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A global agreement to combat and prevent illicit wildlife trafficking: Angola, Kenya and Peru submit ground-breaking draft resolution to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Vienna, 25 April – The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC) welcomes the submission of the draft resolution *“Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to combat and prevent illicit trafficking in specimens of wild fauna and flora”*, sponsored by Angola, Kenya and Peru, to the Thirty-first Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). The upcoming Session is set to take place on 16-20 May 2022 in Vienna, Austria.

The draft resolution calls on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to:

- “collect Member States views on the opportunity of elaborating an additional Protocol under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime on Illicit Trafficking in Specimens of Wild Fauna and Flora, and on the issues and elements that could be covered therein”;
- “consider the potential benefits of adopting an additional Protocol under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime on Illicit Trafficking in Specimens of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the issues and elements that could be covered therein, with its considerations to take account of the views expressed by Member States”.

“Illicit wildlife trafficking not only threatens the survival of countless species of wild animals and plants, it also poses a serious risk to human and animal health, accelerates climate change and biodiversity loss, exacerbates corruption and deprives governments of much needed revenue”, warned John Scanlon AO, Chair of EWC.

“The international community has already acknowledged this through a series of important UN General Assembly resolutions, but it has never formally discussed the potential benefits of a global agreement to prevent and combat wildlife crimes”.

“The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime commends the governments of Angola, Kenya and Peru for initiating such an important conversation and encourages other Member States to support this timely resolution” concluded Scanlon.

“After the compelling presidential statements of Angola, Costa Rica, Gabon and Malawi, we are now seeing two more biodiversity-rich countries, Kenya and Peru, asking for a stronger international legal framework around wildlife trafficking” said Susan Herman Lylis, Executive Vice President of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation Group. “Source countries are sending a clear message to the international community – we would all be wise to listen”.

Angola first announced its support for a global agreement against illicit wildlife trafficking in September 2021, joining the [call](#) of Costa Rica and Gabon for the creation of a Protocol under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. Malawi [joined](#) shortly after, making them the fourth country to do so in less than a year.

The CCPCJ is the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and holds annual regular sessions in Vienna, Austria. If the draft resolution is adopted, the UNODC will be required to provide a progress report to the CCPCJ at its December 2022 meeting.

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The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime is an initiative of organizations working on wildlife crime and trade related issues and is hosted by the Hong Kong based [ADM Capital Foundation](#), chaired by John Scanlon AO and with a Steering Group comprising the [African Wildlife Foundation](#), the [Born Free Foundation](#), Freeland, the [Global Environmental Institute](#), the [International Conservation Caucus Foundation Group](#), and [The Food and Land Use Coalition](#) (represented by [SYSTEMIQ](#)). More information on the Initiative, including its Steering Group, the organizations that have signed up as Champions of the Initiative, and its Special Advisers and Supporters, can be found on the [EWC website](#).

