END WILDLIFE CRIME

UNTOC COP 12 – Agenda item 3: Other serious crimes

Oral statement by the ADM Capital Foundation for the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime

Thank you Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime, which is hosted by ADM Capital Foundation, warmly welcomes draft Resolution L.9 on "Enhancing measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the UNTOC and the Protocols thereto" that has been submitted by Brazil, France and Peru.

We have some specific suggestions to strengthen the Resolution, which we have made available to Parties. We encourage delegates to capture the extraordinary efforts made by Presidents, Ministers and Diplomats over the past decade to advance efforts to tackle wildlife trafficking. The Resolution should reference the six UN General Assembly resolutions on tackling wildlife trafficking, the critical role played by rangers in tackling environmental crimes, especially wildlife crimes, and the historic CCPCJ Resolution 31/1 on "Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife"

There is currently no definition of the term "crimes that affect the environment", or an indicative list of what crimes are considered to fall within the scope of these crimes. Effective implementation of the Resolution would benefit from a common understanding of "crimes that affect the environment". A definition could be inserted, or a process to develop a common understanding could be initiated.

We draw Parties' attention to UN General Assembly Resolution 77/325 of 2023, which specifically recognizes the crucial role of rangers and guards in the fight against wildlife trafficking. It is in the field, through the hard work of rangers, who dedicate themselves to working on the front-lines of conservation and sustainable development, that we make real, tangible, and measurable progress in delivering on multiple global agreements. Rangers are also key to achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework. Ranger is not defined by the UNGA, and the scope of the term will vary from State to State.

We encourage delegates to support the adoption of draft Resolution L.9, with amendments, and to launch an intergovernmental expert group that can consider the possibility to elaborate an additional protocol or protocols to the UNTOC, including on wildlife crime. We need to urgently scale up efforts to tackle these serious transnational, organized crimes, including by strengthening international cooperation, which is exactly what this critically important Convention was created to advance, including through the adoption of additional protocols.

Thank you.

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