

## **EARTH CHARTER NEWSFLASH !!**

- \*\* United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Panel
  - \*\* Education Campaign by the School Sisters of Notre Dame
  - \*\* Pax Christi International support
  - \*\* Earth Dialogues (21 – 23 February, Lyon, France) Report is now available
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### ***\*\*The Earth Charter as an Education Campaign by the School Sisters of Notre Dame\*\****

The School Sisters of Notre Dame have decided to have an educational campaign focused on the Earth Charter in the coming year. Sisters throughout North America will receive copies of the Earth Charter so that they may study it and implement it into the work they are already doing. The SSND's have a long-standing tradition of working for justice and peace, and the themes of economic and social justice within the Earth Charter easily resonate with their current endeavors. In addition, many of the sisters work in formal education settings and may be able to introduce the Earth Charter to their students in future curriculum.

Caring for the Earth is also part of the School Sisters of Notre Dame's mission to serve. The hope of the Inter-Provincial Planning Committee is that focusing on the Earth Charter will help the SSND's take next steps in more actively working for the Earth through their ministries. For more information on this please contact Sr. Eileen Reilly at [eileensnd@aol.com](mailto:eileensnd@aol.com)

### ***\*\* Pax Christi International officially endorses the Earth Charter after Pax Christi Germany and Pax Christi USA, \*\****

11 March -- Pax Christi International Executive Committee members voted to endorse the Earth Charter at a meeting that took place in Belgium, 8 - 10 March 2002. According to Pax Christi International, endorsement of the document builds support for environmental protection and development of a just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

Pax Christi International is a non-profit, non-governmental Catholic peace movement that began in France at the end of World War II. Today, it is comprised of autonomous national sections, local groups, and affiliated organizations spread over 30 countries and 5 continents, with over 60,000 members worldwide. The movement works in all areas of peace but has a specific focus on demilitarisation, security and arms trade, development and human rights, and ecology. For more see: <http://www.paxchristi.net>

### ***\*\* Synthesis report of the Earth Dialogues held in Lyon is now available \*\****

The Earth Dialogues addressed the question "Globalization and Sustainable Development: Is Ethics the Missing Link?" and welcomed the Earth Charter as a peoples' document providing an ethical framework equally applicable to guiding the choices of individuals, companies and states. This forum recommended the use of the

Earth Charter as an educational tool at all levels and agreed that the Charter provides the ethical basis necessary to support a sustainable development agenda and must be promoted as a guide for negotiations at the WSSD and beyond. The Forum convened by Mikhail Gorbachev and Maurice Strong brought together over 1000 participants. The full synthesis report is available at [www.earthdialogues.org](http://www.earthdialogues.org)

**\*\* U.N. SG Advisory Panel for WSSD strongly supports the Earth Charter \*\***

The second meeting of the Secretary General's Advisory Panel for the World Summit on Sustainable Development took place in New York on 5 February 2002. One of the key points emerging from the Panel discussion, was a strong support for the Earth Charter, Members of the Panel agreed to help mobilize support among all constituencies for the Charter to be recognized and formally endorsed by the Summit. According to the Panel, consideration of the Charter should be linked with discussion on private versus public goods.

Based on their own experience, panel members felt that the following issues should be included in the political deal and the implementation programme to be agreed at the Summit: the Earth Charter, corporate accountability, governance, women in decision-making, meeting the millennium targets, participation of civil society, access to information, access to & ownership of genetic resources, and peace as a proactive approach. For the complete meeting report see:

[http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/sgpanel\\_note\\_502.doc](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/sgpanel_note_502.doc)

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