

Environment - 1992

The seriousness of irreversible environmental destruction is leading to worldwide demands for planning in the use of natural resources. Moreover, there is global examination of the consequences of technology and awareness of the need for investment in both remedial and preventive policies.

A United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the first Earth Summit, is being held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, June 3-14, 1992. This meeting is working on an Earth Charter, a statement of principles for all nations to follow. An action plan, called Agenda 21, is a second UNCED document outlining programs for sustainable development into the 21st century; international legal agreement on climate change, tropical forests and biological diversity and stronger environmental institutions.

As religious women, our efforts to seek a spiritual vision of life constitute our specific contribution to the ongoing environmental protection process. This search revolves around the need for a wise stewardship of the earth's resources as well as fellowship and collaboration with all forms of life.

The earth is our home in the universe. As religious women confronting the present ecological crisis, we assert the oneness of life which sustains us all. This life is rooted in the interdependence of relationships with God, with the universe, with nature, and with human beings.

We urge our own and other governments to support and cooperate in the goals defined at the Earth Summit. Further, we affirm the previous National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods resolutions on the environment and urge continuing attention by the Women of Reform Judaism to advocacy and action for protecting and rebuilding the environment.