



## **Conference of the Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region**

### **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE**

#### Convention, Protocol and Action Plan

The Conference,

Having adopted on 24 March 1983 the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region,

Recognizing that regional co-operative activities developed under the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme may facilitate the early entry into force and effective application of the Convention and the Protocol,

Urges all States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to sign the Convention and the Protocol to do so as soon as possible and to complete the procedures necessary for their ratification, acceptance or approval in order to strengthen the Action Plan and to relate the Convention and the Protocol to it.

#### Pollution from Land-Based Sources

The Conference,

Having adopted the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Noting that article 7 of the Convention requires the Contracting Parties to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the wider Caribbean marine environment from land-based sources,

Seriously concerned that pollution from land-based sources poses a significant threat to the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Recognizing the importance of regional co-operation to address this threat,  
Requests that the Organization designated pursuant to article 15 of the Convention, in cooperation with the international bodies referred to in paragraph 1 (f) of article 15 of the Convention, convene, if called upon to do so by a meeting of the Contracting Parties, as soon as practicable after entry into force of the Convention, a working group of experts nominated by the Contracting Parties and Signatories to prepare a draft protocol on land-based sources of marine pollution.

## Specially Protected Area and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region

The Conference,

Having adopted the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Noting that article 10 of the Convention requires the Contracting Parties to take all appropriate measures to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems, as well as the habitat of depleted, threatened or endangered species, in the Wider Caribbean Region as defined in paragraph 1 of article 1 of the Convention,

Considering that the maintenance of viable marine and coastal ecosystems is vital to the well-being of the inhabitants of the Wider Caribbean Region and to the satisfaction of their economic, social, nutritional, cultural and recreational requirements,

Considering that matters relating to the conservation and protection of the ecosystems and wildlife of the Wider Caribbean Region require regional co-operation,

Recognizing the contributions of existing international agreements concerning the protection of wildlife and natural habitats,

Noting, however, that, in spite of the progress already achieved, these agreements do not cover all aspects of such protection and do not entirely meet the special requirements of the Wider Caribbean Region,

1. Encourages competent governmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare proposals for submission to the first meeting of the Contracting Parties after entry into force of the Convention,
2. Requests that the Organization designated pursuant to article 15 of the Convention, in co-operation with the international bodies referred to in paragraph 1 (f) of article 15 of the Convention, convene, if called upon to do so by a meeting of the Contracting Parties, a working group of experts nominated by the Contracting Parties and Signatories to prepare a draft protocol on specially protected areas and wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Tribute to the Government of the Republic of Colombia

The Conference,

Meeting in the city of Cartagena de Indias from 21 to 24 March 1983 at the gracious invitation of the Government of the Republic of Colombia,

Convinced that the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Colombia and by the authorities of Cartagena de Indias contributed significantly to the smooth conduct of its proceedings,

Appreciative of the courtesy and hospitality extended by the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the city of Cartagena de Indias to the members of the delegations, the observers and the secretariat officials attending the Conference and its preparatory meeting,

Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Colombia, to the authorities of Cartagena de Indias and through them, to the people of Colombia and the population of Cartagena de Indias, for the comprehensive support given to the Conference, for the valuable contribution made by the delegation of Colombia to the success of the Conference and for the generous hospitality and the thoughtfulness shown towards all participants.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

This Convention in no way alters international law relating to the sovereign immunity of any warship, naval auxiliary or other ship or aircraft owned or operated by a State and used for the time being only on government non-commercial service. However, each Contracting Party shall ensure by the adoption of appropriate measures not impairing the operations or operational capabilities of such ships or aircraft owned or operated by it, that such ships and aircraft act in a manner consistent, so far as is reasonable and practicable, with the present Convention.