

DECISIONS OF THE 7TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

Decision VII/1

The Evaluation Report and Review of The Lusaka Agreement and its Institutions

The Governing Council.

Recalling Decision VI/6(1) of the 6th Governing Council requesting the Executive Director of UNEP in cooperation with the Director of the Task Force to initiate the process of carrying out an independent review of the work of the Task Force and the impact of the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, since its adoption in September 1994, and to make recommendations for the enhancement of the Task Force and the Lusaka Agreement,

Acknowledging the role-played and support given by the Parties and their experts as well as other relevant stakeholders in the entire process for the review of the Evaluation Report;

Observing that the underlying problem facing the implementation of the Agreement and the institutions established under it highlighted in the Evaluation Report is lack of and/or inadequate financial resources;

Further observing that the implementation of the Agreement and the work of the Task Force has been adversely affected by the lack of a strategic plan of action for its activities as well as a funding strategy;

Noting that the success and effectiveness of the Task Force depends on the commitment and lead role played by the National Bureaus and in this regard need to play a lead role in all their dealings with the Task Force, and give it, through the Governing Council, appropriate guidance and mandate for effective follow up;

1. Takes note of the work undertaken by the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare and submit for review and consideration an Evaluation Report for the Lusaka Agreement since its adoption and enhancement of the institutions established under the Agreement.

2. Expresses its deep appreciation for the work undertaken by the Executive Director of UNEP in supporting, facilitating and preparing the draft Evaluation Report presented in document *LATF/LAGC.7/Review Report* which has been reviewed and considered by the Parties.

3. Adopts the recommendations as contained in the attached Annex I on strengthening of National Bureaus, strengthening the role of the Task Force and strengthening the role played by the Bureau of the Governing Council.

4. Decides and calls upon,

A. THE NATIONAL BUREAUS TO:

i. **Participate** in the development of a strategic action plan and funding strategy for the Task Force, taking into consideration their activities and priorities.

ii. **Facilitate** effective networking and collaboration at national level with relevant national stakeholders as well as strengthen networking with relevant regional and international organizations.

iii. **Develop and review** their wildlife policies, related laws and regulations and, in liaison with the Task Force, agree on common areas or principles of harmonization for effective implementation of the Agreement.

- iv. **Identify** competent and experienced law enforcement officers who possess suitable skills in enforcement of wildlife laws for the work of the Task Force.
- v. **Ensure** national awareness-raising programmes and sensitization on law enforcement matters related to the Agreement and to include participation of the local communities so as to assist in community policing for better understanding of the Agreement and to encourage compliance and support for the objective of the Agreement.

B. THE TASK FORCE TO:

- i. **Implement** its Decision VI/6(1), which called upon it to develop, on a priority basis, a strategic plan of action for the Task Force.
- ii. **Prepare and finalize** the assessment of law enforcement capacities and needs of the Parties as directed by the second Governing Council, to determine the status of existing technical and institutional capacities and needs of National Bureaus and identify gaps, for consideration.
- iii. **Assist** the National Bureaus to develop effective and operational inter-agency co-operation to gather, exchange and disseminate intelligence and other information, and undertake field operations as well as develop a harmonized reporting system on cases or a case management system.
- iv. **Participate** in the process of the development and/or strengthening and harmonization of relevant wildlife and other related laws and regulations for the implementation and enforcement of the Agreement.
- v. **Follow up, implement and report** on the status of implementation of previous Governing Council decisions, which have not been or are partly implemented.
- vi. **Develop, maintain and update** a regional intelligence database on wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife products; and forge links with relevant regional and international databases, such as, INTERPOL/ROCCISS and RILO/CEN databases.
- vii. **Undertake** annual analysis and assessment of the volumes, value and patterns of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna; and/or methods of smuggling (container profiles, air freight profiles).
- viii. **Promote** cooperation and develop linkages with partners at sub-regional, regional and international levels (e.g. with Interpol, WCO, CITES etc.), and regular exchange of information and intelligence between the agencies, the Task Force and the National Bureaus.
- ix. **Provide** the National Bureaus with regular assessment and analysis of wildlife crime intelligence and data on patterns of wildlife crime and illegal trade at sub-regional, regional and (as appropriate) international level.
- x. **Develop**, in collaboration with National Bureaus, a new revised template or format for the preparation of Parties' reports with clear distinction between national and cross border issues carried out by the National Bureaus and the Task Force reports to the Governing Council for its review and consideration.
- xi. **Carry out** on behalf of the National Bureaus and other regional and international partners investigations of specific wildlife crimes, set up joint investigation teams to investigate specific cases of wildlife crime and to target, disrupt and wind up specific illegal networks, and report on the outcome and implications of such investigations to the National Bureaus.

xii. **Undertake** a study on gathering information and dissemination with other relevant enforcement and intelligence agencies for consideration.

C. THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO:

i. **Serve** as an Implementation Committee of the Agreement and undertake regular reviews and monitor the implementation of the Agreement and the institutions established under it as well as review budgets and financial management of the Task Force.

ii. **Continue to exercise** decision-making powers on substantive issues related to the implementation of the recommendations of the Evaluation Report (Annexed to this Decision) as well as decisions related thereto, in consultation with other members of the Governing Council as may be feasible and appropriate, on provisional basis and subject to endorsement by the Governing Council at its next regular meeting.

iii. **Undertake** an assessment of the means and mechanisms of actions required to implement the decisions by this meeting on the recommendations made in the Evaluation Report for the enhancement of the Agreement and the institutions established under it and ensure those recommendations are effectively implemented.

iv. **Supervise** development of funding strategy for the work of the Task Force and implementation of the Agreement and on that basis assess and propose annual contributions for the Parties.

v. **Supervise and review** the strategic plan of action prepared by the Task Force, prioritize activities, and adopt short, medium to long-term strategies and objectives as well as financial implications for its implementation.

vi. **Develop** contingency plan and strategy on payment of arrears by the Parties including future compliance as well as strategy for encouraging new parties to ratify or accede to the Agreement.

5. Calls upon the President of the Governing Council to ensure that major regional political conferences, such as, the East African Community Summit, the African Union Summit, Southern African Development Community etc, include in their Agenda, an item on the Agreement as such fora could also be used to promote the Agreement, its ratification and accession.

6. Directs the Bureau to undertake and report on, the implementation of this decision to the 8th Governing Council,

Decision VII/2

Program of Work and Budget for the Task Force

The Governing Council

Taking note of the proposed program of work and budget of the Task Force from January 2005 to July 2005;

Having considered the proposed program of work and the budget of the Task Force;

Noting the need to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the Task Force as a matter of priority;

1. Approves the proposed program of work and budget for the period August 2004 to July 2005 at US\$ 591,780.
2. Further approves assessed contributions by each party State to the Task Force for the period at US\$ 98,630.
3. Directs the Director of the Task Force to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the Task Force by July 2005.
4. Instructs the Bureau of the Governing Council to review and consider the proposed strategic action plan by the Task Force by July 2005 and make necessary decisions for its implementation on provisional basis, subject to endorsement of the Governing Council.
5. Directs upon the Director of the Task Force to report the implementation of this Decision to the next Meeting of the Governing Council.
6. Notes and approves the Audit Reports for the 49 month period ended 31 July 2003 and for the year ended 31 July 2004.
7. Endorses the Decisions of the Bureau of 2004 and the financial expenditure incurred in the period.