

## **WCC-2012-Res-124-EN**

### **Establishment of an International Commons Standard for conservation and governance of Commons**

UNDERSTANDING that nature's benefits bestowed on humankind extend over ecosystem services like landscapes, water, air and biodiversity, and are not restricted to supporting the production of food, clothing, housing and materials;

AWARE that nature's benefits should be fairly and equitably distributed to all, including present and future generations who should use the natural resources in such a way as to ensure sustainability and contribute to reducing the impact of climate change;

CONCERNED that economic policies on industrialization and modernization based on market economy principles have impacted heavily on Commons thus decreasing nature's benefits bestowed upon low-income groups;

NOTING that socially alienated groups are often hindered from achieving environment-friendly economic development;

RECOGNIZING that a community-based economy developed in harmony with the market economy system, requires communal lands including village pastures, waterfronts, coastal areas and communal forests managed on the basis of trust, respect and understanding;

AWARE that regulation by government, developed to control the market-based economy, should be improved; that the ambiguous concept of Commons should be more concretely defined, that trust for the acquisition of Commons should be enhanced, and that the community-based economy should be revitalized;

MINDFUL that there is a need to help developing countries, civil society organizations (CSOs) and indigenous peoples to enhance their country's social capital in the areas of trust, cooperation, networking, customary law and traditional knowledge, as well as to utilize the community's common properties so as to achieve environment-friendly economic development;

RECOGNIZING that the fair and equitable sharing of nature's benefits is a fundamental right of humankind with a corresponding governance responsibility;

SUPPORTING indigenous peoples and local communities in their consideration of future generations, in their commitments to retain their customary and traditional authority and rights over communally owned Commons; and

NOTING that every government, standing proxy for the Public Trust, supports restoration of collapsed and fragmented local communities resulting from economic development and adopts flexible laws that allow indigenous peoples and local communities to achieve sustainable development;

#### ***The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:***

1. REQUESTS the Director General to develop an International Commons Standard (ICS) for establishing criteria and categories of Commons, which differ among countries, for the purpose of enhancing property rights and ensuring stability of Commons; and
2. URGES international organizations, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities working with governments to conserve Commons and to build a

harmonious social network to promote trust, respect and understanding among stakeholders, and to fulfil their role of monitoring rights violations related to Commons.

State and agency Members of the United States voted against this Motion.