

REC 3.083 Improving capacity to achieve sustainable development and address the consequences of globalization

RECOGNIZING that natural, social and economic challenges must be met to achieve sustainable development at all levels from local to global;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that achievement of sustainable development, as called for under *Agenda 21*, the *World Conservation Strategy*, the *Millennium Development Goals*, the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, and numerous other declarations of the world community, cannot be achieved without cooperation among nations;

RECALLING that some countries have sought assistance to increase their capacity for addressing both the social, environmental and economic consequences of increased economic integration, and the opportunities, including trade and investment;

CONCERNED that despite the many commendable initiatives that have been launched to address the challenges of sustainable development, the national, regional and global institutions to achieve sustainable development remain weak and uncoordinated, and as a result have failed to provide mechanisms to articulate and meet the required capacity-building needs, which are especially important in the context of accelerated economic integration, including trade and investment;

FURTHER CONCERNED about the growing gap between available development cooperation resources and developing country needs; and

AWARE that a number of bodies, including the Millennium Project and the United Nations Environment Programme, are working to articulate the importance of a needs-driven process, incorporating work plans, funding, cooperation and accountability, to assist developing countries to reach sustainable development goals;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

CALLS on all states and appropriate international organizations, to undertake the following priority mission, to:

(a) assist developing countries in analysing and articulating, in a systematic manner, their needs for assistance and capacity-building to address the challenges of sustainable development and to improve governance, especially considering the impact of trade and economic integration;

(b) work through a coordinated process, involving appropriate stakeholders, to establish work plans with mutual accountability, including targets, timetables, benchmarks of progress, monitoring, and reporting, and to provide funding and other resources, as well as enabling policy initiatives, to address the needs referred to in paragraph (a) above;

(c) strengthen and improve coordination among the relevant national, regional and global institutions to support the above actions; and

(d) ensure adequate public participation in these activities.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.