

Resolution on Coral Reefs, Coral Bleaching and Climate Change to the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
29-30 November 2001, Maputo (Mozambique)*

Recognizing that coral reefs and related ecosystems are critically important for the food security of vulnerable groups in coastal areas in tropical nations around the world, especially for developing countries;

Recognizing that coral reefs and related ecosystems contain exceptionally high concentrations of biological diversity with more species per unit area than any other ecosystem on the globe;

Recognizing that unsustainable levels of local impact and resource use continue to be major threats to the biodiversity and ecological processes of coral reefs.

Recognizing that in 1998 the mass coral bleaching and mortality events were the most severe and extensive ever documented and tropical sea surface temperatures were the highest on modern record in affected regions;

Noting the recent reports of the UN Secretary General for the World Summit for Sustainable Development on Oceans and on the Global Status of Biological Diversity stating 60 percent of the worlds coral reefs could be lost by the year 2030;

Noting also that the rise in sea temperatures and consequent coral bleaching and mortality events pose a significant threat to coral reef ecosystems and the human populations which depend on them, particularly small island states;

Noting also that coral reefs are also being damaged by a wide range of anthropogenic activities as a result of unsustainable demands on the resources of coral reefs, and that the recent UNEP-WCMC Atlas on Coral Reefs reported that the extent of global coral reef cover was much less than previously reported;

Noting also that the International Coral Reef Action Network has been developed to manage these demands for better conservation of coral reefs;

Reaffirming the UNEP Governing Council Resolutions 21/12 which underscores inter alia the urgent need to implement the International Coral Reef Initiative Framework for Action at all levels including the UNEP Regional Seas;

Reaffirming the ITMEMS 1 and ISRS 2 statements, the USCRTF 3 resolution, and the ICRI resolutions on coral bleaching;

The International Coral Reef Initiative Coordinating and Planning Committee;

Calls upon all countries attending the World Summit for Sustainable Development in September 2002 to specifically address the alarming rate of decline of coral reefs in negotiations and decisions of the meeting.

Calls upon all countries with coral reefs to implement effective national legislation and incentive measures to improve conservation of coral reefs, as well as encouraging the participation of local user communities in sustainable resource use measures;

Requests that these countries consider reducing their outputs of greenhouse gases for which increases are linked with global climate change with resulting damage to coral reefs.

Requests that multilateral and bilateral agencies and the international community support those developing countries with coral reefs that are being damaged through climate change impacts to sustainably manage and protect these critical and vulnerable resources, *and furthermore assist in the implementation of projects aimed at coral reef conservation.*

Requests that multilateral and bilateral agencies and the international community support those developing countries with coral reefs to protect the capacity of these critical and vulnerable resources to recover from the damaging impacts of climate change by managing human uses and impacts upon reefs so that they do not exceed levels that are demonstrably sustainable.