

2.30 Impacts of military activities on the environment and indigenous peoples' communities in the Arctic

BELIEVING that the indigenous peoples issue is of growing importance in the World Conservation Union;

NOTING that IUCN has created a focal point for the specific purpose of assessing and promoting indigenous peoples' needs and wishes;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN acknowledges the legitimacy of certain kinds of subsistence use in most categories of protected areas;

AWARE that IUCN is expected to receive full accredited Observer Status to the Arctic Council in October 2000 at the Arctic Ministerial Meeting in Barrow, Alaska;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the traditional subsistence lifestyle of indigenous peoples of the Arctic makes them particularly vulnerable to the impact of contaminants in the food chain, including those originating from former military activities;

WELCOMING the work of IUCN to develop a programme in the Arctic; and

AWARE that military activities and bases in the Arctic have left an aftermath of environmental damage and disruption to the communities in the region;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure that the Secretariat's programme activities in the Arctic address the issue of the impact of past military activities on the environment and indigenous peoples' communities in the region;
2. CALLS ON IUCN to urge the eight circumpolar nations to:

- (a) undertake a region-wide survey of the problem; and
- (b) promote ways of mitigating past damage so as to secure environmental recovery in the region.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States abstained from the adoption by consensus of this Resolution.

2.31 Genetically Modified Organisms and biodiversity

WHEREAS there is widespread concern that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) could have potentially dangerous effects on living organisms and their ecosystems;

AWARE of the growing movements throughout the world opposing genetic modification and aware of rejections of genetic modification in agriculture and food production;

WHEREAS, in particular, releasing genetically modified organisms into the environment may pose a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity;

MINDFUL of the obligations undertaken by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and welcoming the adoption of the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* to the Convention on Biological Diversity and calling for its early ratification and implementation;

NOTING that potential effects of GMOs for achieving global food security have not been adequately demonstrated so far;

RECALLING the principles expressed in *Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living* published jointly by IUCN, WWF, and UNEP in 1991; and

RECOGNIZING the lack of knowledge on the effects on biodiversity of GMOs and the consequent importance of applying the precautionary approach as set out in *Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* and as reflected in the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* and in numerous international treaties;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. URGES IUCN's members to apply the precautionary principle in their respective regions regarding further releases of genetically modified organisms into the environment;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to
 - (a) support initiatives to implement the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*; and
 - (b) propose to Council options for an IUCN contribution that will advance leadership, research, analysis, and the dissemination of knowledge regarding the potential ecological impact of the release of genetically modified organisms into the environment, focusing especially on biodiversity, socio-economic impact, and food security.

This Resolution was adopted by a show of hands. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada and New Zealand and the State and Agency members United States abstained from the adoption of this Resolution. The delegation of Canada provided a formal Statement for the Record indicating that the delegation had formally objected to an amendment changing the words "precautionary approach" to "precautionary principle". The full statement of the Canadian delegation is contained in the Congress Proceedings. The delegation of the United States provided a formal Statement for the Record indicating inter alia that "the Resolution taken as a whole still appears to prejudge, in a negative and unbalanced manner, the question of the potential risks and benefits of biotechnology". The full statement of

the US delegation is contained in the Congress Proceedings.

2.32 Organic agriculture and conservation of biodiversity

RECOGNIZING the important role of agriculture in *Agenda 21*;

AWARE of the negative effects to biodiversity from agriculture that is not based on sound practices and is dependent on inappropriate inputs of chemicals and other synthetic products and the challenges of the growing demand for food;

RECOGNIZING that organic farming is an important contribution to sustainable rural development and for the future development of agriculture and food security;

RECALLING that, in particular, organic agriculture puts the concept of multi-functionality into practice, including biodiversity;

ACKNOWLEDGING the 1999 *Vignola Declaration and Action Plan* as the result of the meeting on the relationship between nature conservation, biodiversity, and organic agriculture, convened by IUCN, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, and the Associazione Italiana per l'Agricoltura Biologica (AIAB), which embraces the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and which concluded that organic agriculture is essential for conserving biodiversity and nature; and

NOTING the potential of organic agriculture to achieve effective management and restoration of ecosystems and to combine effective land use with enhancement of biological diversity;

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1. REQUESTS Council to give consideration to setting up a working group to study and report on the contribution of organic agri-