

**Strengthening the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment and the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment**

APPRECIATING the quadrennial mandate (2012–2016) of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) to build capacity to effectively adjudicate environmental issues and to develop environmental law expertise and networks worldwide;

NOTING the need for accountable, independent, effective and transparent institutions that facilitate access to justice for all, to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, pursuant to Sustainable Development Goal 16;

FURTHER NOTING that the Johannesburg Principles on the Rule of Law and Sustainable Development (2002) called for the “improvement of the capacity of those involved in the process of promoting, implementing, developing and enforcing environmental law,” including prosecutors, to carry out their functions on a well-informed basis;

FURTHER NOTING that the Rio+20 Declaration on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability (2012) calls on states to support the capacity of prosecutors to implement environmental law;

RECOGNISING IUCN’s commitment to enforcing environmental laws as they are critical to the conservation of nature;

RECALLING that Resolution 5.129 *Courts and access to justice* (Jeju, 2012) calls for “an autonomous international judicial institute on the environment” and ACKNOWLEDGING that the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment (GIPE) was established at the World Water Forum in Brasília, Brazil on 18 March 2018 through the dedicated efforts of WCEL;

RECALLING Resolution 6.071 *Global Judicial Institute for the Environment* (Hawai’i, 2016) requested the Director General and WCEL to assist the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment (GJIE) with meeting its objectives;

RECOGNISING that the Charter of GJIE formally established the GJIE at the 1st IUCN World Environmental Law Congress held at the Supreme Court of the State of Rio de Janeiro on 26 April 2016;

RECALLING that the mission of GJIE is “to support the role of courts and tribunals in applying and enforcing environmental laws and in promoting the environmental rule of law and the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens”;

RECOGNISING the importance of adding prosecutors who are focused on protection of biodiversity, natural resources and human rights to the IUCN network as part of the growing IUCN Environmental Law Programme;

RECOGNISING the mission of GIPE to support the role of prosecutors in applying and enforcing environmental law and in promoting the rule of law regarding the environment and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens;

HIGHLIGHTING the value of GJIE in developing judicial best practices, stimulating collaboration and bolstering information exchange for the global advancement of environmental justice;

CONSIDERING that judicial colloquia, symposia and conferences coordinated by GJIE provide platforms for judges to advance environmental constitutionalism and rights;

NOTING that GJIE, WCEL and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) partnered to develop a Judicial Portal to make environmental jurisprudence and legislation from around the world accessible; and

COGNISANT of the important contribution of the judicial community to enforcing standards and safeguards for environmental sustainability;

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, at its session in Marseille, France:**

1. REQUESTS the Director General and WCEL to continue their commitment to and support of GIPE;
2. URGES WCEL and UNEP to continue their collaboration with GJIE to develop a Judicial Portal that can provide access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making, and access to justice;

3. INVITES State Members to support national and sub-national prosecutorial offices focused on environmental protection in order to further strengthen the capacity of governments and institutions around the world to promote the environmental rule of law; and

4. ALSO INVITES State Members to collaborate with the GJIE to develop best practices to strengthen the capacity of judges.