

2.32 Organic agriculture and conservation of biodiversity

RECOGNIZING the important role of agriculture in *Agenda 21*;

AWARE of the negative effects to biodiversity from agriculture that is not based on sound practices and is dependent on inappropriate inputs of chemicals and other synthetic products and the challenges of the growing demand for food;

RECOGNIZING that organic farming is an important contribution to sustainable rural development and for the future development of agriculture and food security;

RECALLING that, in particular, organic agriculture puts the concept of multi-functionality into practice, including biodiversity;

ACKNOWLEDGING the 1999 *Vignola Declaration and Action Plan* as the result of the meeting on the relationship between nature conservation, biodiversity, and organic agriculture, convened by IUCN, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, and the Associazione Italiana per l'Agricoltura Biologica (AIAB), which embraces the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and which concluded that organic agriculture is essential for conserving biodiversity and nature; and

NOTING the potential of organic agriculture to achieve effective management and restoration of ecosystems and to combine effective land use with enhancement of biological diversity;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. REQUESTS Council to give consideration to setting up a working group to study and report on the contribution of organic agriculture to enhancing the conservation of biodiversity;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) develop guidelines to strengthen biodiversity conservation, energy conservation, water conservation, and cultural heritage in organic agricultural practices; and
 - (b) cooperate with the private sector, NGOs, governments, and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements.

This Resolution was adopted by a show of hands. The delegations of the State member Australia, and State and Agency members United States, abstained from the adoption by consensus of this Resolution.