

International Environment Forum

<https://iefworld.org>

Focal point: Arthur Lyon Dahl, President,

## **Chapter II. International peace and security**

Define the common good and security for all more broadly than military security and maintaining the peace, including global solidarity to reduce inequalities, sustainability of the planetary environment and its ecosystem services, and universal respect for human rights.

- Global environmental governance must be strengthened to respond to the multiple global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste that present ineffective governance measures have failed to resolve.

- Before an eventual revision or replacement of the UN Charter, the existing pillars of security and of economic and social development were extended to three in 1948 with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Raising the environment to the fourth pillar could initially be accomplished by the similar adoption of a Declaration of Planetary Environmental Responsibility, along with expanded authority for UNEP and the UN Environment Assembly.

## PRINCIPLES

1. The planetary environment upon which all life depends is a dynamic system that has evolved optimal conditions for all life and human well-being within planetary boundaries. These are now under threat from human activities that must be addressed collectively at the international level. The United Nations should ensure the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and long-term environmental sustainability for human and natural well-being.

2. United Nations responsibility for the planetary environment extends to those dimensions beyond the capacity of any nation to manage independently, while reserving to states their autonomy in choosing the most appropriate ways to respect their international responsibilities.

3. Protecting the Earth system requires an integrated systems approach to the balance, integrity and resilience of the biosphere and its ecosystem services over many generations, including governance of outer space, the electromagnetic spectrum, the atmosphere and climate system, the water cycle, the oceans, the biosphere and its ecosystems and genetic resources, the sustainable exploitation of natural resources, chemical pollution, wastes and their disposal, and the conditions necessary for human health and well-being.

4. Global environmental governance and the obligations and responsibilities derived from it should apply not only to states but to non-state actors including corporations, other institutions and individuals. In an integrated global system, all stakeholders stand to benefit from respecting the common good, and may contribute to global harm, so free-riding should not be tolerated. In accordance with the polluter-pays principle, prevention, mitigation and remediation costs for pollution, and other environmental disruptions and degradation should, to the greatest possible extent, be borne by their

education should be provided at all levels to inspire responsible conduct in protecting and improving the environment.

2. The Assembly may adopt legislation that combines and increases coherence between the texts of existing conventions, multilateral agreements and international regulations, for increased efficiency and effectiveness.

3. Global environmental legislation should include the means of implementation, both within countries and beyond national jurisdictions. Where countries have insufficient capacity, assistance should be provided either to build that capacity within country or to establish regional or international collaboration and joint implementation.

## INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT COURT

1. Access to environmental justice, including affordable access to administrative and judicial procedures, and to redress for environmental loss and damage, must be provided for at both the global and national levels.

2. An International Environmental Court, modelled on the procedures of the International Court of Justice, should have this competence to interpret legislation, resolve disputes and ensure access to environmental justice at the global level.

For further information, see Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen, Sylvia and Arthur Lyon Dahl. 2021. [Towards a Global Environment Agency: Effective Governance for Shared Ecological Risks.](https://iefworld.org/fl/dkarlsson_dahl21.pdf) A Climate Governance Commission Report. Stockholm: Global Challenges Foundation. 77 p. [https://iefworld.org/fl/dkarlsson\\_dahl21.pdf](https://iefworld.org/fl/dkarlsson_dahl21.pdf)

Submitted by  
Arthur Lyon Dahl  
President  
International Environment Forum  
12B Chemin de Maisonneuve  
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
dahla@bluewin.ch