



GAIA SPEAKS...



I am Gaia,

I am Bhoomi, I am Pachamama, the Living Earth

For over 4 billion years I have generated trillions of species, microbes, plants, animals that mutually support each other working through my patterns of interrelatedness and peace to foster life on Earth. When climate systems and temperatures gave rise to the evolution of humans on Earth some 200,000 years ago, human species began to evolve and thrive, co-creating in diversity, freedom and reciprocity. My being is interconnectedness and harmony by which all life on Earth has evolved.

My expression is diversity.

Humanity has survived and sustained herself down the ages by caring for the Earth, maintaining her cycles of food and water, life and energy, while providing for people's needs. Living within planetary and ecological laws and boundaries is a precondition for humans to survive the unprecedented crises they face today for the future of humanity.

For millennia indigenous cultures and Earth citizens know me as Mother Earth, Terra Madre, connected in body and spirit, and know themselves my custodians, custodians of the Earth, their habitat, living according to established laws as an Earth Community, Earth Family . Not masters, controllers or owners.

Some 500 years ago the notion of my inseparability and interconnectedness with humans began to fade in people's minds and the illusion of being separate and disconnected from the Earth took hold.

With colonization and "civilising missions" those who saw themselves as superior and masters of the Earth, blind to the vital, self-organizing life on Earth and to the people who have lived and cared for the Earth from generation to generation, declared lands to be empty, devoid of life, dead earth. Terra Madre became seen as Terra Nullius, with insignificant people living on barren land.

Humans soon began violating Earth's planetary and ecological boundaries, burning, extracting and plundering Earth's living resources, polluting the soils, the land, water and air, unaware that it was the path of self-destruction.

Stubborn illusions of superiority, mastery, and of being separate from Earth and her intelligent self-organizing living systems are at the root of the degradation and desertification of the Earth and of the human spirit.

Violence and injustice are their consequences, which lead to war.

Forests are burning, from the Arctic to the Amazon. Chronic diseases are spreading, and long-gone pandemics have returned, as an industrial poison-based agricultural system invades into forests and across vast agricultural lands, poisoning all life from the smallest microbe to plants, animals and people.

Indigenous peoples and concerned earth citizens are today fighting for their survival as never before as my habitats and biodiversity are being ravaged as a result of the relentless pursuit of profits, control and power by monster corporations and billionaires.

Rapacious systems of profit and power-hungry billionaires are anathema to my self-organizing, regenerative and life-sustaining systems.

You, Mr. Gates and your foundation, falsely portrayed as a caring philanthropist of the poor, sick and hungry, best exemplify these extractive and destructive systems:

- > I grow diversity, you impose monocultures and uniformity.
- > I self-organise, self-create, maintain, and renew in interconnectedness. Your mechanized competitive mind imposes high-tech brutal control.
- I promote harmony and freedom. You spawn violence and impose monopolies.
- > I create cycles of renewal through living organisms. You impose inert genetically modified commodities.
- > Farmers seeds are the source of life, to be freely saved, bred, exchanged and sold to provide food that nourishes the body. You produce genetically modified seeds to be patented, sold and traded as commodities for profit.
- > I generate biodiversity that supports all life on Earth. You destroy biodiversity through poisons and create vast swathes of toxic monocultures.
- > Earth's ecological agriculture provides health and nutrition. Your industrial agriculture creates disease, hunger and malnutrition.

Your so-called 'humanitarian' projects are a way to justify your carving out new colonies to enlarge your control and empire over humanity's life-sustaining systems: seeds, agriculture, food, health and knowledge.

Whether you know it or not, you are creating an Empire of disease.

Through digital genomic patenting, you are thwarting the regulations which have evolved to protect my biodiversity and the rights of those who sustain me.

As a major backer of geoengineering, together with your massive investments in the coal and oil industry's mining and extraction for fossil fuel energy, you poison Earth's atmosphere, disrupt Earth's ecosystems, violate my boundaries and dangerously destabilize the climate. Channelling these vast sums, instead, to reduce carbon emissions to zero would be far more cost effective to stop the warming of the planet.

You also assume the right to mutate life through gene drive technology and CRISPR, a high risk and unpredictable new genetic extinction technology - which can lead to the deliberate modification of humans and living species.

Life is not a Microsoft machine, and cannot be cut and pasted. Nature's intelligence continues to evolve and fights back in unpredictable and unexpected ways as the world is witnessing today with the Covid19 virus pandemic.

Ethical and long-term implications for the future of humanity find no space in your narrow self-absorbed, power hungry mind with which you disrupt my life-sustaining systems and threaten the biodiversity of life that I have evolved over billions of years.

You are not just rupturing the fabric I have woven, with your colossal wealth and mechanistic mind you are blindly setting the course of humanity faster on the destructive path of ecological, social and economic breakdown in this crucial and epoch changing time for the future of humanity.

You are tearing apart the fabric of community and society that makes life liveable. You are bringing human society itself to the brink of annihilation by destroying the conditions that guarantee life and freedom to all citizens.

Empires have come and gone.

I call on all citizens to take energy and creativity from me, and rise to protect their communities, societies, their humanity and future from you and your cohorts mechanical, robotic, thoughtless, toxic urge to control everything that is living and free.

My laws are higher than the laws made by powerful men for their limitless greed and hubris. Following my laws and respecting my ecological boundaries, humanity can find its way to regeneration of hope, freedom and life in abundance.

Reclaim the Seeds I have given you. Reclaim the living food that nourishes us.

Reclaim your Life and Freedom, in unity and solidarity, in community and interconnectedness, though diversity self-organisation.

Draw from me the power to speak, act and live the truth of life in freedom compassion, love and oneness.

Co-create with me an age beyond Empires, an age of generosity and wellbeing, an age of Gaia.



International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture

The **International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture** was created in 2003 in Tuscany, Italy, as a result of an international meeting of leaders in the food and agriculture movement brought together by Claudio Martini, then President of the Regional Government of Tuscany and Dr Vandana Shiva, founder of Navdanya.

The Commission brings together leading activists, academics, scientists, politicians and farmers from North and South, committed to building more socially and ecologically sustainable food and agriculture systems and active in creative movements for the protection of biodiversity, local food production and consumption, food security, food safety and health, and the rights of consumers and small farmers.

It has published six far-reaching Manifestos on issues of critical importance to the future of the planet: Manifesto on The Future of Food, Manifesto on the Future of Seeds, Manifesto on Climate Change and the Future of Food Security, Manifesto on Future of Knowledge Systems: knowledge sovereignty for a healthy planet, Manifesto called Terra Viva: Our Soil, Our Commons, our Future and Manifesto on Food for Health. The Manifestos have been widely distributed at major international United Nations and Civil Society Conferences and Summits on food security, agriculture, and climate change.

Navdanya International

Navdanya International was created in Italy in 2011 to strengthen the global outreach of Navdanya, its mother organization in India founded by Dr. Vandana Shiva, in its mission to protect nature, Earth's biodiversity and defend farmers' rights to save, exchange and evolve seeds and to protect indigenous knowledge and culture.

Navdanya International launched its Global Seed Freedom Campaign in 2012 to bring to citizens' attention the crucial role of seed in defending food sovereignty and food safety, and help strengthen the movement to save and exchange seeds in response to the growing corporate hijacking of our seeds and our food. In the context of the deepening global seed emergency and food crisis, Navdanya International formed the Global Movement for Seed Freedom as a way of uniting the thousands of diverse groups and organisations saving seeds around the world, in resisting the criminalisation of seed saving and in promoting ecological agriculture. The Seed Freedom Movement has grown into a very strong and vibrant global community, which continues to expand through the mushrooming of thousands of local seed groups and networks throughout the world, through festivals, workshops, demonstrations and policy advocacy campaigns.

Navdanya International has been at the forefront of showing connections between multiple crises in the global debate in a holistic perspective, but also connecting movements and actions on the ground. Its international campaigns, convergences, assemblies and advocacy actions have been focused on exploring the context of our food systems and its connections with soil, climate resilience, biodiversity, equity and social justice, and its connection and effects on the health of people and of the planet, with the aim of adding strength to the global mobilization against the industrialization, poisoning and impoverishment of our nutrition and environment, to create change at a systems level.

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