

19.33 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC)

RECOGNIZING that international trade agreements have a potentially significant impact on environmental protection and the management of natural resources in developing and developed countries;

AWARE that OECD has adopted, at the Ministerial level, a series of Guidelines on Trade and the Environment which seek an assessment of the role for environmental measures in international trade agreements, establishment of consultative mechanisms with all interest groups and a reassessment of the impact of trade liberalization on the environment;

NOTING that Agenda 21 states that governments have made a commitment to open, transparent negotiations which will ensure environment and trade policies are mutually supportive with a view to achieving sustainable development;

AWARE that the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) currently comprises 15 nations involved in ongoing discussions about regional trade, and which together account for 50 per cent of world trade among nations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that existing international trading agreements did not adequately address the concerns of the environment and sustainable development when those agreements were established;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. URGES all governments involved in APEC to take full account of the need to protect the global environment, to promote sustainable development and to continue to examine their approaches to regional economic cooperation so that environmental considerations are integrated into APEC's activities;
2. URGES the Council to consider how best to involve IUCN in the APEC programme.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Malaysia and United States indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

