



## SRI SWAMI MADHAVANANDA WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

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### **Declaration of the World Peace Summit 2008** **CLIMATE CHANGE – WHAT TO DO?** held under the auspices of the Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council Wellington, New Zealand 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

*Today we stand at a decisive juncture in the Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. The aim of this Summit is to awaken the consciousness of people to the most significant issues that challenge our world, specifically Climate Change, Protection & Preservation of the Environment, World Peace, Cultural Preservation, Education, Health and Youth. To this end we the undersigned declare our commitment to and realisation of the values of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and Earth Charter, and affirm our in principle support for the following conclusions that result from this 7<sup>th</sup> International World Peace Summit.*

- 1. NURTURE OUR PLANET IN TRUST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS:** To actively promote the urgent need for humans at all levels of society around the globe to work collectively for a just, sustainable and peaceful world for present and future generations.
- 2. COLLABORATION BETWEEN CONSERVATIONISM AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** To advance the need for the exceptional management and conservation of the Earth's natural resources whilst wisely sustaining modern progress and development.
- 3. RESPECT FOR LIFE IN ALL ITS DIVERSITY:** To inspire in the hearts and minds of all people a renewed sense of universal responsibility, particularly the need to protect each form of life regardless of its perceived worth to human beings.
- 4. HOLISTIC EDUCATION:** To affirm the importance of ethical, moral and spiritual education to ensure that future generations receive the values, traditions and institutions that support a sustainable way of living on planet Earth.
- 5. UPHOLD A GLOBAL CULTURE OF NON-VIOLENCE AND PEACE:** In the words of Mahatma Gandhi let us 'Be the Change we Wish to See'. Let us recognize that cultural diversity is humankind's precious heritage and heighten a global awareness that peace is the wholeness created by right relationship with one's self, other persons, other cultures and other religions. As Sri Swami Madhavanandaji said, 'All in One and One in All'.
- 6. UNITED NATIONS:** To support the indispensibility of the United Nations as the central force for global peace and development and to pay tribute to Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for his leadership on action relating to climate change and in the cause of the world's 'bottom billion'.
- 7. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY:** To affirm gender equality and to work collectively to ensure universal access to education, health care and economic opportunity.
- 8. YOUTH, OUR CULTURE OF TOMORROW:** To acknowledge that the contribution of today's youth can make a difference in our world. Recognise the necessity to actively support them physically, mentally and spiritually, and guide them to develop a sense of global citizenship.
- 9. SECURE THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES AND INDIGENOUS PERSONS:** To protect the rights of all ethnicities, particularly minority populations and indigenous persons, and encourage the preservation of their cultural, religious and linguistic traditions.
- 10. HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY:** To support the dignity of each human being and acknowledge the right of each person to live in security with freedom of choice, access to food, clean water and shelter, education and health. We further support each human the right to be governed by rule of law not by rule of power.

May this World Peace Summit be an event remembered for the awakening of reverence for life and protection of Mother Earth. In the midst of a rich diversity of cultures and life forms, let each of us remember we are one human family with a common destiny.



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## Signatories on the Declaration of the World Peace Summit 2008 CLIMATE CHANGE – WHAT TO DO?

Wellington, New Zealand

29<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

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