

## 1.75 Armed Conflict and the Environment

RECALLING Resolution 19.41 of the 19th session of the IUCN General Assembly;

RECOGNIZING the international instruments and provisions which exist to protect the environment in times of armed conflict;

CONCERNED that parties to armed conflict do not sufficiently recognize the value of natural and cultural areas of international importance;

EXPRESSING appreciation to the International Committee of the Red Cross for their many achievements in this field and to UNESCO concerning their work on cultural and natural heritage;

ACKNOWLEDGING with appreciation the cooperative initiative of the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL) and the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) in developing the Draft Convention on the Prohibition of Hostile Military Activities in Internationally Protected Areas, which promotes practical measures for the protection of natural and cultural areas of outstanding international significance in times of armed conflict;

NOTING that this Draft Convention requires the UN Security Council to include in their mandate for action under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, or other regional arrangements or agencies under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, relevant internationally protected areas designated as non-target areas, with authorization for expert missions from the UN or the regional arrangement or agency concerned to monitor compliance;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the extreme humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental consequences associated with the use of anti-personnel mines, especially in parts of Africa, South East Asia and Europe;

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

CALLS UPON all States to:

- a) consider the development of the above-mentioned Draft Convention on the Prohibition of Hostile Military Activities in Internationally Protected Areas;
- b) respond to the call of the Ottawa Conference (3–5 October 1996, Ottawa, Canada) for the earliest possible development of a legally binding agreement to ban the production, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines;
- c) expedite the removal through the UN system of all mines already planted in these regions.

*Note. This Recommendation was adopted by a show of hands. The delegations of the State members Australia, United Kingdom and United States indicated that they had abstained.*