

4.096 The International Academy of Environmental Law

RECALLING that on the 50th Anniversary of IUCN's founding, the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) recommended the establishment of an 'IUCN Academy of Environmental Law' to forge the bonds between university education in environmental law and the work of the Union;

AWARE that Resolution 2.24 *Establishment of an IUCN International Academy of Environmental Law* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) requested IUCN's Council to give urgent consideration to the initiative and requested the Chair of the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) and the Council to finalize preparations for the establishment of the Academy before the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress;

NOTING with satisfaction that the 57th Meeting of IUCN Council unanimously approved the establishment of the Academy in 2002, that the Academy was launched at its first annual international Colloquium on Environmental Law in 2003 at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China, and that the CEL appointed the Academy's interim governing board at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

GRATEFUL that the Academy has held annual thematic Colloquia, with proceedings published by the Cambridge University Press, in:

- (a) 2004 at the University of Nairobi, Kenya (*Land Use for Sustainable Development*);
- (b) 2005 at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia (*Biodiversity Law*);
- (c) 2006 at Pace University, New York, USA (*Environmental Law - Compliance and Enforcement*); and
- (d) 2007 with Brazilian universities in Rio de Janeiro and Paraty, Brazil (*Environmental Law 15 years after the Rio Earth Summit*);

AWARE that the Academy will hold its 6th Colloquium in November 2008, at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Azcapotzalco in Mexico City (on the theme of *Poverty Alleviation through Environmental Law*), and further Colloquia in 2009 at Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, in 2010 at the University of Leuven, Belgium, in 2011 with South African universities in Capetown, and in 2012 at the University of Maryland, USA;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Academy has juridical status in Canada, that the Law Faculty of the University of Ottawa, Canada, provides the Secretariat for the Academy, that more than eighty universities worldwide have joined the Academy and that the Member Universities in 2008 elected the Academy's new governing board and officers;

GRATEFUL for the collaboration between the Academy and the IUCN Environmental Law Programme (ELP) with respect to both the conceptual development of environmental law and capacity building in environmental legal education in developing countries;

RECOGNIZING that the Academy has become an autonomous, learned world examining how law advances a just society that values and conserves nature; and

MINDFUL that environmental legal education contributes to the rule of law and builds the robust environmental legal services essential for conservation of nature and natural resources, and sustainable development in every region;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008:

1. CONGRATULATES the Academy and its Member Universities on the success of its first half-decade;
2. INVITES all IUCN members to encourage the universities in their regions to become members of the Academy through their departments of law, schools of law or faculties of law; and

3. URGES all interested international organizations to strengthen legal education and foster practices that build the rule of law worldwide;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009-2012:

4. REQUESTS the Director General to continue discussions with the Academy on long-term arrangements with a view to facilitating enhanced cooperation between the two organizations.

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