

HOPE's international affiliations

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Earth Charter Initiative - <https://earthcharter.org/>

The Earth Charter Initiative is a non-governmental organisation that utilise the Earth Charter to inspire and mobilise a global movement for sustainable living. The Initiative is a voluntary and community based organisation, led by Earth Charter International (ECI). Through education, dialogue, information, and networking, the ECI seeks to fulfil the provisions of the Earth Charter. The goals of the ECI include:



- Raising awareness of the Earth Charter
- To seek endorsement of the Charter by organisations
- Encouraging the Earth Charter's adoption by government, businesses, organisations, and communities
- Supporting the Earth Charter as an educational document
- Promoting the recognition of the Earth Charter as a soft law document

What is the Earth Charter?

The Earth Charter was born out of the *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*. One of the Commission's recommendations was to establish a universal declaration for environmental protection and sustainable development. Maurice Strong, the Secretary-General of the Rio Summit, led the development of the Earth Charter. This was first attempted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. In 1997, an Independent Earth Charter Commission was established, enabling the Earth Charter to be approved in 2000. Between 1997 and 2000, extensive consultation and drafting took place to shape the final document. This document is an holistic approach to planetary and social well-being. It is a universal declaration with 16 principles to promote a just, sustainable, and peaceful world. These principles are embedded in four guiding principles:

1. Respect and care for the community of life
2. Ecological integrity
3. Social and economic justice
4. Democracy, nonviolence, and peace

The Charter ends with a call to action, calling for responsibility, diversity, appreciation, and collaboration. It asks us to step outside the status quo to envision an inclusive and unified world that drives impactful action and positive outcomes for people and the planet.

Globally, the Earth Charter has over 50,000 endorsements in over 90 countries.

Preamble to Earth Charter

"We stand at a critical moment in the Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at one holds great promise and great peril. With the dangers of war, social and economic injustice, and threats to the environment emerging, the human family must determine how to secure a sustainable future."

The entire document can be read on the [Earth Charter Website](#).

Other activities

Education: The ECI has created an Education Centre to help leaders and professionals' action the Earth Charter. Although the Education Centre is located in San José, Costa Rica, online and on-site courses, workshops, and webinars are offered. These are targeted at a range of actors and actions, from governments to businesses, and policy, to operation and governance. They also offer free [resources and publications](#) to guide an understanding of the Earth Charter. The ECI also work alongside primary, secondary, and tertiary education institutions to support the integration of sustainable practices into teaching and learning. This includes the development of the School Seal, which can be used to

certify values-based education institutions. This form of public recognition provides education institutions with benefits such as discounted courses.

Earth Charter Youth Program: ECI offers a [programme for youth](#), to empower the future of tomorrow. This programme provides youth with online education courses, as well as networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

Earth Charter Index: The ECI is currently working on a [project](#) to measure the contributions of countries to planetary well-being. Although the project is in its early stages, it aims to establish a set of criteria and indicators to measure how well countries are pursuing social and ecological justice, based on the principles of the Earth Charter.

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) - <https://www.icanw.org/>

ICAN is a partnership of civil society and NGOs calling for adherence to the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). ICAN was founded in 2007, and currently has over 500 non-partnership organisations across over 100 countries. ICAN Australia are joined by over 75 partner organisations. Through advocacy and education, ICAN aim to lead the transition away from nuclear weapons, with the long-term goal being a nuclear-free future.



Major projects and activities

Advocacy and awareness raising: ICAN is raising awareness about the destructive nature of nuclear weapons. Through relationships with civil society, ICAN Australia is advocating for Australia to join TPNW. They encourage individuals to communicate with parliamentary representatives and councils to [advocate](#) for the end of nuclear weapons. They also encourage parliamentarians to take [the pledge](#) as a commitment to joining the treaty. To encourage the treaty to be adopted by Australia, they also write submissions. For example, ICAN Australia made a submission to the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network Inquiry on the implications and impact of the US-Australia alliance. The submission called for the alliance to be focused on peace and ethics, rather than weapons of mass destruction. They also have a range of [publications and resources](#) available on their website to educate the public.

ICAN Cities Appeal: The appeal is a call to action from cities and towns to encourage the treaty to be adopted. Mayors or administrators of local governments can contact ICAN to endorse the appeal. Currently, there are endorsements in each Australian state and territory, except for the Northern Territory.

Quit Nukes Campaign: In collaboration with the Medical Association for Prevention of War, the [Quit Nukes](#) campaign calls for Australian superannuation funds to divest from involvement in nuclear weapons that violate the treaty.

Accomplishments

United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): Through demonstrations, publications, appeals and advocacy, ICAN put nuclear weapons on the global agenda. After organising many inter-governmental conferences, they helped to enact the TPNW. This treaty is the first legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons. The aim of this treaty is to prevent future nuclear catastrophes and mitigate the health and ecological consequences of nuclear weapons. The treaty was adopted in 2017 and came into effect in January 2021. It currently has 86 signatories and 66 parties. Parties to the treaty are prohibited from developing, resting, producing, stockpiling, possessing, using, or threatening to use nuclear weapons.

Nobel Peace Prize: In 2017, ICAN was awarded the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”.

International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) - <https://ipen.org/>

Founded in 1998, IPEN is a non-profit organisation who have established a global network to support a toxic-free environment.



IPEN's mission is to better regulate and eliminate harmful chemicals and forms of waste. They do this through science communication, policy advocacy, contributing to treaty discussions and using their knowledge and experience to build the capacity of NGOs to understand and implement advocacy. Through their extensive network, IPEN hope to put chemical safety on the international agenda to make impactful and meaningful changes.

Achievements

Thus far, IPEN has contributed to major achievements in the implementation of international chemical standards. For example, IPEN's [Mercury-Free Campaign](#) contributed to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The Mercury-Free Campaign involved monitoring the content of mercury in products, publishing relevant papers on threat mercury poses to environmental and human health, supporting the transition to mercury-free alternatives, and using consultation and stakeholder engagement to get mercury on the political agenda. After three years of negotiations, the international treaty was introduced in 2013. IPEN also contributed to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the first international treaty to restrict the production and use of harmful chemicals. Other significant outcomes include contributing to the formulation of the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions and increasing the awareness of endocrine disrupting chemicals and toxic chemicals in electronic products.

Major projects and activities

Global Lead Elimination Campaign: Established in 2008, the aim of this [campaign](#) is to spread the message that no amount of lead in paint is safe. Since the Campaign's launch, stricter lead paint regulations have been implemented in 17 countries. However, there is legally binding global standard that must be adhered to.

Toxic Plastics Campaign: IPEN is currently running this [campaign](#) to increase the transparency on toxic chemical additives and remove their toxic impacts. The overarching aim of this campaign is to create the political will for stronger regulation, including a treaty that regulates plastic toxicity at every life cycle of plastic.

Covid-19: IPEN is also raising awareness of the correlation between [Covid-19 and exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals](#). As exposures to these chemicals can increase the severity of Covid-19 symptoms, IPEN is advocating for policies that require safe alternatives.

Regional hubs: To maintain connectivity and communication across the network, IPEN has established eight regional hubs. These hubs help to coordinate the strategic direction of the 600 plus non-governmental organisations participating in the network across over 124 countries.

Working groups: Despite their many achievements, IPEN has a number of [Working Groups](#) to achieve the elimination of more toxic chemicals. The focus of the Working Groups includes dioxin, PCBs and Waste, heavy metals, and toxic fracking.

Resources: Publications and resources can be found on the [IPEN website](#).
