

## **16/1. NUCLEAR WINTER**

RECALLING that it has been evident for many years that nuclear war would constitute an unprecedented catastrophe for mankind;

ALARMED now to learn of recent studies by eminent scientists which conclude that use of only a small percentage of the world's large and growing arsenal could trigger a "Nuclear Winter", in which vast areas of the earth could be subjected for months to prolonged darkness, sub-freezing temperatures, violent wind storms, toxic smog, and eventually the effects of greatly increased ultraviolet radiation as a result of a major depletion of the ozone layer, in addition to persistent radioactivity;

DRAWING ATTENTION also to studies by eminent biologists concluding that the cold and the dark of Nuclear Winter could result in worldwide fatalities among survivors as a consequence of starvation, lack of drinking water, exposure, and other stresses, and later to the possible extinction of a large fraction of the earth's plant and animal species;

CONVINCED that all nations, even those not involved in, or at remote distances from, a nuclear war, would severely suffer in the event of a Nuclear Winter;

RECOGNIZING that the prospect of Nuclear Winter following nuclear war poses an unprecedented peril to the survival of life and civilization on earth, and recalling the objective of the World Conservation Strategy to maintain life support systems and essential ecological processes;

BELIEVING that there is an urgent need to continue scientific studies to increase our understanding of the Nuclear Winter;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

1. URGES all States and international organizations to:
  - (a) encourage, support, and fully cooperate as appropriate in further governmental and non-governmental scientific research and studies concerning Nuclear Winter;
  - (b) take into account Nuclear Winter in examining their relevant policies and programmes;
  - (c) disseminate information on Nuclear Winter;
2. CALLS UPON all members of IUCN to use all possible means to further the scientific evaluation of Nuclear Winter and its impacts on life and to inform the peoples of the world and their leaders of these new scientific findings.