Individual Declaration of Interdependence: A Poem

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I find I have a row to hoe in the garden that's our home,
I have a row to hoe to contribute to the whole,
A row to hoe that won't be hoed if not by me,
A row to hoe that's my responsibility.

This garden nurtures me and I nurture it in turn. Although it freely nurtures me, its fruit I choose to earn. I regard my role with awe, my vision increases in depth. My role to tend this garden lasts till my final breath.

If I forget my role, then I just take up space;
If I neglect my part, I diminish the garden and the human race.
Some wondrous tools and talents belong only to me,
But until I use them they can never really be.

I depend on this garden, which in turn depends on me.

I declare myself committed to our "mutual survival society."

The ledger seeks a balance, each for the other to care,

To leave future generations healthy water, earth and air.

Author's Note: This poem was inspired by the *Global Declaration of Interdependence*. That document can be read and signed at www.wetheworld.org. Dr. Hunter serves on the board of We the World and can be contacted at junahli@yahoo.com.

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