

# The World Trade Organization must be dismantled; Tinkering with it is not enough

Written by Joan Russow

Sunday, 03 December 2017 16:11 -

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by Joan Russow and distributed before and at the World Trade Conference in Seattle



We are now living in the wake of negligence from years of institutional collusion among governments, corporations and the military. Currently there is a concurrence of disasters: the violation of human rights, including civil and political rights, the denial of social justice, the degradation of the environment, and the escalation of war and conflict. The WTO has been instrumental in fostering this collusion to the detriment of the global community. In the year 1999, the culmination of the decade devoted to international law, rather than continue with this collusion which has jeopardized civil society and the global ecosystem, the WTO should be dismantled and emphasis should be placed on member states living up to their international public trust commitments and obligations and adhering to the rule of law.

## DECLARATION OF ACTIONS

The Declaration of Actions was compiled from presentations, comments and proposals that were made during the plenary sessions at a recent

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conference

RECOGNIZING the Interdependence of Peace, Environmental Protection, Human Rights and Social Justice;

NOTING that through more than 50 years of concerted effort, the member states of the United Nations have created international Public Trust obligations, commitments and expectations:

1. to Promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, the right to adequate food, potable water, shelter and health care, education and social justice and the right to self determination; 2. to Enable socially equitable and environmentally sound development; 3. to Achieve a state of peace, justice and security; 4. to Create a global structure that respects the rule of law; and 5. to Ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, respect the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, reduce the ecological footprint and move away from the current model of overconsumption

CONCERNED that trade organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) undermine the UN's work of over 50 years in creating obligations, commitments and expectations with respect to the matters set out above:

DISMAYED by the continuing global urgency resulting from the failure of member states of the United Nations to discharge their obligations arising from conventions, treaties and covenants, to act on commitments made in conference action plans, and to fulfill expectations arising from General Assembly resolutions;

RECALLING the commitment made by all the member states of the United Nations to "ensure that corporations including transnational corporations comply with national codes, social security laws, and international law, including international environmental law" (Platform of Action at the UN Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Beijing, 1995, and also in the Habitat II Agenda, Istanbul, 1996);

We call upon all MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. 1 \* TO CREATE a world based on true participatory democracy within a framework of public trust principles;

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- \* TO ACCEPT the inherent limits to the Earth's resources
- \* to promote the peaceful coexistence of all nations, races, and species;
- \* TO DEVELOP a stable and peaceful international society founded on the rule of law;
- \* TO HALT the consequences of unprincipled economic growth;
- \* TO STRIVE TO REMOVE the inequitable distribution of resources \* to stabilize population and implement the commitments made through the international conference on population and development

1. 2 To discharge the obligations, act on the commitments, and fulfill the expectations arising from international Public Trust agreements, including:

- (a) signing and ratifying any existing international conventions, treaties, and covenants that have not yet been signed and ratified;
- (b) enacting the domestic legislation necessary to implement them or to fulfill the legitimate expectations created by General Assembly resolutions and declarations; and (c) acting upon the commitments arising from conference action plans.

2. 1. To establish mandatory international standards and regulations (MINS), based on international principles and on the highest and strongest regulations of member states, harmonizing standards and regulations continually upward with respect to:

- (a) Promoting and fully guaranteeing respect for human rights including labour rights, the right to adequate food, shelter and health care, and social justice, and the right to self-determination;

\* the obligation undertaken by States in various multilateral treaties on human rights, that there must be no discrimination on the following grounds: - race, tribe, or culture; - colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker); - gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, - disability or age; - religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status;  
(1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, among others);

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(b) Enabling socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; (c) Achieving a state of peace, justice and security; (d) Creating a global structure that respects the rule of law; and (e) Ensuring the preservation and protection of the environment, reducing the ecological footprint and moving away from the current model of overconsumptive development.

2.2. to require that all use of natural resources must be in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) that all users pay a fair rent to the community for the use of those resources, and that all public subsidies to activities, individuals or companies that do not conform to the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) be immediately discontinued.

2.3. to promote the right to ecological governance and global ecological solidarity and determine how to implement this governance.

2.4. to establish an urgent international network to protest immediately any arrests and imprisonment of environmental, political, social protesters

3. To demand compensation and reparations from investors or corporations, and from administrations that have permitted investors or corporations to, or assisted them in, degrading the environment, violating fundamental human rights, or causing harm to human health, especially where those actions occurred:

(a) in developing and developed countries, or  
(b) on the lands of indigenous peoples, or in the communities of marginalized citizens in either developing or developed countries.

4.1. To revoke the licences and charters of corporations, including transnational corporations, if those corporations have persistently:

(a) violated human rights or denied or colluded in denying social justice, (b) caused unremediated environmental degradation or harm to human health, (c) disregarded labour rights, (d) contributed to conflict and war, or (e) failed to pay compensation for past environmental degradation or non-compliance with international agreements.

4.2. to set up a monitoring and reporting network to inform citizens in the country of origin where corporations are registered of the activities of the foreign-based corporations

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4.3 to expose the relationship between corporate exploitation of resources and war and the generation of social, human rights and ecological refugees and immigrants.

4.4. to coordinate a conference on the social, cultural and environmental impacts of the current model of overconsumption especially that of the multinationals

5. 1 To reduce military budgets by at least 50% and to use the savings:

(a) to guarantee:

- the right to safe and adequate food, which has been not genetically altered or irradiated, or grown with pesticides,
- the right to safe and affordable shelter,
- the right to universal health care,
- the right to safe drinking water,
- the right to a safe environment,
- the right to ecological heritage
- the right to education, and
- the right to peace;

(b) to fund socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and

(c) to fund education and research free from corporate direction and control.

5.2 to move towards global disarmament and the dissolution of organizations and institutes dedicated to furthering of the cult of war rather than to the promoting a culture of peace - dismantling of NATO

5.3 to stress the necessity of anticipation and prevention of conflict and an establishment of a culture of peace

5.4 to reveal the intricate relationship between the global arms sales and the creation and extension of war and conflict

5.5 to expose the role of NGOs for supporting paramilitary actions in the guise of promoting human rights

6. To increase funding for United Nations agencies and for international, national and regional educational institutions so that their missions will not be undermined by corporate direction or control. All funding to the United Nations should be conditional on

and dedicated to furthering the objectives of international Public Trust law, not vested interest economic agreements such as GATT, WTO, etc. Since the Security Council is controlled by the nuclear armed states, the Security Council should be disbanded, and a rotational council should be selected from the membership of the General Assembly.

7. To develop criteria for partnership with the United Nations so as to ensure (i) the exclusion of corporations and (ii) that no partner has in any way, in any of its activities, violated human rights, (including labour rights), caused environmental degradation, contributed to war and conflict, or failed to promote socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

8. To distinguish "civil society" from the "market economy" by defining civil society as those elements of society whose goals are to guarantee human rights, foster justice, protect and conserve the environment, prevent war and conflict, and provide for socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and to declare and affirm the principle that civil society has a valid and important role to play, distinct from the market economy.

9. 1. To prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or that are harmful to human health, as agreed in the Rio Declaration, UNCED, 1992. This prohibition must cover activities such as those related to:

(a) producing, importing or exporting toxic, hazardous, or (non-medical) atomic substances and wastes, (b) producing or consuming ozone-depleting substances, (c) extracting resources by environmentally unsound methods, (d) producing or distributing genetically-engineered food substances and genetically modified organisms, (e) producing or distributing genetically engineered crop/pesticide systems, and (f) creating or increasing dependency on greenhouse gas emission (g) ensuring that the governments of the corporations act to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or harm to human health (h) ensuring that the governments of the developing countries act to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or harm to human health

9.2 to prevent practices within a culture that violate human rights: - to prohibit genital mutilation in compliance with the recommendation of the world health organization and to call upon international community to work towards this prohibition

9.3. to prevent the introduction into another state of substances and activities prohibited in the state of origin

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9.4. to establish legal obligations to ensure that the multinationals that have caused environmental degradation and harm to human health in developing countries are brought to trial in their country of origin

9.4. to ensure that the above recommendation 9.3 is brought before the European union/ African, Caribbean and pacific negotiations and before the WTO meeting in Seattle in November 99

9. 5. to ensure compliance with international environmental instruments (a) implementing the framework convention on climate change, - conserving carbon sinks such as old growth forests and bogs, -invoking the precautionary principle, -exposing the conflict OF interest of scientists who deny the threat of climate change - rejecting the proposal that nuclear energy is the solution to climate change - rejecting the proposal that the solution lies in emissions trading which endorses the right to pollute - acting on the obligation to the reduce of greenhouse gases

- calling upon major green-house gas producing states to assume their responsibility to respect the rights of future generations - ensuring that the developing countries are supported by the developed states in the commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and that the developed states assist through supplying socially equitable and environmentally sound practices - calling upon civil society, politicians, scientists to collaborate before the march united nations convention - moving away from car/truck-dependency and promoting environmentally sound transportation - (b) implementing the convention on biological diversity - conserving biodiversity and identifying biodiversity - invoking the precautionary principle to justify banning environmentally unsound practices that destroy biodiversity (c) applying the framework convention on climate change and the convention on biological diversity to the preservation of temperate and tropical old growth forests

10. 1. To act upon the commitments made at recent United Nations Conferences to move away from the over-consumptive model of development, to replace the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an indicator of economic well-being with the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI), the Criteria of Public Trust (CPT) or some other measure which reflects the general quality of life rather than gross economic activity.

10.2 to redefine "development" in ecological, social and equitable terms

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10.3. To reject the economic dogma that maximum economic growth will resolve inequitable income and wealth distribution.

10.4. to factor in the social and ecological costs of development - discontinuing all [socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices and public subsidies not conforming to public trust law. - adopting tax policies, which ensure the socially equitable and environmentally sound use of the land and resources as a right to a common heritage - requiring that all users pay a fair rent to the community for the use of all land and natural resources.

11. 1. To prohibit all trade zones that circumvent obligations and commitments intended to guarantee human rights, including social justice and labour rights, or to protect, preserve and conserve the environment.

11. 2. To phase out all socially inequitable and environmentally unsound industries while implementing a fair transition program for affected workers and communities.

- including the following:

(a) banning genetically engineered foods and crops

-banning the patenting of life forms

- ending the exploitation of the knowledge of farmers, peasants and indigenous peoples - promoting a global support program for organic agriculture and other forms of ecological farming (b) replacing the chemical pesticides with environmentally safe and sound alternatives

(c) dismantling civil nuclear plants and phasing out dependency on fossil fuels and the promoting of environmentally safe and sound alternative renewable energy (d) preventing the cruelty to animals at all levels including in food production especially battery and factory farming, medical experimentation, and in human amusement (e)

promoting a move away from the current model of overconsumption by refusing, reusing, reducing and recycling - providing that recycling does not introduce socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices and substances such as recycling plutonium from dismantled nuclear weapons

11.3. \* to discharge the diverse obligations incurred through the framework convention on climate change (1992), the convention on biological diversity (1992), the Basel convention on the transfer of hazardous waste, the Vienna convention on the elimination of the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (1985) and other relevant international environmental agreements;



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12. to forgive all developing-nation debt and if the debt has been paid all interest arising from loans by international bodies such as the world bank and the IMF, and to terminate all structural adjustment programs (saps) which seek to ensure repayment of such debt at the expense of ordinary people, including programs that mandate:

(a) the indiscriminate privatization of state-owned enterprises,  
(b) the indiscriminate reduction of government expenditures,  
(c) the indiscriminate liberalization of trade regimes,

(d) the indiscriminate opening of states to increased foreign investment, especially where this entails the attraction of foreign capital by deregulating markets, offering low wages, implementing high interest rates, or providing little or no environmental protection,

(e) the indiscriminate encouragement to produce goods for export at the expense of crops, products or services, which serve the needs of domestic peoples, or (f) the creation or exacerbation of an imbalance between imports and exports.

12.2. to ensure that the banks and international institutions responsible for the lending of money for inappropriate corporate development are financially responsible for the cancelling of the debt

13. 1 To ensure that no state relaxes environmental, health, human rights or labour standards in order to attract industry, and that no corporation allows a branch or subsidiary to engage in manufacturing, transferring substances, or other practices that are banned, restricted or otherwise unacceptable in the controlling corporation's state of origin.

13. 2. To ensure that fulfilling a state's obligations under international Public Trust Law shall be an absolute defence against legal action by any state, corporation, or investor.

13. 3. To expose the extent to which citizens have allowed their pension and investment funds to support corporations that have violated the public trust, and to urge citizens to invest in the promotion of the public trust.

14. To ensure that no state shall justify trade with a country that violates human rights, including labour rights, on the grounds that such trade will lead to a betterment of human rights, except where such trade is conditional on eliminating human rights abuses.

15. To establish an International Court of Compliance to which

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citizens can bring evidence of state and corporate non-compliance with international Public Trust Law, including the duty to:

(a) protect and advance human rights, including the right to adequate food, shelter and health care, labour rights, and social justice, (b) protect and conserve the environment, (c) prevent war and conflict, and (d) enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

16. To abolish the doctrine of "corporate personality" - the notion that corporations are persons and have the rights of ordinary people - thus preventing corporations from invoking the rights proper to individuals.

17. To ensure the right of citizens to sue corporate owners and officers, in criminal and civil courts, for any violation of human rights, including labour rights, for denying social justice, for causing serious harm to the environment or to human health, or for contributing to suffering and waste through the international arms trade.

18. To eliminate weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, biological and chemical (a) banning all nuclear weapons and adopting the abolition 2000 proposed treaty for the abolition of nuclear weapons (b) de-alerting all nuclear weapons by December 31 1999 to prevent potential y2 k problems (c) discontinuing the circulating and berthing of nuclear capable and nuclear armed vessels (d) banning the transfer of plutonium in the form of MOX

19.1 to prevent the corporate and corporate front group intrusion into the educational system - exposing the origin and funding of the educational materials

19.2 to introduce environmental literature especially of a philosophical nature

19.2. to support ecological facts by introducing scientific data and especially by stimulating critical thinking based on eco-philosophy, and to develop and to disseminate a list of obligatory reading related to a philosophical base as a foundation of the essence of ecological thought

19.3. to promote educational programs related to the furtherance of a culture of peace Issued in 1999 for the World Trade Conference in Seattle and distributed by

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Joan Russow (PhD) Global Compliance Research Project/

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## DECLARATION OF ACTIONS

The Declaration of Actions was compiled from presentations, comments and proposals that were made during the plenary sessions at a recent conference

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NOTING that through more than 50 years of concerted effort, the member states of the United Nations have created international Public Trust obligations, commitments and expectations:

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CONCERNED that trade organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) undermine the UN's work of over 50 years in creating obligations, commitments and expectations with respect to the matters

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RECALLING the commitment made by all the member states of the United Nations to "ensure that corporations including transnational corporations comply with national codes, social security laws, and international law, including international environmental law" (Platform of Action at the UN Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Beijing, 1995, and also in the Habitat II Agenda, Istanbul, 1996);

We call upon all MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

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\* TO ACCEPT the inherent

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\* to promote the peaceful coexistence of all nations, races, and species;

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the inequitable distribution of resources \* to stabilize population and implement the commitments made through the international conference on population and development

1. 2 To discharge the obligations, act on the commitments, and fulfill the expectations arising from international Public Trust agreements, including:

(a) signing and ratifying any existing international conventions,

treaties, and covenants that have not yet been signed and ratified;

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2. 1. To establish mandatory international standards and regulations

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(MINS), based on international principles and on the highest and strongest regulations of member states, harmonizing standards and regulations continually upward with respect to:

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(1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, among others);

(b) Enabling socially equitable and environmentally sound employment;

(c) Achieving a state of peace, justice and security; (d) Creating a global structure that respects the rule of law; and (e) Ensuring the preservation and protection of the environment, reducing the ecological footprint and moving away from the current model of overconsumptive development.

2. 2. to require that all use of natural resources must be in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) that all users pay a fair rent to the community for the use of those resources, and that all public subsidies to activities, individuals or companies that do not conform to the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) be immediately discontinued.

2.3. to promote the right to ecological governance and global ecological solidarity and determine how to implement this governance.

2.4. to establish an urgent international network to protest immediately any arrests and imprisonment of environmental, political, social protesters

3. To demand compensation and reparations from investors or corporations, and from administrations that have permitted investors or corporations to, or assisted them in, degrading the environment,

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violating fundamental human rights, or causing harm to human health, especially where those actions occurred:

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4.2. to set up a monitoring and reporting network to inform citizens in the country of origin where corporations are registered of the activities of the foreign-based corporations

4.3 to expose the relationship between corporate exploitation of resources and war and the generation of social, human rights and ecological refugees and immigrants.

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5. 1 To reduce military budgets by at least 50% and to use the savings:

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- (b) to fund socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and

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(c) to fund education and research free from corporate direction and control.

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8. To distinguish "civil society" from the "market economy" by defining civil society as those elements of society whose goals are to guarantee human rights, foster justice, protect and conserve the environment, prevent war and conflict, and provide for socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and to declare and affirm the principle that civil society has a valid and important role to play, distinct from the market economy.

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- calling upon major green-house gas producing states to assume their responsibility to respect the rights of future generations - ensuring that the developing countries are supported by the developed states in the commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and that the developed states assist through supplying socially equitable and environmentally sound practices - calling upon civil society,



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politicians, scientists to collaborate before the march united nations convention - moving away from car/truck-dependency and promoting environmentally sound transportation - (b) implementing the convention on biological diversity - conserving biodiversity and identifying biodiversity - invoking the precautionary principle to justify banning environmentally unsound practices that destroy biodiversity (c) applying the framework convention on climate change and the convention on biological diversity to the preservation of temperate and tropical old growth forests

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indigenous peoples - promoting a global support program for organic agriculture and other forms of ecological farming (b) replacing the chemical pesticides with environmentally safe and sound alternatives (c) dismantling civil nuclear plants and phasing out dependency on fossil fuels and the promoting of environmentally safe and sound alternative renewable energy (d) preventing the cruelty to animals at all levels including in food production especially battery and factory farming, medical experimentation, and in human amusement (e) promoting a move away from the current model of overconsumption by refusing, reusing, reducing and recycling - providing that recycling does not introduce socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices and substances such as recycling plutonium from dismantled nuclear weapons

11.3. \* to discharge the diverse obligations incurred through the framework convention on climate change (1992), the convention on biological diversity (1992), the Basel convention on the transfer of hazardous waste, the Vienna convention on the elimination of the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (1985) and other relevant international environmental agreements;

12. to forgive all developing-nation debt and if the debt has been paid all interest arising from loans by international bodies such as the world bank and the IMF, and to terminate all structural adjustment programs (saps) which seek to ensure repayment of such debt at the expense of ordinary people, including programs that mandate:

(a) the indiscriminate privatization of state-owned enterprises,  
(b) the indiscriminate reduction of government expenditures,  
(c) the indiscriminate liberalization of trade regimes,

(d) the indiscriminate opening of states to increased foreign investment, especially where this entails the attraction of foreign capital by deregulating markets, offering low wages, implementing high interest rates, or providing little or no environmental protection,

(e) the indiscriminate encouragement to produce goods for export at the expense of crops, products or services, which serve the needs of domestic peoples, or (f) the creation or exacerbation of an imbalance between imports and exports.

12.2. to ensure that the banks and international institutions responsible for the lending of money for inappropriate corporate development are financially responsible for the cancelling of the debt

13. 1 To ensure that no state relaxes environmental, health, human

## The World Trade Organization must be dismantled; Tinkering with it is not enough

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rights or labour standards in order to attract industry, and that no corporation allows a branch or subsidiary to engage in manufacturing, transferring substances, or other practices that are banned, restricted or otherwise unacceptable in the controlling corporation's state of origin.

13. 2. To ensure that fulfilling a state's obligations under international Public Trust Law shall be an absolute defence against legal action by any state, corporation, or investor.

13. 3. To expose the extent to which citizens have allowed their pension and investment funds to support corporations that have violated the public trust, and to urge citizens to invest in the promotion of the public trust.

14. To ensure that no state shall justify trade with a country that violates human rights, including labour rights, on the grounds that such trade will lead to a betterment of human rights, except where such trade is conditional on eliminating human rights abuses.

15. To establish an International Court of Compliance to which citizens can bring evidence of state and corporate non-compliance with international Public Trust Law, including the duty to:

(a) protect and advance human rights, including the right to adequate food, shelter and health care, labour rights, and social justice, (b) protect and conserve the environment, (c) prevent war and conflict, and (d) enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

16. To abolish the doctrine of "corporate personality" - the notion that corporations are persons and have the rights of ordinary people - thus preventing corporations from invoking the rights proper to individuals.

17. To ensure the right of citizens to sue corporate owners and officers, in criminal and civil courts, for any violation of human rights, including labour rights, for denying social justice, for causing serious harm to the environment or to human health, or for contributing to suffering and waste through the international arms trade.

18. To eliminate weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, biological and chemical (a) banning all nuclear weapons and adopting the abolition 2000 proposed treaty for the abolition of nuclear weapons (b) de-alerting all nuclear weapons by December 31 1999 to

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prevent potential y2 k problems (c) discontinuing the circulating and berthing of nuclear capable and nuclear armed vessels (d) banning the transfer of plutonium in the form of MOX

19.1 to prevent the corporate and corporate front group intrusion into the educational system - exposing the origin and funding of the educational materials

19.2 to introduce environmental literature especially of a philosophical nature

19.2. to support ecological facts by introducing scientific data and especially by stimulating critical thinking based on eco-philosophy, and to develop and to disseminate a list of obligatory reading related to a philosophical base as a foundation of the essence of ecological thought

19.3. to promote educational programs related to the furtherance of a culture of peacessued in 1999 for the World Trade Conference in Seattle and distributed by

Joan Russow (PhD) Global Compliance Research Project/

We are now living in the wake of negligence from years of institutional collusion among governments, corporations and the military. Currently there is a concurrence of disasters: the violation of human rights, including civil and political rights, the denial social justice, the degradation of the environment, and the escalation of war and conflict. The WTO has been instrumental in fostering this collusion to the detriment of the global community. In the year 1999, the culmination of the decade devoted to international law, rather than continue with this collusion which has jeopardized civil society and the global ecosystem, the WTO should be dismantled and emphasis should be placed on member states living up to their international public trust commitments and obligations and adhering to the rule of law.

### DECLARATION OF ACTIONS

The Declaration of Actions was compiled from presentations, comments and proposals that were made during the plenary sessions at a recent conference

RECOGNIZING the Interdependence of Peace, Environmental Protection,

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Human Rights and Social Justice;

NOTING that through more than 50 years of concerted effort, the member states of the United Nations have created international Public Trust obligations, commitments and expectations:

1. to Promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, the right to adequate food, potable water, shelter and health care, education and social justice and the right to self determination; 2. to Enable socially equitable and environmentally sound development; 3. to Achieve a state of peace, justice and security; 4. to Create a global structure that respects the rule of law; and 5. to Ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, respect the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, reduce the ecological footprint and move away from the current model of overconsumption

CONCERNED that trade organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) undermine the UN's work of over 50 years in creating obligations, commitments and expectations with respect to the matters set out above:

DISMAYED by the continuing global urgency resulting from the failure of member states of the United Nations to discharge their obligations arising from conventions, treaties and covenants, to act on commitments made in conference action plans, and to fulfill expectations arising from General Assembly resolutions;

RECALLING the commitment made by all the member states of the United Nations to "ensure that corporations including transnational corporations comply with national codes, social security laws, and international law, including international environmental law" (Platform of Action at the UN Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Beijing, 1995, and also in the Habitat II Agenda, Istanbul, 1996);

We call upon all MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. 1 \* TO CREATE a world based on true participatory democracy within a framework of public trust principles;  
\* TO ACCEPT the inherent limits to the Earth's resources  
\* to promote the peaceful coexistence

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of all nations, races, and species;

\* TO DEVELOP a stable and peaceful

international society founded on the rule of law;

\* TO HALT the

consequences of unprincipled economic growth;

\* TO STRIVE TO REMOVE

the inequitable distribution of resources \* to stabilize population

and implement the commitments made through the international

conference on population and development

1. 2 To discharge the obligations, act on the commitments, and fulfill the expectations arising from international Public Trust agreements, including:

(a) signing and ratifying any existing international conventions, treaties, and covenants that have not yet been signed and ratified;

(b) enacting the domestic legislation necessary to implement them or to fulfill the legitimate expectations created by General Assembly resolutions and declarations; and (c) acting upon the commitments arising from conference action plans.

2. 1. To establish mandatory international standards and regulations (MINS), based on international principles and on the highest and strongest regulations of member states, harmonizing standards and regulations continually upward with respect to:

(a) Promoting and fully guaranteeing respect for human rights including labour rights, the right to adequate food, shelter and health care, and social justice, and the right to self-determination;

\* the obligation undertaken by States in various multilateral treaties on human rights, that there must be no discrimination on the following grounds: - race, tribe, or culture; - colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker); - gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, - disability or age; - religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status;

(1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, among others);

(b) Enabling socially equitable and environmentally sound employment;

(c) Achieving a state of peace, justice and security; (d) Creating a global structure that respects the rule of law; and (e) Ensuring the

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preservation and protection of the environment, reducing the ecological footprint and moving away from the current model of overconsumptive development.

2. 2. to require that all use of natural resources must be in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) that all users pay a fair rent to the community for the use of those resources, and that all public subsidies to activities, individuals or companies that do not conform to the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) be immediately discontinued.

2.3. to promote the right to ecological governance and global ecological solidarity and determine how to implement this governance.

2.4. to establish an urgent international network to protest immediately any arrests and imprisonment of environmental, political, social protesters

3. To demand compensation and reparations from investors or corporations, and from administrations that have permitted investors or corporations to, or assisted them in, degrading the environment, violating fundamental human rights, or causing harm to human health, especially where those actions occurred:

(a) in developing and developed countries, or  
(b) on the lands of indigenous peoples, or in the communities of marginalized citizens in either developing or developed countries.

4. 1. To revoke the licences and charters of corporations, including transnational corporations, if those corporations have persistently:

(a) violated human rights or denied or colluded in denying social justice, (b) caused unremediated environmental degradation or harm to human health, (c) disregarded labour rights, (d) contributed to conflict and war, or (e) failed to pay compensation for past environmental degradation or non-compliance with international agreements.

4.2. to set up a monitoring and reporting network to inform citizens in the country of origin where corporations are registered of the activities of the foreign-based corporations

4.3 to expose the relationship between corporate exploitation of resources and war and the generation of social, human rights and ecological refugees and immigrants.

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4.4. to coordinate a conference on the social, cultural and environmental impacts of the current model of overconsumption especially that of the multinationals

5. 1 To reduce military budgets by at least 50% and to use the savings:

(a) to guarantee:

- the right to safe and adequate food, which has been not genetically altered or irradiated, or grown with pesticides,
- the right to safe and affordable shelter,
- the right to universal health care,
- the right to safe drinking water,
- the right to a safe environment,
- the right to ecological heritage
- the right to education, and
- the right to peace;

(b) to fund socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and

(c) to fund education and research free from corporate direction and control.

5.2 to move towards global disarmament and the dissolution of organizations and institutes dedicated to furthering of the cult of war rather than to the promoting a culture of peace - dismantling of NATO

5.3 to stress the necessity of anticipation and prevention of conflict and an establishment of a culture of peace

5.4 to reveal the intricate relationship between the global arms sales and the creation and extension of war and conflict

5.5 to expose the role of NGOs for supporting paramilitary actions in the guise of promoting human rights

6. To increase funding for United Nations agencies and for international, national and regional educational institutions so that their missions will not be undermined by corporate direction or control. All funding to the United Nations should be conditional on and dedicated to furthering the objectives of international Public Trust law, not vested interest economic agreements such as GATT, WTO, etc. Since the Security Council is controlled by the nuclear armed



states, the Security Council should be disbanded, and a rotational council should be selected from the membership of the General Assembly.

7. To develop criteria for partnership with the United Nations so as to ensure (i) the exclusion of corporations and (ii) that no partner has in any way, in any of its activities, violated human rights, (including labour rights), caused environmental degradation, contributed to war and conflict, or failed to promote socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

8. To distinguish "civil society" from the "market economy" by defining civil society as those elements of society whose goals are to guarantee human rights, foster justice, protect and conserve the environment, prevent war and conflict, and provide for socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and to declare and affirm the principle that civil society has a valid and important role to play, distinct from the market economy.

9. 1. To prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or that are harmful to human health, as agreed in the Rio Declaration, UNCED, 1992. This prohibition must cover activities such as those related to:

(a) producing, importing or exporting toxic, hazardous, or (non-medical) atomic substances and wastes, (b) producing or consuming ozone-depleting substances, (c) extracting resources by environmentally unsound methods, (d) producing or distributing genetically-engineered food substances and genetically modified organisms, (e) producing or distributing genetically engineered crop/pesticide systems, and (f) creating or increasing dependency on greenhouse gas emission (g) ensuring that the governments of the corporations act to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or harm to human health (h) ensuring that the governments of the developing countries act to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or harm to human health 9.2 to prevent practices within a culture that violate human rights: - to prohibit genital mutilation in compliance with the recommendation of the world health organization and to call upon international community to work towards this prohibition 9.3. to prevent the introduction into another state of substances and activities prohibited in the state of origin

9.4. to establish legal obligations to ensure that the multinationals that have caused environmental degradation and harm to human health in

developing countries are brought to trial in their country of origin

9.4. to ensure that the above recommendation 9.3 is brought before the European union/ African, Caribbean and pacific negotiations and before the WTO meeting in Seattle in November 99

9. 5. to ensure compliance with international environmental instruments (a) implementing the framework convention on climate change, - conserving carbon sinks such as old growth forests and bogs, -invoking the precautionary principle, -exposing the conflict OF interest of scientists who deny the threat of climate change - rejecting the proposal that nuclear energy is the solution to climate change - rejecting the proposal that the solution lies in emissions trading which endorses the right to pollute - acting on the obligation to the reduce of greenhouse gases

- calling upon major green-house gas producing states to assume their responsibility to respect the rights of future generations - ensuring that the developing countries are supported by the developed states in the commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and that the developed states assist through supplying socially equitable and environmentally sound practices - calling upon civil society, politicians, scientists to collaborate before the march united nations convention - moving away from car/truck-dependency and promoting environmentally sound transportation - (b) implementing the convention on biological diversity - conserving biodiversity and identifying biodiversity - invoking the precautionary principle to justify banning environmentally unsound practices that destroy biodiversity (c) applying the framework convention on climate change and the convention on biological diversity to the preservation of temperate and tropical old growth forests

10. 1. To act upon the commitments made at recent United Nations Conferences to move away from the over-consumptive model of development, to replace the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an indicator of economic well-being with the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI), the Criteria of Public Trust (CPT) or some other measure which reflects the general quality of life rather than gross economic activity.

10.2 to redefine "development" in ecological, social and equitable terms

10.3. To reject the economic dogma that maximum economic growth will resolve inequitable income and wealth distribution.

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10.4. to factor in the social and ecological costs of development - discontinuing all [socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices and public subsidies not conforming to public trust law. - adopting tax policies, which ensure the socially equitable and environmentally sound use of the land and resources as a right to a common heritage - requiring that all users pay a fair rent to the community for the use of all land and natural resources.

11. 1. To prohibit all trade zones that circumvent obligations and commitments intended to guarantee human rights, including social justice and labour rights, or to protect, preserve and conserve the environment.

11. 2. To phase out all socially inequitable and environmentally unsound industries while implementing a fair transition program for affected workers and communities.

- including the following:

(a) banning genetically engineered foods and crops

-banning the patenting of life forms

- ending the exploitation of the knowledge of farmers, peasants and indigenous peoples - promoting a global support program for organic agriculture and other forms of ecological farming (b) replacing the chemical pesticides with environmentally safe and sound alternatives

(c) dismantling civil nuclear plants and phasing out dependency on fossil fuels and the promoting of environmentally safe and sound alternative renewable energy (d) preventing the cruelty to animals at all levels including in food production especially battery and factory farming, medical experimentation, and in human amusement (e)

promoting a move away from the current model of overconsumption by refusing, reusing, reducing and recycling - providing that recycling does not introduce socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices and substances such as recycling plutonium from dismantled nuclear weapons

11.3. \* to discharge the diverse obligations incurred through the framework convention on climate change (1992), the convention on biological diversity (1992), the Basel convention on the transfer of hazardous waste, the Vienna convention on the elimination of the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (1985) and other relevant international environmental agreements;

12. to forgive all developing-nation debt and if the debt has been paid all interest arising from loans by international bodies such as the world bank and the IMF, and to terminate all structural adjustment

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programs (saps) which seek to ensure repayment of such debt at the expense of ordinary people, including programs that mandate:

- (a) the indiscriminate privatization of state-owned enterprises,
- (b) the indiscriminate reduction of government expenditures,
- (c) the indiscriminate liberalization of trade regimes,
- (d) the indiscriminate opening of states to increased foreign investment, especially where this entails the attraction of foreign capital by deregulating markets, offering low wages, implementing high interest rates, or providing little or no environmental protection,
- (e) the indiscriminate encouragement to produce goods for export at the expense of crops, products or services, which serve the needs of domestic peoples, or (f) the creation or exacerbation of an imbalance between imports and exports.

12.2. to ensure that the banks and international institutions responsible for the lending of money for inappropriate corporate development are financially responsible for the cancelling of the debt

13. 1 To ensure that no state relaxes environmental, health, human rights or labour standards in order to attract industry, and that no corporation allows a branch or subsidiary to engage in manufacturing, transferring substances, or other practices that are banned, restricted or otherwise unacceptable in the controlling corporation's state of origin.

13. 2. To ensure that fulfilling a state's obligations under international Public Trust Law shall be an absolute defence against legal action by any state, corporation, or investor.

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15. To establish an International Court of Compliance to which citizens can bring evidence of state and corporate non-compliance with international Public Trust Law, including the duty to:

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(a) protect and advance human rights, including the right to adequate food, shelter and health care, labour rights, and social justice, (b) protect and conserve the environment, (c) prevent war and conflict, and (d) enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

16. To abolish the doctrine of "corporate personality" - the notion that corporations are persons and have the rights of ordinary people - thus preventing corporations from invoking the rights proper to individuals.

17. To ensure the right of citizens to sue corporate owners and officers, in criminal and civil courts, for any violation of human rights, including labour rights, for denying social justice, for causing serious harm to the environment or to human health, or for contributing to suffering and waste through the international arms trade.

18. To eliminate weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, biological and chemical (a) banning all nuclear weapons and adopting the abolition 2000 proposed treaty for the abolition of nuclear weapons (b) de-alerting all nuclear weapons by December 31 1999 to prevent potential y2 k problems (c) discontinuing the circulating and berthing of nuclear capable and nuclear armed vessels (d) banning the transfer of plutonium in the form of MOX

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19.2. to support ecological facts by introducing scientific data and especially by stimulating critical thinking based on eco-philosophy, and to develop and to disseminate a list of obligatory reading related to a philosophical base as a foundation of the essence of ecological thought

19.3. to promote educational programs related to the furtherance of a culture of peace Wrote for the World Trade Conference in Seattle and distributed before and in

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Issued in 1999 for the World Trade Conference in Seattle and distributed by Joan Russow (PhD) Global Compliance Research Project/

We are now living in the wake of negligence from years of institutional collusion among governments, corporations and the military. Currently there is a concurrence of disasters: the violation of human rights, including civil and political rights, the denial of social justice, the degradation of the environment, and the escalation of war and conflict. The WTO has been instrumental in fostering this collusion to the detriment of the global community. In the year 1999, the culmination of the decade devoted to international law, rather than continue with this collusion which has jeopardized civil society and the global ecosystem, the WTO should be dismantled and emphasis should be placed on member states living up to their international public trust commitments and obligations and adhering to the rule of law.

## DECLARATION OF ACTIONS

The Declaration of Actions was compiled from presentations, comments and proposals that were made during the plenary sessions at a recent conference

RECOGNIZING the Interdependence of Peace, Environmental Protection, Human Rights and Social Justice;

NOTING that through more than 50 years of concerted effort, the member states of the United Nations have created international Public Trust obligations, commitments and expectations:

1. to Promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, the right to adequate food, potable water, shelter and health care, education and social justice and the right to self determination;
2. to Enable socially equitable and environmentally sound development;
3. to Achieve a state of peace, justice and security;
4. to Create a global structure that respects the rule of law; and
5. to Ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, respect the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, reduce the ecological footprint and move away from the current model of overconsumption

CONCERNED that trade organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) undermine the UN's work of over 50 years in creating

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obligations, commitments and expectations with respect to the matters set out above:

DISMAYED by the continuing global urgency resulting from the failure of member states of the United Nations to discharge their obligations arising from conventions, treaties and covenants, to act on commitments made in conference action plans, and to fulfill expectations arising from General Assembly resolutions;

RECALLING the commitment made by all the member states of the United Nations to "ensure that corporations including transnational corporations comply with national codes, social security laws, and international law, including international environmental law" (Platform of Action at the UN Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Beijing, 1995, and also in the Habitat II Agenda, Istanbul, 1996);

We call upon all MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. 1 \* TO CREATE a world based on true participatory democracy within a framework of public trust principles;

\* TO ACCEPT the inherent limits to the Earth's resources

\* to promote the peaceful coexistence of all nations, races, and species;

\* TO DEVELOP a stable and peaceful international society founded on the rule of law;

\* TO HALT the consequences of unprincipled economic growth;

\* TO STRIVE TO REMOVE

the inequitable distribution of resources \* to stabilize population and implement the commitments made through the international conference on population and development

1. 2 To discharge the obligations, act on the commitments, and fulfill the expectations arising from international Public Trust agreements, including:

(a) signing and ratifying any existing international conventions, treaties, and covenants that have not yet been signed and ratified;

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2. 1. To establish mandatory international standards and regulations (MINS), based on international principles and on the highest and strongest regulations of member states, harmonizing standards and regulations continually upward with respect to:

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\* the obligation undertaken by States in various multilateral treaties on human rights, that there must be no discrimination on the following grounds: - race, tribe, or culture; - colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker); - gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, - disability or age; - religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status;

(1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, among others);

(b) Enabling socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; (c) Achieving a state of peace, justice and security; (d) Creating a global structure that respects the rule of law; and (e) Ensuring the preservation and protection of the environment, reducing the ecological footprint and moving away from the current model of overconsumptive development.

2. 2. to require that all use of natural resources must be in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) that all users pay a fair rent to the community for the use of those resources, and that all public subsidies to activities, individuals or companies that do not conform to the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) be immediately discontinued.

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3. To demand compensation and reparations from investors or corporations, and from administrations that have permitted investors



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or corporations to, or assisted them in, degrading the environment, violating fundamental human rights, or causing harm to human health, especially where those actions occurred:

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4.4. to coordinate a conference on the social, cultural and environmental impacts of the current model of overconsumption especially that of the multinationals

5. 1 To reduce military budgets by at least 50% and to use the savings:

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- the right to safe and adequate food, which has been not genetically altered or irradiated, or grown with pesticides,
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- the right to ecological heritage
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and

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5.2 to move towards global disarmament and the dissolution of organizations and institutes dedicated to furthering of the cult of war rather than to the promoting a culture of peace - dismantling of NATO

5.3 to stress the necessity of anticipation and prevention of conflict and an establishment of a culture of peace

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6. To increase funding for United Nations agencies and for international, national and regional educational institutions so that their missions will not be undermined by corporate direction or control. All funding to the United Nations should be conditional on and dedicated to furthering the objectives of international Public Trust law, not vested interest economic agreements such as GATT, WTO, etc. Since the Security Council is controlled by the nuclear armed states, the Security Council should be disbanded, and a rotational council should be selected from the membership of the General Assembly.

7. To develop criteria for partnership with the United Nations so as to ensure (i) the exclusion of corporations and (ii) that no partner has in any way, in any of its activities, violated human rights, (including labour rights), caused environmental degradation, contributed to war and conflict, or failed to promote socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

8. To distinguish "civil society" from the "market economy" by defining civil society as those elements of society whose goals are to guarantee human rights, foster justice, protect and conserve the environment, prevent war and conflict, and provide for socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and to declare and affirm the principle that civil society has a valid and important role to play, distinct from the market economy.

9. 1. To prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or that are harmful to

human health, as agreed in the Rio Declaration, UNCED, 1992. This prohibition must cover activities such as those related to:

(a) producing, importing or exporting toxic, hazardous, or (non-medical) atomic substances and wastes, (b) producing or consuming ozone-depleting substances, (c) extracting resources by environmentally unsound methods, (d) producing or distributing genetically-engineered food substances and genetically modified organisms, (e) producing or distributing genetically engineered crop/pesticide systems, and (f) creating or increasing dependency on greenhouse gas emission (g) ensuring that the governments of the corporations act to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or harm to human health (h) ensuring that the governments of the developing countries act to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or harm to human health 9.2 to prevent practices within a culture that violate human rights: - to prohibit genital mutilation in compliance with the recommendation of the world health organization and to call upon international community to work towards this prohibition 9.3. to prevent the introduction into another state of substances and activities prohibited in the state of origin

9.4. to establish legal obligations to ensure that the multinationals that have caused environmental degradation and harm to human health in developing countries are brought to trial in their country of origin

9.4. to ensure that the above recommendation 9.3 is brought before the European union/ African, Caribbean and pacific negotiations and before the WTO meeting in Seattle in November 99

9. 5. to ensure compliance with international environmental instruments (a) implementing the framework convention on climate change, - conserving carbon sinks such as old growth forests and bogs, -invoking the precautionary principle, -exposing the conflict OF interest of scientists who deny the threat of climate change - rejecting the proposal that nuclear energy is the solution to climate change - rejecting the proposal that the solution lies in emissions trading which endorses the right to pollute - acting on the obligation to the reduce of greenhouse gases

- calling upon major green-house gas producing states to assume their responsibility to respect the rights of future generations - ensuring that the developing countries are supported by the developed states in the commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and that the developed states assist through supplying socially equitable

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and environmentally sound practices - calling upon civil society, politicians, scientists to collaborate before the march united nations convention - moving away from car/truck-dependency and promoting environmentally sound transportation - (b) implementing the convention on biological diversity - conserving biodiversity and identifying biodiversity - invoking the precautionary principle to justify banning environmentally unsound practices that destroy biodiversity (c) applying the framework convention on climate change and the convention on biological diversity to the preservation of temperate and tropical old growth forests

10. 1. To act upon the commitments made at recent United Nations Conferences to move away from the over-consumptive model of development, to replace the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an indicator of economic well-being with the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI), the Criteria of Public Trust (CPT) or some other measure which reflects the general quality of life rather than gross economic activity.

10.2 to redefine "development" in ecological, social and equitable terms

10.3. To reject the economic dogma that maximum economic growth will resolve inequitable income and wealth distribution.

10.4. to factor in the social and ecological costs of development - discontinuing all [socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices and public subsidies not conforming to public trust law. - adopting tax policies, which ensure the socially equitable and environmentally sound use of the land and resources as a right to a common heritage - requiring that all users pay a fair rent to the community for the use of all land and natural resources.

11. 1. To prohibit all trade zones that circumvent obligations and commitments intended to guarantee human rights, including social justice and labour rights, or to protect, preserve and conserve the environment.

11. 2. To phase out all socially inequitable and environmentally unsound industries while implementing a fair transition program for affected workers and communities.

- including the following:

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- ending the exploitation of the knowledge of farmers, peasants and indigenous peoples - promoting a global support program for organic agriculture and other forms of ecological farming (b) replacing the chemical pesticides with environmentally safe and sound alternatives (c) dismantling civil nuclear plants and phasing out dependency on fossil fuels and the promoting of environmentally safe and sound alternative renewable energy (d) preventing the cruelty to animals at all levels including in food production especially battery and factory farming, medical experimentation, and in human amusement (e) promoting a move away from the current model of overconsumption by refusing, reusing, reducing and recycling - providing that recycling does not introduce socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices and substances such as recycling plutonium from dismantled nuclear weapons

11.3. \* to discharge the diverse obligations incurred through the framework convention on climate change (1992), the convention on biological diversity (1992), the Basel convention on the transfer of hazardous waste, the Vienna convention on the elimination of the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (1985) and other relevant international environmental agreements;

12. to forgive all developing-nation debt and if the debt has been paid all interest arising from loans by international bodies such as the world bank and the IMF, and to terminate all structural adjustment programs (saps) which seek to ensure repayment of such debt at the expense of ordinary people, including programs that mandate:

(a) the indiscriminate privatization of state-owned enterprises,  
(b) the indiscriminate reduction of government expenditures,  
(c) the indiscriminate liberalization of trade regimes,

(d) the indiscriminate opening of states to increased foreign investment, especially where this entails the attraction of foreign capital by deregulating markets, offering low wages, implementing high interest rates, or providing little or no environmental protection,

(e) the indiscriminate encouragement to produce goods for export at the expense of crops, products or services, which serve the needs of domestic peoples, or (f) the creation or exacerbation of an imbalance between imports and exports.

12.2. to ensure that the banks and international institutions responsible for the lending of money for inappropriate corporate development are financially responsible for the cancelling of the debt

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13. 1 To ensure that no state relaxes environmental, health, human rights or labour standards in order to attract industry, and that no corporation allows a branch or subsidiary to engage in manufacturing, transferring substances, or other practices that are banned, restricted or otherwise unacceptable in the controlling corporation's state of origin.

13. 2. To ensure that fulfilling a state's obligations under international Public Trust Law shall be an absolute defence against legal action by any state, corporation, or investor.

13. 3. To expose the extent to which citizens have allowed their pension and investment funds to support corporations that have violated the public trust, and to urge citizens to invest in the promotion of the public trust.

14. To ensure that no state shall justify trade with a country that violates human rights, including labour rights, on the grounds that such trade will lead to a betterment of human rights, except where such trade is conditional on eliminating human rights abuses.

15. To establish an International Court of Compliance to which citizens can bring evidence of state and corporate non-compliance with international Public Trust Law, including the duty to:

(a) protect and advance human rights, including the right to adequate food, shelter and health care, labour rights, and social justice, (b) protect and conserve the environment, (c) prevent war and conflict, and (d) enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

16. To abolish the doctrine of "corporate personality" - the notion that corporations are persons and have the rights of ordinary people - thus preventing corporations from invoking the rights proper to individuals.

17. To ensure the right of citizens to sue corporate owners and officers, in criminal and civil courts, for any violation of human rights, including labour rights, for denying social justice, for causing serious harm to the environment or to human health, or for contributing to suffering and waste through the international arms trade.

18. To eliminate weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, biological and chemical (a) banning all nuclear weapons and adopting the abolition 2000 proposed treaty for the abolition of nuclear

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19.1 to prevent the corporate and corporate front group intrusion into the educational system - exposing the origin and funding of the educational materials

19.2 to introduce environmental literature especially of a philosophical nature

19.2. to support ecological facts by introducing scientific data and especially by stimulating critical thinking based on eco-philosophy, and to develop and to disseminate a list of obligatory reading related to a philosophical base as a foundation of the essence of ecological thought

19.3. to promote educational programs related to the furtherance of a culture of peace

We are now living in the wake of negligence from years of institutional collusion among governments, corporations and the military. Currently there is a concurrence of disasters: the violation of human rights, including civil and political rights, the denial social justice, the degradation of the environment, and the escalation of war and conflict. The WTO has been instrumental in fostering this collusion to the detriment of the global community. In the year 1999, the culmination of the decade devoted to international law, rather than continue with this collusion which has jeopardized civil society and the global ecosystem, the WTO should be dismantled and emphasis should be placed on member states living up to their international public trust commitments and obligations and adhering to the rule of law.

### DECLARATION OF ACTIONS

The Declaration of Actions was compiled from presentations, comments and proposals that were made during the plenary sessions at a recent conference

RECOGNIZING the Interdependence of Peace, Environmental Protection, Human Rights and Social Justice;

NOTING that through more than 50 years of concerted effort, the member states of the United Nations have created international Public Trust obligations, commitments and expectations:

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1. to Promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, the right to adequate food, potable water, shelter and health care, education and social justice and the right to self determination; 2. to Enable socially equitable and environmentally sound development; 3. to Achieve a state of peace, justice and security; 4. to Create a global structure that respects the rule of law; and 5. to Ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, respect the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, reduce the ecological footprint and move away from the current model of overconsumption

CONCERNED that trade organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) undermine the UN's work of over 50 years in creating obligations, commitments and expectations with respect to the matters set out above:

DISMAYED by the continuing global urgency resulting from the failure of member states of the United Nations to discharge their obligations arising from conventions, treaties and covenants, to act on commitments made in conference action plans, and to fulfill expectations arising from General Assembly resolutions;

RECALLING the commitment made by all the member states of the United Nations to "ensure that corporations including transnational corporations comply with national codes, social security laws, and international law, including international environmental law" (Platform of Action at the UN Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Beijing, 1995, and also in the Habitat II Agenda, Istanbul, 1996);

We call upon all MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. 1 \* TO CREATE a world based on true participatory democracy within a framework of public trust principles;  
\* TO ACCEPT the inherent limits to the Earth's resources  
\* to promote the peaceful coexistence of all nations, races, and species;  
\* TO DEVELOP a stable and peaceful international society founded on the rule of law;  
\* TO HALT the consequences of unprincipled economic growth;



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## \* TO STRIVE TO REMOVE

the inequitable distribution of resources \* to stabilize population and implement the commitments made through the international conference on population and development

1. 2 To discharge the obligations, act on the commitments, and fulfill the expectations arising from international Public Trust agreements, including:

(a) signing and ratifying any existing international conventions, treaties, and covenants that have not yet been signed and ratified; (b) enacting the domestic legislation necessary to implement them or to fulfill the legitimate expectations created by General Assembly resolutions and declarations; and (c) acting upon the commitments arising from conference action plans.

2. 1. To establish mandatory international standards and regulations (MINS), based on international principles and on the highest and strongest regulations of member states, harmonizing standards and regulations continually upward with respect to:

(a) Promoting and fully guaranteeing respect for human rights including labour rights, the right to adequate food, shelter and health care, and social justice, and the right to self-determination;

\* the obligation undertaken by States in various multilateral treaties on human rights, that there must be no discrimination on the following grounds: - race, tribe, or culture; - colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker); - gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, - disability or age; - religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status;

(1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, among others);

(b) Enabling socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; (c) Achieving a state of peace, justice and security; (d) Creating a global structure that respects the rule of law; and (e) Ensuring the preservation and protection of the environment, reducing the ecological footprint and moving away from the current model of overconsumptive development.

2. 2. to require that all use of natural resources must be in

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accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) that all users pay a fair rent to the community for the use of those resources, and that all public subsidies to activities, individuals or companies that do not conform to the principles set out in paragraph 2. (1) be immediately discontinued.

2.3. to promote the right to ecological governance and global ecological solidarity and determine how to implement this governance.

2.4. to establish an urgent international network to protest immediately any arrests and imprisonment of environmental, political, social protesters

3. To demand compensation and reparations from investors or corporations, and from administrations that have permitted investors or corporations to, or assisted them in, degrading the environment, violating fundamental human rights, or causing harm to human health, especially where those actions occurred:

- (a) in developing and developed countries, or
- (b) on the lands of indigenous peoples, or in the communities of marginalized citizens in either developing or developed countries.

4. 1. To revoke the licences and charters of corporations, including transnational corporations, if those corporations have persistently:

- (a) violated human rights or denied or colluded in denying social justice, (b) caused unremediated environmental degradation or harm to human health, (c) disregarded labour rights, (d) contributed to conflict and war, or (e) failed to pay compensation for past environmental degradation or non-compliance with international agreements.

4.2. to set up a monitoring and reporting network to inform citizens in the country of origin where corporations are registered of the activities of the foreign-based corporations

4.3 to expose the relationship between corporate exploitation of resources and war and the generation of social, human rights and ecological refugees and immigrants.

4.4. to coordinate a conference on the social, cultural and environmental impacts of the current model of overconsumption especially that of the multinationals

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5. 1 To reduce military budgets by at least 50% and to use the savings:

(a) to guarantee:

- the right to safe and adequate food, which has been not genetically altered or irradiated, or grown with pesticides,
- the right to safe and affordable shelter,
- the right to universal health care,
- the right to safe drinking water,
- the right to a safe environment,
- the right to ecological heritage
- the right to education, and
- the right to peace;

(b) to fund socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and

(c) to fund education and research free from corporate direction and control.

5.2 to move towards global disarmament and the dissolution of organizations and institutes dedicated to furthering of the cult of war rather than to the promoting a culture of peace - dismantling of NATO

5.3 to stress the necessity of anticipation and prevention of conflict and an establishment of a culture of peace

5.4 to reveal the intricate relationship between the global arms sales and the creation and extension of war and conflict

5.5 to expose the role of NGOs for supporting paramilitary actions in the guise of promoting human rights

6. To increase funding for United Nations agencies and for international, national and regional educational institutions so that their missions will not be undermined by corporate direction or control. All funding to the United Nations should be conditional on and dedicated to furthering the objectives of international Public Trust law, not vested interest economic agreements such as GATT, WTO, etc. Since the Security Council is controlled by the nuclear armed states, the Security Council should be disbanded, and a rotational council should be selected from the membership of the General Assembly.

7. To develop criteria for partnership with the United Nations so as

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to ensure (i) the exclusion of corporations and (ii) that no partner has in any way, in any of its activities, violated human rights, (including labour rights), caused environmental degradation, contributed to war and conflict, or failed to promote socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

8. To distinguish "civil society" from the "market economy" by defining civil society as those elements of society whose goals are to guarantee human rights, foster justice, protect and conserve the environment, prevent war and conflict, and provide for socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and to declare and affirm the principle that civil society has a valid and important role to play, distinct from the market economy.

9. 1. To prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or that are harmful to human health, as agreed in the Rio Declaration, UNCED, 1992. This prohibition must cover activities such as those related to:

(a) producing, importing or exporting toxic, hazardous, or (non-medical) atomic substances and wastes, (b) producing or consuming ozone-depleting substances, (c) extracting resources by environmentally unsound methods, (d) producing or distributing genetically-engineered food substances and genetically modified organisms, (e) producing or distributing genetically engineered crop/pesticide systems, and (f) creating or increasing dependency on greenhouse gas emission (g) ensuring that the governments of the corporations act to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or harm to human health (h) ensuring that the governments of the developing countries act to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that cause environmental degradation or harm to human health

9.2 to prevent practices within a culture that violate human rights: - to prohibit genital mutilation in compliance with the recommendation of the world health organization and to call upon international community to work towards this prohibition

9.3. to prevent the introduction into another state of substances and activities prohibited in the state of origin

9.4. to establish legal obligations to ensure that the multinationals that have caused environmental degradation and harm to human health in developing countries are brought to trial in their country of origin

9.4. to ensure that the above recommendation 9.3 is brought before the European union/ African, Caribbean and pacific negotiations and before the WTO meeting in Seattle in November 99

9. 5. to ensure compliance with international environmental instruments (a) implementing the framework convention on climate change, - conserving carbon sinks such as old growth forests and bogs, -invoking the precautionary principle, -exposing the conflict OF interest of scientists who deny the threat of climate change - rejecting the proposal that nuclear energy is the solution to climate change - rejecting the proposal that the solution lies in emissions trading which endorses the right to pollute - acting on the obligation to the reduce of greenhouse gases

- calling upon major green-house gas producing states to assume their responsibility to respect the rights of future generations - ensuring that the developing countries are supported by the developed states in the commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and that the developed states assist through supplying socially equitable and environmentally sound practices - calling upon civil society, politicians, scientists to collaborate before the march united nations convention - moving away from car/truck-dependency and promoting environmentally sound transportation - (b) implementing the convention on biological diversity - conserving biodiversity and identifying biodiversity - invoking the precautionary principle to justify banning environmentally unsound practices that destroy biodiversity (c) applying the framework convention on climate change and the convention on biological diversity to the preservation of temperate and tropical old growth forests

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