

1.48 Changing Consumption and Production Patterns

RECALLING *Caring for the Earth,- A Strategy for Sustainable Living*, which states that “Living sustainably depends on accepting a duty to seek harmony with other people and with nature. The guiding rules are that people must share with each other and care for the Earth. Humanity must take no more from nature than nature can replenish. This in turn means adopting lifestyles and development paths that respect and work within nature’s limits”;

EMPHASIZING the need for effective implementation of the actions proposed in *Caring for the Earth*, in particular Actions 3.1, 3.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 8.6, 8.8 and 8.9;

NOTING the recommendations in Chapter 4 of Agenda 21 and the progress achieved by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in elaborating and monitoring the implementation of these recommendations;

WELCOMING in particular the CSD Work Programme on Changing Consumption and Production Patterns adopted at its third session in 1995 and the “Elements for an international work programme on sustainable production and consumption” drafted at the 1995 Oslo Ministerial Roundtable Conference;

NOTING the Chairman’s Summary of the 1996 High Level Meeting of the CSD, which states, *inter alia*, “In regard to changing consumption and production patterns, the Commission stressed that policy development and implementation should give attention to an appropriate balance between the supply and demand side and should be viewed in a broad perspective, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Participants in the high-level segment reaffirmed the need for additional, substantial efforts by countries, in particular the developed countries, in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, and in assisting in redressing the present imbalances between, and within, the industrialized and developing countries”;

CONCERNED about the urgency of the need for additional substantial efforts, and of the clarification of differentiated responsibilities;

WELCOMING the active work done by several members and National Committees of IUCN in the field of changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, such as the intergovernmental initiatives in this field by the Governments of Norway and the Netherlands and the study of the ecological footprint of the Netherlands undertaken by the Netherlands Committee for IUCN (*Netherlands and the World Ecology, 1994*);

NOTING in particular the work done by Friends of the Earth organizations in Europe and the Wuppertal Institute to elaborate a European as well as national strategies for sustainability based on the principles of “environmental space” or “eco-space” and equity; noting with satisfaction that the Danish Government has been the first to adopt this approach for its national sustainability strategy; and considering this work, with its clear targets and timetables as well as strategic choices, as a valuable step towards changing consumption and production patterns;

RECOGNIZING the specific role IUCN can play as a unique platform where the discussion on changing consumption and production patterns can be brought further in a cooperative effort of governments of industrialized and developing countries and a wide range of NGOs and scientific institutions;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. CALLS UPON all members of IUCN to implement effectively the Actions recommended in Chapter 4 of Agenda 21 and the recommendations of CSD on changing consumption and production patterns and lifestyles;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to promote dialogue and cooperation between IUCN members to respond to the needs identified in the Chairman’s Summary of the 1996 High Level Meeting of the CSD as noted above;
3. CALLS upon those members of IUCN who already have experience in changing consumption and production patterns to provide summaries of their experience and methodologies to IUCN;
4. REQUESTS the Director General to seek means for these experiences to be shared among IUCN members, members of the Commission on Education and Communication, and other relevant organizations.