

## **Declaration of Interdependence**

The symbolic Declaration to all participants, past, present, and future  
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### **Preamble**

When in the Course of natural events it becomes necessary for one species to reconnect the ecological bands which have long been disconnected with all the others and to assume among the powers of the earth, the interdependent and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of all our relations require that they should declare the causes which impel them to the reintegration.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all living things are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Existence, Animation, and the pursuit of Beingness.

### **Article I**

#### **Everything is connected to everything else.**

The universe exists as an undivided whole. Any attempt to look at parts of the whole must be done with an acknowledgement that the distinctions we are making are completely arbitrary (i.e., based solely on personal wishes, feelings, or perceptions, rather than on objective facts, reasons, or principles).

### **Article II**

#### **Optimizing Systems as wholes within wholes.**

If you optimize the parts of a system you are guaranteed to sub-optimize the larger system. If you optimize the larger system, you are guaranteed to sub-optimize some parts of the system some of the time. We must approach all things from the perspective of the whole and the concept of wholes within the context of wholes and the relationship among wholes.

### **Article III**

#### **Relationships are what matters, even in matter.**

It is the relationship among the parts, and not the parts themselves, that are the most fundamental “building blocks” of the universe. We recognize that a loop (of relationships) is the lowest unit of “analysis” that is relevant for understanding the dynamic behavior of all systems. If we want true sustainable change, we must articulate a theory of key success loops (of interrelationships) not just key success factors (of isolated pieces).

### **Article IV**

#### **Life is a flow, not a stock.**

The world of Nature is all about flows. The world of Man is all about accumulations. It is the primacy of stocks over flows that is at the root of many of our greatest social problems. Money is not the root of all evil; accumulations are. Money is simply the most abstract, efficient, and distorted means of accumulation.