

ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

on Ecology and Development

(adopted unanimously by the Joint Committee on 24 February 1983)

The Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly meeting in Kingston, (Jamaica) from 21 to 24 February 1983,

- A. Whereas, in addition to the shortage of capital, know-how and raw materials, the destruction of the natural environment has also become an independent source of poverty, hunger and underdevelopment,
- B. Having particular regard to the cultural values and norms which influence behaviours and attitudes of populations towards their environment,
- C. Mindful of the fact that the tropical forests may well have disappeared within the next 40 years, and that deforestation is inextricably linked to the menace of desertification,
- D. Aware that almost 43 percent of the earth's land is already desert or in danger of becoming desert,
- E. Alarmed by the fact that environmental consequences such as soil degradation and erosion, disturbances in the hydrological cycle and climatic alteration result in declining levels of agricultural productivity and food supply which tend to aggravate the hardships of the rural communities concerned,
- F. Conscious that the world's fish stocks are dwindling rapidly as a result of over-fishing and pollution, adversely affecting protein supply for large numbers of people,

- G. Bearing in mind that innumerable flora and fauna are threatened with extinction, which will eventually place at risk world supplies of food, clothing and accommodation,
- H. Whereas in 1980 three important international institutions, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the World Wildlife Fund and the United Nations Environmental Program launched a world-wide appeal under the name of the World Conservation Strategy (WCS), which calls upon all countries to base their policy on the following objectives:
1. to maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems,
 2. to preserve genetic diversity,
 3. to ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems,
- I. Whereas the European Parliament and the European Community have officially adopted this World Conservation Strategy, and a start has been made on implementing the WCS in various policy fields, which has also been reflected in the EEC budget,
1. Takes the view that the above-mentioned problems, which may be summarised under the heading of ecology and development, must receive appropriate attention in the next ACP-EEC Convention;
 2. Decides to refer this resolution to the Working Party on Hunger in the World so that it might draw up a report or working document on the problems of ecology and development at its earliest opportunity.