

## **1.105 Protection of the Hinchinbrook Region of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area**

NOTING that the cultural and natural heritage of humankind is increasingly threatened with destruction by changing social and economic conditions;

RECOGNIZING that the deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural and natural heritage is a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all nations of the world;

RECOGNIZING that the existing international conventions, recommendations and resolutions concerning cultural and natural property demonstrate the importance, for all the peoples of the world, of safeguarding this unique and irreplaceable property, to whatever people it may belong;

RECALLING that the various nations of the world adopted at the General Conference of UNESCO at its seventeenth session in Paris on the 16th November 1972 the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

RECOGNIZING that each State Party to this Convention has a duty to ensure the protection, conservation and presentation to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value situated on its territory and that it will do all it can to the utmost of its own resources;

RECOGNIZING that World Heritage sites are increasingly being threatened by serious and specific dangers such as the threat of disappearance caused by accelerated deterioration, large-scale public and private projects or tourist development projects;

CONCERNED that these threats continue to cause deterioration of the World Heritage sites and will ensure that future generations of the peoples of the world will not benefit from their heritage of unique and irreplaceable property;

BEING AWARE that the Port Hinchinbrook tourist and marina project at Oyster Point near Cardwell in North Queensland, Australia, the Dungeness marina proposal on the Hinchinbrook Channel, and expansion of mariculture ponds alongside the Hinchinbrook Channel are serious and specific threats to the Hinchinbrook Channel and Hinchinbrook Island, the Brook Islands and Goold Is. which are parts of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage site;

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

1. REMINDS the Australian Government that the Port Hinchinbrook tourist and marina project, Dungeness marine proposal and the expansion of mariculture ponds constitute serious and specific dangers to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage site;
2. CALLS UPON the Australian Government to take effective and active measures to ensure the protection, conservation, and presentation of the Hinchinbrook part of Great Barrier Reef World Heritage site including:
  - a) scientific, technical and monitoring research programmes;
  - b) comprehensive planning programmes for the whole area;
  - c) specific legal and administrative measures to protect the area that may include ensuring it is within the jurisdiction of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
  - d) specific rehabilitation programmes for the area of Oyster Point and other degraded areas;
  - e) specific presentation programmes for the area.
3. REQUESTS the Director General to seek assurances on these points from the Australian Government.

**Note.** This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Norway, Sweden and United States indicated that had there been a vote they would

have abstained. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting