

ECOSOC Resolution 2001/12

Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware that the conservation of wild flora and fauna and of genetic resources is essential for the maintenance of biological diversity and sustainable development, these being of fundamental importance, in particular, for local and indigenous communities with traditional lifestyles based on biological resources, and that concerns have been expressed with respect to illicit access to genetic resources,

Taking note of the principles on which are founded the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,¹ an agreement regulating international trade in endangered species and establishing recommendations for combating illicit trafficking therein, and the Convention on Biological Diversity,²

Deeply concerned about the existence of groups, in particular those operating transnationally, dedicated to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, that are increasingly employing sophisticated technologies,

Recognizing the links between transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, as well as the need to prevent, combat and eradicate this form of illicit traffic,

Aware of the adverse environmental, economic, social and scientific repercussions of transnational organized criminal activities devoted to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna,

Recognizing that international cooperation, especially mutual assistance against illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, is essential,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, in which it is stated that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime³ constitutes an effective tool and the necessary legal framework for international cooperation in combating such criminal activities as illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, in furtherance of the principles of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,

1. *Urges* Member States to adopt, in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,⁴ the legislative or other measures necessary for establishing illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna as a criminal offence in their domestic legislation;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

² See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

³ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

2. *Encourages* Member States to explore possible means of promoting law enforcement cooperation and information exchange aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources or drawing upon extrabudgetary contributions, in coordination with other competent entities of the United Nations system, a report analysing domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral legal provisions and other relevant documents, resolutions and recommendations dealing with the prevention, combating and eradication of illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna by organized criminal groups and to present its report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eleventh session;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources or drawing upon extrabudgetary contributions, in coordination with other competent entities of the United Nations system, a report analysing the domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral legal provisions and other relevant documents, resolutions and recommendations dealing with illicit access to genetic resources and also the extent to which organized criminal groups are involved therein and to present its report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eleventh session.

*40th plenary meeting
24 July 2001*