

Strengthening regional and international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in wildlife

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions [69/314](#) of 30 July 2015, [70/301](#) of 9 September 2016 and [71/326](#) of 11 September 2017 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40 of 25 July 2013 on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora, in which the Council encouraged Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime,

Taking into consideration the Declaration of the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade held on 11 and 12 October 2018, in which Government representatives called upon the international community to act together to support and build urgent collective action to tackle the illegal wildlife trade as a serious crime carried out by organized criminals that affects the economy, national and regional security, indigenous communities and ecosystems,

Bearing in mind the importance of international cooperation and endeavours in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹

Recalling its resolutions 16/1 of 27 April 2007 and 23/1 of 16 May 2014 on preventing and combating trafficking in forest products, including timber, in which it encouraged Member States to cooperate at the bilateral, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking in forest products,

Reaffirming the legal framework provided by and the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora² as the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora does not threaten the survival thereof, and recognizing the efforts made to implement that Convention by the parties thereto,

Reaffirming also that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime³ and the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁴ constitute effective tools and an important part of the legal framework for international cooperation in fighting illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora, as well as, when appropriate, other environmental crimes that constitute serious crimes,

Recognizing the important work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, a collaborative effort of the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World

¹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Customs Organization, in, inter alia, providing technical assistance to Member States,

Noting that illicit trafficking in wildlife may have links to other forms of transnational organized crime and may occur alongside or in conjunction with other crimes and illegal activities, including, inter alia, money-laundering and corruption,

Acknowledging the crucial role played by all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, as well as local, rural and indigenous communities, in addressing illicit trafficking in wildlife,

Expressing concern about the safety of all people engaged in fighting against transnational organized crime, including illicit trafficking in wildlife,

1. *Recognizes* the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife, with regard to which firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on the supply, transit and demand sides, and re-emphasizes the importance, in this regard, of effective international cooperation among Member States, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations;

2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt effective measures to prevent and counter the serious problem of crimes that have an impact on the environment, such as, among others, trafficking in wildlife, by strengthening legislation, investigations, international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts targeting, inter alia, transnational organized crime, corruption and money-laundering linked to such crimes, pursuant to paragraph 9 (e) of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation;⁵

3. *Urges* Member States to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking in wildlife, on the supply, transit and demand sides, in origin, transit and destination countries, including by strengthening the legislation and regulations, where necessary, for the prevention, investigation, prosecution and appropriate punishment of such illicit trafficking, as well as by strengthening enforcement and criminal justice responses, and to increase the exchange of information and knowledge among national authorities as well as among Member States and international crime authorities, in accordance with domestic legal frameworks and international obligations;

4. *Acknowledges* that the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime can provide valuable technical assistance in this regard, including through supporting Member States, upon request, in the application of the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*, which is aimed at strengthening, where appropriate, the capacity of competent law enforcement authorities and judiciaries in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating wildlife-related offences;

5. *Encourages* Member States to prevent and to combat transnational organized crime that exploits protected wildlife, including land-based and marine wildlife, in accordance with domestic legal frameworks and international obligations, and to strengthen international and regional cooperation in this regard, including by exchanging

⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

information and good practices adopted at the national, regional and international levels;

6. *Strongly encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures, in accordance with domestic legal frameworks and international obligations, to strengthen cross-border cooperation and enforcement controls, including through sharing information among law enforcement agencies and, where appropriate, with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), regarding incidents of poaching, trafficking or illegal sales, including online sales, of protected species of fauna and flora;

7. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;⁶

8. *Calls upon* Member States to consider using the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁷⁰ to prevent and counter the corruption that can facilitate illicit trafficking in wildlife;

9. *Also calls upon* Member States to make illicit trafficking in wildlife, in particular in protected species of wild fauna and flora, in appropriate cases, a serious crime, in accordance with their national legislation and as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the Organized Crime Convention, in order to ensure that, where the offence is transnational in nature and involves an organized criminal group, effective international cooperation can be afforded under the Convention to prevent and combat transnational organized crime;

10. *Further calls upon* Member States to enhance and strengthen national, regional and international cooperation among law enforcement agencies and customs, judicial and other relevant authorities to tackle illicit trafficking in wildlife;

11. *Urges* Member States to consider initiating or strengthening collaborative partnerships among local, national, regional and international development and conservation agencies so as to enhance support for community engagement in wildlife conservation and sustainable management, and to promote the retention of benefits by local communities for the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife;

12. *Invites* Member States to seek ways to enhance international cooperation in order to strengthen efforts, at the regional and bilateral levels, to tackle illicit trafficking in wildlife, such as the Regional Conference to Counter Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife to be held in Lima in October 2019, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

13. *Requests*, in this regard, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and existing resources, in line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40 and in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, to continue and to strengthen the collection of information on patterns in and flows of illicit trafficking in wildlife, taking into account regional specificities;

14. *Recommends* that Member States promote awareness-raising campaigns that reflect the vast environmental and criminal impact of illicit trafficking in wildlife, and also recommends that Member States take action to involve and increase the awareness of stakeholders and civil society;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including, among others, through its Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, to continue providing technical assistance and

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

capacity-building to Member States, upon request and within existing resources, for the purposes of strengthening their criminal justice systems in order to better prevent and combat wildlife and forest crime;

16. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and existing resources, in line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States and in partnership with the other members of the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime and other relevant international and regional organizations, to continue strengthening the collection of information on patterns in and flows of illicit trafficking in wildlife, considering regional specificities, and to report to the Commission on those trends on a biennial basis through the publication of the *World Wildlife Crime Report*;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.