

RES 3.045 Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers Commission

RECALLING that the *Plan of Implementation* of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) included Integrated Water Resources Management as an important goal and that the *Millennium Development Goals* also highlight the importance of sustainable water resources development;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN can provide a forum for discussion of sustainable natural resource management, including water resource development, and the importance of saving the natural systems of rivers and of encouraging the principle of low flow, in keeping with international norms and practices and relevant United Nations conventions; and

RECALLING Resolution 19.1 *The Strategy of IUCN - The World Conservation Union*, which was adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994), and which states that IUCN must give particular support to its members in developing countries;

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

1. CALLS UPON civil society and governments in the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers Basin Area to promote dialogue and cooperation towards sustainable development of international water resources;
2. URGES all bilateral and multilateral development assistance agencies and other government agencies to support a Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers Commission, to promote regional cooperation and sustainable management of international water resources; and
3. URGES the IUCN Director General, in consultation with IUCN Commissions and members to promote basin-wide river management and regional cooperation in all international river basins and, to this end, help the process of setting up a Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers Commission by providing information and technical support with the aim of sustainable development of international water resources and conservation of natural river systems.

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

Integrated Water Resources Management of Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers is primarily a bilateral issue between respective countries of the region. It is therefore important that such bilateral issues have wider stakeholder consultations and consensus is evolved at the political level. Such a motion may set a bad precedence.

While we share technical expertise and international experiences in this regard, we urged that the motion be withdrawn.

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page x).

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.