

REC 3.096 Inclusion of the Mont Blanc massif in UNESCO's World Heritage List

RECOGNIZING that the Mont Blanc Massif is an area of exceptional natural beauty in a geological and glacial landscape that occupies a unique place in the history of man;

AWARE of the threats to this prestigious site by poorly controlled development and the low level of protection afforded to the Massif;

NOTING that the Mont Blanc Transfrontier Conference (MBTC), the tripartite body created in 1991, is currently considering international protection measures within the framework of the drafting of a plan for the sustainable development of Mont Blanc, in accordance with the conservation aim set by the three states concerned, being France, Italy and Switzerland;

RECALLING that IUCN's adoption of Recommendation 19.93 (*Conservation in the Mont Blanc region, France, Italy, Switzerland*) and Resolution 2.46 (*Protected areas of international importance in the Alps and the Mediterranean*) in favour of the conservation of the Mont Blanc, as well as the role the Union plays with UNESCO regarding the assessment of natural World Heritage sites; and

NOTING that the adoption of this motion by the members of IUCN does not compromise the IUCN Secretariat's independent technical assessment of the proposed World Heritage site;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

INVITES France, Italy and Switzerland, the three founding countries of the Mont Blanc Transfrontier Conference to:

(a) give due consideration to the process that could lead to the submission (coordinated by the three states) of an application for the inclusion of the Mont Blanc Massif in UNESCO's World Heritage List; and

(b) support the following actions in order to meet the criteria for inclusion of the site on the World Heritage list to:

(i) in agreement with the MBTC, include the Mont Blanc Massif on the Swiss and Italian lists of sites suggested for World Heritage status; and

(ii) define a coherent perimeter for the site to be listed, which should include in particular the central nucleus of the Massif with its falls and peaks, excluding the valleys that border it on its three sides.

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page x).

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.