

**RES 3.019 Horizontal evaluation of international conventions, treaties and agreements on the environment**

CONSIDERING that international conventions, treaties and agreements on the environment are the subject of more than 200 texts of international relevance and more than 300 texts of regional relevance;

CONSIDERING that many conventions, treaties and international agreements on the environment have seen undeniable success, as was the case with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer), and that IUCN contributes significantly to the success of important international conventions;

CONSIDERING NEVERTHELESS that many commitments remain little- or un-applied, or have an extremely limited impact, and that it is necessary to have a horizontal assessment of their implementation;

CONSIDERING FURTHER the fact that the profusion of agreements and their decisions could become counter-productive in the long term for the protection of the world's environment as the dispersion of technical, human and financial means to respond to all these undertakings, in terms of work, secretariats, and conferences, leads to the slowing down of their implementation;

NOTING that many countries are not fulfilling all of their obligations and that they have not all ratified the international conventions, treaties and agreements that are nonetheless deemed important for the world's environment; and

DRAWING ON IUCN's Observer Status at the United Nations;

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

REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to:

(a) suggest to the Secretary General of the United Nations that a horizontal, objective evaluation be launched concerning the application of international conventions, treaties and agreements on the environment, in order to assess the progress made and difficulties encountered by states, and to make suggestions to improve the effectiveness and synergy of these legal instruments as a whole, in connection with the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (*Millennium Development Goal 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability*); and

(b) launch, in conjunction with the United Nations, a study of the general state of progress made in the transposition of international conventions, treaties and agreements on the environment into national legislations in order to gauge the extent to which states take international environmental issues into account.

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.*