

## Campaign for an International Court of the Environment (1996-2000)<sup>1</sup>

### Some of the answers received by Governments and Parliaments (Extracts from the ICEF 2000 Report)

**Argentina**, Buenos Aires, 1 de Marzo de 1996

*... Esta Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente Humano de la Presidencia de la Nacion Argentina, reitera ante usted su mas firme conviccion y apoyo a esta iniciativa a la cual venimos prestando esfluerzos en los uitimos 2 (dos) anos...*

J. Dra. Mabel Behal, Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente Humano Presidencia de la Nacion Argentina.

**Armenia**, Yerevan, 1 July 1998

*... We received your letter and copy of International Report 1998 concerning the International Court for the Environment Foundation.*

*We studied it carefully and found this proposal very important and interesting.*

*This copy will be made available for the members of National Assembly and will be sent to the committee on Environmental issue and to the library of National Assembly for closer studying...*

Vigen Sargsjan, Adviser to the Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

**Australia**, Melbourne, 29 July 1998

*... Your request seeking Australian government Support for the establishment of an International Court of the Environment has been noted and referred to the Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon. Robert Hill who has portfolio responsibility for this matter...*

Brett Cox, Office of the Prime Minister

**Austria**, Vienna, 16 November 1998

*... On behalf of the Federal Chancellor I would like to thank you for sending Us the new ICEF Report 1998. At the same time I want to assure you that Austria will go on supporting the idea of establishing an International Court of the Environment...*

Wolfgang Hein, Director Department Energy and Environment

**Bangladesh**, Dhaka, 8 July 1998

*... Your idea of a permanent Court of the Environment is an interesting concept.*

*No doubt, as our body of laws concerning the environment develops, this idea will be given serious consideration...*

Dr. Toufiq Ali, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Bangladesh

**Bulgaria**, Sofia, 1 June 1996

*... There is no doubt that an International Court of the Environment could create real prerequisites for prosecution on a supra-state level for crimes with a particular harmful effect on the environment, human health, the flora and fauna.*

*Our President led the Bulgarian delegation to the UN Conference on the Environment in Rio in 1992. He is aware of the idea of setting up an International Environmental*

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<sup>1</sup> **A new Campaign will be launched shortly.**

*Court and the more categorical views on the matter upheld by some of his colleagues...*  
Ivaylo Trifonov, Director of the President's Office

**Burkina Faso**, Ouagadougou, 19 Aout 1998

*... Compte tenu de l'importance de la cour Internationale et de ses objectifs quant a la protection de l'environnement, je souscris a toutes activités tendant a confirmer sa nécessité...*

Melegue Traore, Le Président de l'Assemblée Nationale

**Canada**, Ottawa, 30 September 1998

*I assure you that Canada is committed to the cause of international justice. Canada also attaches a high priority to ensuring that the environment is protected for future generations. In this regard, your proposal for an International Court of the Environment is an interesting one and Canada will give it full consideration...*

Christine S. Stewart, Minister of the Environment

**Cambodge**, Siemreap-Ville, Ie, 3 juillet 1998

*... En raison des graves nuisances entraînées par les multiples atteintes a notre environnement naturel, lesquelles mettent en péril la survie même de l'Humanité, J'apporte mon total soutien a votre noble projet; avec l'espoir de son aboutissement concret...*

Norodom Sihanouk, Roi du Cambodge

**Chile**, Santiago, 4 July 1996

*... Secondo la documentazione da Lei allegata alla lettera, della quale ho preso opportuna visione, bisogna segnalare che questo Ministero avvalora – in prima istanza – tale iniziativa, poiché costituirebbe un'innovazione nella problematica ambientale che suscita sempre maggior interesse mondiale...*

Mariano Fernandez Amunategui, Sottosegretario agli Affari Esteri

**China**, Beijing, 30 July 1998

*... It is a very interesting issue. If the relevant information and references on this issue can be provided in writing will be high appreciated and be conclusive to follow the proceeding...*

Mr. Chengjunwang, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Law and Treaty

**Costa Rica**, San Jose, 10 June 1996

*... I am more than happy to offer my support towards ICEF and its efforts, an organisation that shares my commitment to sustainable development. In the future, I hope that further opportunities will present themselves for continuing co-operation...*

Jose Maria Figueles Olsen, Presidente de la Republica

**Czech Republic**, Prague, 11 January 1996

*... On behalf of President Havel I would like to sincerely thank you for your letter of 12 April and the accompanying information concerning your organisation. Please be assured that the President appreciates the aims and activities of your foundation. As you are surely aware, President Havel considers the maintenance of the environment to be a task of great importance in our industrial age...*

Dr. Pavel Seifter, Director, Office of the President

**Finland**, Helsinki, 5 October 1998

*On Madam Speaker's request I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the Environment Committee of the Parliament of Finland. The preliminary standing of the Committee has a favourable tone to the establishment of the International Criminal Court of the Environment...*

Katriina Kuusinen, Head of International Department Parliament of Finland

**France**, Paris, le 20 juillet 1998

*... L'ampleur des problèmes écologiques, qui conditionnent l'avenir de la planète, donne tout son sens aux réflexions tendant à trouver de nouveaux moyens de les traiter...*

Laurent Fabius, Le Président de l'Assemblée Nationale

**Germany**, Bonn, 10 June 1996

*... Die Bundesregierung steht daher einer Fortentwicklung der internationalen Umweltgerichtsbarkeit, die nicht nur das Internationale Umweltstrafrecht, sondern das gesamte Internationale Umweltrecht umfasst, grundsätzlich positiv gegenüber...*

Dr. Khne, Bundeskanzleramt

**Haiti**, Port-au Prince, le 28 juillet 1998

*... Je tiens à porter à votre connaissance que le Président de la République apprécie votre initiative. Cependant, comme vous le savez, la création d'une telle instance nécessite la coopération de tous les Etats membres. Aussi le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti est-il disposé à apporter son soutien au moment opportune...*

Fritz Longchamp, Ministre des affaires étrangères

**Hungary**, Budapest, 13 June 1996

*... We agree with your efforts to establish an international institution and mechanism to prevent and settle environmental disputes. It is why we supported the relevant work in the Environmental Working Group of the Central European initiative (CEI). The paper elaborated by CEI was circulated during UNCED in Rio in 1992, as this was the case also with your project on the establishment of an International Court of the Environment. Although these initiatives have found considerable interest, they have not been discussed during the official program of UNCED. It means that joint efforts would be needed to achieve our goal, and I propose to contact the CEI Environmental Working Group in order to prepare common actions in this field...*

Dr. Nandor Zoltai, Head of Department Ministry for Environment

**India**, Rome, 11 June 1997

*... I have just seen your publication "The Global Environmental Crisis : The Need For An International Court of The Environment" given to me by my colleague and the Deputy Chief of mission Mr. Butshikan Singh. I was particularly fascinated by your idea on the need for a re-definition of Sovereignty...*

K.P. Fabian, Ambassador of India to the Italian Republic

**Italy**, Roma, 19 Maggio 1998

*... La lettura di questo materiale rafforza la mia convinzione che il Progetto della Corte Internazionale dell'Ambiente debba essere realizzato con la massima rapidità...*

Edo Ronchi, Ministro dell'Ambiente

Italy, Roma, 12 Giugno 1998

*... La ringrazio della Sua lettera, con la quale mi ha invitato alla "Giornata Ambiente", promossa dall'ICEF e dall'ANPA e che avrà luogo presso la Corte Suprema di Cassazione il prossimo 10 novembre. Pur non potendo intervenire direttamente, sarò lieto di inviare un messaggio di saluto ai partecipanti, che sarà letto in quell'occasione dal Ministro plenipotenziario Franco Tempesta, Vice Direttore Generale della Cooperazione Economica e Finanziaria Multilaterale. Le assicuro che il Ministero degli Esteri, tramite la competente Direzione continuerà anche in future a seguire con attenzione ed interesse l'attività della Fondazione per una Corte Internazionale per l'ambiente...*

Lamberto Dini, II Ministro degli Affari Esteri

Roma 18 Febbraio 1998

*... Il progetto di Corte internazionale dell'Ambiente, da Lei sostenuto, riveste un'indubbia rilevanza nel contesto dello sviluppo del diritto internazionale e di ciò ne è consapevole il Ministero degli Affari Esteri. Tuttavia, questo Ministero è attualmente impegnato nella creazione di una Corte Penale internazionale la cui Conferenza istitutiva, promossa dall'Italia insieme ad altri Stati, è ormai prossima...*

Umberto Leanza, Ministero degli Affari Esteri

**Israel**, Jerusalem, 7 May 1996

*... I would like to wish you much success in your endeavours to establish an International Court of the Environment, and the Ministry is very interested in receiving news of progress in such a valuable project...*

Droramir, Ministry of the Environment

**Lithuania**, Vilnius, 30 June 1998

*... We think that an International Court of the Environment could be one of those forces, that will accelerate the process of democracy in the region of Central and East Europe countries...*

Alfonsas Vaisnoras, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee of the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic-of Lithuania

**Japan**, Tokyo, 18 June 1997

*We have reaffirmed the necessity and the importance of setting up the International Court of Environment, having heard a lot of reports or information from the delegation from various countries. It might take some more time to realise the Court, though, our committee will support the idea, hereafter, as well, while we will try to come up with further ideas for the Court...*

Mizuno, Takeo, Leader of the delegation of Jfba, Attorney at law  
and Onisfi, Hiroko, Secretary General of delegation of Jfba, Attorney at law

**Kenya**, Nairobi, 15 July, 1998

*... His Excellency the President of Kenya is encouraged by the efforts and assures you of his unswerving support...*

J.K. Lokorio, Private Secretary/Comptroller

**Korea**, Seoul, 12 June 1996

*Your initiative on the establishment of the International Court of the Environment Foundation is an interesting one and we will make careful review on the issues...*

Ju Chul-Ki, Director-General International Economic Affairs Bureau

**Kyrgyz Republic**, Bishkek, 12 August 1998

*... The Ministry of Environmental Protection of Kyrgyz Republic has the honour to express full approval for the establishment of the International Court of the Environment. We are sharing Your opinion that the need for the creation of a permanent and specific court accessible not only for States but to individuals is urgent. And we hope that the International Court of the Environment will become an effective tool for resolution of the environmental conflicts and protection of human rights...*

Tilekbaev Kyshtobaev, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection

**Latvijas**, Riga, 4 September 1998

*... Therefore, I would like to express my Country's highest support for the creation of the International Court of the Environment, accessible not only to States but to individuals as well...*

Guntis Ulmanis, President of the Republic of Latvia  
and Edward Fenech-Adami, The Prime Minister

**Maldives**, Malé, 9 May 1996

*... His Excellency the President wishes to thank you for sharing with him your views on the need for creating a specialised international institution for resolving environmental disputes and hence comprehensive proposal on the subject...*

Ms. Aneesaahmed, Director, Foreign Relations

**Mexico**, Citta del Messico, 7 Luglio 1997

*La magnitud de la idea merece la grandeza de tu esfuerzo. Cuando vemos la gigantesca dedicacion que destinas a llevaria adelante, nuestra conviccion y solidaridad crece y se consolida...*

Ramon Ojeda Mestre, Secretario General, Corte Internacional de Conciliacion y Arbitraje Ambiental

**Mauritius**, Port Louis, 9 January 1998

*... I am pleased to inform you that this Ministry fully supports your initiative and you may add the Republic of Mauritius among the list of countries supporting the creation of such a court...*

J. Rugoobur, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Local Government and Environment

**Mozambique**, Maputo, 11 October 1996

*... It is, therefore, with great pleasure and honour that I express the unconditional support of my country' and government to the initiative of creating an International Court of the Environment. We believe, Sir, that this court will greatly contribute to the success of the efforts that are already being made globally, through international legal instruments, in view of the protection and preservation of the environment in our planet...*

Bernardo Pedro Ferraz, Minister for Co-ordination of Environmental Affairs

**Nepal**, 21 August 1998

*... Nepal has been consistently contributing to initiatives and instruments of legality in international and regional fora regarding the issue of environment. It is therefore, with great pleasure and privilege that I express and insure the unconditional support of my party and country to your initiative of creating an "International Court of the Environment"...*

Lokendra Bahadur Chand, Leader Rastriya Pragatantra Party (Chand)

**Pakistan**, Islamabad, 01 July 1998

*... We in Pakistan highly appreciate your initiatives for promoting the establishment of the International Court of the Environment as a new, specialised and permanent institution on a global level. We feel that in view of the worsening global environment situation, the initiatives for a such a Court appear to be politically urgent, necessary and timely. We extend our full support to the project and wish you all success in your efforts aimed at preserving a better living environment on the planet earth through the establishment of the International Court of the Environment and International Environmental Agency...*

Wasim Sajjad, Chairman Senate of Pakistan

**Poland**, Warsaw, 9 July 1998

*... We are also convinced that the creation of a specific court dealing with the environmental issues, crucial for the world, is a good idea...*

Ryszard Kalisz, Sekretarz Stanu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

**Saint Lucia**, Castries, July 6th, 1998

*... I have already begun to read the publication and am so far encouraged by the well-deserved support for your Foundation, from countries throughout the world...*

Hon. Matthew V. Roberts, Speaker's Chambers

**Seychelles**, Victoria, 3rd May 1996

*... The Seychelles Government is therefore generally supportive of the ideals underlying the proposal to establish an International Court of the Environment, which we believe would make an important contribution towards ensuring environmental responsibility and justice, and the sustainability of our planet into the next century and beyond...*

Claude Morel, Director General Foreign Affairs & International Co-operation

**Slovenia**, Ljubljana, 26 April 1995

*... We fully agree that there is a need for the creation of such a specialised institution which will be accessible to both, states and individuals...*

Zoran Thaler, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Slovak**, Bratislava, 27 July 1996

*... We fully support the existence of this specialised legal body which could contribute to further development of the international environmental jurisdiction...*

Ing. Josef Zlocha, Minister Zivotneho Prostredia Slovenskej Republiky

**Suriname**, Paramaribo, November 12, 1998

*..However the Government of my country does see the need for such a specialised institution, and will support any effort to this purpose...*

Mr. Endradevi M. Diwalapersad, The Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic Suriname

**Tanzania**, Tabora, 25th October 1996

*... He would like to assure you that in the near future, Tanzania too will be in the position to participate in the activities of your Foundation...*

Thabitn Mgawe, Private Secretary of Vice President Omar Ali Juma

**Thailand**, Bangkok, 15 July 1998

*We, in Thailand, regard that environment-related issues are of global importance and of great concern for our society, government and country. We, therefore, understand your efforts to lead global campaign for having an international legal institution to cope with and settle environmental problems of disputes...*

Mrs. Suvimol Phumisingharaj, Deputy Secretary General

**Trinidad and Tobago**, Knowsley, 8 May 1996

*... The project for the establishment of an International Court of the Environment is a laudable one which deserves serious consideration by the international community...*

Relia Chatoor, For the Permanent Secretary a.i. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**United Kingdom**, London, 13 September 1995

*... Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the book "Towards the World Governing of the Environment". It was very kind of you and I much appreciate it. It will be a permanent record of the very enjoyable and productive Conference in Venice...*

Mrs. Hartley Booth, House of Commons

**Ukraine**, Kiev, 4 August

*... Ukraine pays great attention to global, regional and local ecological problems and does support World Community's activity which is directed to the creation of a relevant organisational institutional framework for their solving. We highly appreciate the activity of your Foundation and consider that it is necessary to continue the work of the International Court of the Environment, especially on shaping its activity, principles, authorities and procedural issues.*

V.M. Bratishko, First Deputy Minister

**Uzbekistan**, Tashkent, 11 July 1996

*... I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Uzbekistan supports the proposal to attach the International Court of the Environment Foundation the status of permanent international organisation for international ecological disputes...*

Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**United States of America**, New York, 25 April 1997

*... As the delegate of the American Judges Association to the United Nations, I should very much wish to be kept abreast of the Foundation's work toward the laudable end of higher judicial concern with the environmental problems of the globe...*

Dominic R. Massaro, Supreme Court of the State of New York