

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

3. The following resolution and decision adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 31/1

Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [69/314](#) of 30 July 2015, [70/301](#) of 9 September 2016, [71/326](#) of 11 September 2017, [73/343](#) of 16 September 2019 and [75/311](#) of 23 July 2021 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife,

Reaffirming that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto¹² represent the principal worldwide legal instruments to prevent and combat the scourge of transnational organized crime, which affects individuals and societies in all countries,

Reaffirming also that the Organized Crime Convention, as a global instrument with wide adherence, offers a broad scope for cooperation to address existing and emerging forms of transnational organized crime,

Recalling that, in its resolution [69/314](#), the General Assembly strongly encouraged Member States, in line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40 of 25 July 2013, to cooperate at the bilateral, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate international illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products through, inter alia, the use of international legal instruments such as the Organized Crime Convention and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,¹³

Recalling also its resolution 28/3 of 24 May 2019, entitled “Strengthening regional and international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in wildlife”,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution [76/185](#) of 16 December 2021, entitled “Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment”, bearing in mind that the fight against illicit trafficking in wildlife can be part of the broader international effort to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment,

Recalling the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁴ adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, in particular paragraphs 6 and 87 thereof,

Taking note of Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime resolution [10/6](#) of 16 October 2020, entitled “Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”,

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

¹³ Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution [76/181](#), annex.

Taking note also of the 2016 and 2020 editions of the *World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in Protected Species* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Taking note further of the 2019 *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,¹⁵ the 2020 *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5* of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 2020 Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics¹⁶ and the interim guidance on reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional food markets issued in 2021 by the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Determined to reduce the risk of future outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, which may lead to epidemics and, in extreme cases, pandemics and their devastating impact on human health and livelihoods, and recognizing that curbing illicit trafficking in wildlife and conserving and restoring biodiversity and functioning ecosystems can contribute to reducing the risk of the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases,

Recalling that the protection of wildlife must be part of a comprehensive approach to achieving poverty eradication, food security, sustainable development, including the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, economic growth, social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Recognizing with concern the growth in online trade and cybercrime as well as the role of social media platforms in the context of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, which require innovative strategies and increased intergovernmental cooperation, as appropriate,

Noting that the Organized Crime Convention may be supplemented by one or more protocols, and that the existing Protocols contain internationally agreed definitions, have provided comprehensive frameworks to prevent and combat crimes, and have led to increased capacity and more effective international cooperation in law enforcement,

Taking note of paragraph 38 of General Assembly resolution [75/311](#), in which the Assembly invited parties to the Organized Crime Convention to more effectively use the Convention to address illicit trafficking in wildlife and to continue discussions on other possible international tools to combat wildlife trafficking,

Noting in this regard ongoing efforts under the authority of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention,

Recognizing the legal framework provided by and the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora¹⁷ for regulating international trade in species of wild fauna and flora listed in its appendices, and recognizing also the importance to parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,¹⁸ the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁹ the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage²⁰ and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,²¹

¹⁵ E.S. Brondizio and others, eds. (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019).

¹⁶ P. Daszak and others (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2020).

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

²¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

Recognizing also 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 Customs Organization, by, inter alia, providing technical assistance to Member States, upon request,

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,

Noting the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in promoting and facilitating effective responses to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife,

Noting with appreciation the expert discussions on crimes that affect the environment during the intersessional meeting of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held from 14 to 16 February 2022,

1. *Invites* Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with their views on possible responses, including the potential of an additional protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to address any gaps that may exist in the current international legal framework to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife, as well as with their experiences, good practices and challenges in terms of preventing and combating illicit trafficking in wildlife, and their national legislation in this sphere;

2. *Invites* Member States that are parties to the Organized Crime Convention to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with information on the use of the Convention as an international legal instrument to address illicit trafficking in wildlife, taking into account relevant resolutions in this regard, inter alia, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime resolution 10/6;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to compile a report on the information provided by Member States and submit it for the consideration of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-second session;

4. *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.

Decision 31/1

Report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

4. At its 9th meeting, on 18 May 2022, the Commission decided to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute ([E/CN.15/2022/8](#)), which had been prepared pursuant to article IV, paragraph 3 (e), of the statute of the Institute and approved by a decision of the Board of Trustees taken at its meeting held online on 22 and 23 October 2021.