

STATEMENT ON GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
Read by Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska of the Institute for Planetary Synthesis, Dec. 10th, 2013.

The Institute for Planetary Synthesis is a founder of the NGO Major Group Commons Cluster.

Commons are partnerships between **people** who manage their resources together so that all benefit from the outcome. Commons create partnerships to steward and manage water resources, soil quality, forests, plant and animal species. Thousands of commons communities live sustainably within their respective global footprints.

Commons partnerships are characterized by caring, sharing and a sense of community from local to global levels. Because commons partnerships tend to meet needs that are not being met in other ways, they often connect people across national boundaries and unite people in developed and developing countries as in fair trade initiatives, information exchange, sharing of research and tools for sustainable development,(often found in less industrialized cultures.) As commons partnerships they involve all stakeholders in meeting their own needs, they foster commitment to engage. Commons partnerships are a means to attain the three purposes sought by the Ethiopia High Level Symposium which was organized in June, 2013 by the Government of Ethiopia and UN DESA. Ethiopia is highly experienced with the commons approach.

Cooperatives, the business branch of the commons, have according to the UN one billion members worldwide. Commons partnerships are important building blocks for sustainable communities at all levels.

The Earth System on which all human life depends should be recognized as a global commons and managed responsibly by all. At present it is managed by all people jointly without them realizing the role they play while all are suffering the consequences of poor management. Here keeping **the total impact of humankind on the Earth System to within those boundaries that support human life is a matter of life or death** – violent death through cataclysms, or death after long suffering from malnutrition, or mental and physical debilitation, caused by pollutants **from which no one can escape once Planetary boundaries have been exceeded..**

Here the global partnership is failing. We therefore join with the United Nations Task Team for Post 2015 Development and call urgently for increased involvement by all stakeholders worldwide in responsible decision making.

In this respect we commend Member States with the competent assistance of the UN Secretariat for reaching one billion people in the span of 6 months for their views. Among those reached are some of the most marginalized.

We propose two additional steps:

1. An SDG on **conscious holistic management by all people of their impact on the Earth System**; and
2. The formation of a Commission of Eminent Personalities **to work together with all stakeholders worldwide** to create a conscious global commons approach to managing the Earth System This should include metrics to enable each of us to take responsibility for the impact we make individually on the Earth System, relevant education and a worldwide exchange of best practices, that can empower us all to thrive in our integral relationship with one another and nature.

For more detailed proposals, please see www.CommonsActionfortheUnitedNations.org .

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