

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Of the International Conference:**

#### **“Open Dialogue: Government, Industry and Civil Society. Sustainable Environmental Development in Ukraine”**

The Participants of the International Conference: “Open Dialogue: Government, Industry and Civil Society. Sustainable Environmental Development in Ukraine” – scientists and representatives of national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, mass media, other sectors of Ukrainian society, international organizations and experts, taking into account that:

- ***whereas*** the urgent necessity to find solutions to Ukraine's environmental problems by means of integrating the environmental, economic, social and other interests of society, and in compliance with the principles of environmentally sustainable development, especially in the industrial regions where these problems are most critical and complicated in their irreversible impact on the environment, the economy, the social sphere and on the health of the people;
- ***highlighting*** the necessity of partnership and consolidation of joint efforts for the purpose of improving the efficiency of state policy, refining national environmental legislation and management, as well as for the purpose of efficient use of natural resources and environmental safety;
- ***recognizing*** the positive effect of open dialogue between government, business and all sectors of civil society aiming to ensure the establishment of a democratic and law-conscious state power in Ukraine to achieve national Millennium Development Goals;
- ***taking into consideration*** the still unsatisfactory level of implementing national environmental legislation, insufficient awareness among civil society and many national and local governmental agencies of the great importance of finding solutions to environmental problems for ensuring sustainable development in Ukraine;
- ***supporting*** the efforts exerted by President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada, Cabinet of Ministers, local governments and civil society aimed at resolving the urgent environmental problems,

**consider it expedient:**

To create efficient mechanisms to ensure permanent and open dialogue between the state power, business, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations and other institutions of civil society, and for this purpose:

1. to refine legal regulation and to improve the position of the Civil Society Council under the auspices of Ukraine's Environment Ministry;
2. to create annually held national environmental forums, concerned with the issues of refining national environmental policy, widening opportunities to involve civil society in forming and implementing thereof as well as in developing, adopting and assessing the implementation of legislation, relevant environmental programmes, discussing proposals concerning sites that may bring about major negative effects on the environment, and other issues of a strategic character;
3. to carry out efficient economic assessment of natural resources and of the consequences of environment pollution, to form and to introduce a balanced model of natural resource usage, modification of inefficient models of industrial and agricultural production and consumption for innovative modernization of Ukraine's economy, to provide incentives to manufacturers to use environmentally safe resource and energy-saving technologies as well as introducing internationally recognized models of environmental management;
4. to put forward proposals refining the principles of Ukraine's national environmental policy, taking into consideration the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21, European Union legislation and Ukraine's international obligations; to draw up a National Environment Action Plan and a strategy for sustainable development in Ukraine based on the results of wide discussion with civil society representatives;
5. to draw up and adopt a Draft Environmental Code of Ukraine; refine the legal defense of human environmental rights and citizens' access to environmental information; provide government support to the activities carried out by non-government environmental organizations, enhancing the role of environmental impact assessment and ecological expertise in the making of administrative decisions; making the business, financial, administrative, criminal and other branches of the national legislature more environmentally conscious; ensure systematic implementation of environmental legislation, involving civil society in developing proposals concerning its refinement;

6. to refine economic incentives for providing environmental protection according to the conditions of the market economy, diversifying ownership of production facilities and natural resources and under these conditions applying legal, institutional, financial, scientific and other types of proper state management;
7. to exercise greater government and public control in the implementation of environmental legislation, to improve personnel, technical, legal and other constituents for ensuring and coordinating activities in this sphere, to enhance liability for infringing the requirements of environmental legislation and to refine the mechanisms of legal action in order to prevent corruption in related institutions;
8. to refine government monitoring of the environment with reference to international experience, to inform the public of these issues and of the environmental impact upon people's health, to implement the Aarhus Convention Principles on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters, and to the draw-up a National Report on the condition of the environment in Ukraine and on the manner in which these principles are implemented;
9. to intensify and broaden fundamental and applied research in the field of environment protection and efficient use of natural resources.

Conference participants hope that the results of the conference, of the forged common vision of the main methods of finding solutions to environmental problems in Ukraine will be taken into consideration in the lawmaking activities of the Verhovna Rada of Ukraine, in the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers' Plan of Action, in the everyday activities of the environmental protection agencies and by the other agencies of national and local government.

Conference participants acknowledge the contribution of Mariupol State University of the Humanities, the A.G. Leventis Foundation and of the organizers of this forum for the appropriate conditions they created.

It is expedient also to report the results of the conference to the respective state government agencies and to publish conference materials in scientific publications, in the mass media and on the web-site [www.open-dialog.com](http://www.open-dialog.com)

**Mariupol**

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