

Lausanne, the 8 of April 2005

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Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We are writing to submit to you a proposal for a **Constituent Charter** for an alliance (enclosed) with which the Foundation is associated and to which it has been greatly committed: the **Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World**.

We value your opinion, whether positive or negative, because before we make this new commitment, we would like to make sure that this proposal responds to a true need and is widely adopted.

Given the dimension and the complexity of the challenges, what can we do?

Everyone is aware—or senses—that the interdependence among the peoples of the world and between humankind and the biosphere is irreversible, that profound mutations are needed in our production, consumption, education, and governance models and in our ways of life. But how can such mutations be designed and implemented? Who has the legitimacy and the ability to do so? Can we leave such a task to the experts, the major states, the U.N., and the multinational corporations? How can citizens, organizations, and movements overcome the feeling of helplessness that overwhelms them when facing the dimension and complexity of the problems? Can they secure expertise, proposal, and action capacities equal or superior to those of states and corporations? Can they move beyond specific actions to assume, given the interdependence of the challenges, the interdependence of the answers? Is it possible to adopt common values and objectives so we may assemble efforts and intelligence, share diagnoses and expectations, share experiences, and compare proposals in order to meet the challenges jointly, in a spirit of responsibility, respect for diversity, and solidarity? To do this, is it possible to take full advantage of the new remote communication media and find new forms of organization, both decentralized and coherent, to meet the twofold requirement of unity and diversity, efficiency and autonomy?

The adventure of the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World

The search for tangible, collective answers to these far-reaching questions has guided the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for nearly the past twenty years. This is why it contributed to launching the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World in 1994. This history is presented on the Alliance Web site¹. Everything was to be invented. After ten years, even though the Alliance has not embodied the entire diversity of the global society, it has achieved substantial results. It has proven men and women's capacity to share work, to draw up proposals², and to determine strategic lines of action collectively. The proposals have already been circulated in several languages and they have been taken up in many places.

In this framework, the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation organized in 2001 a first World Citizens Assembly of 400 participants from all over the world, reflecting the diversity of global society; it was a prototype of what will have to be invented tomorrow on another scale to embody a Global Community. The Assembly had three major results. It showed that the great diversity of the planet was not an obstacle to dialogue. It formulated a common ethical core, the Charter of Human Responsibilities³. The many different contributions gave way to an Agenda for the Twenty-first Century, which sets the priorities and expresses a strategy⁴.

The guidelines of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation

This learning had a profound effect on our Foundation's current guidelines. It has put itself at the service of the emergence of a Global Community for the 2003-2010 period⁵. The experience of the Alliance showed that the challenge today was not to set up new institutions—there are plenty of them as it is—but to invent a new organization model to generate synergy among the different existing dynamics. We have called this the “citizens alliance” model⁶. Convinced of the fertility of this model, the Foundation affirms its determination to back for the coming years the birth of a diversity of citizens alliances, some of them focused on a socioprofessional sphere (fishworkers, the military, community residents, journalists, academics, etc.), others on a theme (governance in Africa, territorial management, economic alternatives, etc.), others yet on the promotion of collective intelligence methods. We believe this abundance of citizens alliances to be necessary. The need for coordination among them will probably arise without delay, but they will be the ones to want it and find the solutions.

A new step for the Alliance ?

Far from replacing the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World, we believe this abundance will only increase its interest. We need approaches that are emphatically international, cross-professional, and cross-thematic to advance the thinking, the proposals, and the actions that cannot be enclosed within the limits of a territory or a socioprofessional sphere, that cannot deal simply with a specific theme. From this point of view, we believe the experience and learning acquired by the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World are rather unique.

But the scale needs to change, the Alliance needs to be enlarged and diversified to make it a forum for sharing and work among organizations more than a forum for sharing among persons; to accomplish this, there has to be a greater formalization of its nature and its way of functioning in light of what we have learned. This is the purpose of the Charter proposal that you will find enclosed. Our Foundation is prepared to back the second stage of the Alliance if it benefits from this new momentum⁷. This is why the Foundation Board wishes to submit it to a broad consultation.

We value your opinion

Thank you in advance for expressing your interest by sending back the enclosed survey.
Our very best regards,

The Foundation Board

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1 : <http://www.alliance21.org>
2 : <http://www.alliance21.org/proposals>
3 : <http://allies.alliance21.org/charter>
4 : <http://www.alliance21.org/lille/en>
5 : <http://www.fph.ch>
6 : http://www.clmayer.net/docs/all_citoyennes_en.pdf
7 : http://www.clmayer.net/docs/position_fph_en.pdf

Your reactions to the proposal for a Constituent Charter of the Alliance for Responsible, Plural and United World submitted by the FPH.

Last Name:

First Name:

Details:

1- Does this idea of an alliance respond, in its content and form of organization, to a need of our time?

2- Do you think that your organization or yourself, personally, would consider taking part in this alliance as possible and interesting?

3- Do you find this proposal for a Constituent Charter suitable in its spirit and its main lines?

4- What points do you not understand or do you disagree with regarding:

- the Constituent Charter

- the working procedures

- the calendar

5- In the collective discussion forum on this proposal for a Constituent Charter, would you agree to have your answers and your comments appear as explicitly yours or would you prefer them to be contributed anonymously?

- 6- Would you eventually be interested in being part of:
- OUI - NON
- the editorial group for the Alliance Annals
 - the follow-up and improvement group for the tools and methods for experience sharing
 - the users committee for the Alliance Web site
 - the methodological group for the working procedures
 - the group of guarantors
 - the discussion group on the common calendar
 - the facilitation committee for the 2006-2007 strategy

7- Comment

Thank you in advance for sending us your answers to these questions in the form that best suits you

- by e-mail: paris@fph.fr
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- by regular mail to: Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, 38 Rue Saint-Sabin, 75011 Paris, France

Whatever their content, they will be very valuable to us.