

## **Declaration of the First National Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development**

**March 19 – 20, 2009  
Lima, Peru**

Whereas sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It comprehends interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars as well as social, cultural, economic, and environmental dimensions through a long term perspective.

Whereas education is an instrument of change so much so the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 57/254 of December 2002 in which it declared 2005 – 2014 the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and designated UNESCO lead agency for promoting it; central aspects of the decade are:

- Improving access to quality basic education
- Reorienting existing education programs
- Developing public understanding and awareness
- Providing training

Whereas education is a lifelong process in the midst of a learning community, involving formal, non formal, and informal education and developing knowledge, abilities, skills, attitudes, values, and individual and collective habits for sustainable human development.

Whereas education for sustainable development is based upon the ideals and principles of sustainability, like intergenerational equality, gender equality, tolerance, poverty reduction, environmental protection and its improved quality, natural resource conservation and responsible use, just and peaceful societies, cultural and religious plurality, and the need to change production and consumption patterns.

Whereas recommendations on education for sustainable development (ESD) have been laid out, reaffirmed, and broadened in these and other global forums and conferences: World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990), United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), International Conference on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy (Sinaia, 1992), World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), International Conference on

Population and Development (1994), World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), International Congress on Education and Informatics (Moscow, 1996), Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II, Istanbul, 1996), World Food Summit (Rome, 1996), World Conference on Higher Education: Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century (Manila, 1997), World Millennium Summit (2000), International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002), and United Nations Climate Change Conference (Bali, Indonesia, 2007) as well as in the declaration of the First Latin American Meeting “Building Education for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” (Costa Rica, February, 2007).

Whereas commitments have been made in the Latin American, Caribbean, and Andean Regions that are contributing to the framework of sustainable development in Peru, not to mention such national legal instruments as the National Accord, which lays out state policies, Sub-national Government Act, Local Government Act, General Education Law, Environmental Protection Act, National Education Project, and Multi Annual Sectoral Strategic Plans (PESEM).

Whereas it is our duty as citizens to undertake, responsibly, education for sustainable development and to participate actively in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD).

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**Therefore:**

We, the participants of the First National Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development, assembled in the city of Lima, Peru, agree and undertake to:

- Design and implement a National Education for Sustainable Development Strategy
- Recognize the Ministry of Education of Peru (MINEDU) as the focal point, director, and leader of ESD, DESD, and this declaration’s implementation and establish the Peruvian National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO and the Andres Bello Convention National Secretariat as the technical secretariat. These actions shall be coordinated with the National Assembly of University Presidents (ANR) and require passage of a corresponding Supreme Decree.
- Request the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and National Assembly of University Presidents print the letterhead “Decade of

Education for Sustainable Development 2005 – 2014” on their official documents

- Recommend approving the MoE Directorate of Community and Environmental Education’s proposal that the abovementioned letterhead become the one officially used by the sector.
- Encourage the entire society to participate in an intergovernmental, intersectoral, and transdisciplinary approach that integrates and values all its stakeholders’ contributions.
- Institutionalize the “Train the Trainer on ESD” process.
- Apply UNESCO criteria for ESD policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, and actions and promote creation and implementation of a chart listing ESD evaluation indicators.
- Urge higher education to develop and commit to, with social responsibility, an innovative and creative attitude in order to contribute to sustainable development.
- Incorporate the following into state policies: gender equality, cultural diversity, peace and human safety, health promotion, environmental protection, responsible consumption, sustainable urbanization, rural development, and a risk management approach.
- Strengthen the ESD approach in each sector’s strategic plans and at each level of government.
- Form a National Education for Sustainable Development Network on the foundation of institutions committed to this declaration and those that will support it with the Peruvian National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO acting as the focal point until the aforementioned network’s institutional mechanisms are officially operational.
- Ratify and apply regional and international guiding and legal instruments for ESD and DESD recognition, implementation, application, and execution.
- Put forth all effort in guaranteeing Peru’s participation in the international arena concerning ESD and DESD and ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to represent Peru, through its diplomatic mission in Germany, at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development to be held in Bonn, Germany, from March 31 to April 3, 2009, and to submit this declaration as a contribution to it.
- Gain commitments from the media to spread the DESD objectives and world conference agreements on ESD as a means of raising awareness in and educating the population regarding responsible participation for its own sustainable development.
- Request the Ministry of Economy and Finances allocate resources for nation, sub-national, and local implementation of ESD and DESD

- Make public our recognition of the Ministry of Education and National Assembly of University Presidents for their active and committed participation in the First National Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development.
- Support UNESCO in fulfilling its mandate as DESD promoting agency. Congratulate and thank UNESCO representation in Peru and the Peruvian National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO for carrying out the First National Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development.
- Recommend incorporating ESD in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and petition the United Nations in Peru to cooperate in implementing this declaration's agreements.

In the spirit of the 37<sup>th</sup> Principle of the Johannesburg Declaration, we solemnly pledge to the Peruvian people and the generations that will surely inherit our nation that we are determined to ensure that our collective hope for sustainable development is realized in order to construct a sustainable Peruvian society.

Guidelines that are annexed to this declaration form part of it.

As a consequence, we approve this declaration.