

GLOBAL MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release – March 20, 2001

A New Spirit of Humanity is circling the Planet!

Today, March 20th, marks the first “World Day of Planetary Consciousness” as Sunrise Celebrations take place planet-wide, beginning with a Maori welcome in New Zealand and ending with a Polynesian performance in Samoa! Thousands of people in 28 cities and 21 countries are participating!

This first Spring Day of the New Millennium will culminate in a gala event in Hungary featuring messages and participation from Honorary Members of the Club of Budapest including: The Dalai Lama, Mikhail Gorbachev, Arthur C. Clarke, Peter Ustinov, Ervin Laszlo, Jane Goodall, Peter Russell, Edgar Mitchell, Robert Muller, Peter Gabriel and Betty Williams.

On this World Day people from many cultures and nations will unite under the banner of the Planetary Vision Festival 2001 to celebrate the spirit of humanity’s new consciousness that is dawning with this new era, including in: Auckland, Nelson, Brisbane, Fukuoka, Beijing, Khatmandu, Delhi, Auroville, St. Petersburg, Kiev, Jerusalem, Delphi, Budapest, Guardea, Vienna, Lucerne, Paris, Brighton, Sao Paolo, New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, Toronto, Kansas City, Monterrey, Vancouver, San Francisco and Samoa.

Planetary consciousness is the recognition of the vital interdependence and essential interconnection of all humankind and the earth. It is a new consciousness that can help us create a shared vision of "a united humanity living in harmony with nature", at this crucial time in our history. In the words of Sir Arthur C. Clarke; “At the dawn of the new Millennium, we have an opportunity to make a better world. If we act with responsibility and compassion we can change the way we relate to each other and to the planet. I much appreciate the efforts of the Planetary Vision Festival to focus attention on the unity of humankind and the need for us to evolve a planetary consciousness.”

Planetary Vision Festival 2001 is the first in an annual series of events and programs celebrating our new planetary consciousness and its related ethics and actions. The Festival will unite people planet-wide in awareness of the great opportunities present at this special time to shape a sustainable and peaceful future for all, and help inspire humanity to new ethics, new actions and new heights!

The Festival was launched on World Day One (January 1, 2001), the official first day of the 21st Century and the Third Millennium. Groups in 26 countries joined together on this World Day to participate in two new global initiatives: “The First Global Singalong”, a singalong of universal songs, and “First Steps - A Walk for the Future”, a local/global walk for our common future. Further Planetary Vision Festival world programs this year are the first World Month of Planetary Understanding (March 21st to April 21st) and the first World Day of Planetary Ethics (September 22nd).

The Planetary Vision Festival is initiated by The Club of Budapest in partnership with the PVF2001 Founding Alliance. The Club of Budapest is an international association dedicated to developing new thinking and ethics that will help address the social, political, economic and ecological challenges of the 21st Century. Founding Alliance members include: Associazione Culturale dei Triangoli e della Buona Volontà Mondiale (Italy), First Steps International (Canada), Global Foundation for Understanding (Canada), Institute for Ethical Leadership (Canada), Pathways to Peace (USA), Sister Cities International - Pause for Peace Project (USA), The Club of Budapest USA, The Star of Tolerance (EU) and Towards the Third Millennium (Russia and Ukraine).

###

For further details contact:

David Woolfson, Producer