

**THE KYIV DECLARATION
OF THE UNIVERSITY RECTORS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE BLACK SEA REGION**

We, the rectors, vice rectors and chancellors of universities from the Black Sea Region consider that our generation has the responsibility to pass on an acceptable standard of living and a clean environment to future generations!

We are deeply concerned about the scale and speed of environmental pollution and degradation, and the depletion of natural resources of our region. Local and regional, soil, water and air pollution, accumulation and distribution of toxic wastes in continental, coastal and sea areas; destruction and depletion of forests, soil, and water; emission of "green house" gases threaten the survival of humans and of other living species, the integrity of the earth in general and of our region in special, its biodiversity, the security of nations, and the heritage of future generations. These environmental changes are caused by a complex mix of factors that will have a dramatic impact on the welfare of our region.

We believe that urgent actions are needed to address these fundamental problems and reverse the trends. Equilibrated demographic policies, eco-innovation by adoption of environmentally sound industrial and agricultural technologies, reforestation, and ecological restoration are crucial elements in creating an equitable and sustainable future for all citizens of our region in harmony with nature.

Universities have a major role in the education, research, policy formation, and information exchange necessary to make these goals possible.

The university heads must provide the leadership and support to mobilize internal and external resources so that their institutions respond to this urgent challenge. We, therefore, agree to take the following actions:

1. Use every opportunity to raise public, government, industry, foundation, and university awareness by publicly addressing the urgent need to move toward an environmentally sustainable development of our region.
2. Encourage all universities to engage in education, research, policy formation, and information exchange on population, environment, and development to move toward a sustainable development of our region.
3. Establish programs to produce expertise in environmental management, sustainable economic development, population, integrated management of coastal zones and related fields to ensure that all university graduates are environmentally literate and responsible citizens.

4. Create programs to develop the capability of university faculty to teach environmental literacy to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students.
5. Set an example of environmental responsibility by establishing programs of resource conservation, recycling, and waste reduction at the universities.
6. Encourage the involvement of government (at all levels), foundations, and industry in supporting university research, education, policy formation, and information exchange in environmentally sustainable development. Expand work with nongovernmental organizations to assist in finding solutions to environmental problems.
7. Convene school deans and environmental practitioners to develop research, policy, information exchange programs, and curricula for an environmentally sustainable future for the Black Sea Region.
8. Establish partnerships with primary and secondary schools to help develop the capability of their faculty to teach about population, environment, and sustainable development issues.
9. Work with the European Union, the UN under the program UN Decade on Sustainable Development, and other national and international organizations to promote a worldwide university effort toward a sustainable future for the Black Sea Region.
10. Establish an Academic Steering Committee for Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region and appoint the BSUN International Permanent Secretariat to continue this momentum and inform and support each other's efforts in carrying out this declaration.

This Declaration has been signed today April 4th 2008 in Kyiv, during the 7th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region – BSUN General Assembly hosted by National Technical University of Ukraine – KPI.

The participants have agreed to keep the list of signatory universities open until August 1st 2008.