
The Great Alliance for the Planet

Founding manifesto of Planetarism

SUSTENTA

*“There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth.
We are all crew.”*

Marshall MacLuhan

Pandemic Emergencies (PE) and the **Climate Emergency (CE)** are the main threats to humanity at the start of the third millennium. Combined, the **PCE** crisis has the makings of a perfect storm for humanity. The situation is critical. As for the **CE**, humans have trampled the climate system like an elephant in a pottery store. Quite simply, we are destroying the planet. The continuity of life on Earth as we know it is threatened. Indeed, humankind is prompting the onset of the **sixth mass extinction** since life has existed on Earth. In fact, the current pace of extinction of species is 1,000 times higher than the natural rhythm. When it comes to the **PE**, the current shutdown of the global economy to prevent national health systems from collapsing is, in itself, indicative of the severity of the situation, unparalleled since the crash of '29 nearly a century ago.

The climate and epidemics are globalized. The former is intrinsically so. The latter, because globalized transportation quickly converts epidemics into pandemics in this era of close human interconnection on a global scale. However, although we are experiencing de facto globalization in both cases, we have not yet managed to build sufficient supranational structures that enable us to effectively handle globalization in either. The **Ebola** epidemic in 2014 highlighted the need to build these structures. The **Covid19** pandemic proves that **we have not done our homework**. The lack of leadership worldwide, which has deteriorated in the last 4 years, has not helped, leading to faltering collaboration and trust between different countries. However, we now have no choice but to progress resolutely towards this worldwide governance.

These two emergencies stem from the same problem, and they also share the same solution: solidarity. Neither the climate nor pandemics understand borders. Solidarity does not either! The first photograph of the Earth taken from space in 1969, the image of a world without borders, sparked the international environmental movement and left a profound mark on the collective imagination. Similarly, the response to the pandemic today is rekindling a sense of belonging to a global community: humankind. We feel responsible for something bigger than our family, tribe or country. Seen in a

positive light, **Covid19** is a tremendous opportunity for the awakening of humankind. There is only one way to get through this pandemic: together!

During this pandemic, young people have proven that they are capable of stopping everything and sacrificing for their elders when recommended by science. The asymmetry is obvious. In the climate crisis, older people have been ignoring science for 30 years, refusing to take measures against the climate crisis that are necessary to guarantee the future wellbeing of our children. Now is the time to bring back common sense. It is time to fix the planet!

Covid19 represents a great opportunity for change. On the one hand, the pandemic has shown that our leaders can quickly implement drastic measures. The need for confinement to stop the pandemic has brought the global economy to a halt. It is time to take advantage of this economic standstill to design a new model. Now that we have stopped the ship, it is time to grab our compass and change course to head in the right direction. Just in time to prevent **Planet Titanic** from crashing into the iceberg of our thoughtlessness.

It is worth stressing that the solution to the climate emergency (**CE**), a green economy, is also the solution to the economic crisis prompted by confinement during the pandemic emergency (**PE**). We need to relaunch a real economy that is non-speculative, productive and sustainable. **Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General of the **OECD**, has called for a new **Marshall Plan** on a planetary scale. We have one. The **Green New Deal** is a formula for urgently decarbonizing the economy and generating new green jobs that can ensure the persistence of the welfare state. Now more than ever, sustainability is the way to go. The ecological transition is not spending on more spending. It is the right path towards the investments needed to reactivate the economy. Now is the time to drive the change of course that the **United Nations**, the **European Union (EU)** and the entire scientific community is advocating to achieve: the ecological transition from a fossil fuel economy to a green economy. The challenge is enormous: we must turn our economy inside out like a sock. We must redesign our industrial, energy and mobility sectors in the paradigm of the circular economy. We must change our entire pattern of production and consumption. To accomplish this, people must get involved: consumers, to convince the businesses, and voters, to convince the politicians. It's about people!

To solve these two global emergencies, global governance is needed. When it comes to healthcare, no country can overcome a pandemic on its own. We need to strengthen the **United Nations** by relaunching it and its institutions like **WHO**, to turn it into a World Health System (**WHS**). A system that is equipped with rapid response teams capable of sending healthcare contingents and epidemiologists anywhere around the world. Global governance that can provide aid to the health services in third world countries, in order to raise borders between the world of new viruses and human beings, rather than between one country and another. To counteract the climate emergency, we also need leadership that can be transformed into global governance, thus converting the **Paris Agreement** from useless words into the tool we need. The **Glasgow Conference** in 2021 will be a good time to verify whether humanity has learned its lesson.

Therefore, we need to act now. We are at a historic crossroads. A crucial time in the history of humanity in which we must find a new direction. We must find a new way to relate to ourselves, to each other, and to the environment. We need a bottom-up cultural revolution within civil society, which is now empowered and full of solidarity due to the coronavirus. This civil society should be the source of the leadership we need. And the cultural revolution must call for **relaunching the planet**, must demand an ecological transition, global governance and strong institutions to lead this change.

The aim of this manifesto is to catalyze this silent revolution through **inclusive multilateralism**. “**The Great Alliance for the Planet**” (**GAP**) is the founding document of a new social movement, which we have called “**Planetarism**”. **Planetarism** seeks to be capable of building institutions that can handle global issues on behalf of humanity. **Planetarism** aims to enable us to undertake an encouraging change towards the ecological transition needed by the planet and human beings. Every movement has a vision, an associated utopia. In our case, the wonderful ultimate dream of **Planetarism** is to create the **United States of Planet Earth**, with the **UN** acting as the parliament of humanity. The future will be ours because, as **Eleanor Roosevelt** said, “*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.*”

The Great Alliance of civil society takes the shape of a list of multi-sectorial declarations that summarizes our diverse facets and roles within the paradigm of sustainability. In 1987, the **Brutland Report** coined the term ‘sustainability’ with a three-point meaning referring to the environment, society and the economy. However, the coronavirus pandemic has shown that we need to expand this pyramid, making it into a square, to include the field of healthcare. Only a model that integrates environmental, social, economic, and also healthcare issues will be sustainable. Therefore, we should not talk about Pandemic Emergencies (**PE**) and the Climate Emergency (**CE**) separately, but rather jointly, as the **PCE**, or better yet, from a holistic perspective of the status of the **Planet Health Emergency (PHE)**. There is only one solution possible in response to the **PHE**, and that is to create institutions for managing globalization. We believe that the **Planetarism** described here, as a social movement, is the path towards building global governance in this regard.

DUE TO THE ABOVE, AS COMMITTED MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY, AWARE OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE PLANET'S CLIMATE AND HEALTH EMERGENCY, WE SIGN THIS

GREAT ALLIANCE FOR THE EARTH Ten Declarations

1. **As consumers**, we commit to being coherent in our purchasing decisions. We are at the end of the consumer chain and, therefore, we have much more power than we believe to reinforce or change the production model. We commit to awarding or penalizing the eco-responsible or irresponsible behaviors of the products we buy.
2. **As businesspeople**, we understand that the only companies that will survive in the future are those whose **DNA** contains a firm commitment to protecting the global health of the planet. We will place overall well-being at the very core of our existence as companies. And we therefore commit to participating as an essential party in the rebuilding of the balance with nature and the health of the planet. Those of us that are **entrepreneurs** understand that our role as catalysts for innovation is essential for designing new products and services that help lead to swift implementation of the ecological transition. We commit to putting the full strength of our leadership at the service of this green revolution and, to this end, deploying one of the strongest forces in the universe: the creativity of entrepreneurs.
3. **As voters**, we understand that politics matter. Environmental protection laws and the laws that will be implemented under the *Paris Agreement* are essential for speeding up or stopping the ecological transition that the planet needs. Consequently, we commit to asking our political candidates about their stances on the health of the planet and to vote accordingly.
4. **As citizens**, we are aware that it is democracy that will save the planet, if we are able to rebuild it first. To reform the planet, we first have to reform democracy. To do so, we have a powerful weapon called "citizen participation". We commit to being part of a civic movement for the Earth, "**Planetarism**", which moves from the bottom up to revive a new way of relating to ourselves and to the planet. We are all one. Our global interdependence leads us to universal responsibility. As **Marshall McLuhan** said "*There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew.*" We commit to advocating "planetarism" against populist "tribalism" that confines us and condemns us to live in isolation and in fear of the other. We commit to aligning with the **UN** to fight for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) as yet another aspect of the Planetarism that inspires us.
5. In turn, as individual **politicians**, or as political parties, we commit to making the health of the planet a priority during these times of climate and health emergency. We are aware that climate must be treated as a complex global challenge with a long timeline, rather than from a local short-term perspective. For this reason, we commit to responsibly enacting legislation against the climate crisis, heeding the advice of science and following **IPCC** recommendations as much as possible. The environment knows no party lines. Therefore, we believe that a large-scale "**State Pact for Climate**" in our

respective countries would be beneficial, prompting the serenity and stability necessary for a climate change law that must govern our states' long-term outlooks.

6. As **scientists** we have an ethical obligation to tell the truth and a moral commitment to warn humankind about any kind of catastrophic threat like the climate and health emergency. We are aware of the importance of scientific knowledge as a guiding light for sensible governance. Thus, we commit to providing honest assistance to our government and political leaders, and not to back down when confronted by denialists who falsify scientific data.

7. **As young people**, we understand that our future and that of our planet are at risk in this climate and health emergency (CHE). We commit to creating life habits that are healthy and environmentally responsible and to joining in on climate action.

8. **As healthcare professionals**, we believe that creating healthy conditions in our surroundings is essential for ensuring the health of those living there. Ultimately, the health of people depends on the health of the planet. We commit to integrating this systemic view into our lives.

9. **As an example**, we are aware of the importance of our civil work to disseminate the message in our surroundings. **Gandhi** said "*You must be the change you want to see in the world*". We commit to showing citizens through our example what eco- healthy lifestyle habits truly are. According to scientific studies, just 3.5% climate activists are enough to change society. Let's start with our immediate environment!

10. **As human beings**, we are aware that the search for happiness is a legitimate goal in and of itself, as set out in many of our constitutions, like the Virginia Declaration of Rights. However, as **Robert Kennedy** said, "*the GDP measures everything, except that which makes life worthwhile*". We want Gross Internal Happiness (**GIH**) to also be taken into account as an indicator of human development. To do so, we must recover wisdom and good sense, finding the happiness of the peoples who live in balance with nature. We must learn to respect and be imbued with the dignity of the peoples who can call themselves children of the Earth. We commit to seeking happiness in the hope-inspiring adventure and luminous celebration of life involved in listening to the Earth's heartbeat. We want to stop being part of the problem to become part of the solution. We are aware that humankind is causing the sixth mass extinction of

life on Earth. We rebel against this act of irresponsibility, the fruit of treating nature as our garbage dump. To this end, we commit to adopting a new relationship with ecosystems, based on respect and understanding of their ecosystemic function. We advocate the signing of a *Universal Declaration of Environmental Rights for Planet Earth*, in line with the **Earth Charter**, as a natural extension of human rights. We embrace the concept of third-generation human rights that conceive of the planet, our only home, as a subject of rights in itself, understanding this as one of the most positive advances in the progress of the human species.

Hence, we sign this “**Great Alliance for the Planet**”, with **Dr. Jesús Linares**, who drafted the document, acting as witness and great international conveyor of the agreement. It can be signed by citizens, institutions, corporations, business owners, organizations, foundations, social and civil movements, NGOs, etc., who decide to join the movement.

En Chiclana, 5 June, 2020