

A GROUNDSWELL OF BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES BASED ON CARING,  
SHARING

COMMONS tend to focus on accessibility rather than ownership.

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1. They empower people to take responsibility for those resources and aspects of their lives that most contribute to the development of their individual potential;
2. Each member, be they an individual, organization or nation, is recognized for his/her/ its individuality, diversity is seen as a means to strengthen the bonds that unite them.
3. All participants are seen as equal in terms of decision making. This empowers all individually and increases their motivation to contribute to their common endeavour
4. All participants benefit from collective successes. This causes them to work hard, so that commons and cooperatives tend to do well even in times of economic downturn.
5. These communities are inclusive, empower all stakeholders and leave no one behind.
6. They are dedicated to the three pillars of sustainable development and naturally integrate these in their activities, thus overcoming the silo effect.
7. They take good care of the natural and social resources to foster social cohesives.
8. Together they dispose over huge financial assets and other invaluable resources that they share both internally and with the communities in which they are active.
9. They have become powerful engines for sustainable development worldwide.
10. Individual people, organizations and nations are increasingly members of multiple sharing communities, each person forming a node

for implementation of the Post 2015 agenda, while building stronger bonds for collaboration. The original wording of the Commitment ~~in italics~~

Comment 1. Providing access to the Internet and all of the free and inexpensive resources this provides is a powerful tool to empower people to develop their individual potential and to dip into the fount of creativity that exists within each. ODA can usefully be applied to this relatively expensive way of unleashing individual potential at every level of society, including among the most marginalized. Internet access can be facilitated to whole communities where there are computers with broadband Internet connections available to all residents, as well as facilitators who can access the Internet for those who are (IT) illiterate.

Comment 2 It is essential there should be a level playing field for cooperatives. There should be no limits to cooperative activity; indivisible resources should not be considered as income by the tax system, as it is not possible to make any kind of individual appropriation; accounting standards should recognize cooperative members' shares as equity and not liability even if the members have an unconditional right of withdrawal; they should not be made to carry more administrative burdens and costs than other types of companies (e.g. capital requirements, auditing)

*Commitment VI. Ensure that physical environments create opportunities for, rather than discourage, social interaction.*

Comment Given the creativity of people, it would be helpful to ensure the Implementing Article 20 (1) of the UNDHR at all levels of society: Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, also access to modern communications technology. See also above comments.

*Commitment VII. Ensure an education system that offers equal opportunity for developing the knowledge skills, capacities and networks necessary for children to become productive, engaged members of society and that demonstrates a commitment to a shared society and educates children to understand and respect others.*

Comment This should enable them to become accountable for impact on the Earth System, (e.g. through constant awareness of their individual global footprints.); as well as of the positive contributions they are making to sustainable development. All above Commitments and Comments will promote this.

*Commitment VIII. Initiate the process to encourage the creation of a shared vision of society at local and national level.*

Comment: (1) In shared societies the shared vision is a living process requires people to have complete freedom to interact with others so that the vision can be adjusted fluidly as new challenges and opportunities emerge. as they see fit (See above comments) (2) Shared vision must be based on the well being of the whole inextricably interconnected Earth System, consisting of all people and nature. It must clarify opportunities and limits. Thus the vision must be accompanied by metrics such as global, water, ca-4(v)-4(e)4( )-1b, b(us)-1dottedn theo beush

Commitment X. *Take steps to reduce tensions and hostility between communities and ensure members of all communities are protected from abuse, intimidation and violence.*

Comment Legal structures must be strengthened at all levels ~~to~~ <sup>rather</sup> developed at the global level to safely steward the Earth's resources; ensure their fair use; and to bring to justice those who harm the Earth System, including their fellow human beings. Proposals include that Ecocide is proclaimed and treated as a Crime Against Peace; the creation of an Environmental Court; the governance of the Earth System via the UN with input from all people globally, possibly by expanding the mandate of the Trusteeship Council. The use of citizens peacekeeping initiatives; and reconciliation courts using the UBUNTU approach which stresses the unity between all (See also Comments under III)

BUILDING A SHARED FUTURE Throughout the Final Agreement of the June 2012 Rio Summit, The Future We Want UN Member States agreed that the full participation of all stakeholders was vital to a sustainable future. Within 6 months, the UN Secretariat had involved one billion people, including the poorest and most marginalized, in outlining for Governments what would be necessary and then discussing it with one another. In October, 2014, the number had grown (according to UNDP) to 6 billion 300 people and organizations. These global consultations are creating an important globally unifying field that capitalizes on people's diversity.

The Commons Cluster is dedicated to empowering people to play a proactive role in stewarding society at all levels and sharing best practices. Our main objective is helping to build a commons-based society at all levels centred on the well-being of all people and nature.

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