



Indian Diaspora Council

## **Indian Diaspora Council**

*Shared heritage, aspirations and interests*

[www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org](http://www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org)

Tel (USA): +1-347-494-1502

Post Office Box 650523 New York 11365 USA

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### ***Press Statement***

## **Indian Diaspora Council (IDC) in Solidarity with Earth Day**

The **Indian Diaspora Council (IDC)** joins in solidarity with its global affiliates and membership, other organizations, institutions, agencies, and individuals globally in supporting the international awareness of Earth Day and its 2017 campaign of *Environmental & Climate Literacy*.



**Earth Day 2017 - April 22, 2017**

### **Earth Day**

“Education is the foundation for progress. We need to build a global citizenry fluent in the concepts of climate change and aware of its unprecedented threat to our planet. We need to empower everyone with the knowledge to inspire action in defense of environmental protection”.

“Environmental and climate literacy is the engine not only for creating green voters and advancing environmental and climate laws and policies but also for accelerating green technologies and jobs”.

### **Ashook Ramsaran (IDC - International President)**

“Earth sustains all life and must be protected in order for it to continue to provide viable means for sustainable life, health and well being of all its inhabitants, especially as the world population keeps on increasing. Over consumption and over population adversely affect the natural resources and earth’s climate with catastrophic consequences. It is an increasingly urgent call to action, a commitment of individual and collective responsibility, obligation and duty for environmental literacy and awareness from the early stages among children as well as among adults, professionals, businesses, institutions, agencies and officials. Our legacy is intimately linked to protection of earth and its environment for a sustainable future and that is undeniable and indisputable. While economic progress is important, it is vital that all sectors of society, as a collective partnership, make this collective commitment for earth’s sustainable future. We live and share in earth’s bounty of life sustenance and we have a responsibility to do that which we must to protect it as well.”

### **Deo Gosine (IDC Trinidad & Tobago)**

“Earth provides sustenance for all humanity and all life. It is our obligation to protect and maintain it with due respect and reverence as individuals, educators, corporations and governments. Massive over consumption of energy and natural resources as well as uncontrolled disposal add to the dilemma of climate change, famine, floods, diseases, loss of life and food shortages. Recognition of the imminent problems and society’s role in addressing them are urgent and must not be readily dismissed. There is too much at stake at this critical time in the history of mankind. We need to advance more education among all ages to bring more awareness which can result in more cooperative efforts globally.”

### **Mridul Pathak (IDC Global Strategy Advisor)**

“Earth Day reminds us of our grave and urgent responsibility towards preserving the ecosystem we live in and which is facing imminent danger of being destabilized due to constant human interventions like deforestation and polluting practices leading to melting of glaciers, tsunamis, floods, earthquakes, etc. which might bring about repetition of glacial age leading to total destruction. It is time we reduce consumption, plant trees and protect ourselves by protecting the environment.”

### **Sylvia Perez (IDC Belize)**

“Earth Day in spring heralds life at its best in nature; however, embracing each day as Earth Day will help to replenish Mother Earth and lessen her groans of depletion. The global engagement of non – governmental organization, businesses, academic institutions and government agencies in environmental education can help promote daily awareness of earth’s problem and inspire all to act in saving our planet”.

### **Prof. Balkrishna Naipaul (IDC Canada)**

“Environmental protection became part of modern science that deals with ecology during the 20th century. Critical concerns over ecology and environment, as they affect humanity and the survival of our planet, goes back to the heart of Vedic culture, as narrated in Sanskrit literature seven thousand years ago. Act Now!”

### **Sharla Khargi (IDC USA)**

“Our Vedic spiritual teachings encourage us to become one with the universe, to really listen and connect not just to one another but with nature and all living things. That majestic oak tree at the park is not just symbolic, but rather deeply symbiotic: When we exhale carbon dioxide, that tree “inhales” and willfully, effortlessly, and graciously produces clean oxygen for us. This earth day, plant a tree.”

### **Kritilata Ram (IDC Mauritius)**

“Earth day is celebrated since 1970 to give us the opportunity to put a lot of emphasis on a clean environment around us. It is important for a country to take necessary steps to protect the environmental, economic and social landscape of a country. The five development pillars of Education, Environment, Energy, Employment and Equity are important for the sustainable development and inclusive growth of a country. Children at a very tender age should be inculcated with a culture of Eco-Responsibility to make them responsible citizens of tomorrow, aware of the need to protect our environment and the need to combine economic growth with sustainable development. We should not be passive spectators at the reckless exploitation and destruction of our natural Planet Earth. Nature is under assault, thus let us unify, act and protect our magnificent blue planet.”

### **Dr. Arnold Thomas (IDC St. Vincent and the Grenadines)**

The beautiful island state of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is susceptible to natural disasters such as hurricane, volcanic eruption, and earthquake; however the most imminent threat is from sea-level rise due to climate change. In these small islands developing states (SIDS) we have already experienced enormous erosion of coastal areas, a problem recognized by the United Nations and several international organizations. On this Earth Day we re-echo the call to the developed world that forgetting the cause of small island states could amount to ‘atmospheric apartheid’.

### **Harbachan Singh (IDC USA)**

“All ye men of the world, don’t disrespect mother earth – your existence depends on it.” The greatest grandmother of all universal mothers – the earth, is a living phenomenon, breaths (tsunami), cries (rain) eats (absorbs) moves (rotates) , excretes (volcano, rivers), loves (magnet) feeds everyone in the ground, on the surface and in the air, and has a soul (is held in orbit in the galaxy) has a mate (Sun), bleeds (water/oil flows out when dug), will die (as some planets which are devoid of water and living things). Respect is but a token price to pay for this gift of treasure to life. So, let’s join hands and celebrate and be thankful to this equalizing miracle to mankind.”

### **Shadel Nyack Compton (IDC Grenada)**

“Every April 22, we are reminded of one of the most significant and widely celebrated global events - Earth Day. Earth Day helps us understand how the combined force of technology and man-made efforts can impact the complex, on-going interactions within the climatic system of Earth. One of the keys to comprehending it is educating the present and future generation about the blissful interconnection between humans and the climate science, so that we are enabled to act more responsibly as global citizens. We seek to embark on a journey to fight back negative environmental impacts, and ensure that we get fresh natural air to breathe, greener places to enjoy and promote our well-being, and clean and safe water to drink. We have an unflinching aim to safeguarding our environment with technology, human efforts and dedication. On the occasion of this Earth Day, let us remember with pride what we have already accomplished, and what we need to achieve to provide a greener future to the generations to come.”

### **Ishwar Ramlutchman Mabheka Zulu (IDC South Africa)**

“Earth day is here to remind us that we have responsibilities that extend beyond our own space that we occupy. Earth Day challenges us to take seriously our job as caretakers of our natural environment. It inspires us to think of more than just our own sustenance. We need to act on behalf of this planet we share and all its inhabitants. If Earth Day makes us think about how we can do more to make sure the air, we breathe is clean and the water we drink is pure, then it is doing its job. If Earth Day gets us to worry about the safety of our food supply, or of wild places, or of wildlife, then it is serving its purpose. All of these are critically important concerns. And most of us seem to need a special day, set aside to prod us to care about them. We owe an enormous debt to earth and Earth Day for that. But caring about clean air or clean water or endangered species or genetically engineered food is not enough. We need to unite and stand collectively as humanity to protect our natural environment. Industries and governments need to play a part in ensuring our natural environment is protected.”

For more information, please contact:

Indian Diaspora Council president Ashook Ramsaran @ [ashookramsaran@gmail.com](mailto:ashookramsaran@gmail.com)

*Indian Diaspora Council (IDC) is an international non-profit organization of shared heritage, aspirations and interests.*