

11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Declaration of tree Rights as it will be proclaimed at the National Assembly's symposium on April 5, 2019.

#### Article 1

The tree is a fixed living being, which, in comparable proportions, occupies two distinct environments: the atmosphere and the soil. In the soil grow roots, which capture water and mineral. In the atmosphere grows the crown, which captures carbon dioxide and solar energy. By this situation, the tree plays a fundamental role in the ecological balance of the planet.

#### Article 2

The tree is a living being sensitive to changes in its environment. It must be respected as such. It should not be reduced to a simple object. It is entitled to the airspace and underground that is necessary for it to achieve its full growth and reach its adult dimensions.

In these conditions the tree has rights for respect of its physical integrity: whereas it is aerial (branches, trunk, foliage) or underground (root network). The alteration of these organs severely weakens the tree, as does the use of pesticides and other toxic substances.

#### Article 3

The tree is a living organism whose average longevity far exceeds that of the human being.

The tree must be respected throughout its life, with the right to develop and reproduce freely, from its birth to its natural death, whether it is a tree of cities or campaigns. The tree must be considered as a subject of law, including within the rules governing human property.

#### Article 4

Some trees, considered remarkable by men, for their age, appearance or history, deserve extra attention. By becoming a common bio-cultural heritage, they have access to a higher status, committing man to protect them as "natural monuments". They can be enrolled in an area of preservation of the landscape heritage, thus benefiting from enhanced protection and development for aesthetic, historical or cultural reasons.

#### Article 5

To meet the needs of men, some trees are planted and then exploited, escaping the criteria mentioned above. However, the operating modalities of forest and rural trees must take into account the life cycle of trees, natural renewal capacities, ecological balances and biodiversity.

*The aim of this text is to change the gaze and behaviour of men, to make them aware of the decisive role of trees in everyday life and for the future, by paving the way for a rapid change in legislation at national level*