

LATF/LAGC.9/3.8

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS OF THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT GOVERNING COUNCIL

Imperial Royale Hotel - Kampala, Uganda 1st to 2nd October 2008

1. OPENING OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

The Experts meeting commenced on Wednesday 1st October 2008 at 0920 hrs at the Imperial Royale Hotel - Kampala, Uganda.

(a) Welcoming Remarks by the Representative of the Host Party State

The Representative of the Republic of Uganda, Mr Justus Tindigarukayo welcomed the delegates to Uganda and said that it was an honour for them to host the 9th Lusaka Agreement Governing Council meeting. He reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to the Lusaka Agreement.

(b) Welcoming remarks by the Director LATF

The Director of the Task Force gave welcoming remarks. He thanked the Republic of Uganda for hosting the 9th Session of the Lusaka Agreement and for the hospitality afforded to the delegates. He then invited the representative of the President of the 8th Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement to give his opening remarks and chair the Experts Meeting.

(c) Opening remarks by the Representative or the President of the 8th Governing Council

The Representative of the President of the 8th Governing Council, Dr. Julius Kipng'etich of the Republic of Kenya chaired the Experts Meeting and gave opening remarks and officially declared the meeting open. In his opening remarks, he urged the experts to put in their best effort to arrive at useful recommendations that will guide the Governing Council in making decisions pertaining to implementation of the Agreement.

d) Remarks by the Representative of UNEP

Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, the representative of the Executive Director of UNEP, gave her remarks, where she appreciated the role of the Agreement in the sustainability of ecosystems. She also reiterated the importance of the Lusaka Agreement and called for concerted effort to support its implementation. She reaffirmed UNEP's support in the implementation of the Agreement and the work of the Task Force.

2. ADOPTION OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following Agenda was presented by the Chairman and adopted by consensus:

Experts Meeting of the 9th Governing Council of the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement – Kampala, Uganda

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- i. Opening of the Experts' Group Meeting
- ii. Adoption of the Agenda
- iii. Presentation and Discussions on Country Reports
- iv. Presentation of LATF Progress and Implementation Reports
- v. Presentation of the LATF Programme of Work and Budgets for the year 2007/2008
- vi. Presentation of the Report of the Experts' Meeting (held in April 2008) for
- vii. Presentations by Invited Observers
- viii. Draft Decisions and Recommendations
- ix. Adoption of the Experts' Report, Decisions and Recommendations
- x. Dates and venue of the 10th Governing Council Meeting
- xi. AOB
- xii. Closure of the Experts' Meeting

3. ATTENDANCE

Experts from the following Member States attended the meeting: The Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, The Republic of Uganda, The Republic of Zambia and The United Republic of Tanzania. The Kingdom of Lesotho was absent with apologies. The Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Ethiopia who are signatories to the Agreement and the Republic of Malawi were represented at the meeting as observers. Inter-Governmental organizations namely UNEP and the World Customs Organization (Regional Intelligence Liaison Office-RILO) were represented at the meeting as observers.

4. PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY REPORTS

Representatives of the Parties presented their National Reports that were consistent with the approved format of reporting. These were later discussed by the experts.

A number of salient issues that arose from the Country Reports were discussed during the meeting. These include:

- Payment of statutory contributions to LATF
- Sharing of information
- Poaching/Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Human wildlife conflicts
- Inadequate /obsolete wildlife legislation
- Mobilization of law enforcement resources including funding
- Collaboration with other law enforcement agencies such as customs, police, judiciary etc.
- Technological initiatives in combating wildlife crime
- China threat
- Contribution of wildlife to national economy

The delegates reiterated the need to promote the Agreement at international fora for purposes of encouraging other African states to enlist as members to the Agreement. The meeting also recommended that the Task Force and Parties influence high decision making levels for purposes of soliciting support and fully domesticating the Agreement. Some Parties also affirmed that

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they were stepping up efforts to settle their contribution arrears and putting in place mechanisms for ensuring timely remittance of contributions in the future.

5 PRESENTATION OF TASK FORCE PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS

The Director of the Task Force and his team gave highlights on the Progress Report of the Task Force for the period 1st October 2006 to 30th September 2008 which included an overview of the activities, operations, implementation of the Decisions of the 8th Governing Council and Financial reports. The Parties appreciated the efforts made and the positive results achieved by the Task Force. These included:

- Mobilization of financial resources
- Exploring new sources of funding
- Enhanced collaboration and sharing of information
- Disposal of the ivory contraband seized in Singapore
- Restructuring of the Secretariat

In deliberating the progress reports, the delegates took cognizance of the challenges of funding faced by the Task Force in the implementation of its programmes and called for identification of new sources of funding that would supplement the Party State contributions as well as grants from partners. The Task Force was called upon to contact other key donors such as the European Community and the Global Environmental Fund as the objectives of the Agreement contribute to addressing the problems associated with climate change which is a focus area for these donors and cooperating partners. The Progress, Financial and Audit reports as well as two proposals for appointment of auditors and disposal of ivory contraband were deliberated and approved by the Experts Group.

6. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2008/2009 and 2009/2010

The Task Force presented the proposals for its Programme of Work for the years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 with the corresponding budgets of US\$ 1,278,388 and US\$ 1,092,207 respectively, for deliberations.

After discussions, the meeting recommended adoption of the work plans and budgets of the Task Force for the financial years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 by the Governing Council.

A Draft Decision on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget was prepared and considered by experts and is attached to this Report for adoption by the Governing Council.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF EXPERTS' COMMITTEE (APRIL 2008)

Mr. Erasmus Tarimo presented a Report of the Experts Committee Meeting which was held in Nairobi from 15th to 17th April 2008. The committee was constituted to discuss and make recommendations on issues relating to financial sustainability of the Task Force and expansion

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of membership to the Lusaka Agreement. These issues were deliberated on including secondment of field officers to the Secretariat.

The meeting adopted the recommendations of the experts which have been considered by the experts and form part of the recommendations/decisions to the Governing Council for consideration and adoption.

8. PRESENTATION BY INVITED OBSERVERS

The meeting received statements from observers who included delegates from Republic of South Africa, Federal Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Malawi and the East and Southern Africa Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) of the World Customs Organization (WCO). Parties agreed to enhance cooperation and collaboration and recommended that the Task Force continues liaising with strategic partners such as RILO particularly on matters that relate to information exchange and database development.

9. DRAFT DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Draft Decisions, which are herein attached, were prepared and considered by the Experts and are forwarded for further consideration by the Governing Council.

10. ADOPTION OF THE EXPERTS' REPORT, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Draft Decisions and the report of the Experts were considered by the Experts and adopted for consideration by the Governing Council.

11. DATE AND VENUE OF 10TH GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Experts proposed that the 10th Governing Council meeting be held in the last week of September 2010 at a venue to be determined by the 9th Governing Council. The Experts requested interested Party States to offer to host the 10th Governing Council meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other considerations by the Experts.

13. CLOSURE OF THE EXPERTS MEETING

After usual exchanges of courtesies and vote of thanks, the Chairman of the Experts Meeting closed the meeting at 1710 hrs on 2nd October 2008.
