

Lausanne, the 8 of April 2005

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Object: FPH discussion papers on a proposal for a Constituent Charter of the Alliance

Dear Friends and Allies:

The Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World was born in 1994 from the commitment of individuals and institutions who had endorsed the Platform for a Responsible and United World drafted in December 1993. The Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind (FPH) was behind the conception of the Alliance and backed it to the best of its abilities from 1994 to 2001, through to the World Citizens Assembly organized in Lille in December 2001.

Despite the difficulties encountered along the way, we can be proud of what we have all accomplished together throughout these years. The circle of Allies has grown progressively larger to encompass different regions of the world and different socioprofessional spheres. Numerous meetings have formed bonds of friendship. Working methods have been invented. Sixty Proposal Papers, the fruit of collective thinking, have been written and many of them have been translated and are being circulated in several languages. The World Citizens Assembly was a moment, perhaps a unique one in history, when the world, in its geographical, cultural, and social diversity, was represented in a single place to define an Agenda and a common ethical Charter.

The Foundation had committed to backing the Alliance through to the World Assembly. In 2002 and 2003, the Foundation went into a “sabbatical period” to assess the balance of the decade and to define its guidelines for the 2003-2010 period. These guidelines, summarized in the FPH brochure, are extensively inspired from what the Foundation learned and contributed through its participation in the Alliance adventure. They are the reflection of the Lille Assembly findings: priority to building a global community; the importance of governance issues; promotion of the Charter of Human Responsibilities; support to the emergence of citizens alliances.

During the sabbatical period, devoted to drawing the lessons of the past and to defining its own guidelines, convinced that the role of the FPH within the Alliance was called to change, the Foundation did not take a public stand on the future of the Alliance.

This discretion was not a sign of indifference. On the contrary, the Foundation Board took careful note of the discussions that took place among the Allies during this period, among others through the e-forum that the Foundation backed. It examined a number of different possible options, as much for the second stage of the Alliance as for the role of the Foundation within the Alliance.

We now think that the time has come to submit our position and make some proposals. This is the object of this letter. Enclosed with it are two texts:

- The title of the first is "FPH Position on the Second Stage of the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World." It summarizes the discussions that took place within our Board during the sabbatical period and presents its conclusions.

- The title of the second is "Constituent Charter, Working Procedures, and a Calendar of the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World in its 2004-2010 Stage – FPH Proposal for a Collective Debate." Guided by the lessons drawn from the specificity and the contradictions of this new form of collective thinking and action constituted by the Alliance, we sought to specify its nature, its objectives, its ethics, and its way of functioning. To us, this clarification appears as indispensable to give it new momentum. We will be expecting your reactions to this proposal before end of May 2005. They will condition the Foundation's willingness to pursue its support of the Alliance.

Hoping to hear from you soon. Our best regards,

The Foundation Board

**Enclosed:**

- FPH Brochure
- Constituent Charter of the Alliance
- FPH Position on the Second Stage of the Alliance