



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND  
REGIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME**

**The Thirty Third AIPA General Assembly:**

**Recognizing** that the illegal wildlife trade has become one of the world's biggest and most environmentally damaging forms of black market commerce, with billions of dollars going to organized crime every year;

Recognizing that a significant portion of this global illegal wildlife trade originates, transits and ends up in Southeast Asia because this region hosts many species sought by international traffickers, and because this region also consumes a great deal of wildlife;

**Recognizing** that wildlife crime threatens far more than ASEAN's forests and marine areas and that loss of biodiversity weakens natural ecosystems that play vital roles in food production and harvesting. The illicit trade in wild Fauna and Flora, threatens human security, with the involvement of organized national and transnational crime networks, and increases the risk of transmitting emerging infectious diseases, such as avian pandemic influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) which endangers human health and well-being, and ASEAN's economy.

**Reaffirming** that the United Nations' Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which constitute the current legal framework and instrument for the international community to regulate and control the trade of endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

**Recalling** the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) resolution 2001/12 which urged Member States to adopt "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" (2001), and in subsequent, UN ECOSOC resolution 2003/27 which encourages Member States to adopt, where necessary, preventive measures together with a review of their criminal legislation in order to ensure that the serious nature of these offences relating to trafficking in protected species is punishable by appropriate penalties (2003); the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) resolution 16/1 (2007) "International cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife, and other forest biological resources"; the UN ECOSOC resolution 2008/25 on the need for international cooperation and called for "holistic and comprehensive national multisectoral approaches to

preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber wildlife, and other forest biological resources (2008)";

**Recalling** the commitments made by Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at the Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: The Role of Parliaments in Ensuring Implementation and Accountability (2002), in South Africa, which highlights strengthening of governance by reforming institutions, including parliaments and decision-making processes to meet the imperative of sustainable development; and in recognized the unique role of parliamentarians in scrutinizing, monitoring and holding national governments to account in respect of the implementation of international agreements;

**Recalling** also UN General Assembly resolution 62/98 (2007), in which the Assembly adopted a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, by which Member States and others were called upon to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance at all levels, as well as to strengthen, through enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the capacity of countries to combat illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources;

**Reaffirming** the commitments of the ASEAN Member States contained in the ASEAN Statement on CITES on the Occasion of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, Bangkok (2004); the Term of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (2006); the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability (2007), the Strategic Plan of Actions of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (2007-2012); the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community Blueprint (ASCC 2009-2015); the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in CITES Wild Fauna and Flora (2011-2015); the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) on ASEAN Cooperation in CITES (2011-2015); the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan 2 (2009-2015);

**Welcoming** the partnership offered by the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST), implemented by FREELAND Foundation, to assist ASEAN Member States in developing strategies to suppress wildlife crime in the region;

**Hereby resolves to:**

**Call upon** AIPA Member Countries to review, and where necessary, upgrade their wildlife and criminal legislation to maximize deterrence of illegal wildlife trafficking;

**Call upon** AIPA Member Countries to place wildlife crime onto the permanent agenda of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes (SOMTC) and ASEANAPOL (ASEAN Chiefs of Police);

**Call upon** AIPA Member Countries to take appropriate measures, consistent with their domestic legislation and legal frameworks, to support law enforcement agencies associated with the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network and its national interagency networks, by ensuring that financial and legal frameworks are in place to adequately support their work;

**Recommend** for creation of AIPA national parliamentary groups or caucuses to provide oversight in the implementation of national strategies to support ASEAN national commitments in curbing wildlife crime;

**Support** ASEAN to establish a common or regional mechanism to ensure CITES implementation (CITES Common Regulation) in an Integrated ASEAN by 2015, as directed by the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan 2 (2009-2015).

**Adopted** this XX day of September 2012, during the 33rd General Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia, XX September 2012