

**WCC-2016-Res-081-EN**  
**Humanity's right to a healthy environment**

CONVINCED that the future and even the very existence of humanity are inseparable from its natural environment;

CONSIDERING that humanity and the entire living world face environmental risks;

CONSIDERING that humanity is made up of past, present and future generations, and that their intergenerational links are heritage, constructions, promises;

RECALLING that humanity is an integral part of public international law (crimes against humanity, common heritage of humanity, humanitarian law) and of international environmental law (environmental declarations and conventions often refer to present and future generations);

ALSO RECALLING that *"man has a fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations..."* (Principle 1 of the Stockholm Declaration, 1972);

RECALLING Resolution 5.100 *Incorporation of the Rights of Nature as the organizational focal point in IUCN's decision making* (Jeju, 2012), which calls for consideration of the rights of nature as a fundamental and absolute key element in all IUCN's areas of intervention and decision making, and which calls for the development of a universal declaration of the rights of nature;

FINALLY RECALLING *"the integral and interdependent nature of the Earth, our home"* (Preamble to the Rio Declaration, 1992);

CONVINCED that human rights, the rights of peoples, and the rights of humanity are interdependent;

ALSO CONVINCED that the rights of humanity constitute a kind of guarantee of other rights, and that the rights of humanity to a healthy, balanced environment are inseparable from other rights, particularly the rights to life, dignity, freedom, equality, democracy, peace and justice; and

PERSUADED that the rights of humanity to the environment must be democratic, just and peaceful;

**The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:**

1. PROCLAIMS that humanity and all living beings have a right to the conservation, protection and restoration of the health and integrity of ecosystems;
2. AFFIRMS that each human generation is the guarantor of the Earth's resources for future generations, and that it has the duty to ensure that this legacy is preserved and used carefully in order to prevent serious or irreversible intergenerational impacts;
3. DECLARES that humanity and living beings have the obligation to preserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of ecosystems because they have a right to the respect, protection and promotion of the cultural and natural heritage inherited from past generations, which must be passed on by present generations to future generations;
4. BELIEVES that current and future generations have the right to environmental non-discrimination;
5. INVITES States and all stakeholders in the international community to support the adoption of international and regional declarations and conventions that contribute to the recognition of the rights of humanity and all living beings to the environment and the rights of nature; and

6. ENTRUSTS the World Commission on Environmental Law in particular with monitoring and supporting of these initiatives.

**State and agency Members of the United States** voted against this motion.