

WCC-2016-RES-081-EN

Human rights to a healthy environment

BELIEVING that the future and the very existence of humanity are hermetically linked to its natural environment;

CONVINCED that humanity is constituted by all past, present and future generations, that their intergenerational links are inheritances, constructions, promises Côte d'Ivoire;

WHEREAS the people of Côte d'Ivoire are experiencing today one of the most acute environmental crises in their history related to the perverse effect of the politico-military crisis, deforestation, illegal gold panning, the use of pesticides in agriculture;

RECALLING that the majority of the States of the world and especially of Africa in this case Ivory Coast included in its constitutional provisions, the right to a healthy environment of its citizens more precisely in article 27 of its constitution of the 8 November 2016;

RECALLING ALSO that these provisions are clearly in line with Principle 1 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration which provides: "A human being has a fundamental right to liberty, equality and a satisfactory standard of living, an environment whose quality allows it to live in dignity and well-being. He has a solemn duty to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations (...) ";

RECALLING also Resolution 5.100 Integrating nature's rights as the basis of IUCN's decision-making process, which calls for the examination of the rights of nature as a key, fundamental and absolute element in all areas of action of the IUCN. IUCN and decision-making, which calls for the development of a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature;

RECALLING FINALLY that "the Earth, the home of humanity, is a whole marked by interdependence" (Preamble of the Rio Declaration of 1992); that human rights, the rights of peoples, the rights of humanity are interdependent;

WELCOMING, however, the Ivorian government's new forestry strategy of reforestation adopting Law No. 2019-675 of 23 July 2019 on the Forest Code;

CONVINCED ALSO that the rights of humanity in general, and those of the people of Cote d'Ivoire in particular, constitute a form of guarantee of other rights and that the right of this people to a healthy and balanced environment is inseparable from other rights, in particular rights to life, dignity, freedom, equality, democracy, peace and justice; and

PERSUADED that the right of the Ivorian people to the environment, which should be peaceful, often has a certain inefficiency;

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

1. PROCLAMES that humankind and all living organisms have the right to the conservation, protection and restoration of the health and integrity of ecosystems.

2. AFFIRMS that every human generation in general is the guardian of the Earth's resources for future generations and has a duty to ensure that this legacy is preserved and used with care to prevent serious or irreversible intergenerational effects.

3. DECLARES that humanity and living organisms have an obligation to preserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of ecosystems because they are entitled to respect, protection and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage inherited from past generations and which must be passed on by current generations to future generations.

4. BELIEVES that generations independent of the continent, present and future, are entitled to environmental non-discrimination.

5. INVITES the States of the world in general, especially the African States in particular and all the actors of the international community, to support the adoption of international and regional declarations and conventions which will contribute to the consecration of the right of humanity and living organisms to the environment, and the rights of nature.

6. CHARGES in particular the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCED) for monitoring and supporting such initiatives.