

CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES FOR ADOPTION AND
SIGNATURE OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARPATHIANS

RESOLUTION

The Conference of Plenipotentiaries for Adoption and Signature of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians,

Having met in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 20 - 22 May 2003,

Having considered the draft Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians,

Welcoming the proposals of the Governments of Romania and of Ukraine to host the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians,

1. Adopts the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

2. Calls upon the interested Countries to sign the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, and to take all necessary steps for its early ratification, acceptance or approval;

3. Pending the entry into force of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, and with a view to prepare the first session of the Conference of the Parties, decides to establish an Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) consisting of the representatives of the Signatories. Non-Signatories would be invited as observers. The functions of the IGC would be confirmed at its first session and would, tentatively, include the:

- (a) preparation for the first session of the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) follow-up to the decisions and resolutions adopted at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries;

4. Decides that the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians will be located in the Carpathian region;

5. Pending the decision on the location of the Secretariat and related arrangements, requests the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to continue to service the Convention process, including provision of interim secretariat support, such as the preparation of:

- draft rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties;
- a work programme - budget for the implementation of the Convention;
- a proposed scale of contributions to the Convention;
- a consolidated proposal for Secretariat arrangements;

6. Requests UNEP – Regional Office for Europe, as the interim secretariat to the Convention, to prepare a comprehensive report and proposal on the scope of application of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

7. Decides that, in defining the scope of application of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, in accordance with its Article 1 para. 1, due account shall be taken of physico-geographical criteria, and other criteria and factors relevant to the implementation of the Convention;

8. Decides that in determining the scale of contributions to the regular budget of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, in accordance with Article 17 of the Convention, due attention will be paid to various circumstances of the countries in the context of the Convention, as used in other Conventions, including the share of the area of the Carpathians of each country;

9. Decides that pending the entry into force of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, and the decisions on the arrangements and funding of its Secretariat, the Signatories will make a voluntary contribution to assist in meeting the core cost of the interim Secretariat services, which will be up to USD 150.000 per year;

10. Recommends to the Governments and international organizations to promote integration of their ongoing and future activities and support related to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, the work under the Framework

Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, as well as its Protocols;

11. Welcomes the Ministerial Declaration signed by Ministers of the Alpine Countries at the VII Alpine Conference in Merano, Italy on 19 November 2002, committing to international cooperation for sustainable development of other mountain regions, first of all the Carpathians, where cooperation with the Alpine region has already been established;

12. Recommends the creation of a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, and welcomes the cooperation and support by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas as well as the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme;

13. Expresses its gratitude for the contributions by donor countries, in particular to Italy for its continuous support, and to Austria for its offer to host and support the interim arrangement, as well as to Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and France for their valuable assistance, and appeals to these and other interested donors to support and contribute to the implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

14. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Ukraine for hosting the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for Adoption and Signature of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

Kyiv, 20 - 22 May 2003