



## **Charter of Seniors' Ethics and Responsibilities to Climate**

### **Foreword**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948, which applies from birth to end of life for the fundamental rights of the individual, their recognition and their respect by law, was supplemented on 12 December 1989 by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

By the present charter, we wish to take part, through our ethical and responsible conduct with regard to climate change, in lessening the risks to our ageing well together for a long time in a world where the population is in constant growth and also growing older.

Article 1 – Dignity, ethics and responsibilities do not diminish with age. Seniors, rich with their years of experience, can become engaged in climate-change issues.

Article 2 – In humankind's new situation, in which life expectancy is growing longer and contributing to the increase in numbers of human beings, seniors, representing nearly one-third of the world population, have acquired a growing influence in climate issues.

Article 3 – Governments, elected representatives and political leaders, and scientists must facilitate the seniors' expression in terms of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination, and make it accessible.

Article 4 – For seniors to be able to take part in an 'eco-responsible' society with regard to current and future challenges, the goals are education, training, awareness raising and prevention.

Article 5 – However the climate evolves, old age should not project an image of weakness to be protected, of rejection or of discrimination that could place seniors under different rights or duties than those of the rest of the population.

Article 6 – Seniors, who have time and are rich in living skills, know-how and personal and professional experience, continue to assume their individual and collective responsibilities for our living well together for a long time.

Article 7 – Retired from their public or private career, seniors become readily involved in reconsidering that endangered living species, drinking water, the air, the soil and its resources are not some form of capital on which it is possible to speculate.

Article 8 – By developing their multidisciplinary, scientific, technical and practical knowledge, seniors are committed to handing down to the younger generations, in a professional way, the best guidelines for combating together the causes of climate change that are due to our lifestyles.

Article 9 – The progress of the past centuries has allowed part of humanity to escape poverty at the cost of now flagrant inequalities amongst countries and populations. Seniors acknowledge their share of responsibility and commit to taking a clear look at the path that remains to be taken to help those who have been left behind.

Article 10 – By engaging in ethical and responsible conduct, seniors wish to bring to the authorities, to public and private enterprises, to not-for-profit organisations and to foundations, their energy for environmental protection, and harmonious and fair sustainable development.

Article 11 - Climate is, like peace, a universal cause. Seniors are aware that their cultural and spiritual values contribute to the common will of the possibly 10 billion human beings before the end of 21<sup>st</sup> century, and to sharing hope in a future world which can only go two ways: happiness for most or the disappearance of all.

### **Observation**

We, an action and think tank, representing four generations, having come together at the G rontopole Pays de Loire (seniors centre in the Loire country), are conducting work on the need to learn how to age well for a long time, in a society where we wish to put freedom and safety, co-operation and competition at the service of the ever greater improvement of humanity before ever more materialism.