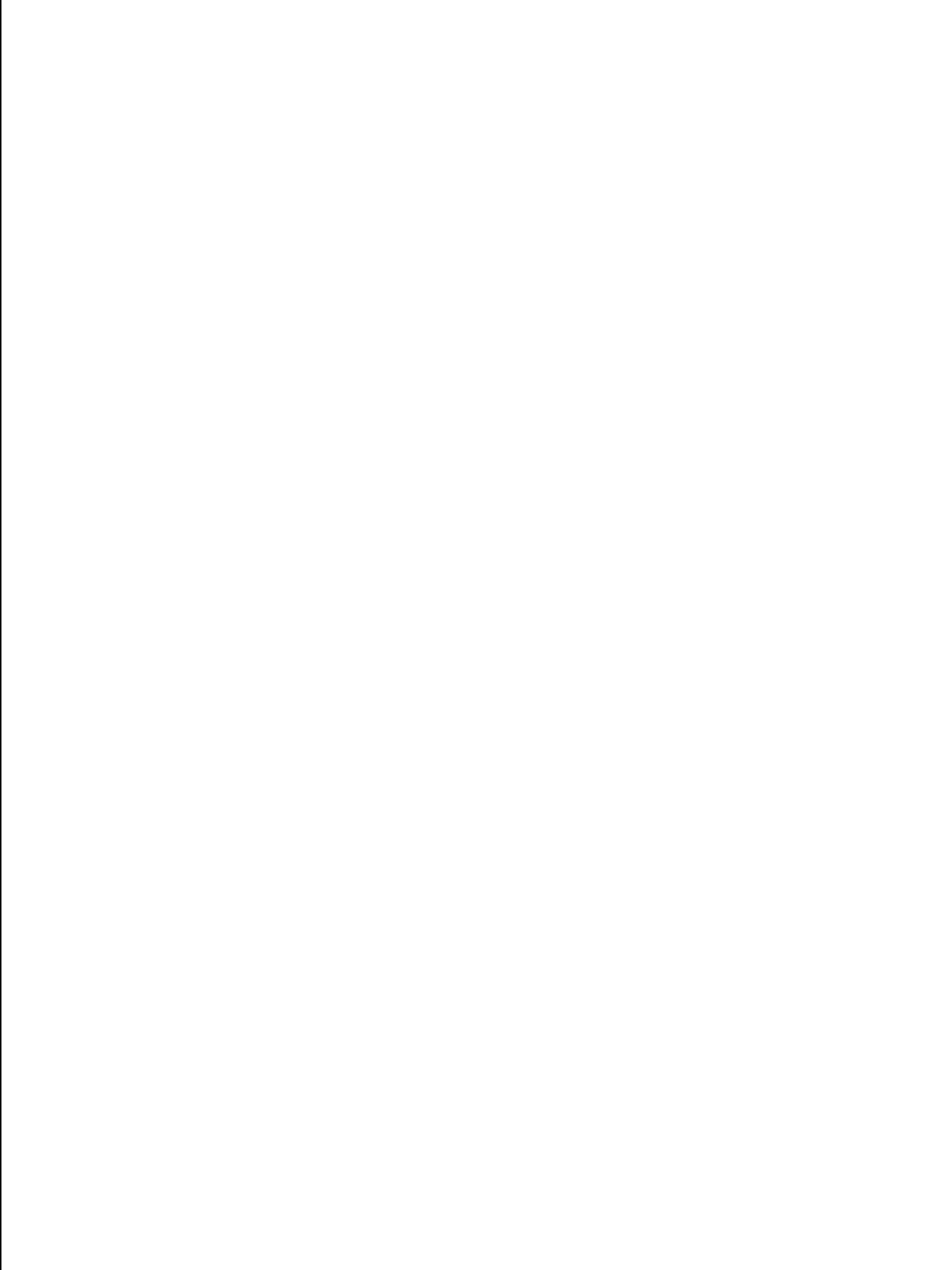
A quote from one IEF contribution was featured in the report:

*"In the interest of fairness and equity, governments need to agree on an international regulatory framework that would establish minimum social and environmental standards, ensure that corporations pay their fair share of taxes, prevent companies becoming so large that they have a monopoly position and are more powerful than governments, or too big to fail."* (Contribution to the e-discussion on the role of the private sector and markets by Arthur Lyon Dahl, President, International Environment Forum, Switzerland).

[inspired by recent Baha'i statements on corporate behaviour, and criticism in the Baha'i writings of "trusts" or corporations in a monopoly position]

<http://iefworld.org/node/641>







# BIC and interfaith dialogue

- Stockholm 1972
- Assisi 1986 (*A Bahá'í Perspective on Nature and the Environment*)
- Network (later Alliance) on Religions and Conservation 1987 (*Bahá'í Statement on Nature*)
- Summit on Religions and Conservation, Windsor Castle, 1995 (*Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Bahá'í Faith*)
- World Faiths and Development Dialogue, Lambeth Palace, London, 18-19 February 1998 (*Valuing Spirituality in Development*)
- UNDP/ARC Action Plans for Climate Change (2009) (*BIC Plan of Action on Climate Change*)
- Green Pilgrimage Network (2011) *Green Pilgrimage Network*





# Bahá'í International Community

## Declarations on environment and sustainable development

- 1972 ([UNCHE, Stockholm](#)) The Environment and Human Values
- 1986 ([WWF, Assisi](#)) A Bahá'í Perspective on Nature and the Environment
- 1987 ([WWF](#)) The Bahá'í Statement on Nature
- 1990 ([UNCED PrepCom](#)) Environment and Development
- 1991 ([UNCED PrepComs](#)):  
Earth Charter  
International Legislation for Environment and Development  
Women and Men: Partnership for a Healthy Planet
- 1992 ([UNCED, Rio de Janeiro](#)) Sustainable Development and the Human Spirit
- 1993 ([CSD1](#)) World Citizenship: A Global Ethic for Sustainable Development
- 1995 ([WWF/ARC, Windsor](#)) Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Bahá'í Faith
- 1995 ([Social Summit, Copenhagen](#)) The Prosperity of Humankind
- 1996 ([Habitat II, Istanbul](#)) Sustainable Communities in an Integrating World
- 1998 Valuing Spirituality in Development
- 1999 Who Is Writing the Future? Reflections on the Twentieth Century



# Bahá'í International Community

## Declarations on environment and sustainable development

- 2001 Science, Religion and Development: Some Initial Considerations
- 2001 (WSSD PrepCom) Sustainable Development: The Spiritual Dimension
- 2002 (WSSD, Johannesburg) Religion and Development at the Crossroads: Convergence or Divergence?
- 2005 The Search for Values in an Age of Transition
- 2008 Eradicating Poverty: Moving Forward As One
- 2008 (COP14, Posnan) Seizing the Opportunity: Redefining the Challenge of Climate Change
- 2009 (COP15, Copenhagen) Moral and Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change: Appeal to the World's Leaders
- 2009 (PNUD/ARC, Windsor) Bahá'í International Community's Seven-Year Plan of Action on Climate Change
- 2010 (CSD18) Rethinking Prosperity: Forging Alternatives to a Culture of Consumerism
- 2011 Initial considerations regarding the elimination of the extremes of poverty and wealth
- 2011 Green Pilgrimage Network
- 2012 (Rio+20) Sustaining Societies: Towards a New 'We'
- 2012 Empowerment as a Mechanism for Social Transformation

## GLOBAL NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

- Climate change tipping points
- Extremes of wealth and poverty
- A generation without hope
- Gap between scientific urgency and political realism

Fundamental systems change is needed to transition to a sustainable society. There will be a need for dialogue for a long time to come

Bahá'í International Community. 2010. *Rethinking Prosperity: Forging Alternatives to a Culture of Consumerism*. Contribution to the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, 3 May 2010. <http://bic.org/statements-and-reports/bic-statements/10-0503.htm>

