

## CivWorld Global Citizens Campaign for Democracy

### A Project of The Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland

The CivWorld Citizens Campaign for Democracy begins with the premise that people--citizens of their own communities, their nations and the world--can and must be the driving force and the principal agents of change for a more democratic world. CivWorld's vision is a world of democratic nations and a world of nations whose relations are democratically governed.

CivWorld connects the world's citizens through concrete "bottom-up" civic strategies, enabling individuals to act effectively in an interdependent world in which the impact of even small deeds is widely felt. The term "CivWorld" is intended in its "civ" prefix to portray a world that is civil, civic, and civilized. By developing an international civic infrastructure, we will create a "Civic Corps" to urge leaders and citizens around the world to adapt a new agenda for addressing the challenges of building a movement for global democracy. Indeed the very phrase "CivWorld" is intended in its "civ" prefix to convey a world that is civil, civic, and civilized. In short, a world that is pluralistic, democratic and just.

In its first phase, the Campaign will focus on three initiatives: A Declaration of Interdependence, the first annual Interdependence Day 2003, and the development of curriculum and education programs for all age levels (see the Declaration and Interdependence Day 2003). Eventually it will include a self-tithe, on-line deliberative debates about expending self-tithing revenues, global community service programs and a media strategy.

#### **The Declaration of Interdependence**

We the people of the world do herewith declare our interdependence as individuals and members of distinct communities and nations. We do pledge ourselves citizens of one CivWorld, civic, civil and civilized. Without prejudice to the goods and interests of our national and regional identities, we recognize our responsibilities to the common goods and liberties of humankind as a whole.

We do therefore pledge to work both directly and through the nations and communities of which we are also citizens:

*To guarantee justice and equality for all by establishing on a firm basis the human rights of every person on the planet, ensuring that the least among us may enjoy the same liberties as the prominent and the powerful;*

*To forge a safe and sustainable global environment for all - which is the condition of human survival -- at a cost to peoples based on their current share in the world's wealth;*

*To offer children, our common human future, special attention and protection in distributing our common goods, above all those upon which health and education depend;*

*To establish democratic forms of global civil and legal governance through which our common rights can be secured and our common ends realized;*

*and*

*To foster democratic policies and institutions expressing and protecting our human commonality;*

*and at the same time,*

*To nurture free spaces in which our distinctive religious, ethnic and cultural identities may flourish and our equally worthy lives may be lived in dignity, protected from political, economic and cultural hegemony of every kind.*

## **Interdependence Day, September 12, 2003**

The War in Iraq is underway. It is vital that "preventive war" strategies be supplemented and/or replaced by "preventive democracy" strategies. The "Declaration of Interdependence" and the "Interdependence Day" celebration scheduled for September 12, 2003 represent a positive alternative program of international cooperation.

The first annual Interdependence Day will be launched on September 12, 2003 at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. The event will bring together public, civic and corporate leaders, distinguished academics and diplomats, and interested citizens and students, to reflect together on the world's interdependent reality. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to sign the Declaration of Interdependence - a document affirming the interdependent character of the post-modern world -- to ponder questions of the relationship of independence to interdependence, and to celebrate the creation of an important 21st century commemorative event. The program will offer commissioned musical works and other artistic elements in addition to ceremonial and intellectual activities. A reception will follow.

The choice of September 12th for Interdependence Day was made in the hope that the symbolism of "the day after" would encourage citizens around the world to see that terrorism and war are also opportunities for civic renewal and global cooperation. The aim is to address the malevolent forms of interdependence evident in crime, global disease, financial speculation, war, and terrorism by creating benevolent forms of interdependence of the kind found in transnational sovereignty, international law and civic cooperation.

The choice of Philadelphia as the launch site carries the symbolism of America's own founding around the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and offers an ideal venue for our theme "From Independence to Interdependence." The American Philosophical Society, founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 to "promote useful knowledge in the sciences and humanities," encourages the exchange of ideas with thinkers and doers beyond the shores of the North American continent.

Interdependence Day events will take place this year not just in Philadelphia, but prospectively in Budapest, Johannesburg and Buenos Aires as well, and in schools and colleges in the U.S. By the year 2004, we expect to have many more venues.

The Interdependence Day celebration and the Declaration of Interdependence will also be the focus of a schools and adult education curriculum that addresses issues of civic responsibility, citizenship and global civil society and assures that interdependence becomes an indispensable element, of how we think about citizenship in the post 9/11 world.

## Demokratiezentrum Wien

Onlinequelle: [www.demokratiezentrum.org](http://www.demokratiezentrum.org)

Originalquelle: CivWorld Global Citizens Campaign for Democracy (May 2003) - <http://www.civworld.org>

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Interdependence Day is a program of the Democracy Collaborative's CivWorld Citizens Campaign for Democracy. For more information, call (212) 548-0696 or write [info@civworld.org](mailto:info@civworld.org).