

REC 3.087 Financial institutions and the World Commission on Dams recommendations

RECALLING Resolutions 2.19 *Responding to the Recommendations from the World Commission on Dams* and 2.34 *Multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and projects impacting on biodiversity and natural features*, adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

ALSO RECALLING Recommendations 18.56 *Narmada Valley project, India* adopted by the 18th IUCN General Assembly (Perth, 1990), 19.44 *Water regimes of rivers, floodplains and wetlands* and 19.73 *Paraguay-Paraná Waterway project* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994), 1.98 *Environmentally sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin* adopted by the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), Recommendations 18.57 *Tehri dam project, India*, adopted by the 18th IUCN General Assembly (Perth, 1990), and 19.29 *Dam construction, irrigation, and water diversions* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

ACKNOWLEDGING that large dams have had significant impacts on communities, riverine and wetland ecosystems, and biodiversity;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) process, an initiative taken by the IUCN Director General in 1997, in collaboration with the World Bank, to bring together governments, the private sector, academia, and civil-society stakeholders;

NOTING the WCD's achievement in undertaking a global review of large dams and in developing consensus recommendations for future water and energy sector development projects;

WELCOMING the efforts of many governments and other institutions to work with the WCD's recommendations, including through national multi-stakeholder processes;

CONCERNED that the World Bank and other international financial institutions have not incorporated the WCD's recommendations into binding policy;

ALSO CONCERNED that the World Bank and other international financial institutions have announced plans to dramatically increase lending for large infrastructure projects without adopting the WCD's recommendations; and

NOTING that many IUCN members were actively involved in the WCD process;

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

1. URGES all financial institutions and other developers of dam projects to assess comprehensively all proposed major dam projects, including, but not limited to, in the context of the seven strategic priorities of the World Commission on Dams;
2. URGES all financial institutions and other developers not to fund any major dams, without first making comprehensive assessments balancing environmental, social and economic needs and confirming that the project respects the WCD's strategic priorities; and
3. URGES all governments and IUCN members to promote the actions called for in the previous paragraphs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, provided the following statement for the record:

The Government of China takes a very cautious approach to proposals of dam development. Any new proposal will be subject to comprehensive assessment according to relevant laws. Environmental impact assessment is an essential component of the comprehensive assessment process. Decisions on new proposed dams will be made on the basis of balancing social, economic and environmental considerations.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, India, provided the following statement for the record:

Bilateral issues should not be discussed at such international fora.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

The Republic of Turkey registers its objection to making any reference in this Recommendation to the World Commission on Dams.

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

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.