

**Lebanese Republic**  
**Office of the Minister of State**  
**for Administrative Reform**

**Citizens Charter for Environment**  
**Values, Rights and Obligations**

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*This document was set by a team composed by Minister of State for Administrative Reform Fouad al-Saad, in cooperation with the Environment Ministry, in the context of a project that aims to draft sector-related charters to complement the Citizen's Charter endorsed by the Cabinet in its session on 15/11/2005. The working group comprised Mrs. Hind Jebran, Environment Ministry representative; Dr. Abdo al-Kabi; Dr. May Jordi, head of the Environmental Health Department at the American University of Beirut; Dr. Fadia Kiwan, directress of the Political Sciences Institute at Universite Saint-Joseph. Mr. Joseph Abi Rashed took part in the final drafting, based on the proposals of the workshop that was held on 26/11/2002 and that included the majority of the sectors involved in environment. Dr. Antoine Messarra was in charge of the general coordination of the Citizen's Charters (Health, Education, Environment, Heritage, Public Funds and Public Safety...).*

## Table of Contents

Introduction

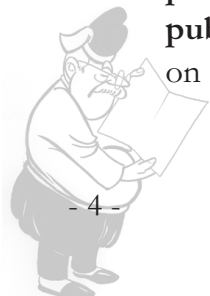
- 1- Strong Relation between Environment and Public Benefit
- 2- Adoption of Strategy for Protection of Environment
- 3- Acknowledgement of personal responsibility and common responsibility on the local, national and international levels in the field of environment protection
- 4- Adoption of Cooperation and Participation Policy between the Government, Civil Sector and the Private Sector in the field of environment protection
- 5- Adoption of Strict Environmental Sanction
- 6- Assessment of Environmental Impact of Activities and Projects in Urbanism and Productive Sectors
- 7- Necessity to Assess the Environmental Cost
- 8- Efforts for the Sustainability of Natural Resources
- 9- Preservation of biodiversity
- 10- Adoption of a Healthy and Environment-Friendly Technology
- 11- Reconsideration of Consumption Pattern
- 12- Guidance and Environmental Awareness

## Prelude

The Citizen's Charter for Environment is an implementation and a follow-up on the Citizen's Charter program that was set by the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, and that was endorsed by the Cabinet on November 15, 2001. It constitutes a framework for the citizen's relation with the administration and an introduction to other specialized charters that touch different sectors: education, health, heritage, public funds, public safety and others.

The Citizen's Charter for Environment, which was set by a small committee at the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, includes basic objectives and orientations that could be summarized in five points:

1. Daily and practiced environmental behavior, moving from knowledge and awareness to **empowerment and action**.
2. Development of **struggle mechanisms**, to protect, defend and develop the environment, for a better quality of life.
3. Concentration on **joint responsibility** in all environmental issues between the central authority, the society and every citizen, regardless of his position and capacities.
4. Necessity of **prior assessment** of the environmental impact in every project and activity without exception.
5. Adoption of educational, documentary and media **programs** to promote self awareness: **Environment is a public benefit**, and to embody this perception, follow-up on and detect.



What are the means available today to attain a high degree of empowerment so that knowledge, perception and awareness to a daily and practiced behavior, at home, in the street, class, factory and all aspects of life, whether public or private?

Behavior changes when we realize that nature is not a thing or inanimate. It is an entity that enjoys vitality, which requires, instead of exploitation, destruction or neglect, creative and responsible interaction, mercy in treatment and even respect, as an inheritance that we passes from one generation to another. The concept of environment goes beyond nature, as it includes the social environment which comprises heritage, folklore, and local traditions and particularities.

Many countries have witnessed the birth of parties and associations, in defense, protection and development of the environment, as a purely political issue. Such parties and associations play a direct role in education and field work, defense of environmental rights and obligations. They are characterized by their methodology and professional organization, education, information, initiatives and follow-up.

As a result of the media's understanding of the hazards surrounding the environment and via the work of official institutions and civil associations in this field, the Lebanese have reached a high degree of awareness vis-à-vis their responsibilities in terms of the environmental concerns.

However, this purely lucrative environmental approach in Lebanon led to a tragic reality that we can see today along our beaches, in our cities, forests, air, water and all fields of life, in a country that enjoys a unique natural diversity on such a small

geographical area. The public funds are not the only victim of the political contracting of urban projects and discretionary implementation of laws. Environment is rather the larger victim, and the quality of life and the medium or long-term investment opportunities it ensures, on the health, economic and tourism levels.

The Citizen's Charter for Environment was discussed during a workshop that was held on 26/11/2003, and which gathered administrative and social figures. This charter is open for development and updating\*.

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## Terminology

**Ecosystem:** all the external factors, living and non-living factors (chemical and energy) which influence an organism or on any other system during its progression in life.

**Environmental deterioration:** depletion or destruction of a certain resource, such as oil, graze land, forests or wild life, as it is consumed more quickly than it grows. In case of continuous consumption, the resource might not become renewable in the near future, or it might become extinct.

**Environmental Feasibility:** comparison between short-term and long-term costs (loss) and returns (profits), resulting from an economic decision or act.

**Environmental Impact Assessment:** it means the collection of data or an analytical process that helps avoid an unhealthy growth on the environmental level. In this assessment, focus is on the external environmental appearances: unintentional adverse effects of development projects on the environment.

**Sustainable Social and Economic Development:** it is development that encourages sustainable means of economic growth that would meet the basic needs of current generations, whether human beings and other species, without hindering future generations from saturating their basic needs. It stays distant from harmful methods of growth and unsustainable means of economic growth. This development is considered as the economic element of a sustainable environmental society.



**Environmental Justice:** Good treatment and fruitful investment for all people, regardless of race, color, nationality or income, with respect to the development process, implementation of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

**Biodiversity:** includes the diversity of species and the genetic diversity among individuals of the same species, as well as the environmental diversity and functional diversity, such as the flow and reproduction of energy, which are essential for the survival of species and biological groups.

**Clean Industry:** the continuous implementation of a prophylactic environmental strategy on all processes, products and services in order to increase efficiency and reduce risk on human beings and environment. Clean industry can be applied on processes used in any industry and on the same products, as well as the different services provided to the society.

**Environment-Friendly:** design of products that include minimum risk that accompanies their utilization and minimum adverse environmental effects.

**Environmental Awareness & Guidance:** development of a human society that is aware and looks after the environmental problems, and that enjoys knowledge, skills, initiatives, incentives and commitment to individual and collective work, seeking to find solutions to the problems and prevent the emergence of new problems.

## Introduction

The condition of the environment in Lebanon today tolls the bell of danger threatening the quality and the sustainability of citizens' life. As for treatments, they are still primitive and partial, and they lack reinforced mechanisms of partnership between the citizen and the State to pave the way for a national and applicable strategy. In light of this strategy, responsibilities will be shared by the State with its centralized and decentralized apparatuses, social and economic civil society associations and citizens. This necessitates a reconsideration of the adopted policies in light of the following factors:

### **1. Increase in international interest parallel to increase in problems**

In the past three decades of the 20th Century, interest in environment increased with more risks that threatened it and that endangered, at the same time, the sustainability of man's life and safety on this planet.

During that period, the world witnessed significant changes in science, technology, economy and politics at the same time. Meanwhile, large problems that humanity was suffering from multiplied, among which are the increase in poverty, growth of gap between different social categories, expansion of cities, pollution of the air, pollution of regional seas and drinking water, reduction of fresh water resources, threat against the ozone layer, loss of biodiversity, spreading of desertification and decrease in the green cover.



## **2. Series of conferences and conventions**

The first conference on environment convened in Stockholm in 1972, on the heels of which a series of international conferences and meetings were held. The last of these conferences was the Summit on Sustainable Development, which was held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 6, 2002. Many international conventions were consecutively released on the protection of the environment and treatment of many hazards that threaten it and that particularly endanger the depletion of natural resources on the planet.

Among these conventions, we cite: Vienna Convention for Protection of Ozone Layer (1985), Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987), the Copenhagen Amendment (1992), Kyoto Protocol on Climate Changes and Reduction of Greenhouse Emissions, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, and London Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution. It is worth-noting that the Johannesburg Conference conducted an assessment of what has been achieved of the environmental plan of action that is known as Agenda 21, which was issued by the 1992 Rio Conference.

## **3. Current Situation of Environment**

Some still remember the expression “Green Lebanon” or “Lebanon, the Swiss Orient” that Lebanon was designated with due to its special and extraordinary features of its nature; this nature which bestowed on it world fame and attracted fans of heritage and cultural tourism and others. Around 1,900,000 tourists visited Lebanon in 1974. However, Lebanon was subject

to many risks in the past decades, some of which were expected as a result of the increase in population's density, migration from rural areas towards cities, especially the Grand Beirut area, random urban growth and urban expansion without any planning, extension of economic structures in industry, commerce and tourism without any knowledge, planning, organization or abidance by laws or with special environmental conditions, such as chopping of trees, utilization of harmful pesticides and chemical fertilizers, break-out of fire, carrying water in septic tanks without a national plan or developed techniques, installation of septic holes with no base, proliferation of different kinds of wastes, lack of a wastes management plan, sand dredging, and practice of fishing and hunting, without any regulations.

Yet, what threatened the environment most in Lebanon and rather contributed to its destruction, were the violent acts that blew on the Green Lebanon during 15 years, causing large destruction in urbanization and infrastructure. This is in addition to the great human death toll and the economic loss that Lebanon is still suffering from until now. In wartime, Lebanese natural resources were manipulated (such as forests, water, sands, rocks, birds and superb landscapes...), while the implementation of laws was not possible during that period due to the pressure on the State's apparatuses and administrations to push it to seclusion.

#### **4. Lebanon Sees a New Dawn**

With the return of progressive stability after the signature of the national consensus agreement, the end of the war, disbandment of the militias and the spreading of the rule of law across the country, the State diverted its attention to the

environmental problem which aggravated until it became the issue of issues, as a result of the resulting risks that threaten man's health in Lebanon and the sustainability of natural resources.

The State established the Environment Ministry in 1993 by virtue of Law 93/216 that was amended by Law No.667 in 1997 so that it becomes more adequate to the tasks entrusted to the ministry. The Lebanese State consecutively ratified many international conventions and protocols and set off to draft Lebanese laws and regulatory decrees which translate Lebanon's commitment to international legislations.

We cite among these laws and decrees, for example, a decree that bans the entry of hazardous wastes (1998), a decree that regulates quarries (1994), a law that regulated hunting (1995), and a law that prohibits the use of polluting combustibles (2001). In 2002, as well as a decree regulating quarries (decree 2002/8803), a decree defining the types of wastes of health institutions and method of disposal (decree 2002/8006).

The State restructured the Directorate General for Urban Planning and set master plans for cities, villages, coasts and mountains in order to promote the management of natural resources.

Due to the importance of environmental files for Lebanon at this stage of reconstruction and the launch of the development cycle, a parliamentary commission on environment has been established. The State prepared a draft-law that is aimed at protecting the environment. It was then promulgated under No. 2002/444. The State has also rushed to conduct scientific studies, reports and profound censuses on the situation of environment in all fields. In 2002, a significant paper was released about the situation of the environment, entitled State of Environment Report 2002 (SOER).

**Based on the above, we have to confirm the following constants:**

**1. overlapping of environment with all sectors of life and production:**

The protection of the environment overlaps with community life arenas and production field, such as agriculture, cattle raising, industry, construction and urbanism, tourism, transportation, as well as transparent, efficient and honest public administration. Sustainable development issues were raised during the Earth Summit in Johannesburg from a comprehensive basis, where environmental issues overlapped with economic, social and political issues on world, regional and local levels. The environmental priorities were defined as follows:

- water
- energy
- public health
- agriculture
- biodiversity

**2. Urgent Need for a New Behavioral Pattern that Guarantees Awareness and Prevention**

The State introduced to the new school curricula, which have been set in 1996, subjects related to the environment and that were aimed at raising environmental awareness, especially in the national civics book, to urge new generations of students and young citizens to be aware of the risks threatening the environment and those resulting from the human conduct and the mismanagement of natural resources at the same time. The State sought to incite a significant change of the citizen's the behavior pattern and in the patterns of civil society associations in order to alleviate damage via protection, awareness and

expansion of the communication and partnership circle in the field of the environmental protection.

### **3. Environment Protection, a Joint Responsibility**

From the above, it becomes clear that the issue of the environment constitutes a joint responsibility that necessitates solidarity and participation on all levels (international, regional, national and local). It is obvious how dealing with risks requires joint efforts based on this Charter for Environment which defines the fundamental principles that constitute a moral and legal basis for the State's tasks and responsibilities, on one hand, and the citizen's responsibilities and rights on the other.

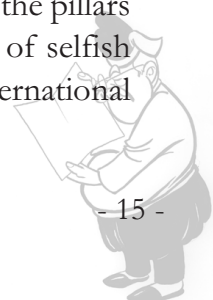
## 1- Strong Relation between the Environment and Public Benefit

The concept of the public benefit is based on what is common between people, i.e. what the public interest, which includes all interests, is based on, because it is from everybody and for everybody. The **environment**, as we can witness day after day, **includes all components of life, the preservation of which is for the interest of everybody** if we want to guarantee a better quality of our life at present and in the future. **Environment, as a public benefit, does not have any borders. It is a process of linkage, integration and mutual influence between places and surroundings on the surface, underground and space levels.** The public benefit links the local, regional, the global and the universal in continuous bonds that it takes part in building, to become the public benefit of every individual, local community and every nation.

### Citizen's Right

1. **To feel since childhood the relation that ties him to the natural components of his surrounding** as a public benefit granted to him and everyone around. So he is raised to love to listen to these components and to look after them as a general framework to raise the awareness of his life as an individual and in community.

2. **To know that harming the environment means inflicting damage upon the social contract** upon which the public will in society is built, and that it means violating the pillars of the public interest through exploiting in the mazes of selfish private interests and forcing the local, national and international community to put up with this exploitation.



## **Citizen's Responsibility**

3. **To abstain from any harmful exploitation of environmental resources** for any reason and no matter to which social status he belongs.

4. **To contribute with civil organizations and associations**, especially the environmental ones, to the projects they undertake to defend and protect the environmental landmarks as a public benefit, whether on the level of preparing, implementing or assessing these projects.

5. **To fight with institutions working in environment** to oppose every exploitation or pollution of the environmental landmarks. This would have really contributed to strengthening the relation between the environment and the public benefit.

## **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

6. **Every municipality should seek to set a masterplan** that tackles its geographical expansion and that includes the environmental landmarks that should be preserved. Every municipality should also set implementation programs for this master plan that should manifest the importance of these landmarks and protect them as a public benefit, of a comprehensive local, national and humanitarian character.

7. **Coordinate with other local neighboring authorities** in a context of a federation (federation of municipalities) to observe environmental landmarks in their regions. Together, they should set a comprehensive plan to safeguard and protect the landmarks jointly.

8. **Encourage citizens and associations** to undertake projects to guarantee the protection of environmental landmarks on local, regional and public levels as a public benefit that has

local symbols that gather people, and that has its national and general humanitarian implications.

### **Central Authority's Responsibility**

9. **Set environmental dimensions for the public benefit.** It should also set a detailed outline that includes the environmental landmarks that should be protected, taken care of, and safeguarded. And they should not be polluted, exploited or used for private purposes and interests. In addition to the mechanisms of protecting water, air and forest resources from squandering and pollution, this masterplan should include clear measures to safeguard the underground and air wealths, as well as all natural and tourism landmarks, such as beaches, agricultural areas, forests, rocks and magnificent landscapes.

10. Try to **introduce the environmental concept as public benefit** in school textbooks, particularly in civics books, as an integral part of raising children.

11. Set laws and procedural regulations to guarantee the implementation of this detailed master plan.

12. Remove all the private utilization of public utilities and environmental resources that are classified as public benefit, and it should ban everything that should pollute, distort or harm these resources.

### **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

13. **Highlight the concept of environment as public benefit.** They should set plans and projects to protect this environmental public benefit with all its landmarks and on the surface, underground and air levels.

14. **Help centralized and decentralized authorities** in

setting laws and application procedures to consolidate the link between the environment, the public benefit and the protection of environmental landmarks from private exploitation and pollution.

15. **Tend to resort to continuous information and publishing and via different means**, concentrating on the importance of defense of the environment as a public benefit and the means of this defense.

16. **Set plans and projects** that would safeguard environmental landmarks and struggle for their protection. They should also facilitate the participation of all citizens, particularly the youth, in these plans and projects.

### **International Community's Obligations**

17. **Continue setting the international master plan for the world environmental wealth and fortune** as a public and comprehensive humanitarian benefit. It should help back-warded countries to set plans and procedures to get to know their environmental resources, safeguard them as a public benefit and protect them from exploitation and pollution.

18. **Take prohibiting measures** against countries that fail to safeguard their general environmental heritage, and this is all via other means of media and guidance struggle.

## 2 - Adoption of Strategy for Protection of Environment

The adoption of a strategy in the field of environment protection means setting off from a far-sighted perception, **setting clearly-defined objectives and taking up policies, a work and behavior methodologies** that are in harmony with these objectives.

### Citizen's Right

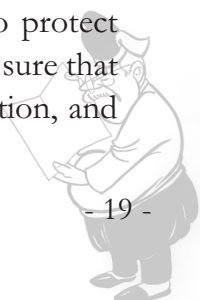
19. **There should be a clear national strategy** on protecting the environment that starts with developed national legislations which conform to international conventions. These legislations should be set by the Parliament and complemented by governmental regulatory texts and mechanisms that enable their translation into a tangible reality.

20. **Officials on all levels should make sure** that this strategy is abided by.

### Citizen's Responsibility

21. **Seek to have access to international conventions, national legislations and executive mechanisms** relevant to environment protection, abide by them and benefit from the incentives offered by the State to projects that adopt environment-friendly techniques.

22. **Integrate in civil activities** that are aimed at exerting pressure to continue setting a clear national strategy to protect the environment by the State. A citizen also has to make sure that this strategy is respected and should lobby in that direction, and



he should take part in any activity that is aimed at finding this strategy.

**23. Inform the competent authority** in case he ran into any violation of the legislations relevant to the environment protection. He shall draw the attention of the perpetrators, inform them about the laws and do his best to stop the mentioned harm.

### **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

**24. Access international conventions and legislations,** national regulations, as well as executive texts and mechanisms that are aimed at protecting the environment, abide by them and make sure they are respected in the municipal local context.

### **Central Authority's Responsibility**

**25. Join all international conventions relevant to the protection of the environment,** conclude them, implement their provisions and make sure there is harmony between the texts of these conventions and national legislations.

**26. Set legislative texts** for all activities, taking as the environment protection as a basis, and define the standards that enable the classification of projects as environment-friendly projects in order to draw up a clear strategy to protect it.

**27. Draft regulatory texts** and executive mechanisms for all activities, and make sure that legislative texts and international conventions relevant to the environment protection are respected to continue setting the national strategy.

**28. Set special texts** to offer incentives to projects that adopt environment-friendly techniques, in implementation of the national strategy that is aimed at protecting the environment and inform the citizens about them.

## Civil Society Associations' Responsibility

29. Economic, social, educational, cultural, sports **institutions**, as well as non-governmental organizations in the civil society **should know** about the national legislations and executive mechanisms relevant to the protection of the environment, and they should make sure that they are abided by in all their activities. They also have to adopt environment-friendly techniques.

30. **NGOs should mobilize their social forces** to make sure that the national strategy on the environment protection is completed and executive mechanisms are set. They should also make sure that they are abided by and lobby when necessary in that direction.

## International Community's Obligations

31. **Continue setting conventions relevant to the environment protection.**

32. **Be keen on concluding** all international conventions.

33. **Address the civil society** in all countries to urge it to contribute to the awareness and education campaigns and exert pressure in order to set environment protection national strategies in all countries.

34. **Encourage countries** to set incentive programs for those adopting environment-friendly techniques.

35. **Set special awareness** programs on the importance of the national strategy.

36. **Support activities aimed at finding a clearly defined environment protection national strategy.**

### 3 - Acknowledgement of personal responsibility and common responsibility on the local, national and international levels in the field of environment

It is essential that the **citizen realizes that he has a share in the responsibility for the environment protection**. He should also realize that there is also another share that he has to split with **civil society associations and governmental organizations**, and in some cases **all international institutions**.

#### Citizen's Responsibility

37. **Acknowledge** that his personal standpoint contributes negatively or positively in the environment protection. He has to bear personal responsibility in terms of taking the initiative to access and abide by legislations relevant to the environment protection.

38. **Raise the awareness** vis-à-vis the risks surrounding the environment and inform people about the legislative texts relevant to the environment protection.

39. **Integrate in civil work** that is aimed at raising awareness, educating and lobbying regarding the environment protection.

40. **Contact concerned official authorities** and communicate with them to curb the damages inflicted upon the environment and ensure its protection.

#### Local Authorities' Responsibility

41. **Realize that they are locally and directly responsible** for any damage incurred by the environment. They should prevent the occurrence of any harm, curb any damage and deter violators in the framework of enforced laws and regulations.

## Central Authority's Responsibility

42. **Realize its direct responsibility** for any harm inflicted upon the environment in the national context. It also has to prevent the occurrence of any harm, curb any damage, deter violators and punish them.

43 **Encourage the society** to protect the environment.

## Civil Society Associations' Responsibility

44. Realize that **they are responsible for any harm inflicted upon the environment caused by their activities.** They should prevent the occurrence of any harm and curb any damage.

45. Realize that **they are responsible for awareness and wide popular mobilization** regarding the risks surrounding the environment and the method to protect it from these risks.

46. **Adopt a motivation policy** to encourage citizens to turn into environment's friends.

## International Community's Responsibility

47. **Should realize that there is a joint responsibility** on the universal level concerning the environment protection and lift off any harm. It should also face the risks threatening it.

48. **Contribute to share this responsibility** with civil associations and NGOs, as well as countries at the same time.

## 4 - Adoption of Cooperation and Participation Policy between the Government, Civil Sector and the Private Sector in the field of environment protection

**Joint Responsibility** between citizens as individuals, civil society associations and governmental institutions necessitates that all of these stakeholders cooperate in **taking initiatives, participating in implementation of procedures and carrying out activities aimed at protecting the environment.** They should also **cooperate with all international institutions if possible and if it is useful.**

### Citizen's Right

49. **Take part in efforts, initiatives, activities and programs** undertaken by each of the government and/or the civil society and the private sector in the field of environment protection, as this issue concerns it directly.

50. **Seek to cooperate with NGOs,** the central government, local authorities, civil society associations and the private sector in order to unite efforts aimed at protecting the environment.

### Local Authorities' Responsibility

51. **Cooperate (municipalities) and share with citizens locally,** as well as with NGOs, private sector institutions operating locally, in terms of initiatives, activities and programs undertaken by those authorities in order to protect the environment.



## **Central Authority's Responsibility**

52. **Cooperate** with the civil society and with the private sector in activities and programs to protect the environment.

53. **Support initiatives and activities and take part in programs** undertaken by NGOs and/or private sector institutions in order to protect the environment.

## **International Community's Obligations**

54. **Seek/encourage** direct cooperation between the central government, local authorities, the civil society, the private sector and citizens in initiatives, activities and programs that are aimed at protecting the environment.

55. **Support and help** initiatives, activities and programs in which the central government, local authorities, the civil society, the private sector and citizens directly cooperate in order to protect the environment.

## 5 - Adoption of Strict Environmental Sanction

The principle of environmental sanction is based on two main pillars. The first one has to do with values and ethics, while the other one is legal and judicial.

The environment is found in man's surroundings, and it is part of his biological, civil, social and comprehensive humanitarian entity.

With respect to the first pillar, i.e. which has to do with values and ethics, let us remember Eden and the friendly life between creatures in it, how man fell down to where violence and aggression are found, how he, alone, was given the possibility to overcome violence and aggression thanks to his humanity, understanding and wisdom. **The value lies in life, with all its forms.** While moralities imply developing and preserving ethics and fighting for them so that he can confront what might lead to squandering, death and extinction, safeguard life's heritage in nature and ensure life to all creatures.

As for the **legal and judicial pillar**, let us remember Osiris at the time of Pharaohs in 2500BC, when he said that the soul of those who contributed to **the pollution of the Nile should be thrown to the monster to deprive them totally from life**, just as if they killed, robbed, cursed or conducted adultery. **Environmental pollution should become today an offense that should be punished by the law, as religions used to punish this offense in the past.**

### Citizen's Right

56. **Get introduced to the environment as a source of life, with all its forms and diverse phenomena.** He should be brought



up to respect living creatures and protect them from extinction, safeguard different environmental resources and ensure the conditions of their sustainability.

57. **Be brought up on rules, laws and regulations** that would ensure the necessary means to defend the environment as a cycle in life and as a system of resources. He should play his role of citizenship in this regard, i.e. **holds accountable and requests the implementation of judicial rulings against those who squandered or exploited public environmental resources or violated the biodiversity that the cycle of life is made up of.**

### **Citizen's Responsibility**

58. **Understand the responsibility on his shoulders as an influential factor in the quality of life.** He should abstain from violating environmental resources.

59. **Know the importance of laws relevant to environment with its value and judicial-legal dimensions.** He should facilitate the implementation of these laws.

60. **Take part in activities** undertaken by local authorities, civil institutions and environmental associations, particularly those related to the education on environmental rights and obligations, as well as observation and treatment of violations.

### **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

61. **Detect the environmental violations** in the range of its powers and take the adequate measures to keep them off in implementation of laws, decrees and regulations in force. They should set the motivating mechanisms that can benefit those preserving the environmental resources.

**62. Disseminate environmental laws and mechanisms of their implementation** in the range of their powers, and guide citizens towards their methods and mechanisms of their implementation.

**63. Contextualize the work of the youth in the field of awareness** on the environmental laws and mechanisms of implementation and fight violations of these laws. They should support social and environmental associations that work to protect the environment, raise awareness regarding the implementation of laws, detect violations, urge the public to abstain from them and press charges against violators.

### **Central Authority's Responsibility**

**64. Implement all laws and decrees promulgated regarding the environment** and reconsider them in light of the developments on the global and local level in the field of knowledge about life's environmental dimensions and the different repercussions resulting from any violation on one hand, as well as in the field of mechanisms of preserving the environment, methods of encouraging its preservation and punishment of those harming it, squandering its resources, polluting it or tampering with it on another hand.

**65. Set implementation mechanisms for these laws and decrees** and prepare human resources and the necessary administrative and judicial regulations for this purpose.

**66. Give special importance to education on environmental laws** with their motivation and deterrence dimensions in raising up on citizenship.

## **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

67. **Seek to render environmental considerations** among the bases that those in charge of every social, economic or cultural activity should resort to, so that they could define the form of activities and fields and adopt the adequate means.

68. **Set media and guidance plans** regarding the means of implementation of environmental laws in order to assist citizens not to commit violations that expose them to environmental sanctions. They should ensure the frameworks to take part with the civil society, especially the youth, in all educational, media, preventive, motivating and curative activities in environment.

## **International Community's Obligations**

69. **Develop environmental laws** in terms of their value effects and their sanction and motivation judicial procedures.

70. **Set practical frameworks to implement environmental laws and procedures** in different countries and on different levels.

71. **Set plans** for countries' participation, among which are civil and environmental associations, in the efforts it undertakes to develop environmental laws and means of their implementation through motivating and punishment procedures.

## 6 - Assessment of Environmental Impact of Activities and Projects in Urbanism and Productive Sectors

The assessment of the environmental impact is aimed at defining projects, their impacts, evaluation and assessment which might have important influences on the environment, as a result of their establishment, operation or dismantlement. It is also aimed at revealing the necessary measures to attenuate the negative impacts and increase the positive effects on them and on natural resources, and this is before promulgating the decision of approving or rejecting the project.

The environmental impact assessment should be obligatory with respect to new projects that will be carried out. As for existing projects, an environmental commitment plan should be set according to a certain timetable, after which it will be observed by the project on one hand and by the State on the other hand to verify the implementation.

### Citizen's Right

72. **Know about the projects** that could affect or pollute the surrounding in which he lives in one way or another, and reveal his opinion about them before giving the approval decision.

73. **Access the reports set** on any project and conditions imposed on it any time and take part in the decision-making.

74. **Object in a written form** against the administration's decision regarding the environmental impact assessment.

75. **Object against the entrepreneur's non-commitment** to the conditions imposed on the project.



## **Citizen's Responsibility**

76. Inform officials about any violation he notices, especially if he could have access to the imposed conditions and to the procedures that an owner of a factory or project shall abide in implementation, so that he could know what the violation is and inform officials about it.

77. Commit to the administration's decisions, laws and regulation in case he was the project owner.

## **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

78. Local authorities have an important role in monitoring to facilitate the work of the central authority in conformity with the principle of administrative decentralization, as they know more about what goes on in their area. They can monitor and assess closely, and they can coordinate with the central administration.

## **Central Authority's Responsibility**

79. **Clarify to the projects' owners**, before giving the approval via the license and before starting assessing the environmental impact, the necessity and importance of examining the environmental impact assessment before implementation:

1. In terms of determination to implement the project and verify its positive results at a prior stage.
2. In terms of disregarding the project before implementation in case it turned out that it is harmful to the environment.

80. **Acknowledge that the environmental impact assessment** is a means for planning and management and impose compulsory assessment on major projects.

81. **Coordinate with banks** to urge them to link approval of giving loans to an investor in a project that could have an impact

on the environment to make it subject to an environmental impact assessment.

82. **Coordinate with insurance companies** in order to encourage investors to conduct the environmental impact assessment of projects, or else the environmental insurance would be removed from the insurance policy.

83. **Inform citizens about any possible project that might be carried out** and prepare awareness campaigns in this field to inform citizens about everything related to the project.

84. **Observe to what extent the owner of the project is committed** to the environment management plan.

85. **Inform the public opinion** and all citizens about the existing projects, their objectives, means and everything surrounding them.

### **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

86. **Facilitate the process of collective participation**, where environmental associations and the civil society would be in charge of clarifying to the citizens a certain project, possibility to benefit from it and examining the possibility to reduce risks.

87. **Contribute**, in case the association was scientifically specialized or if one of its members was an environmentalist, **to the examination of the environmental impact assessment**.

### **International Community's Responsibility**

88. **International organizations** concerned in environment should **encourage collective work of environmental associations**. They should urge the State to codify the principle of environmental impact assessment and render it obligatory.

89. **International organizations**, such as the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, and others, **should refuse granting loans to projects that are not environment-friendly**.

## 7 - Necessity to Assess the Environmental Cost

Studying the social and economic impacts of the air, water and soil pollution and the resulting negative impacts on the environment, public health, tourism and other sectors clearly confirm that **environmental deterioration has a very high cost that should be acknowledged and clarified before the public to know its consequences.** On the contrary, the healthy and clean environment is positively reflected on health, and hence on the economy. Therefore, **economic development policies should include clear environmental policies to achieve sustainable development.**

### Citizen's Right

90. Know the environmental deterioration has a very large economic cost. He should have access to the studies that determine the percentages of pollution and their impacts on health, as well as the estimated cost of these impacts, in addition to the solutions that should be reached for treatment.

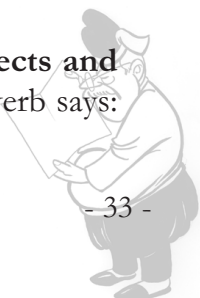
### Citizen's Responsibility

91. **Introduce changes to his consumption patterns** to protect the environment from pollution.

92. **Analyze costs and benefits** and conduct studies before implementing projects and making decisions. He should subject the projects to be carried out to the environmental impact assessment study.

### Central Authority's Responsibility

93. **Impose environmental conditions on all projects and institutions** before establishing them, just like the proverb says: An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.



94. **Set environmental laws and legislations** and implement the existing laws to protect the environment and deter violators.

95. **Set environmental standards for the accepted percentages of pollution**, modify the unaccepted standards in case available and impose control measures.

96. **Compensate** for the environmental damages and victims of pollution.

97. **Promote the idea** that the environmental cost is global and that it should be evaluated. The central authority also has to guide the public opinion and citizens to health hazards that can be caused by pollution. It also has to promote the idea of considering **pollution as a squandered economy** since it is negatively reflected on tourism and public health, and hence on economy. For instance, changes in the quality of the environment and air pollution could greatly affect man's health. Hence, the financial value of health impacts should be determined through a person's readiness to pay to improve his health. This is in addition to the revenues that are wasted due to early death, sickness and absenteeism from work, as well as increase in medical expenses. We also notice that the value of houses in areas exposed to pollutions is lower than that of similar houses found in pollution-free areas.

98. **Encourage the projects enjoying rational use** of natural resources and less harmful to the environment and give incentives to industries and environment-friendly projects.

99. **Impose an economic feasibility study** on investment and productive projects before starting their implementation since financing projects of negative environmental impact without subjecting them to the environmental impact assessment is dangerous, as curing the results and reducing pollutions leads to an unexpected cost. Moreover, continuous pollution might lead to closure of these projects.

100. **Impose fines on polluters** and encourage initiatives to

protect the environment through fiscal exemptions.

101. **Set world-accredited specifications and criteria** and force producers to abide by these specifications since that would contribute to accept the merchandise abroad and facilitate exports, and hence would help increase the income. The central authority also has to prepare policies to treat pollution and curb environmental deterioration.

102. **Not let the environment be subject to political bickering and interests.** It should realize that the environment is not only restricted to the Environment Ministry and environmental associations, but concerned ministries (finance, economy...) should be involved as well in the heart of drafting and implementing policies.

### **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

103. **Highlight the economic cost of the environmental deterioration,** guide citizens and publish studies related to this topic.

104. **Guide citizens in their surrounding to the fact that improving the environmental situation in institutions** reduces the workers' health problems, which is positively reflected on the economy and insurance companies.

### **International Community's Responsibility**

105. **Promote institutions involved in environmental affairs,** disseminate information and reports that would raise the awareness of the public opinion vis-à-vis the necessity to assess the environmental cost and link economy to the environment so that economic development goes hand in hand with healthy environmental policies in the framework of sustainable development.

106. **Its members should agree on making decisions** that would put an end to environmental deterioration.

## 8 - Efforts for the Sustainability of Natural Resources

Natural resources are threatened with depletion and pollution. **Their good management is an urgent need in order to guarantee their sustainability** since it is an element of socio-economic development for humanity and could not be separated from it.

### Citizen's Right

107. Enjoy a protected environment that necessitates good management of natural resources (land and marine) since it is the essence of sustainable development and could not be separated from it or isolated.

### Citizen's Responsibility

108. **Realize the importance of preserving natural resources** and its relation to the public benefit.

109. **Abide by the laws related to the management of solid and liquid wastes**, starting with the home, to the street and then the area.

110. **Work on the individual level** to implement the principles of **rational use of energy and water** through his daily activities.

111. **Contribute** through civil societies in **determining the priorities of environmental pollution** that threatens the natural resources in his area, and in working to request assistance to confront them (protection of underground water from pollution, non-disposal of solid and liquid wastes in the surface water: lakes, rivers and river tributaries).

## **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

112. **Observe the local environmental situation**, set an annual plan to protect it, release an annual report and circulate it among citizens within the local range.

113. **Abide by work** through the national integrated plan for the management of water resources.

114. **Confront**, as part of the integrated national plan, **pollution** resulting from the random disposal of domestic solid wastes and waste water (prohibit giving licenses to septic holes with no base) and industrial wastes (gas, solid and liquid).

115. **Observe the implementation of plans and projects** that are directed to manage different types of wastes, as these wastes are the direct pollutant of natural resources. This is in addition to authorities' efforts to reduce the production of these pollutants. The local authorities should also organize programs to recycle them and use the treated waste water.

116. **Encourage projects** that depend on renewed energy sources (hydro-electric energy and solar energy).

## **Central Authority's Responsibility**

117. **Establish an integrated database** on natural resources (land and marine) and methods of their management.

118. **Set an integrated national plan** to manage natural resources (surface and underground water, forests, olive plains, land and marine reserves...) through which it can determine the priorities of protecting these resources from pollution and depletion. The management of solid and liquid wastes should form an integrated part of this national plan.

119. **Set specific laws** to protect these natural resources within the integrated national plan.

120. **Set a mechanism to implement laws** through defining and consolidating the institutional framework and define the responsibilities, monitoring systems and continuous assessment.

121. **Encourage researches aimed at** confronting the deterioration in the natural resources (as protection of and increase in the production of olive trees and pines) and encourage researches aimed at benefiting from the renewed energy (solar energy and hydro-electric power).

### **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

122. **Generalize and promote environmental guidance** to reveal the importance of preservation and good management of natural resources.

123. **Cooperate with local authorities** in implementing solid waste management projects (landfill...) and waste water treatment plants in accordance with the integrated national plan and the eco-systems in the area, and in monitoring the reservoirs of gas stations, etc...

124. **Urge and train citizens on programs of recycling of solid and liquid wastes** in case there were facilities for such projects.

125. **Highlight** the importance of using frozen environmental resources in case adequate conditions were available and after completing environmental feasibility studies.

### **International Community's Responsibility**

126. **Generalize knowledge and international experiences** in the framework of preservation and good management of natural resources.

127. **Benefit from programs aimed at** and supporting the preservation of natural resources and programs that encourage the utilization of renewed energy.

128. **Ensure a mechanism to exchange technical expertise and orientation programs** that depict the preservation of natural resources, social and economic development.

## 9 - Preservation of biodiversity

It is essential to protect animal species and different forms of land and marine plants that are threatened by extinction, as well as forests and regional seas from getting polluted from terrestrial sources and from ships, especially marine tankers.

### Citizen's Right

129. **Have a healthy environment**, which is ecologically balanced and has protected animal and plant systems on land and in sea, which enables him to enjoy all the aesthetic and health benefits (clean air, healthy interaction with living things whether plant or animals, coasts that are protected from the waste and industrial water and that are good for practicing entertaining sports).

### Citizen's Responsibility

130. **Abide by the laws** to preserve his safety and the safety of plant and animal ecosystems.

131. **Request hunting permits** if he is interested in this sport and abide by the laws and regulations.

132. **Abide by the instructions**, particularly public safety instructions, when practicing entertainment sports (swimming, diving, and waterskiing...).

133. **Abstain from harming the plant and animal environment** when picnicking, make sure not to light fire and throw solid wastes except in the designated areas and use public facilities to meet his personal needs.

134. **Request the necessary facilities** to preserve public safety and biodiversity.



135. **Inform officials** about any harm that affects biodiversity (every citizen is a guard).

### **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

136. Abide by the work through the integrated national plan to preserve biodiversity.

137. **Generalize framework of action** within the integrated plan to disseminate knowledge and urge cooperation with civil associations.

138. **Set defined frameworks** to reinforce the implementation of law by local communities, and hence, by the citizen.

139. **Work** within the zone of local authorities to **help the central authority** determine the ecosystems that are threatened by extinction.

140. **Work to issue permits to organize hunting seasons** (land and marine) and set a mechanism for monitoring and continuous assessment.

141. **Specify public entertainment sites** and equip them with preventive means to prevent break-out of fires and pollution of these places with different types of wastes (ensure the requirements of disposal of waste water and solid wastes).

### **Central Authority's Responsibility**

142. **Establish integrated database** for biodiversity, land and marine life.

143. **Set an integrated plan** of definite priorities to protect and re-concentrate biodiversity.

144. **Set a defined law** to establish land and marine reserves.

145. Set a law that defines and regulates hunting and fishing in terms of seasons and ecosystems in quantity and quality.

146. **Set a mechanism to implement laws** via an institutional framework that defines responsibilities, organizes monitoring and continuous assessment.

147. **Encourage oriented researches** to confront urgent environmental matters (such as: the harm that affects the cedars in Lebanon and the main rivers such as the Litani River).

### **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

148. **Generalize and promote environmental guidance** to reveal the importance of biodiversity for public benefit.

149. **Contribute** with local authorities **in equipping public entertainment places** with prerequisites of fire prevention and disposal of solid and liquid wastes.

150. **Focus on the importance of preserving terrestrial animals and plants** and not harm them, and set a mechanism to deal with citizens and urge them to ask for help in case they felt they are in danger (confront attacking terrestrial and marine animals).

151. **Help local authorities** as a partner in monitoring systems to abide by laws.

152. **Contribute in preparing reforestation programs** within a clear and defined plan in terms of environmental returns.

### **International Community's Responsibility**

153. **Generalize knowledge and international experiences** within the framework of biodiversity.

154. **Benefit from international programs** such as UNESCO to determine and protect natural sites.

155. **Exchange expertise and useful and developed orientation programs** to raise awareness through revealing the importance of biodiversity and its direct relation to man's life and public benefit.

## 10 - Adoption of a Healthy and Environment-Friendly Technology

**This requires a reconsideration of all productive patterns** from agriculture to industry and services in terms of the used energy and its impact on the environment in order to ensure mechanisms of protection from these impacts on local, national and global levels.

### **Citizen's Right**

156. **Reorient and develop the used technology** and adopt a system that can develop or adheres to healthy, adequate and efficient environmental techniques that urge a citizen to change productive patterns in agricultural, industrial and services productive sectors.

### **Citizen's Responsibility**

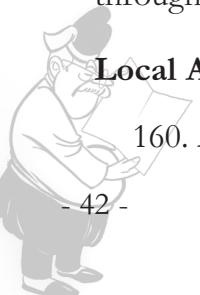
157. **Realize the importance of using adequate environmental** in productive services, whether industrial or agricultural or domestic (industrial machines, choice of used energy...) to avoid smoke, noise and radiations, etc...

158. **Encourage these sectors** through a pattern of change which is oriented towards the consumption of environment-friendly products and boycott products that do not abide by this strategy (green shopping).

159. **Abide by the implementation of the national plan** through his work in productive sectors.

### **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

160. **Abide by working via the integrated national plan** to



encourage productive sectors.

161. **Reinforce, monitor and assess** the implementation of laws and commitment to the suggested plans.

162. **Help productive sectors** during the transitional period (through incentives to adopt environment-friendly techniques, rationalize the utilization of water, recycle and use of waste water, healthy disposal of industrial wastes, reduce the use of harmful raw material in all sectors, among which are pesticides and fertilizers)

163. **Promote the role of local communities** through knowledge, generalization of environmental awareness and depict the importance of commitment to the national plan regarding the sustainability of life and public health.

### **Central Authority's Responsibility**

164. Seek to **establish integrated database** on techniques adopted in all productive sectors (agricultural, industrial and service levels) in order to determine the environmental impact and the suggested means to alleviate the damage and promote the environmental feasibility of suggested techniques.

165. **Set an integrated plan** to adopt healthy, adequate and environment-friendly techniques that contribute to the development of productive sectors in equilibrium with the protection of the environment and reinforcement of its resources.

166. Set laws that contribute to the implementation of the integrated plan.

167. **Develop a mechanism to implement laws** through defining and promoting the institutional context, renew responsibilities, and organize monitoring and continuous assessment.

168. **Ensure the necessary resources to consolidate the integrated plan** through adopting defined mechanisms to encourage and develop productive sectors (incentives to the industrial, agricultural and services sector).

169. **Encourage oriented researches** to adopt clean industries, as well as adequate and productive healthy techniques.

### **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

170. **Generalize and reinforce environmental guidance** to depict the importance of productive and consumption patterns.

171. **Encourage the citizen** to conduct the green shopping.

172. **Contribute with local authorities** in circulating the importance of productive patterns through their work in these sectors.

### **International Community's Responsibility**

173. Seek to **circulate knowledge and international experiences** to help central and local authorities.

174. Seek to **circulate oriented environmental knowledge** to change productive and consumption patterns and focus on the revealing the environmental feasibility.

## 11 - Reconsideration of Consumption Behavior

It aims to stimulate changes in incentives and attitudes related to meeting or saturating needs to pass from the **culture of consumption competition** that defined the landmarks of the economic entity of communities in the past century and concentrated on the value of the consumer, **to the culture of competition of sustainable resources and moderate consumption**, and to find the ecological quantity of consumed material that focuses on the value of the man, who safeguards and protects life and who looks for means to extend life and improve its quality.

### Citizen's Right

175. **Grow up in a social climate that gives environment the importance it deserves** with all its resources.

176. **Obtain the necessary information** in the fields of healthy and environment-friendly consumption. He should have the necessary instructions and essential means to confront the consumption patterns that harm health and the environment, such as the use of energy and vehicles that pollute air and water, or consumption of canned or compound food without knowing its ingredients and expiry date, utilization of harmful pesticides, or hunting,...

### Citizen's Responsibility

177. **Abstain from any consumption pattern** that harms his health and environment in general according to the instructions that he receives on the local and national level and in conformity with enforced environmental laws.

178. **Take part in the environmental and different activities carried out by civil society associations**, particularly in awareness and guidance campaigns in order to help citizens change their consumption patterns, in accordance with the prerequisites to safeguard health and environment.

179. **Follow bases and regulations** in fields of sorting and collecting wastes to carry them and damage them in a way that doesn't harm the environment.

180. **Abstain from digging septic holes** in a way that affects underground water through creating pores that reach the streams and reservoirs of this water.

181. **Look after the outer appearance of his residence and his direct surrounding** (street, neighborhood,...) in terms of the beauty and the cleanliness of external facades. He should also work to improve the conditions of surfaces and transform what is possible into public gardens and encourage the establishment of neighborhood committees to take care of these matters.

182. **Abstain from all consumption patterns that harm health and the environment**, such as the use of energies and vehicles that pollute air and water, or consumption of canned or compound food without knowing its ingredients and expiry date, utilization of harmful pesticides, or hunting,...

### **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

183. **Help citizens**, in the scope of their powers, via local media, guidance and education, **increase their knowledge** on the characteristics of the material they consume or use for animal consumption and for plants protection, in terms of their impact on life and environment.

184. Set the means and mechanisms that facilitate the choice of consumption alternatives that are less harmful, and ensure a

better quality of life on the local level.

185. **Help different civil society associations**, particularly youth associations and those working in the environmental field, guide citizens and raise their awareness vis-à-vis the healthy and environmental consumption possibilities.

186. **Set guidance programs and practical mechanisms** to implement the public plans in the field of sorting and collecting wastes on the local level in order to treat them, in coordination with municipalities' federation on the level of every federal area or with local authorities.

187. **Control septic holes** and repress every violation in the method of excavation to reach or empty the underground water. The local authorities should also set plans and practical measures on a regional level in order to treat waste water.

### **Central Authority's Responsibility**

188. **Try to encourage the citizen via legal**, educational and media measures in order to review totally the consumption patterns, and this is through focusing on three axes:

- (1) Protect and take care of life through reconsidering all the types of human, animal and plant consumption from a health-related and environmental perspective for the sake of permanent and sustainable development, in quantity and quality. Hence, world researches and those that can be conducted on a national level can be relied on.
- (2) **Protect the environmental resources** of all types, forms and bio, physio and chemo-diversity so that the possibility of ensuring conditions of life in the future is sustainable.
- (3) **Protect public marine, land and air utilities** according to their natural and historic characteristics in order to

develop and improve the quality of tourism, environmental, natural, cultural and urban consumption.

189. **Force all manufacturers and users of consumption products** to reconsider the substances used in these products, whether the nutritional or those that help carry out life's functions from a health and environmental perspective, on one hand, and to clarify the quality of substances used in each product in terms of quantity and expiry date, on the other.

190. **Set a comprehensive plan to sort solid wastes** in their sources: domestic, industrial and hospital sources. Then, they would be collected, carried and damaged in a way that ensures that their negative impacts that pollute the environment are avoided. It should also seek to make consumers accustomed to adopt this plan, together with the changes in the method of consumption to damage any resulting wastes.

191. **Set a comprehensive plan** to carry, collect and treat waste water, raise the awareness of citizens and make them accustomed to implement this plan.

192. Set a comprehensive plan for consumption guidance.

### **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

193. **Work hard to raise the awareness of the consumer regarding the nature of substances that he consumes** in terms of their negative or positive impact on health and the environment in general. They should also help public local and national authorities to disseminate awareness in order to develop and change all consumption patterns to become adequate to environmental conditions for the sustainability of life and preservation of resources.

194. **Set frameworks for activities of struggle** in order to

safeguard environmental resources and public utilities and change consumption patterns towards them to help safeguard them as a public benefit and protect them from pollution.

### **International Community's Responsibility**

195. **Finance researches on human and animal consumption** and on agricultural consumption in particular in order to set environmental standards and criteria for every consumption pattern and ensure economic conditions for environmental cultivations.

196. **Help countries** and different civil and environmental institutions **develop their researches** in fields of human and animal consumption and support them in their efforts to ensure economic conditions for environmental production and consumption.

## 12 - Guidance and Environmental Awareness

**Environmental awareness constitutes an efficient tool to prevent harm and rationalize the use of natural resources in all fields and on all levels**, where this awareness develops environmental performance, reveals the importance of environmental morality, push a person to put an end or reduce the risks resulting from the incorrect use of the available environmental resources for his benefit and the benefit of future generations.

### Citizen's Right

197. **Obtain and access information related to the environment** and that is in the hand of public authorities. This information includes data around the dangerous and harmful substances. He should go over the environmental studies in all fields as well as the activities carried out by the State and the international community. The citizen should also be given the chance to take part in decision-making processes.

### Citizen's Responsibility

198. **Take part with associations and institutions working in environment** and participate in local activities such as sorting wastes...

199. **Abide by laws and regulations**, as well as arrangements set to safeguard the environment.

200. **Inform local officials** about every damage that affects the environment, where every citizen is a guard.

201. **Preserve public cleanliness** as of the house to the street to school to the work place.

202. **Change his behavior towards the preservation of natural resources** and their sustainability (rationalize the consumption of water and energy; for example, we do not leave water taps running without the need for that, turn off the lights if we were sitting in one room, and make sure not to leave traces or things that might lead to fire in forests during camping).

203. **Pay attention** to reduce the **use of chemicals in agriculture**.

204. **Not to remove catalytic pot** from his car. He should use unleaded gasoline which is less pollutant.

205. **Use common public means of transportation** or depend rotation with his colleagues when going to work by using one car for many people instead of many cars. Thus, he reduces the consumption of fuel and hence, air pollution.

206. **Not to chop trees** to be used for fuel for example.

207. **Not to leave cattle grazing in forests and reserves without any control**.

### **Local Authorities' Responsibility**

208. **Every municipality**, within its zone, **should carry out awareness campaigns** and local activities such as sorting wastes, putting containers for every type of domestic wastes paving the way for their recycling.

209. **Implement laws and regulations related to the environment protection**. The law vested vast powers in municipalities to preserve public hygiene, protect natural and sites and ruins, establish public gardens, reforest and others...

210. **Guide farmers how to spray approved pesticides and herbicides** and prohibit the use of harmful and forbidden pesticides...

## Central Authority's Responsibility

211. **Set a national strategy for environmental education** and enable this environmental and developmental education for all individuals of different ages, and this is through introducing environmental and developmental concepts in all educational stages (such as protection of green zones, protection of water and beaches).

212. **Set training programs**, involve children and students in local and regional studies on the environmental health, encourage all society's sectors to train on environmental management, especially schools. For example, the teacher bears the concern of environment and guides his students to adopt behavior that would protect the environment, just as the proverb that says: Learning at a young age is similar to carving a stone.

213. **Involve media** in the responsibility of education and environmental awareness.

214. **Raise the awareness of financial sector towards the importance of projects** that are in harmony with environmental prerequisites and encourage them.

215. **Encourage new patterns of behavior in individuals and groups** to create new relationships between man and his environment (for example, it raises the awareness of citizens towards the importance of consuming environment-friendly substances- and consuming food packed in cartons that could be recycled...)

216. **Help and promote the work of associations** interested in environment.

217. **Give the chance to citizens to obtain environmental information** and take part in decision-making processes.

218. **Encourage and motivate people interested in environment and researchers in this field** (give environmental incentives for example...), and reinforce popular participation in environment protection programs through involving citizens, local organizations and NGOs in following up on and implementing environment protection projects and providing necessary support.

219. **Raise the awareness of children and the youth towards the importance of the value of the environmental heritage** (natural sites... reserves...heritage...)

### **Civil Society Associations' Responsibility**

220. **Fight in order to develop the procedures of preserving the environment**, seek to implement them and increase environmental awareness. Hence, they would form pressure forces to influence decision-makers to reach decisions that serve environmental causes.

221. **Carry out awareness campaigns** that target decision-makers and citizens as well.

### **International Community's Responsibility**

222. **Encourage and facilitate awareness and popular participation** through providing information to everybody. Thus, environmental awareness would be based on scientific, technical and objective knowledge.

223. **Contribute to the finance of awareness-related projects** and provide them with available expertise to benefit from exchange of expertise.

224. **Advise developing countries about world environmental problems** and help them find solutions.

## **Media' Responsibility**

225. Media is considered as the most importance means to convey information to the largest number possible of the audience. **It is one of the basic elements of any policy that aims to safeguard the environment and its natural resources and increase awareness among citizens.**

## **Environmental Media's Responsibility**

226. **Guide the citizen to the factors of risk and harm** so that he can safeguard the environment.

227. **Allocate daily pages for environmental issues**, local and international news on environment, as well as researches and proposals.

228. **Celebrate world environment days** (for example, a day for biodiversity, ozone day, world environment day, Arab Environment Day, National Environment Day).

229. **Report the environmental news objectively and scientifically** away from media excitement and scoops in order to arouse the public.

230. **Increase the environmental awareness among those who prepare environmental programs** through holding sessions and meetings in the field of environmental media to explain and clarify environmental concepts via training scientific environmental editors.

231. **Convey correct information** to the public.

232. **Coordinate totally between officials and media**, as well as parties in charge of the environment.

233. **Choose the adequate method and means** to convey information or message according to the targeted audience since selecting the audience is a basic element in the media campaign.

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