

4.098 Intergenerational partnerships: fostering ethical leadership for a just, sustainable and peaceful world

CONSIDERING Intergenerational Partnership for Sustainability (IPS) as a partnership model based on "respect and care for the community of life," the Earth, and future generations that consists of exchange of experiences and new ideas, collaboration, and action between women and men of all generations and cultures, working toward the common vision of a "just, sustainable, and peaceful world" (*Earth Charter*, 2000);

EMPHASIZING that the central goal of IPS - inspired by the shared values and integrated approach of the *Earth Charter* and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development - is to contribute to enhancing current and emerging leadership to help address complex global challenges, especially climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty and gender inequity;

APRECIATING the hundreds of diverse people who contributed to the year-long drafting process for this Resolution and Framework for IPS at strategic international events, such as the 4th International Conference on Environment Education and the 16th session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), as well as those who have already joined the Alliance for IPS;

APRECIATING the partnership formed between IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and the Earth Charter International-led IPS Coordination Team (Global Youth Action Network, TakingItGlobal, Peace Child International, Peace Child Peru, Youth Action for Change, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) South Asia Youth Environment Network) and the successful 'Buddy Experiment' that resulted, which paired 80 CEC members with youth leading up to the IPS workshop at the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2008;

BUILDING ON Resolution 3.022 *Endorsement of the Earth Charter* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) which recognized the *Earth Charter* as an "... ethical guide for IUCN policy..." that should be used "... to help advance education and dialogue on global interdependence, shared values, and ethical principles for sustainable ways of living...";

INSPIRED BY section 7.2, "Alliances for change," of the 2006 IUCN *Future of Sustainability* report, which reads: "To have credibility and success, environmentalists need to move beyond the comfort zone of their established professional rituals and partnerships. The changes needed cannot be brought about by environmentalists alone, let alone by IUCN. It will require numerous alliances with a diverse range of actors, big and small... Capacity building will be critical to the ability of some partners to support and bring about change";

BUILDING ON IUCN's Young Professionals Programme, initiated by Resolution 3.029 *Capacity Building of Young Professionals* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

RECOGNIZING that the "... largest-ever generation of youth is approaching adulthood in a world their elders could not have imagined," with more than 1.5 billion people 10 to 25 years old (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) website, 2008);

ALSO RECOGNIZING that young people are making public calls for ethics-based intergenerational partnerships and actions in important international forums, such as the World Assembly of the World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS);

AFFIRMING that many young persons have well-informed, insightful and innovative contributions to make to sustainability research and decision-making processes, strategic planning and policy making, and effective action projects and programmes; and

FURTHER AFFIRMING that many older persons possess important experience and expertise in the field of sustainability and have made important contributions to the advancement of the sustainability cause;

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

URGES the Director General and all IUCN members and Commissions to:

- (a) recognize that intergenerational partnerships are important for enhancing current and emerging leadership capable of helping address pressing global challenges, especially climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty and gender inequity;
- (b) engage in and foster IPS with young persons, youth-oriented organizations, youth political bodies, universities and/or young social entrepreneurs (for example, through participation in 'Buddy Partnerships', with individual youth, facilitated through the Alliance for IPS);
- (c) join the Alliance for IPS as a means to publicly declare willingness to engage in IPS;
- (d) draw on the Framework for IPS for general guidance in the establishment of intergenerational partnerships; and
- (e) engage in capacity-building activities focused on young persons and youth-oriented organizations, in keeping with the spirit of IUCN's *Future of Sustainability* report and Young Professionals Programme, to increase the ability of young people to contribute to a "just, sustainable, and peaceful world" (*Earth Charter*, 2000).

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