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Universal Declaration on The Responsibilities and Obligations of Man

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, so do all its members have the responsibility to learn and uphold standards of behaviour which do not compromise the basis on which that recognition is predicated.

Whereas all members of the human family inhabit the same planet, which is now increasingly at risk of becoming overcrowded

Whereas the resources of the planet are finite and in danger of being over-exploited

Whereas future generations have the same right as those living today to benefit from the abundance of the earth

Whereas the actions of man are endangering the planet's fragile ecosystems

Whereas the actions of man are threatening the extinction of much of the planet's wild-life and biodiversity

Whereas the actions of man are despoiling large areas of the planet's surface

Whereas the ingenuity of man is largely being used to destroy rather than to enhance

Whereas the beliefs of man are being used to subjugate rather than to liberate

Whereas human population growth is stretching the planet's resources

Whereas the actions of man are polluting the seas and oceans and diminishing their ability to provide food for the future

Whereas desertification and climate change is caused by man's intemperate use of fossil fuels

Whereas pandemics and epidemics are increasing in strength and frequency year upon year

Whereas many sections of the media are abusing their mission to present news impartially and with balance and truthfulness

Whereas education is falling behind in teaching the skills of thinking, reasoning and understanding in a complex world

Whereas all of this threatens the implementation of the universal declaration of human rights, we therefore advocate an accompanying **universal declaration of human responsibilities and obligations**.

Now, Therefore We proclaim THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF MAN as a common standard of achievement for all peoples, all organisations and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these responsibilities and obligations by themselves, their governments and every part of human society,

and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 1

Climate Change.

All Human Beings, their Governments, organisations and civil society should ensure that those human activities which intensify climate change are fully understood and replaced by measures to reduce carbon emissions as a matter of urgency. This is vital to avoid disastrous consequences for present and future members of the human race.

ARTICLE 2

Fight Injustice

Governments, organisations and people have the responsibility to fight injustice wherever it occurs and to ensure that no-one is wrongly punished, or denied basic rights and freedoms through neglect, ill-health or poverty

ARTICLE 3

Stewardship of the planet

Everyone has the responsibility to preserve the planet's wild life and to ensure that it is treated with care, respect and awareness of its essential place in the global ecosystem. Governments have the responsibility to ensure that this vital requirement is implemented

ARTICLE 4

Learn Continuously

Everyone has both the right and responsibility to learn continuously throughout their lifetime in order to keep their minds open, their horizons wide and their judgments wise. Governments have the responsibility to ensure that education systems within their jurisdictions offer such opportunities to both children and adults.

ARTICLE 5

Help those in most need

Everyone has the responsibility to use their talents, skills, experiences and knowledge for the benefit of others, particularly those in most need. Governments have the responsibility to encourage this both nationally and internationally

ARTICLE 6

Resist hatred, xenophobia, racism

Everyone has the responsibility to eschew hatred, xenophobia and racism and to treat all their fellow human beings as equals within the family of mankind. Governments have the responsibility to enact and enforce laws which further this ideal, and the media have the responsibility to refrain from inciting such divisions

ARTICLE 7

Conserve Planetary Resources, Sustainable Development

Peoples, Governments and Organisations have the responsibility to conserve planetary resources for future generations by ensuring that all development activities are sustainable over time

ARTICLE 8

Reduce Poverty, Banish Slavery

Governments and Organisations have the responsibility to develop and implement concrete plans to reduce poverty throughout the world and to banish slavery wherever it may occur. People have the responsibility to make their own contribution to the liberation of their fellow human beings from poverty and slavery

ARTICLE 9

Cast out Torture

Governments have the responsibility to ensure that torture is neither practised nor contemplated anywhere within their jurisdictions. People have the responsibility to hold their Governments to account in this matter.

ARTICLE 10

Protect global and local Ecology and Biodiversity

National and local Governments and Organisations have the responsibility to develop and implement concrete plans to maintain biodiversity and to protect ecology within their jurisdictions. People have the responsibility to make themselves aware of the vital importance of this measure for human life on the planet and the actions they can take to ensure success

ARTICLE 11

Displaced people and refugees

When millions of people are displaced by wars and conflict, national and local governments and people have the responsibility to understand the misery and plight of refugees and to show compassion and practical help to alleviate it.

ARTICLE 12

Preserve the Seas and Oceans

Governments have the responsibility to prevent over-fishing and to ensure that ships registered in their name do not pollute the oceans. People and local governments have the responsibility to refrain from disposing untreated waste into the rivers, seas and oceans and to understand how maritime pollution affects the planet.

ARTICLE 13

Renewable Energy

Governments have the responsibility to increase as rapidly as possible the incidence of renewable energy and to fade out carbon producing fossil fuels. People have the responsibility to conserve their use of energy wisely.

ARTICLE 14

Moderate religious and political extremism

Political and Religious leaders have the responsibility to advocate moderation and tolerance and refrain from inciting violence and conflict against people, organisations and nations. People have the responsibility to develop understanding, restraint and self-discipline in political and religious matters.

ARTICLE 15

Reduce global pandemics

Every person, government and organisation has the responsibility to take appropriate action to quickly combat plagues, epidemics and pandemics before they take hold on populations

ARTICLE 16

Equitable Economic activity

Governments are responsible to ensure that economic activity benefits the many rather than the few both within and between nations. People and organisations have the responsibility to pay their taxes according to ability and wealth for the social good of all.

ARTICLE 17

Preservation of Culture and Practice of Religion

People have the right to preserve their own culture and practice their own religion. They also have the responsibility not to impose it on those individuals and groups who do not want it. Governments are responsible for monitoring and implementing this.

ARTICLE 18

Constitutions and Separation of Powers within Countries

Governments have the responsibility to develop a constitution of checks and balances between the judiciary, the executive and the legislative that preserves the rights of people and organisations. People have the responsibility to hold their governments to account in this respect.

ARTICLE 19

Responsibilities of the media

All media have the responsibility to mediate their message according to established norms of impartiality, authenticity and truthfulness. Governments have the responsibility to ensure integrity, balance, probity and principle by all media in the interests of the people.

ARTICLE 20

Education and Lifelong Learning

All nations are responsible for preparing both children and adults for a complex rapidly changing world in which lifelong learning is an essential component.

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