

# HEIDELBERG APPEAL

## TO HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS

ANNEX A

*On the closure of the Rio Summit, the following Appeal was signed by 425 members of the scientific and intellectual community. The subject matter raised by the Heidelberg Appeal and the fruitful debate it has engendered are prompting the involvement of a number of scientists and intellectuals. The values embraced by the Appeal remain a topic of ongoing interest.*

We want to make our full contribution to the preservation of our common heritage, the Earth.

We are however worried, at the dawn of the twenty-first century, at the emergence of an irrational ideology which is opposed to scientific and industrial progress and, impedes economic and social development.

We contend that a Natural State, sometimes idealized by movements with a tendency to look toward the past, does not exist and has probably never existed since man's first appearance in the biosphere, insofar as humanity has always progressed by increasingly harnessing Nature to its needs and not the reverse.

We fully subscribe to the objectives of a scientific ecology for a universe whose resources must be taken stock of, monitored and preserved.

But we herewith demand that this stock-taking, monitoring and preservation be founded on scientific criteria and not on irrational pre-conceptions.

We stress that many essential human activities are carried out either by manipulating hazardous substances or in their proximity, and that progress and development have always involved increasing control over hostile forces, to the benefit of mankind.

We therefore consider that scientific ecology is no more than an extension of this continual progress toward the improved life of future generations.

We intend to assert science's responsibility and duties toward society as a whole.

We do however forewarn the authorities in charge of our planet's destiny against decisions which are supported by pseudo-scientific arguments or false and non relevant data.

We draw everybody's attention to the absolute necessity of helping poor countries attain a level of sustainable development which matches that of the rest of the planet, protecting them from troubles and dangers stemming from developed nations, and avoiding their entanglement in a web of unrealistic obligations which would compromise both their independence and their dignity.

The greatest evils which stalk our Earth are ignorance and oppression, and not Science, Technology and Industry whose instruments, when adequately managed, are indispensable tools of a future shaped by Humanity, by itself and for itself, overcoming major problems like overpopulation, starvation and worldwide diseases.

*In order for your name to be included on signature list, please return one copy of the Appeal duly signed and stating your academic titles and/or professional position, to :*

*Dr. M. Salomon, coordinator of the Heidelberg Appeal, 10, avenue de Messine 75008 Paris, France, Fax (33) 1 42 89 00 59.*

*Heidelberg April 14 (3rd revision)*

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