

Universal Declaration for a Hemp-Powered Economy

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Preamble

Recognizing the existential threats posed by climate change, ecological degradation, and unsustainable resource depletion, driven largely by reliance on fossil-based and synthetic systems; Acknowledging hemp's unparalleled potential as a regenerative, carbon-negative, and versatile crop capable of rapid growth, significant carbon sequestration, and providing renewable alternatives across multiple sectors; Affirming the inherent right of all peoples to a healthy environment, dignified livelihoods, and equitable access to the resources necessary for well-being; Emphasizing the critical role of bio-based, circular, and regenerative materials in building resilient economies, fostering local prosperity, and mitigating environmental harm—from construction and textiles to energy, packaging, nutrition, and pharmaceuticals; Committed to fostering disruptive innovation, upholding social justice, and ensuring responsible ecological stewardship for the flourishing of current and future generations, aligning our vision with the urgent imperatives of global sustainability goals—

We hereby declare that the global economy should be largely powered by hemp, guided by the following principles and articles:

Article 1 Scope and Purpose

1. This Declaration sets forth the vision, principles, and commitments necessary to orient national and international policy, industry standards, and civil society toward establishing a predominantly hemp-based economy, achieving a just and equitable transition.
2. Its purpose is to catalyze systemic transformation across agriculture, manufacturing, energy, transportation, packaging, and trade, leveraging hemp's full potential to achieve ecological sustainability, social equity, economic prosperity, and resilience.

Article 2 Core Principles

1. **Regenerative Agriculture & Soil Health:** Prioritize and incentivize hemp cultivation practices that actively restore soil fertility, enhance biodiversity, improve water retention, sequester atmospheric carbon, and minimize external inputs, adhering strictly to organic and ecological standards.
2. **Circular Bio-based Design:** Mandate cradle-to-cradle design principles for all

hemp-based products, ensuring they are durable, modular, repairable, and easily reusable, recyclable, or safely compostable, creating closed-loop material flows.

3. **Social Equity & Inclusivity:** Guarantee that smallholder farmers, Indigenous communities, marginalized populations, and vulnerable workers have preferential and equitable access to land, high-quality seeds, finance, technology, knowledge, and fair markets, ensuring benefit-sharing and preventing exploitation or land grabbing. Protect traditional knowledge related to hemp cultivation and use.
4. **Innovation, Research & Open Access:** Vigorously support interdisciplinary research and development into advanced hemp-derived materials, energy feedstocks, bioremediation applications, and other co-products (e.g., advanced biocomposites, lignocellulosic derivatives, functional ingredients). Promote open-source sharing of research findings and technologies to accelerate global adoption.
5. **Transparency, Traceability & Ethical Sourcing:** Implement robust, verifiable, and transparent supply chain systems (e.g., blockchain) from seed to final product, guaranteeing organic certification, ethical labor practices, and ecological sustainability for consumer confidence and accountability.
6. **Resource Efficiency & Zero Waste:** Design processes and products to maximize the utilization of all parts of the hemp plant and minimize waste generation throughout the value chain, promoting symbiotic industrial ecosystems where waste from one process becomes feedstock for another.

Article 3 Hemp as a Foundational Commodity

1. Hemp shall be recognized and prioritized as a strategic global crop essential for the transition to a sustainable economy, serving as a foundational commodity for:
 - (a) High-performance, carbon-negative building materials (e.g., hemp-lime 'hempcrete', structural panels, insulation, natural plasters).
 - (b) Fully biodegradable and compostable plastics, packaging, and disposable goods, replacing petrochemical equivalents.
 - (c) High-strength, durable, and natural fibers for textiles, technical fabrics, sustainable paper products, and advanced biocomposites for automotive, aerospace, and other industries.
 - (d) Sustainable feedstocks for advanced biofuels (e.g., bioethanol, biodiesel, biogas), bio-lubricants, and other renewable industrial chemicals.
 - (e) Nutritional food products (seeds, oil) and high-value extracts (non-CBD cannabinoids, proteins, omegas) for food, feed, wellness, and pharmaceutical industries.
 - (f) Soil remediation (phytoremediation) of contaminated lands.
 - (g) Sustainable animal bedding, mulches, and other agricultural inputs.
2. Governments shall enact policies and provide substantial funding to aggressively incentivize research, development, and rapid commercial adoption of hemp-based alternatives across all relevant sectors, setting clear targets for replacing conven-

tional petrochemical-based products.

Article 4 Economic Instruments

1. **Fiscal Policy & Incentives:** Redirect all direct and indirect subsidies, tax breaks, and financial support currently allocated to fossil fuel industries towards farmers cultivating hemp regeneratively, processors developing hemp-based materials, and businesses utilizing these materials. Implement tax incentives, grants, and low-interest loans for investment in hemp infrastructure and innovation.
2. **Public Procurement & Market Creation:** Mandate that all government agencies, public institutions, and publicly funded projects prioritize and source a significant and annually increasing percentage of goods, materials, and services from certified organic and ethically produced hemp-based suppliers.
3. **Carbon Pricing & Financial Mechanisms:** Implement robust carbon pricing mechanisms that penalize fossil fuel use and reward carbon sequestration. Develop standardized methodologies to quantify and monetize the verifiable carbon sequestration achieved through regenerative hemp cultivation and in durable hemp-based products (e.g., building materials), issuing tradable carbon credits that directly benefit regenerative farmers. Encourage financial institutions to develop green finance products and investment funds specifically for the hemp value chain.
4. **Divestment:** Encourage and facilitate divestment from fossil fuel assets by public and private entities.

Article 5 Trade and Market Access

1. Actively promote the harmonization of international standards, certifications (including robust organic and fair trade standards), and regulations for hemp cultivation, processing, and products under the Universal Declaration of Organic Rights and other relevant international frameworks to eliminate technical barriers to trade and ensure product quality and safety.
2. Provide comprehensive technical assistance, capacity building, and financial support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), cooperatives, and farmer-led initiatives in accessing global markets, ensuring fair prices, ethical sourcing, and equitable distribution of value along the supply chain through fair-trade agreements and practices.
3. Prevent the imposition of discriminatory tariffs or non-tariff barriers on sustainably produced hemp products.

Article 6 Social and Environmental Safeguards

1. Strictly prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified hemp varieties and the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to preserve genetic diversity, protect

pollinator health, prevent soil and water contamination, and safeguard ecosystem integrity. Monitor and manage water usage responsibly in hemp cultivation, promoting drought-resistant practices and protecting water sources.

2. Guarantee living wages, safe and healthy working conditions, freedom of association, and the right to collective bargaining for all workers involved in the hemp value chain, from cultivation to processing and manufacturing. Prohibit forced labor, child labor, and all forms of discrimination. Ensure the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous peoples and local communities regarding hemp cultivation and processing on or near their traditional lands.

Article 7 Education and Capacity Building

1. Integrate comprehensive curricula on regenerative hemp agronomy, organic processing technologies, sustainable product design, circular economy principles, and the economic and policy aspects of the hemp value chain into vocational training, higher education institutions, and farmer extension programs worldwide.
2. Establish and fund accessible knowledge-sharing platforms, research centers, and innovation hubs—linking researchers, farmers, processors, designers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers—to facilitate the dissemination of best practices, technological advancements, market information, and traditional knowledge related to hemp.
3. Implement widespread public awareness campaigns to educate consumers and the general public about the environmental, social, and economic benefits of hemp-based products and the importance of supporting the transition to a hemp-powered economy.

Article 8 Governance and Oversight

1. Establish independent national Hemp Boards or equivalent bodies in all signatory states, comprising representatives from relevant government ministries, industry associations (including small businesses and cooperatives), academic and research institutions, civil society organizations (including environmental and social justice groups), and representatives of farmers and Indigenous communities. These boards shall oversee the implementation of this Declaration, develop national strategies and targets, and review progress.
2. National Hemp Boards shall report annually on their progress towards the Declaration's objectives to an international Hemp Forum. This Forum shall be established under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), or a dedicated new international body, tasked with reviewing global progress, sharing best practices, addressing challenges, and ensuring accountability. The Forum shall commission independent reviews of implementation progress.

Article 9 Implementation Timeline

1. By 2028: Establish national strategies and policy frameworks in participating economies to support the Declaration’s objectives. Achieve at least 10% of new construction materials, 15% of textiles, and 20% of packaging from certified sustainable hemp sources.
2. By 2035: Achieve at least 40% of construction materials, 50% of textiles, and 60% of packaging in participating economies from certified sustainable hemp sources. Transition 20% of registered industrial processes (e.g., plastics, lubricants, chemicals) to hemp-derived inputs.
3. By 2045: Achieve at least 70% of construction materials, 80% of textiles, and 90% of packaging from certified sustainable hemp sources. Transition 60% of registered industrial processes to hemp-derived inputs.
4. By 2050: Attain a predominantly hemp-centric baseline economy across participating nations, minimizing reliance on fossil-based materials and processes to under 10% where technically feasible and ecologically sound. Ensure regenerative hemp cultivation is the dominant agricultural practice for industrial crops.

Article 10 Amendments and Revisions

1. This Declaration may be updated biennially to incorporate technological advances, policy learnings, and stakeholder feedback.
2. Amendments require a two-thirds majority approval by the international Hemp Forum.

Article 11 International Cooperation and Financing

1. Signatory states commit to fostering robust international cooperation on research, technology transfer, capacity building, and policy alignment to facilitate the global transition to a hemp-powered economy.
2. Developed nations shall provide financial resources, technical assistance, and technology transfer to developing nations to support the adoption of regenerative hemp cultivation and processing technologies, acknowledging common but differentiated responsibilities in addressing global sustainability challenges.
3. Establish a global Hemp Transition Fund, supported by contributions from signatory states, international financial institutions, and innovative financing mechanisms (e.g., carbon taxes), to provide grants and concessional loans for projects advancing the Declaration’s goals, particularly in the Global South.
4. Promote public-private partnerships and impact investment models that align financial returns with positive social and environmental outcomes within the hemp value chain.

Adoption & Endorsement

We, the undersigned governments, calling upon businesses of all sizes, non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, financial institutions, and individuals worldwide, do hereby endorse this Universal Declaration for a Hemp-Powered Economy. We pledge to align our policies, investments, operations, and actions with its principles and articles, commit necessary resources, and act in solidarity to accelerate a just, regenerative, equitable, and resilient hemp-powered economy—securing a sustainable and prosperous future for all people and the planet.