

Global Statement & Call to Action World Population Day July 11, 2018

Twenty-six years ago, 1,700 of the world's leading scientists urged humankind to curtail environmental destruction and improve our stewardship of the Earth, in order to attain a sustainable future.

In 2017, the Alliance of World Scientists published a *Second Notice*, supported by over 20,000 scientists in 184 countries, pointing to runaway consumption of limited resources by a still rapidly growing population. It warned that:

"Humanity has failed to make sufficient progress in solving these foreseen environmental challenges, and alarmingly, most of them are getting far worse.

"...We are jeopardizing our future by not reining in our intense but geographically and demographically uneven material consumption and by not perceiving continued rapid population growth as a primary driver behind many ecological and even societal threats"

Their warning calls for changes in public policy and individual behaviors. It lists 13 policy measures essential to safeguarding our future, including "estimating a scientifically defensible, sustainable human population size for the long term while rallying nations and leaders to support that vital goal."

Actions people can take as individuals include "*limiting our own reproduction*" and "*drastically diminishing*" our per capita resource consumption.

Our lack of adequate and appropriate action since 1992 risks condemning our children to a bleak and challenging future. The global population has grown by more than two billion people. Hard-won progress in human rights and social justice is at risk.

As in 1992, the Second Warning has not received the attention it demands. To mark World Population Day (11 July), the undersigned organizations call on national governments and international institutions to respond to the Warning to Humanity with urgent action. Specifically, we call on them to:

- Detail what actions they intend to take regarding the 13 specific policy prescriptions it lays out, including promoting a sustainable population size.
- Endorse the Scientists Warning to Humanity at <http://scientistswarning.org>,

All signatories to this statement are committed to the goal of a sustainable world population, achieved through ethical, humane and non-coercive means that fully respect human rights.

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World Scientists' Warning to Humanity (1992)

<https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/11/World%20Scientists%27%20Warning%20to%20Humanity%201992.pdf>

World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice (2017) -

<http://scientistswarning.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>

Signatory organisations as of 11 July 2018:



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