

NOTING that the United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 as youth without prejudice to other definitions by Member States;

ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth will one day be in decision-making positions and that CITES Parties must engage these people now to equip them to be stronger leaders in the future;

RECOGNIZING that by welcoming today's youth into species conservation and wildlife trade conversations, our decision makers will add a rich diversity of ideas and solutions;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth have come of age in a generation very different than those before it, including great technological advancement, and that the skills held by younger colleagues can be valuable tools to ensure that wildlife trade is legal and sustainable;

WELCOMING the designation of youth engagement as the theme of World Wildlife Day 2017; and

FURTHER NOTING that the engagement and empowerment of the youth is high on the agenda of the United Nations and that this objective is being achieved through the youth programmes of various UN system organizations as well as the dedicated UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to explore opportunities to engage today's youth in CITES and other wildlife conservation issues, for example through internship or mentoring programs;
2. INVITES Parties and the CITES Secretariat to work with universities, youth groups, and other relevant associations and organizations, to create educated and engaged youth networks that can inform and influence conservation decisions;
3. INVITES Parties and observer organizations to include youth delegates on official delegations and provide learning opportunities at CITES meetings.
4. INVITES the Secretariat to collaborate with relevant UN organizations and conventions as well as the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth on youth engagement initiatives;
5. ENCOURAGES Parties to use the annual World Wildlife Day as an opportunity to incentivise wildlife conservation awareness among younger generations and to provide platforms for them to engage with one another on conservation and sustainable use issues; and
6. ENCOURAGES Parties to establish long term youth engagement and empowerment strategies to ensure the participation of the youth in wildlife conservation issues and CITES decision-making processes.

* Amended at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.