

2.18 Strengthening actions for implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

RECALLING Resolution 16.7 *Support for Conservation in Africa* adopted by the 16th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Madrid, 1984), and Recommendations 18.23 *Land Degradation* adopted by the 18th Session of the General Assembly (Perth 1990), and 1.74 *Combating Desertification* adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal 1996);

ALSO RECALLING the global consensus achieved during and after the Rio 'Earth Summit' with regard to relationships between environmental and development issues, and the resulting adoption of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), Paris, 1994;

CONFIRMING the relevant orientations of the *World Conservation Strategy* and *Caring for the Earth* as prerequisites for maintaining essential living conditions and environmental balances in arid and semi-arid zones;

CONVINCED that combating desertification and the effects of drought in arid and semi-arid zones remain the basis in such regions for implementation of all other conservation strategies, namely biological diversity, climate change, and prevention and management of environmental risks;

NOTING with satisfaction the highly significant progress since the adoption of the CCD and the development and adoption of national and regional action programmes for Africa in particular;

RECALLING the major contributions made to the Sahel Programme and many other relevant programmes, such as the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the US-AID supported initiative on arid zones, and the essential needs and food security strategies supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Food Programme (WFP) that have widely contributed to the formulation of subsequent strategies including the *Nairobi and Lagos Action Plans*, the *UNSO Strategy*, and the *Special Initiative for Africa*;

CONCERNED that the significant contributions of several different initiatives have not reversed the pernicious phenomenon of desertification or led to support for the harmonious development of affected zones as perceived in the action programmes that have been adopted;

CONVINCED that, in order to produce the desired effects, the action programmes should be supported by arrangements in which the various actors (i.e. States, non-governmental organizations, aid agencies, the private sector, and local communities) can specify the level of their individual commitments, notably in terms of resource allocation and provision of adequate means for combating desertification; and

FURTHER CONVINCED that enhanced support to such processes can come from IUCN, specifically from its networks of experts, members, and partners, through coordination, training, lobbying, and innovative efforts, notably in the framework of the *Global Initiative on Desertification* adopted by the 18th Session of the General Assembly of the Union;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. REAFFIRMS its support to the Secretariat and other actors in their concerted efforts to promote integrated and sustainable development of arid and semi-arid zones, notably through implementation of the CCD;
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat, members, and the specialist networks of the Union, to make desertification control the key requirement for the development of these arid and semi-arid zones, by supporting the adoption and implementation of relevant national, sub-regional, and regional action programmes;
3. REQUESTS the Director General and Chairs of Commissions to give particular assistance for the development and implementation of the *Global Initiative on Desertification* as an appropriate tool for giving new impetus, and required coordination, to support the efforts of many other actors.