

4.030 Promoting transparency to achieve sustainable fisheries

NOTING that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), along with several instruments, mandates and international agreements, leads toward the conservation, management and regulation of fisheries resources and the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems;

FURTHER NOTING that Article 7 of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, which refers to fisheries management, recognizes in paragraph 7.1.9 that, “States and subregional or regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements should ensure transparency in the mechanisms for fisheries management and in the related decision-making process”;

RECALLING Resolution 2.21 *IUCN Marine Component Programme* and Recommendation 2.78 *Promoting Sustainable Fishing* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), and Resolution 3.066 *The protection of seamounts, deep-sea corals and other vulnerable deep-sea habitats from destructive fishing practices, including bottom trawling, on the high seas* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

CONCERNED that in spite of global rulings promoting the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems and fishing there still exist substantial conflicts impairing implementation of such rulings;

WELCOMING technological advances that increase accessibility to global information about sustainable fisheries practices;

AWARE that management systems established by some governments are often inadequate because they lack transparency, probity and rigour, which leads to the squandering of natural capital;

ENCOURAGED by the engagement thus far, and increased levels of understanding and commitment, of States, governmental entities, civil society, and other stakeholders, to protect, conserve and sustainably use natural resources, including fisheries; and

RECOGNIZING the importance and need for the global community to attain transparency with regard to fishery activities information and management decision-making processes;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:

1. CALLS ON IUCN’s members to:

- (a) stress the importance and value of transparency in fisheries management on their public agendas; and
- (b) promote free and timely access to information in accordance with relevant protocols governing data confidentiality to increase awareness and accountability for the sustainability of natural resources; and

2. CALLS ON the global community to commit to taking effective action to deter corruption and/or avoidance of fisheries control systems, which result in discards, non-reported captures and other forms of non-compliance with fisheries regulations, and therefore, the degradation of fish stocks around the globe;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the *IUCN Programme 2009–2012*:

3. REQUESTS the Director General to take all necessary actions to promote transparency of activities and decision-making processes related to fisheries.