

Statement from the 8th Conference on Rights of Nature

of 10 December 2019

on adopting a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth¹

We, the Participants of the 8th Conference of Rights of Nature for Peace and Development, including members of the UN Harmony with Nature Programme,

ARE AWARE THAT:

(1) Progress has been made by the United Nations in the area of human rights (UDHR), the rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Rights of Peasants, and sustainable development (UNCED),

(2) In 2009 the UN recognized Mother Earth Day and initiated the UN in [Harmony with Nature Programme](#),

(3) In 2010 a draft of the [Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth](#) (UDRME) was adopted by the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Cochabamba, Bolivia,

(4) IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2012, decided ([Res 100](#)) to "promote the development of a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature",

(5) Many cities, countries, courts and local communities have recognized [Rights of Nature](#) during the last decade,

(6) Civil society is mobilizing for the adoption of a Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth by the UN in the form of a global petition, which has collected over 300 '000 votes as off today, intending to reach 1 million signatures,

(7) Despite all these actions, the UN Decade of Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 ends with ecosystems more threatened than ever on a global scale;

HAVE HEARD FROM PRESENTATIONS AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT:

(8) We know we are an inseparable part of Nature (Mother Earth), which determines our existence.

¹ Statement drafted by Colin D. Robertson, Michèle L. Perrin-Taillat, Doris Ragettli, James Mager, Pella Thiel, Fallon J Hayes, Jawaria kanwal Chaudhary, Arci Pasanen and Vanessa Hasson

(9) We are part of Mother Earth, not superior to or separate from her; we must seek to live in harmony with Nature.

(10) The UN can no longer afford to separate the protection of Mother Earth from its mandate of peace keeping.

(11) To achieve environmental justice, we must recognize the interdependence of human and non-human life.

(12) Damage humans do to Nature must be recognized as a crime against Nature and against humanity, by adopting a law of ecocide.

(13) Balancing human rights with the rights of Nature is necessary to implement Agenda 2030, including reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

THEREFORE, WE URGE;

1. The State Parties of the post-2020 Biodiversity framework of the Convention on Biodiversity to ensure that the post-2020 Biodiversity framework will be based on the rights of Nature, granting her to exist, thrive, regenerate, evolve, and be restored.

2. The UN to adopt a Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth as a crucial step towards a sustainable future.

3. All Nations to urgently take concrete measures to ensure that present and future generations can live well in harmony with Nature by implementing Rights of Nature in all national legal systems as well as educational programmes.

4. To make the adoption of a Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth a permanent topic on the agenda of ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly

Geneva, 10 December 2019.