

RESOLUTION 17R-11

To request the RI Board to consider adding a fifth part to The Four-Way Test

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Haenertsburg, District 9400, Botswana,
Mozambique, South Africa, and Swaziland

Endorsed by: District 9400 through an annual district conference, Polokwane,
Limpopo, South Africa, 22-25 June 2017

1 WHEREAS, the existing Four-Way Test is a cornerstone of the Rotary way of life,
2 reflecting on the ideal way to approach issues of human interaction and morality;
3 however, it does not reflect on our relationship with our environment and our
4 vulnerable planet

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6 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
7 International consider the use of the proposed Five-Way Test, which includes a
8 deep reflection for a sustainable approach to our planet. The Five-Way Test
9 should read as follows:

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11 The Five-Way Test of the things we think, say, and do:

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13 1. Is it the TRUTH?
14 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
15 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
16 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
17 5. Will it PRESERVE PLANET EARTH for future generations?

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

18 In The Four-Way Test, Rotarians' actions and ethics are the central themes and
19 relate to our interaction with people. By including our interaction with planet
20 Earth, we are adding an additional ethical check to the long-term sustainability of
21 our humanitarian efforts. We are not shifting the focus of our efforts away from
22 people.

23
24 The preamble of the document on Rotary's six areas of focus states: "With a
25 commitment to achieving lasting change, we work together to empower youth,
26 enhance health, promote peace, and most important, advance the community."
27 Lasting change, sustainability, is a key issue when investigating the viability of
28 global and district grants – at its most complete it implies that we will consider
29 the effect on the environment.

1 Although Preserve Planet Earth is no longer an official Rotary program, the
2 principles expressed by its first advocate, Past President Paulo Costa, can be
3 applied fruitfully to any of the six areas of focus or to any Rotary project. He said:
4 “There are very few organizations with Rotary’s potential to communicate good
5 ideas. It is not our own good which we seek, but it is the good of the Earth and
6 those who inhabit it.”

7
8 All three strategic priorities in Rotary’s Strategic Plan would benefit from the
9 inclusion: it would support and strengthen clubs by providing a tangible area of
10 focus for change and strategic planning (“How will these changes affect the way
11 we approach projects?”); it will focus and increase humanitarian service by
12 stressing the concept of sustainability in a profound way; and it will enhance
13 public image and awareness by providing the opportunity to stress this core value
14 of Rotarians to the broader community, which, in turn, will enhance awareness of
15 Rotary and its agenda.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

16 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI.