

*Draft*

# *Melbourne Principles*

## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Melbourne, Victoria

Australia

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## **VISION**

To achieve the creation of environmentally healthy and sustainable cities.

## **ELABORATION OF VISION**

- Creation of vibrant cities where there is respect for one another and nature to the benefit of all, contributing to global sustainability.
- The Melbourne Principles are intended to guide thinking on the sustainable development of cities.
- The Melbourne Principles provide guidance to global initiatives such as the UNEP Cities As Sustainable Ecosystems (CASE) initiative.

## **PREAMBLE**

Cities are fundamental for economic opportunities and social interaction, as well as cultural and spiritual enrichment. Cities are also increasingly damaging the natural environment, the resource base and the social fabric on which these benefits depend.

More than 50% of the world's population live in cities. Sustainable development will be achieved through the interdependent relationship between cities and their supporting ecosystems. Therefore, we propose the following 10 Principles for cities as sustainable ecosystems.

### **PRINCIPLE 1**

Provide a long term vision for cities based on sustainability.

### **PRINCIPLE 2**

Empower people and foster participation and inter-generational equity.

### **PRINCIPLE 3**

Recognise and build on the characteristics of cities including their human, cultural, historic and natural systems.

**PRINCIPLE 4**

Build on the characteristics of ecosystems

**PRINCIPLE 5**

Achieve long term economic and social security.

**PRINCIPLE 6**

Expand and enable cooperative networks to work towards a common sustainable future.

**PRINCIPLE 7**

Enable communities to minimise their ecological footprint through the redevelopment and operation of their urban metabolism.

**PRINCIPLE 8**

Enable continual improvement, accountability and transparency.

**PRINCIPLE 9**

Require effective demand management and appropriate use of environmentally sound technologies for cities

**PRINCIPLE 10**

Recognise the intrinsic value of biodiversity and natural ecosystems and their protection and restoration.

## **CASE VISION**

Cities As Sustainable Ecosystems (CASE) applies the processes by which natural ecosystems function to achieve environmentally healthy and sustainable cities.

## **UNEP CITIES AS SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEMS (CASE) INITIATIVES**

CASE provides a framework that:

- enables long term vision for cities based on sustainability
- empowers people and fosters sustainable development through respecting local and building upon indigenous knowledge
- recognises the local assets of cities and enhances their productive and regenerative capacities.
- models the characteristics of ecosystems and recognises that cities are part of an environmental continuum
- requires the transformation of urban systems of production, consumption, exchange and knowledge so that they work within the limits of supporting ecosystems.
- uses performance indicators and benchmarks to set and measure achievement thus enabling continual improvement