

# The Charter of the Environment

The French people,

Considering,

That resources and the balance of nature have conditioned the emergence of humanity;

That the future and the very existence of humanity are inseparable from its natural environment;

That the environment is the common heritage of humanity;

That man exercises a growing influence over the conditions of life and over his own evolution;

That biological diversity, the fulfilment of the person and the progress of human society are affected by certain means of consumption or of production and by the excessive exploitation of natural resources;

That the preservation of the environment must be sought at the same level as the other fundamental interests of the Nation;

That in order to ensure sustainable development, the choices designed to respond to the needs of the present must not compromise the capacity of future generations and other people to satisfy their own needs;

Proclaim :

## **Article 1**

Everyone has the right to live in a stable environment which respects health.

## **Article 2**

All persons have a duty to take part in the preservation and the improvement of the environment.

## **Article 3**

All persons must, under the conditions defined by law, forewarn of adverse factors that they are likely to carry into the environment or, failing that, to limit their consequences.

## **Article 4**

All persons must contribute to repair the damage that they cause to the environment, under the conditions defined by law.

### **Article 5**

As soon as realisation of damage could affect the environment in a serious and irreversible manner, even though [its recognition] might be uncertain in the current state of the scientific knowledge, public authorities should monitor, by the application of the precautionary principle in their relevant domains, the implementation of risk assessment procedures and the adoption of proportionate, provisional measures in order to prevent the realisation of the damage.

### **Article 6**

Public policies should promote sustainable development. To this effect, they should reconcile the protection and enrichment of the environment, with economic development and social progress.

### **Article 7**

All persons have the right, under the conditions and limits defined by law, to have access to information relating to the environment held by public authorities and to participate in the elaboration of public decisions having an impact on the environment.

### **Article 8**

Education and training about the environment should contribute to the exercise of the rights and duties defined by the present Charter.

### **Article 9**

Research and innovation should participate in the preservation and the enrichment of the environment.

### **Article 10**

The present Charter inspires France throughout her European - and her international action.»