FORUM: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

QUESTION OF: Combating the illicit trade of animals and animal products

SUBMITTED: Brazil

CO-SUBMITTER: Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, USA, Vietnam, Trinidad & Tobago, Chile, Nigeria

THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

*Reaffirming* resolution69/314of30July2015which“Recognizesthe intrinsic value of biological diversity and its various contributions to sustainable development and human well-being, and noting that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the Earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come;”,

*Concerned* therefore, about the increase in illicit trade of animals and animal products and its hostile economic, social and environmental impacts,

*Expressing serious concern* about the rising number of elephants, rhinos and tigers being killed by poachers in Africa and Asia, which threaten the species with local extinction and often even global extinction,

*Deeply Concerned* that unregulated trade of animals and consumption of animal products may bring high risk to human health,

*Recognising* that the consumption of illicit animal products is increasingly linked to zoonotic diseases such as the Ebola virus and monkeypox,

*Aware* of the 5-20 billion US dollars illegal wildlife trade generates annually, impacting the economic situations of many countries,

*Alarmed by* the fact that illicit trade of animals and animal products is a form of transnational organized crime representing a threat to health and safety, good governance, security and sustainable development of delegations,

*Recognizing* the need to combat such crimes by strengthening international collaboration, criminal justice responses and law enforcement aims,

*Commending* the on-going work of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and any other relevant NGOs in their campaign to tackle the illicit trade of animals,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN launch of the campaign against the illicit trade of animals, the #WildForLife, and further the constant support of the International Consortium of Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) that brings the support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks,

*Taking into consideration* that the illicit trade of animals contributes to damage in ecosystems and rural livelihoods, including those based on ecotourism, which undermines good governance and the rule of law,

1. Urges all governments of member nations to adapt and improve, with the participation of indigenous and local communities the existing policies and frame works concerning illicit hunting, trading and selling animal products, conservation, and the sustainable use of wildlife, by:

1. the establishment of an operating body under the Combating Illicit Trade of Animals and Force (CITAF) to regulate the commercial trade of animals and animals products
2. Retraining border personnel with help from the UN anti-corruption tool and the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) to strengthen border control and biodiversity in order to further prevent the international trade of the illicit animal products and it’s potential to spread harmful pathogens,
3. Developing a unique law enforcement partnership between wildlife authorities and civil society groups to investigate and prosecute wildlife crimes, conduct public outreach campaigns, reduce corruption and illegal wildlife and meat trade;

2. Proposes that the governments of relevant member nations work in conjunction with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and aforementioned database to educate people in areas where illegal hunting and trade is extensive by:

1. Educating locals, both young and old, about the importance of conserving their environment and the topic of illegal trade of animals and their products,
2. Providing poachers with ideas about alternative job opportunities in their local communities,
3. Teaching the necessary skills needed for the cultivation and farming of protein alternatives eco-tourism and provide vocational training to local people, through the means such as but not limited to:

 i. Program/workshops conducted both online or in already existing static education centers targeting local

ii. Designated UN speakers to speak with all local farmers;

3. Asks for the implementation of a mass media campaign in conjunction with the UNEP through means such as, but not limited to: television, documentaries, billboards, leaflets, radio and travelling speakers which would:

1. Inform people of illegal forms of hunting and species that are illegal to hunt and trade,
2. Inform people of the serious health complications that may arise from the consumption of bush meat and the negative impacts of unsustainable animal hunting and trade on indigenous people, local communities and their livelihood.
3. Promotes sustainable harvest of low risk species and the use of protein alternatives;

4. Urges member states to work together through international cooperation in the spirit of the United Nations:

a. Representatives of all nations to meet biannually with the FAO (Food Agriculture Organisation), CITAF (Combatting Illicit Trade of Animals Force) to determine what improvements have been made and need to be made,

b. Discussing the increase of penalties and regulations, especially those who have repeated the offense, with the governing bodies of member states where the illegal trade is prevalent, in order to ensure that their views are well represented in the policies that will apply to their nations;

5. Further endorses efforts to establish institutions funded by the UNEP for the purpose of caring for animals harmed and endangered, which will provide jobs as well as a steady income to pay for sources of food other than bushmeat;

6. Invites all member states to attend an annual conference held in the UNEP headquarter of the United Nations to monitor the development of the animal products by assessing the information compiled in the aforementioned database;

7. Asks every national and all worldwide figures such as politicians, actors, singers, writers, athletes to take part in the #WildForLife program created by the UN to promote the combatting of the illicit animal trade and animal products and to promote to people worldwide about the possibility of the extinction of some animal species and the need to stop illegal trade of animals;

8. Confirms that all member nations remain actively seized on the matter.