

## 1.79 Implementation of Earth Summit Commitments

RECALLING the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (“the Earth Summit”) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which brought together over 110 Heads of States and Governments, representatives of 178 national governments and thousands of non-governmental organizations;

RECALLING that at the Conference national governments undertook commitments to sustainable development, including Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Forest Principles and the Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change;

NOTING that these commitments and documents incorporated and reflected many of the concepts and recommendations contained in *Caring for the Earth – A Strategy for Sustainable Living* prepared by IUCN in partnership with UNEP and WWF;

NOTING that over 100 nations have established or designated councils, commissions, and committees to develop national sustainable development or Agenda 21 strategies and to otherwise guide fulfillment of Earth Summit commitments;

RECOGNIZING the important contribution that the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has made in the Earth Summit implementation process, particularly on national reporting and the participation of non-governmental organizations and more generally of civil society;

CONCERNED that nonetheless the implementation of Earth Summit commitments by national governments is lagging or inadequate in many countries;

RECALLING Resolution 19.18 adopted at the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly, on IUCN policies and actions on sustainable development;

AWARE of UN General Assembly Resolution 47/190 of December 1992 when it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

ALSO AWARE of the invitation to governments as well as relevant regional and sub-regional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since Rio at the national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

FURTHER AWARE of Decision 4/8 of the 4th Session of CSD welcoming and supporting the preparation of country profiles by the UN Secretariat for the 1997 Special Session of the UN General Assembly;

RECOGNIZING the important role played by major groups at the Earth Summit and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recognizing the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session as well as for appropriate arrangements to ensure their contribution during the session;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that it is often preferable to prepare separate policy papers for each agenda point rather than a single general report;

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

1. CALLS UPON all States:
  - a) to take immediate and concrete actions to accelerate and reinvigorate their efforts to implement their Earth Summit commitments;
  - b) to cooperate fully with the UN Secretariat in the preparation of country profiles for the 1997 Special Session of the UN General Assembly by providing information, prepared with full participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society, on national efforts to fulfill these commitments;
  - c) to support the continuation and strengthening of the CSD, including the creation of a mechanism to facilitate dialogue between governments and non-governmental organizations to seek solutions to specific sustainable development concerns;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:

- a) to provide assistance to national governments in preparing reports on their implementation of Earth Summit commitments, covering the identification of priority actions to be taken as indicators of progress towards sustainable development;
  - b) to cooperate fully with non-governmental efforts to assess implementation of Earth Summit commitments five years after Rio;
  - c) in consultation with IUCN members, to participate actively in the preparation for the review of progress on Earth Summit decisions at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 1997;
  - d) to prepare, for the consideration of the CSD at its 5th Session, in a form easily usable by delegates and hence likely to have a direct impact on discussions, policy papers containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since Rio by the IUCN Programme in the implementation of Agenda 21 (especially Chapter 8) at all levels;
  - e) to include in these policy papers recommendations for future actions and priorities, including recommendations on the future role of IUCN and the contribution it can make in the follow up to the special session building on experience gained from 1992;
3. URGES the Director General to communicate to the UN Secretary General the importance of implementing Agenda 21, Chapter 27: "Strengthening the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations: Partners for Sustainable Development", particularly paragraphs 27.8 and 27.9, in regard to their participation in the 1997 Special Session of the UN General Assembly, and Chapter 24 on empowering women.

*Note: This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member United States indicated that had there been a vote the delegation would have abstained and noted that the efforts to facilitate dialogue referred to in Operative Paragraph 1(c) are already in progress.*