

### **RES 3.037 Arctic legal regime for environmental protection**

RECALLING Resolution 1.7 *An IUCN Strategy for the Arctic* and Recommendation 1.106 *Protection of the Arctic Ocean* of the 1<sup>st</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

RECALLING Resolution 2.22 *IUCN's work in the Arctic* of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), recognizing the circumpolar Arctic as a priority ecosystem for IUCN;

NOTING the release of the study entitled *Arctic Legal Regime for Environmental Protection*, IUCN Environmental Policy and Law Paper no. 44, initiated by the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC) and the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), and representing an initial inquiry into whether the current approach can adequately address threats to the Arctic;

NOTING the meeting of experts held in Ottawa, Canada from 24–25 March 2004, convened by the ELC and ICEL as a follow-up to the above-named study, which resulted in an indicative list of issues requiring further analysis, while paying particular attention to preserving the ecosystem and while respecting the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities; and

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE to the Government of Canada for providing logistical support to the meeting in Ottawa, and to other government authorities for sending officials to participate in the meeting, as well as to the Elizabeth Haub Foundation for Environmental Policy and Law, Canada;

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General, on behalf of IUCN, to continue to cooperate with various groups and programmes under the Arctic Council's work;
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) to participate in the work of the Arctic Council, if needed, by making its services and expertise available to the Arctic Council in relation to appropriate legal frameworks; and
3. REQUESTS that the reports of the meetings held in March 2004 in Ottawa be distributed to the Arctic Council and the Arctic indigenous peoples represented in the Council, and that steps be taken to ensure that the Arctic Council and Arctic indigenous peoples are involved in any further relevant work programmes involving the CEL.

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.*