

OUR COMMON FUTURE

THE WORLD COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT



Stockholm Summit 1972

United Nations Summit on the Human Environment



United Nations Environment Programme
Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement



Stockholm Conference & Brundtland Report

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Stockholm Conference

- First global environmental conference
- **The conference on the Human Environment**, held at Stockholm, in June 1972.
- Representatives from 113 countries were present, as well as representatives from many international non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and many other specialized agencies.

Purposes of Conference

- to serve as a practical means to encourage, and to provide guidelines
- to protect and improve the human environment and to remedy and prevent its impairment

Stockholm Conference

- The Conference indicated that “industrialized” environmental problems:
 - Habitat degradation
 - Toxicity
 - Acid rain
- Urbanization
- Mass destruction weapons

The Stockholm Declaration

- An environmental manifesto consists of 7 introductory proclamations and 26 principles;
- Full text:
<http://webarchive.loc.gov/all/20150314024203/http%3A//www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid%3D97%26articleid%3D1503>
- Principle 8: Economic and social development is essential for ensuring a favorable living and working environment for man and for creating conditions on earth that are necessary for the improvement of the quality of life.

Results of Conference

- Milestone in environmental law.
- Birth of green generation.
- Global awareness of environmental issues increased.
- Reducing human impact on the environment would require extensive international cooperation, as many of the problems affecting the environment are global in nature.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established in December 1972.

Our Common Future

- Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987)
- The report laid out the concepts of sustainability and sustainable development.
- Sustainable Development is defined first time.

Our Common Future

- Also known as **Brundtland Report** since Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway and former Director-General of the World Health Organization, wrote the Chairman's Foreword of the report.



Gro Harlem Brundtland

Sustainable Development

- "Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Brundtland Report

- Report examines the dimensions of social economic and environmental deterioration.
- Report suggest solutions for:
 - Population and Human Resources
 - Food security
 - Species and ecosystems
 - Energy
 - Industry
 - Urban development

Our Common Future, Annexe -1

- **Fundamental Human Right**

1. All human beings have the fundamental right to an environment adequate for their health and well being.

- **Inter-Generational Equity**

2. States shall conserve and use the environment and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Our Common Future, Annexe -1

- **Conservation and Sustainable Use**

3. States shall maintain ecosystems and ecological processes essential for the functioning of the biosphere, shall preserve biological diversity, and shall observe the principle of optimum sustainable yield in the use of living natural resources and ecosystems.

- **Environmental Standards and Monitoring**

4. States shall establish adequate environmental protection standards and monitor changes in and publish relevant data on environmental quality and resource use.

Our Common Future, Annexe -1

- Reasonable and Equitable Use

9. States shall use transboundary natural resources in a reasonable and equitable manner.

- General Obligation to Cooperate on Transboundary Environmental Problems

14. States shall cooperate in good faith with other States to achieve optimal use of transboundary natural resources and effective prevention or abatement of transboundary environmental interferences.

Brundtland Report

- Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future
- Full-text available at:
- <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>