

WCC-2016-Res-089-EN

Energy efficiency and renewable energy to promote the conservation of nature

GUIDED by IUCN's mission to "influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable";

RECOGNISING the foundation for action provided in resolutions passed by World Conservation Congresses including, Resolution 12.12 *Energy and conservation* (Kinshasa, 1975), Resolution 3.059 *IUCN's energy-related work relevant to biodiversity conservation* (Bangkok, 2004) and Recommendation 3.086 *Coordination of sustainable development programmes for energy* (Bangkok, 2004) recognizing the importance of energy to IUCN's mission which is embraced by Goal 7 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

OBSERVING that Goal 7 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All programme are the result of decades of international and intergovernmental cooperation, including the 1981 United Nations Nairobi Programme of Action, the Brundtland Report, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Future We Want, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the International Renewable Energy Conference;

RECOGNISING the role of international law and international organisations in facilitating and encouraging increasing levels of sustainable energy generation, access and use;

NOTING the substantial role of energy efficiency and renewable energy in achieving the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the purposes expressed in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement adopted by the 21st Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP21) in December 2015;

EMPHASISING that the promotion, design, adoption and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy programmes to mitigate global climate change are key mechanisms for States to fulfil their responsibilities and obligations under international law to prevent and minimise the risk of harm to the environment and enable cessation of activities causing significant transboundary environmental effects while managing natural systems as single ecological units, notwithstanding national boundaries, on the basis of equity and reciprocity through harmonised policies and strategies for entire systems and the ecosystems they contain;

FURTHER NOTING the additional spillover benefits of energy efficiency, as identified in the report *Capturing the Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency* (IEA, 2014);

APPRECIATING that the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 called for governments to reach a global agreement on the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies;

CONGRATULATING the States that included phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies in their COP21 Paris Agreement pledges;

GRATIFIED by the International Renewable Energy Agency's rapid transfer of alternative energy technologies to developing countries, and the recommendation of the complete phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies in the 2015 *World Energy Outlook*; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that Goal 12.c of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development expresses the need to "[r]ationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by [...] phasing out those harmful subsidies";

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. REQUESTS the Director General to associate IUCN with the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA);

2. FURTHER INVITES the Director General to collaborate with all interested Members including the Pace Energy and Climate Center to secure new external funding enabling IUCN Commissions and the Secretariat to assist governments to achieve their clean energy objectives;
3. REQUESTS the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) to expand its collaboration with IRENA to advance legal frameworks for energy efficiency and renewable energy systems;
4. URGES IUCN State Members to design, adopt, and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy programmes, including advanced technologies and public participation, and all additional Members to promote such programmes;
5. INVITES State Members to repeal all subsidies and tax incentives that promote the use of fossil fuels, and to instead use tax incentives and the facilitation of permitting, administrative and other processes to move their energy portfolios toward renewable energy; and
6. FURTHER INVITES State Members to amend, modify, or repeal existing laws and policies that obstruct the uptake and distribution of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.