

The 25 Principles for the Survival of Humanity

Human civilization has reached a stage where our technological power can either sustain life on Earth or destroy it. The survival and flourishing of humanity may depend on whether we can organize our political, economic, and social systems around principles that protect both people and the planet.

The following principles are offered as a starting point for discussion.

Peace and Security

1. No nation or leader should possess unchecked power to initiate war.
2. The use of nuclear weapons must be permanently prohibited.
3. International disputes should be resolved through law, arbitration, and courts.
4. Military force should exist only for collective defense and peacekeeping.
5. Preventing war should be the highest responsibility of global institutions.

Human Freedom and Rights

6. Every human being possesses inherent dignity and equal rights.
7. Freedom of speech, belief, and peaceful political participation must be protected everywhere.
8. Slavery, human trafficking, and forced labor must be eliminated globally.
9. Governments must derive legitimacy from the consent of the governed.
10. Free and fair elections must be guaranteed at all levels of governance.

Justice and Rule of Law

11. The rule of law must apply equally to individuals, corporations, and governments.
12. Corruption in government must be prosecuted wherever it occurs.
13. International courts should be able to adjudicate disputes between nations.
14. Human rights violations must be subject to global accountability.
15. Justice systems must remain independent from political control.

Economic Fairness

16. Economic systems should promote human well-being rather than exploitation.

17. Labor must be treated with dignity and protected from abuse.
18. Markets should operate freely but within rules that protect people and the planet.
19. Extreme concentrations of economic power that threaten democracy should be limited.
20. Access to basic necessities—food, water, shelter, and healthcare—should be ensured.

Protection of the Planet

21. The Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and ecosystems must be preserved for future generations.
22. Biodiversity and natural habitats must be protected.
23. Pollution that threatens human health or planetary stability must be reduced and regulated.
24. Natural resources must be used sustainably.
25. Humanity must recognize that it shares one biosphere and one future.