

The Earth System Treaty as Elective Acid Test

A Worthy Pathway to Political Power

by Geoffrey Holland

‘Anything else you’re interested in is not going to happen if you can’t breathe the air and drink the water. Don’t sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.’

Carl Sagan, Astrophysicist, Son of the Cosmos

Humans are pushing up against an unprecedented range of potentially catastrophic culture challenges. In just the past 50 years, we have more than doubled our numbers to 8 billion humans, on the way to well over 10 billion before the end of this century. We are taking everything our Earth has to offer for ourselves. The evidence of our planetary-scale overreach is undeniable.

Our natural world is severely over stressed and at risk of total collapse. Humans are entirely responsible. We are destroying our planet’s life-support systems; the ones we all depend on; the ones we cannot live without.

Winning with a Worthy Vision

We humans - all genders, all ethnicities, all nationalities – have two ways to go. The road we are on translates to more tribalism and self-interest, more conflict, more suffering and death, as the natural world collapses around us...or, or we can wake up and choose to save life on Earth by standing together as one human family behind common purpose. The challenges we face are planetary in scale. There are solutions. They only work if applied on a whole-Earth scale. We have the technology to redeem ourselves. What we need now, above all else, is a global human commitment and the political will that goes with it.

‘From a legal point of view, we now have the scientific and technical capability to quantify a stable and well-functioning state of the Earth System as an intangible object of international law which, by being global and indivisible, should belong to all humanity – the intangible Common Heritage of Humankind.’

Paulo Magalhaes, Founder and Chairman, Common Home for Humanity

Building Commitment Through ‘The Earth System Treaty’

Humanity must have a new planetary-scale, cultural direction, a gender-equal, transformative cultural direction in which we all commit to restore and protect the natural world we all depend on.

The distinguished Australian science author Julian Cribb has distilled a response to this common need; a response that challenges all of humanity to rally behind an uncomplicated set of legally binding measures that together add up to something Cribb calls, The Earth System Treaty.

Endorsed by [The Council for the Human Future](#), this Treaty, which Cribb calls on all nations, all groups, all businesses, and every individual Earth citizen to sign and commit to, includes the following legally binding measures...

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- A universal [ban on nuclear weapons](#)
 - An [international plan to combat climate change](#)
 - An [international plan to restore forests, soils, fresh waters, oceans, atmosphere and biodiversity](#) to stable, sustainable levels and end extinction
 - An international agreement to operate a [circular economy](#) and end waste
 - A plan for a *renewable world food supply* sufficient for all
 - A plan to end *universal chemical pollution* in all forms.
 - A plan to reduce the *human population voluntarily* to a sustainable level.
 - A plan to anticipate and prevent future pandemic diseases.
 - A *Global Technology Convention* to oversee the safe development and introduction of Dangerous new sciences and technologies and minimize the harms they cause.
 - A *World Truth Commission*, to combat and expose the lies and disinformation
 - An *Earth Standard Currency*
 - All 17 of the *Sustainable Development Goals*
 - All 16 of the principles enunciated in the *Earth Charter*

- All of the *Safe Global Boundaries* described by the Stockholm resilience Institute.

Let's share this Earth System Treaty far and wide. Let's get past tribalism and self-interest. Let's embrace cooperation and shared commitment. There is nothing complicated about the ideas that shape this urgent reflection of common human purpose.

For the sake of all of humanity and all of life on Earth, for the sake of our own survival, let's choose to become the best version of humanity we can be. Let's all of us stand together and sign on to the Earth System Treaty.

'Time and time again, our species has escaped existential threats by reinventing ourselves, finding new skills not coded in our genes to survive new challenges not previously encountered.'

David Grinspoon. Astro-Biologist, Author, *Earth in Human Hands*

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