**A Warning to Humanity**

In 1993, the Union of Concerned Scientists published a *Warning to Humanity*. This group of senior members of the world's scientific community briefly outlined the problems affecting the global environment.

A warning was issued:

*We, the undersigned, senior members of the world's scientific community, hereby warn all humanity of what lies ahead. A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home on this planet is not to be irretrievably mutilated.*

The Union then listed five areas of action that must be addressed simultaneously.

They are summarized here:

* We must bring environmentally damaging activities under control to restore and protect the integrity of the Earth's systems that we depend on.
* We must manage resources, crucial to human welfare, more effectively.
* We must stabilize population. This will be possible only if all nations recognize that it requires improved social and economic conditions and the adoption of effective, voluntary family planning.
* We must reduce and eventually eliminate poverty.
* We must ensure sexual equality and guarantee women control over their own reproductive decisions.

The *Warning* goes on to say that the more developed nations have the obligation to provide aid and support to developing nations because only the developed nations have the financial resources and the technical skills for these tasks.

Solving environmental problems is the responsibility of every single person in our world. Individuals do make a difference, and collectively we can do wonders.

All countries must work towards sustainable development.

All citizens of the world must concern themselves with maintaining environmental resources so that they continue to provide benefits to living things (not only humans) and the larger environment of which they are a part.

**The Goals of Ethical Environmental Problem**

The goal of environmental problem solving then is to achieve a sustainable world, that is, a world in which environmental resources are maintained so that they continue to provide benefits to all living things. Human populations the world over should be able to exist with a high standard of health and living. A sustainable world consists of ecosystems able to maintain natural processes and functions, the diversity of life and productivity over time. In a sustainable world, everyone would reduce, reuse and recycle the world's resources so that those very same resources remain available to the inhabitants of the planet for generations to come.