



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Tenth session

Vienna, 8-17 May 2001

Agenda item 4

#### International cooperation in combating transnational crime

#### **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Uruguay and Venezuela: revised draft resolution**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **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,<sup>1</sup> an agreement regulating international trade in endangered species and establishing recommendations for combating illicit trafficking therein, and the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>2</sup>

*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,

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

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

*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 Crime<sup>3</sup> 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 consider adopting 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;

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, in coordination with other competent entities of the United Nations system, a report analysing the bilateral, regional and multilateral legal instruments 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, 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.

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<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.