

15/17. LAW OF THE SEA

NOTING the achievements of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea relating to protection of the marine environment and conservation of the marine resources;

AWARE that the marine environment covers 71% of the earth's surface and contains hundreds of thousands of plant and animal species which are interrelated in complex ways; CONCERNED that human activities in the marine environment not be allowed to cause ecological changes which adversely affect habitats, ecosystems and species;

CONVINCED that implementation of the more than fifty provisions contained in the draft Convention on the Law of the Sea, which involve obligations of major environmental importance, is essential for the protection of the marine environment;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christ-church, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

URGES all States to conclude and then ratify the proposed Convention on the Law of the Sea as soon as possible;

FURTHER URGES States to prepare the laws, rules and standards, at both national and international levels, necessary to implement those provisions of the draft Convention which contain major environmental obligations and responsibilities, and to consult IUCN and other appropriate international organizations in this regard; and

PLEDGES to make IUCN expertise available to States and other bodies and organizations regarding implementation of the proposed Convention.