

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio Declaration
(Rio de Janeiro, 1992)

Preamble

**The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,
Having met at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992,
Reaffirming the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human
Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, and seeking to
build upon it.**

**With the goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through
the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors
of society and people,**

**Working towards international agreements which respect the interest of all
and protect the integrity of the global environmental and
developmental system,**

Recognizing the integral and interdependent nature of the Earth, our home.

Proclaim that:

Principle 1

**Human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development.
They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with
nature**

Principle 2

**States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the
Principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their
own resources pursuant to their own environmental and
developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that
activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage
to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of
national jurisdiction**

Principle 3

**The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet
developmental and environmental needs of present and future
generations**

Principle 4

**In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall
constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be
considered in isolation from it**

Principle 5

**All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating
poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable
development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of
living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the
world**

Principle 6

**The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the
least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be**

given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interest and needs of all countries

Principle 7

States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility the at they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command

Principle 8

To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies

Principle 9

States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies

Principle 10

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial, and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, she all be provided

Principle 11

States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental, standards, management objectives and priorities should reflects the environmental and developmental context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries

Principle 12

States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international

trade. Unaltered actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus

Principle 13

States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction

Principle 14

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health

Principle 15

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific measures to prevent environmental degradation

Principle 16

National authorities should endeavor to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment

Principle 17

Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority

Principle 18

States shall immediately notify other States of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those States. Every effort shall be made by the international community to help States so afflicted

Principle 19

States shall provide prior and timely notification and relevant information to potentially affected States on activities that may have a significant adverse transboundary environmental effect and shall consult with those States at an early stage and in good faith

Principle 20

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development

Principle 21

The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all

Principle 22

Indigenous people and their communities, and other local communities, have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interest and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development

Principle 23

The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected

Principle 24

Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in time of armed conflict and cooperate in its future development, as necessary.

Principle 25

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible

Principle 26

States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations

Principle 27

States and people shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfillment of the Principles embodied in this Declaration and in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.