

environmental groups, indigenous and local communities, farmers, women, workers and others, should be afforded the opportunity for meaningful participation in decisions about the conservation, protection, distribution, use, and management of water in their communities, localities, and regions;

- (d) an ecosystem approach must be central to national and transboundary governance structures related to water resource management; and
- (e) governments should ensure that multilateral, regional or bilateral trade and investment agreements preserve the ability of governments to protect water for people and nature.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.*

### **3.007 A moratorium on the further release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

RECALLING that the IUCN Intersessional Programme Framework adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) included a request to play a major role in identifying and defining issues that affect biodiversity and that attention be paid to environmental impacts of biotechnology;

APPRECIATING that Resolution 2.31 *Genetically Modified Organisms and biodiversity*, which was adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), noted two key concerns regarding GMOs, namely:

- (a) the potential for significant reduction or loss of biodiversity as a result of releases of GMOs into the environment; and
- (b) the potential role of GMOs in “achieving global food security” which it notes “have not been adequately demonstrated so far”;

NOTING that there has been introduction and promotion of GMO products worldwide, especially in developing countries, with inadequate controls on their entry into national or regional markets, and that there is growing concern over their safety for biodiversity, human and animal health;

AWARE that the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has incorporated the precautionary approach, as set out in Principle 15 of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, in determining risk management as to what is an acceptable level of risk;

OBSERVING that GMO introduction and promotion are driven primarily by the private sector, whose interests in development and marketing may be greater than in assessing potential risks to biodiversity or to human and animal health;

AWARE of the broad public concern about GMOs and their potential risks to biodiversity, human and animal health; and

WELCOMING the Key Result Areas in the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*, which take into consideration the impact of GMOs on biodiversity, such as calling upon key private sector companies to integrate biodiversity into their corporate social responsibilities and actions;

#### **The World Conservation Congress at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:**

1. CALLS for a moratorium on further environmental releases of GMOs until these can be demonstrated to be safe for biodiversity, and for human and animal health, beyond reasonable doubt;
2. REQUESTS IUCN to promote information and communication on GMOs, especially in developing countries, and to support initiatives to ratify and implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and
3. URGES the IUCN Director General to compile and disseminate within one year from the adoption of this resolution a report on current knowledge of the dispersal and impacts of GMOs on biodiversity and human health.

The delegations of Japan, The Netherlands and Sweden indicated that they were unable to support this Resolution.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.*

The Ministry of Environment, Sweden, provided the following statement for the record:

*Sweden is supportive of much of the sentiment of this Resolution. However, we cannot support the call for a moratorium on the release of GMOs. Our regulation is strict and we assess the environmental impact on a case-by-case basis.*

### **3.008 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and biodiversity**

WHEREAS there is widespread concern and increasing controversy concerning the effects on biodiversity of GMOs;

RECOGNIZING the consequent importance of implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and 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;

CONCERNED that current developments in GMOs as applied to agriculture, could affect the whole food chain and its associated ecosystems, and thereby potentially threaten biodiversity;

APPRECIATING the potential IUCN sees in organic and other forms of agriculture, in which the use of GMOs is incompatible with the principles of such forms of agriculture and therefore forbidden, and that IUCN is seeking ways to conserve biodiversity while expanding production;

RECALLING Resolution 2.31 *Genetically Modified Organisms and biodiversity* adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), that among other things requests the IUCN Director General to propose to Council options for an IUCN contribution that will advance leadership, research, analysis, and the dissemination of knowledge regarding the potential environmental impact of the release of GMOs into the environment, focusing especially on biodiversity, socio-economic impact, and food security;

APPRECIATING the work IUCN has undertaken to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

NOTING the approval by IUCN's Council, at its 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held on 2–4 June 2004, of the background paper on *Biosafety and Genetically Modified Organisms*; and

CONCERNED about the lack of knowledge and information development on the co-existence of GMOs with biodiversity and ecosystems;

#### **The World Conservation Congress at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:**

1. CALLS UPON the IUCN Director General, in the context of Key Result Areas 4 and 5 of the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*, to undertake substantive work, within reasonable time and within reasonable resources, to develop credible knowledge and information concerning biodiversity, nature conservation and associated risks of GMOs, based on the existing IUCN background paper;
2. CALLS UPON IUCN's Council to develop a plan of action, including reasonable resources, to guide IUCN members on biodiversity and nature conservation in relation to GMOs; and
3. REQUESTS IUCN to promote and support initiatives to ratify and implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The Ministry of Environment, Seychelles, provided the following statement for the record:

*This motion is calling for a moratorium to be placed on the use of GMOs until its safe nature can be*

*ascertained. We do not support this motion, even though it has been approved. First it is contrary to the Cartagena Protocol which Seychelles is a party to. The safe nature of GMOs is unlikely to be established anytime soon. In the meantime, useful values of GMOs, especially in the medical field will be ignored.*

The Ministry of Environment, Sweden, provided the following statement for the record:

*We are in support of the IUCN working to integrate food related issues in biodiversity conservation, but [this Resolution] is drafted in such a way that it would mean IUCN starts to work with food safety issues in general, which goes beyond its mandate and experience.*

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.*

### **3.009 Establishing gender equity as a mandate in the strategic activities and themes of IUCN**

CONSIDERING that during the conferences, meetings, forums, congresses and summits which have taken place on the subject of environment and development over the last 15 years (e.g. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, *Agenda 21*, World Water Forum II and III, World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), *Beijing Platform for Action*, the *Millennium Development Goals*) the relevance and impact of gender equity on the use, management and conservation of natural resources, environmental management and sustainable human development planning have become apparent, and it is clear that the gender and environment issue is now one of the priority issues on the international agenda;

REMEMBERING that during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congresses (Montreal, 1996;

Amman, 2000), resolutions were passed with a view to incorporating the gender perspective into the work of IUCN, and that IUCN currently has a gender equity policy, endorsed by the Council in 1998, and has experience, takes a leading role and influences public policy in this respect;

RECOGNIZING that the Union, in recent years, has begun to make substantial efforts to incorporate the gender perspective into the way it operates as an institution, but that these initiatives do not yet comply fully with the standards set in the institution's gender policy and the mandates issued by the Members Business Assembly at previous World Conservation Congresses;

REAFFIRMING the vital importance of the gender approach for the Mesoamerican region and for the rest of the world, and the fundamental role it plays in the formulation, planning, execution and monitoring of development policies and projects for local, national and regional progress, in the management and preservation of natural resources and in the restoration of degraded environments, in the creation of sustainable and ecologically viable production and consumption methods, and in the protection and creation of healthy living environments;

CONSIDERING the support for an initiative to include the gender approach as part of a Union directive at the VI<sup>th</sup> Mesoamerican Members' Forum, held in El Zamorano, Honduras, from 27 July to 1 August 2003; and

WELCOMING the Mesoamerican initiative to incorporate the gender-equity approach into all strategic matters dealt with by IUCN;

#### **The World Conservation Congress at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:**

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General and IUCN Commissions to promote actions to ensure that, in the implementation of the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*, gender equity is explicitly included as an imperative in the annual plans of programmes, initiatives and projects carried out by IUCN;
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General and Commissions to include the gender approach