

Resolution on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)

*Adopted by the participants of the ICRI 26th General Meeting
La Réunion, 12 – 15 December 2011*

Background:

In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the world community adopted Agenda 21. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 identifies the importance of marine and coastal issues in the achievement of sustainable economic development and environmental cooperation. It identifies coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds as marine ecosystems of high biodiversity and production and it recommends that they be accorded high priority for identification and protection. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a partnership consisting of like-minded governments and organizations seeking to implement Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and other international conventions and agreements, for the benefit of coral reefs and related ecosystems. Founded by eight governments Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, the establishment of ICRI was announced at the First Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 1994, and at the high level segment of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative:

Underlines that millions of the world's inhabitants depend on coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development as they are a primary source of food and income, as well as a of social and cultural importance;

Express their deep concerns on the rapidly deteriorating health of the coral reefs and recognizes the need to maintain healthy coral reefs and related ecosystems;

Commends the work achieved over the last 2 decades by the ICRI Secretariats and members;

Notes the submissions from ICRI members, as well as the European Union and its member states, which highlighted coral reefs, to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) for the outcome document for the Conference;

Notes the UN Secretary-General's report on the Protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development;

ICRI members are encouraged to:



Support the inclusion of references to the conservation and sustainable management of all coral reefs, and their importance to sustainable development in the final outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), as well as any statement of commitments which may also include the blue economy and integrated oceans management.