



Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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International cooperation in combating transnational crime

Australia, Indonesia, Paraguay and Philippines: 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:

International cooperation in preventing and combating international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption,¹ the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),² the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992,³ and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,⁴

Noting the commitment made at the Summit of the Group of Eight in 2005 on a range of actions to tackle illegal logging,

¹ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.

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

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda).

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).



Welcoming the established cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels to prevent and combat international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging,

Recognizing that an essential mechanism of international cooperation in preventing and combating international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging should be effective implementation of CITES,

Recognizing also that international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging is exacerbated by corruption, contributes to an increasingly degraded environment, has a negative impact on the national economy, people's lives and livelihood, threatens the pristine habitat of wildlife, including rare and endangered species, and destabilizes transborder security,

Emphasizing that upholding the rule of law and promoting good governance are prerequisites for creating and sustaining an environment conducive to successfully preventing and combating crime,

Profoundly alarmed by the scale of illegal logging, its connections to other illegal activities and its substantial cost to many developing countries,

Stressing that international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging is a crime often perpetrated by organized criminal groups and that efforts to combat those groups can benefit from international, bilateral and regional cooperation,

Underscoring that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption are two of the international instruments that may be utilized to counter international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging,

1. *Expresses* its concern at the increasing trend in international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging and other illicit activities supported thereby;

2. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with one another in preventing and combating international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging, including through the utilization of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁵ the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁶ and related international instruments;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to review, strengthen and enforce, as appropriate, their existing domestic laws aimed at countering international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging;

4. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate measures, consistent with their domestic legislation and legal frameworks, to reduce the demand for internationally trafficked timber and timber products from illegal logging;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the

⁵ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.

regular budget of the Office,⁷ to convene an expert working group meeting to examine the myriad criminal aspects of illegal activities related to international trafficking in illegally logged timber and timber products, keeping in mind the application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in order to facilitate international cooperation to prevent, combat and punish such activities, with a view to developing a model approach applicable to the broader field of international trafficking in natural resource products, and to invite interested Member States, international customs and law enforcement organizations, relevant regional and international organizations, including the Centre for International Forestry Research, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, the Environmental Crimes Committee of the International Criminal Police Organization and the International Tropical Timber Organization, as well as entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Forum for Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to send representatives with the requisite technical expertise to participate in the working group;

6. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office,⁸ to make available to the expert working group relevant and appropriate policy, legislative, research and other materials and data about the nature and scope of the relationship between transnational organized crime, corruption and international trafficking in timber and timber products from illegal logging, and to invite Member States to provide such other materials as they deem appropriate for the expert group to consider;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at their next sessions after the convening of the expert group meeting.

⁷ This language does not provide a basis for an increase in the regular budget or requests for supplemental increases.

⁸ This language does not provide a basis for an increase in the regular budget or requests for supplemental increases.