

## ECOSOC Resolution 2002/18

### **Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Aware* of the reported existence of organized criminal groups with transnational operations involving illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and, hence, of the link between transnational organized crime and that form of illicit trafficking,

*Aware also* of the adverse environmental, economic, social and scientific impact of transnational organized criminal activities related to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and of the consequences of access to genetic resources on terms other than those mutually agreed upon, and not in accordance with relevant domestic law and, as appropriate, international agreements,

*Convinced* that both international cooperation and mutual legal assistance are essential to preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna,

*Recalling* the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>2</sup> and action taken to implement those conventions,

*Recalling also* its resolution 2001/12 of 24 July 2001, entitled “Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna”, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in coordination with other competent entities of the United Nations system, reports analysing domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral legal provisions 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 with illicit access to genetic resources, and to present those reports to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eleventh session,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/12 on illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Urges* all Member States to cooperate with the Secretary-General and other competent entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including by submitting comments on the report of the Secretary-General, information on relevant national

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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.

<sup>3</sup> E/CN.15/2002/7.

legislation and practical experiences, relevant statistics on transnational organized crime and information on measures taken, legal proceedings instituted and penalties imposed against such trafficking, so that the report of the Secretary-General may be finalized;

3. *Encourages* all Member States to promote judicial cooperation and mutual technical assistance with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

4. *Invites* all Member States further to promote and organize regional networks for information exchange with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and to consider measures to regulate access to genetic resources on mutually agreed terms, in accordance with relevant domestic law and, as appropriate, relevant international agreements;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to finalize his report on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/12 and to submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session.

*37th plenary meeting  
24 July 2002*