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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY — 5 JUNE

Theme for the year 2002: *Give earth a chance*

When did it all begin? World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme).

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is about you and me. It is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day is "GIVE EARTH A CHANCE". (The themes for the previous years are given in the next page.) This day seeks not only to create a world-wide awareness of the environmental problems, but also to stimulate political and individual actions.

The theme "GIVE EARTH A CHANCE", calls on each and every one of us to contribute to the healing of the ailing planet. In spite of considerable efforts and significant achievements, many of the problems, which plagued the Earth during the 20th century, still linger.

Broadly, the agenda is to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership which will ensure all nations and people enjoy a safer and more prosperous future. World Environment Day is a people's event with colourful activities such as street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, essays and poster competitions in schools, tree planting, as well as recycling and clean-up campaigns.

But what can we, as individuals, do? Each of us can contribute to saving the Earth in our own way like planting a tree or ceasing to use plastic bags.

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