

1972

UN Stockholm Conference
Earth Ethic discussed

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1982

World Charter for Nature
Adopted by UN General Assembly

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1987

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)
(the Brundtland* Commission)
Our Common Future Report
An **Earth Charter** proposed

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1988

International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)
Environmental Task Committee
Began looking at environmental trends
Concerned that engineers not involved in planning the Rio Summit

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1991

World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)
met in Arusha, Tanzania
Adopted the **Arusha Declaration**
which described the future role of engineering
based on the **Our Common Future Report**

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1992

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)
(Rio Summit)
(Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the Summit)
(**Agenda 21**)

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1700 of 2500 issues had engineering implications
FIDIC and WFEO met, wanted engineering involvement

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American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) adopted
The Public Policy on Sustainable Development and Action Principles (ActionPrinciples.doc)
<http://www.aaes.org/content.cfm?L1=2&L2=3&OID=18>
and developed six action principles to guide engineers in applying sustainable development

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The **Code of Ethics** of the **American Society of Civil Engineers** was a pioneering effort that has far reaching implications; the code is enforceable in requiring consideration of sustainable development principles in civil engineering projects
(<http://www.asce.org/inside/codeofethics.cfm?strPrinter=1>)

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1993

FIDIC, WFEO, & International Union of Technical Associations (UTAI) group into the World Partnership for Sustainable Development (WEPSD)

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Collaborated with the UNC Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)

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Many global engineering organizations provide leadership
World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)
The International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)
International Union of Technical Associations (UATI)
Also engineers working for companies who are members of
World Business Council for Sustainable Development
(WBCSD)

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1994

Earth Charter Council

Maurice Strong

Mikhail Gorbachev

Established an Earth Charter Commission and
Restarted an Earth Charter initiative

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1997

Rio+5 Conference

General Assembly of UN special session on Agenda 21

Found progress uneven and identified key trends including increasing globalization, widening inequalities in income and a continued deterioration of the global environment.

WFEO and FIDIC join together to write

“The Engineer’s Response to Sustainable Development”

Also

WFEO contributes to **Earth Charter** through
US National Earth Charter Committee

Also

Engineer’s Forum on Sustainability
American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES)
ASCE, ASEE, AIChE, IEEE, and ASME

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2000

Earth Charter Commission meeting at the Hague

Earth Charter approved and launched

Also

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) & Global Environment Facility (GEF), a funding agency for

severe environmental problems) join in **Technology Transfer Networks**

SANet (mission to promote widespread use of cleaner technology)

Also

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)

(established to ensure follow-up on **UNCED**, Rio Summit)

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2001

Engineers for a Sustainable World

Contribute to long-term, sustainable development by seeking lasting solutions for reducing poverty, and by working to improve sustainability in the United States and abroad.

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2002

Earth Charter presented for consideration at 2002 General Assembly

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

(Johannesburg, South Africa)

Affirmed UN commitment to 'full implementation' of **Agenda 21**, alongside achievement of the **Millennium Development Goals**

The **Commission on Sustainable Development** oversees summits and sessions on implementation of **Agenda 21**

Also

National Academy of Engineering in USA met with representatives of the major American engineering organizations to consider how to unify the American engineers in support of the goals of the 2002 Summit

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2004

Engineers Without Borders - USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students. EWB-USA contributes to meeting the **United Nations Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) through capacity building in community projects. Capacity building is defined in that context as "...the building (or strengthening) of human, institutional and infrastructure capacity to help societies develop secure, stable and sustainable economies, governments and other institutions through mentoring, training, education, physical projects, the infusion of financial and other resources, and most importantly, the motivation and inspiration of people to improve their lives" (Hatch, 2004).

*Gro Harlem Brundtland was Chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), widely referred to as the **Brundtland Commission**, developing the

broad political concept of [sustainable development](#) in the course of extensive public hearings that were distinguished by their inclusiveness and published its report *Our Common Future* in April 1987. The [Brundtland Commission](#) provided the momentum for the 1992 [Earth Summit](#) / [UNCED](#), that was headed by [Maurice Strong](#), who had been a prominent member of the Brundtland Commission - and for [Agenda 21](#).

Gro Harlem Brundtland was elected Director-General of the [World Health Organization](#) in May 1998. In this capacity, Brundtland adopted a far-reaching approach to public health, establishing a [Commission on Macroeconomics and Health](#) - chaired by [Jeffrey Sachs](#) - and addressing [violence](#) as a major public health issue. Brundtland was recognized in 2003 by [Scientific American](#) as their *Policy Leader of the Year* for coordinating a rapid worldwide response to stem outbreaks of [SARS](#). Gro Harlem Brundtland was succeeded, on [July 21, 2003](#), by [Jong-Wook Lee](#).

In 1994 she was awarded the [Charlemagne Prize](#) of the city of [Aachen](#).

In 2004 the British newspaper [The Financial Times](#) listed her the 4th most influential European for the last 25 years, behind [Pope John Paul II](#), [Mikhail Gorbachev](#) and [Margaret Thatcher](#).