



**Toward a Sustainable World**  
**« Stopping Environmental Destruction**  
**and**  
**Putting Ethical Values into Action »**

## **Earth Dialogues**

**International Forum**

**Puerto Madryn**

**October 22-24, 2018**

**Bertrand Charrier**

## CONTEXT

The first Earth Dialogues took place in Lyon, France in 2002, on the initiative of Mikhail Gorbachev, founding President of Green Cross International and Maurice Strong, founding President of Earth Council.

The Dialogues were inspired by the belief that new momentum was needed to drive the movement to place ethics and human values at the heart of the struggle to harmonize the globalization process with sustainable development and environmental protection.

Since this first event, other **Earth Dialogues have taken place around the world: Barcelona, New York, Brisbane, Brasilia, and Geneva**. They have convened a wide range of influential representatives of business, governments, civil society, religion, and international organizations. Despite decades of international declarations and global action plans, the radical transformation to ensure the global transition to sustainability and environmental conservation still remains elusive.

**The Earth is in danger** - sustainable solutions must be rapidly found to stop environmental degradation, the loss of biodiversity, as well as the increase in natural disasters.

The increasing **trends of environmental degradation** and unequal access to basic human needs (access to drinking water, electricity and food) is a force that will only contribute to global insecurity.

**Solutions exist** and others can be easily developed with scientific and technological innovations. But the pace to develop the solutions that are needed to solve the plight that humanity now faces is simply too slow.

The previous Earth Dialogues confirmed that other factors should be considered in addition to the **technical and scientific innovations**. **New ethical values**, more robust forms of the rule of law – and shared sovereignty for common goods are all essential to strengthen environmental protection efforts.

At the same time, the fundamental global **environmental challenges** must be addressed in an **integrated manner** in order to avoid the negative trade-offs. There are structural challenges related to the global economical order and peace and security. All of these can best be addressed when different stakeholders come together to forge innovative solutions. This means **bringing together the private sector, government actors, as well as civil society, media and religious and spiritual leaders**.

## CONCEPT

The Earth Dialogues is a public forum aims to mobilize global public interest and action to promote two important objectives essential to the future of humanity: averting the ecological disasters which threaten our planet, and acting to ensure truly sustainable development.

The Earth Dialogues Forum is divided into plenary sessions, roundtables and open debates.

Generally, there is one roundtable dedicated to each of the seven following sectors: International Economic Institutions, Business and Industry, Media and Communication, Parliamentarians and Government Representatives, International Institutions and Organizations, Religious and Spiritual Leaders, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

All Earth Dialogues **audience participants** also have the opportunity to exchange their views and to raise questions with the speakers.

**Solutions are collectively elaborated, discussed and endorsed.** Social networks and new social media platforms are used to ensure the broad engagement of the general public in the Earth Dialogues.

## **PROPOSAL**

**A new circle of five years** of Earth Dialogues is proposed with two to three Earth Dialogues per year according to the will and capacity of mobilization of Green Cross International and its network.

During this circle of conferences with international impact, it will be possible to show to the general public and decisions leaders around the world that **practical and effective solutions exist to protect environment and change the livelihood of people.**

The first Earth Dialogues on the new cycle is taking place in Puerto Madryn in Argentina with specific focus on Water and Natural, Mineral Resources Management.

**The following one should take place in Dallas, during the Earth Day in April 2019.** It is essential to organize as soon as possible an Earth Dialogue in US, as this country has a leading position in the world. The main theme will be the adaptation to climate change and civil society commitment.

**The following Earth Dialogues could take place in Arctic Countries.**