COMMITTEE: Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: Combatting the illicit trade of animal and animal products

SUBMITTED BY: Algeria

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Congo, Australia, Italy, Germany, Republic of Korea (South), Georgia, Moldova, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, China, Serbia, Pakistan, Greece, France, Estonia, Libya, Finland

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

*Noting*that poaching forms the sustenance of many people living in poverty,

*Deeply concerned*that between 35,000 – 50,000 African elephants are poached a year since the 1970s,

*Acknowledging*that endangered species are rapidly decreasing in population,

*Further acknowledging* that three rhinos are poached every day,

*Realizing*that over 1000 park rangers have been killed in the last ten years trying to protect the animals,

*Recognizing*that 95% of the world rhinos have been lost in the last 40 years,

*Aware*that over just 40 years there has been a decrease in marine species of 39%,

*Disturbed by*the possibility of there being no more seafood in the oceans by 2048,

*Aware*that approximately 28 300 freshwater turtles are traded each day causing 80% of Asia's turtles to near extinction,

*Also aware*that the illegal wildlife trade generates between 5 and 20 billion dollars every year making it the fourth most lucrative illegal trade in the world,

1. Urges more economically developed states to pay a contribution to aid the upkeep of animals, including their habitats, in lower economically developed countries which would otherwise be unable to do so;
2. Requestsfor member states to take all possible measures to protect and aid the maintenance of any animal habitats and avoid those areas from being exploited, especially in areas such as Africa, Asia and South America and ensure that the aid of these protected areas is in harmony and does not interfere or damage any of the existing nature or animals;
3. Asksmember states, in particular the more economically developed countries and countries who do not already, to create and help sustain new, larger protected areas and conservation areas;
4. Advisesthat member states rehabilitate poachers by giving them jobs to protect animals in order to reduce poaching;
5. Urgesmember states to increase the penalty to extents of longer prison sentences and larger fines for those trafficking and purchasing illicit animal products;
6. Suggeststhat all possible measures are put in place in order to protect all rangers to prevent further deaths;
7. Callsfor a UN body, United Nations Animal Trade Program (UNATP), to be set up to increase the awareness of the illicit animal trade by methods including but not limited to:
   1. Using social media platforms in order to raise awareness of the illicit animal trade,
   2. Involving it in the country's' national curriculum;
8. Recommendscountries to build fish farms or use already existing lakes/ponds, even if the country is not next to an ocean, in order to reduce the problem of overfishing;
9. Encouragesthat countries focus their scientific research and resources on preventing the problem of animals nearing extinction and finding a substitute for the medicines that are used from the animals, particularly from fresh water turtles;
10. Stressesthat countries need to develop genetic laboratories in order to take advantage of the genetic diversity offered by the endangered species;
11. Strongly encourages countries with poaching problems to strengthen the fight against the poachers by:
    1. creating stricter measures for the punishment of poachers
    2. establishing extra fines for poachers based on what they have poached
    3. creating more poaching hotlines and investigation teams to identify poachers before they poach again.
    4. to strongly encourage gun control policies in LEDCs for anyone other than official rangers;
12. Recommends to strengthen borders of countries affected by wildlife trafficking.
13. Encourages the creation of national organizations with the aim to reduce illicit animal trade by incentivizing locals to abstain from poaching in ways such as but not limited to:
    1. promoting animal conservation and jobs such as rangers, thus establishing an economic interest in the conservation of wildlife around them
    2. informing poor farmers, who are likely to become involved in the network of illegal wildlife trade about the negative outcomes this trade could have with the focus on the consequences.