

2.33 Trade liberalization and the environment

NOTING that globalization and trade liberalization can result in greater income disparities both within and between countries and may affect environmental conservation in positive or negative ways;

RECOGNIZING that failure to address this issue may undermine sustainable development objectives by leading to a mismatch between short-term economic gains and the longer-term maintenance of natural resources and habitats and the environmental services they provide, which may be particularly relevant to developing countries because of lack of capacity to promote sustainable utilization of natural resources;

AWARE that trade liberalization may encourage unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and marginalization of local communities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the important advocacy, support, and coordination roles carried out by IUCN as a respected and trusted organization and the role of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) in this respect;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that mutually consistent policies require consultation and coordination with key interests both domestically and internationally which are facilitated by organizations such as the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD); and

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the leading role played by IUCN in the establishment of ICTSD and the networks developed by ICTSD among all sectors of civil society, governments, and intergovernmental organizations;

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

1. URGES IUCN to investigate the environmental consequences of trade liberalization and to widely disseminate the results and recommend actions if and as appropriate;
2. REQUESTS IUCN to elaborate on models of dispute settlement and compliance mechanisms, including arbitration procedures, for Multilateral Environment Agreements, which would also cover trade and environment conflicts;
3. CALLS ON IUCN to actively promote capacity-building programmes for developing countries so as to enable them to include environmental considerations in trade policies and to implement the above recommendations in cooperation with appropriate partner organizations, in particular, ICSTD.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States abstained from the adoption by consensus of this Resolution.