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Agenda item 13

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan:* draft resolution

International Day of the Snow Leopard

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, by which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Reaffirming also its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Reaffirming further the intrinsic value of wildlife and its various contributions, including its ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic contributions to sustainable development and human well-being, and recognizing that wild fauna in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the Earth which must be protected for this generation and the generations to come,

Stressing the urgent need to address the unprecedented global decline in biodiversity, including by preventing the extinction of threatened species, improving and sustaining their conservation status and restoring and safeguarding ecosystems that provide essential functions and services, including services related to water, health, livelihoods and well-being,

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Underlining that the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is found in high mountain regions of Asia, and that mountain ecosystems play a crucial role in providing water and other essential resources and services to a large portion of the world's population,

Acknowledging that the snow leopard has been listed in appendix I to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora¹ since 1975, and on appendix I to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals² since 1986,

Recognizing that the snow leopard's population was classified as "vulnerable" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species in 2017 and facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future,

Underlining that the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is an iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions, including in Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan,

Taking note with appreciation of regional initiatives for range State cooperation, transboundary approaches and outcomes of multi-partner initiatives, conventions and mechanisms at the regional level, including Saudi Arabia and Panthera's Arabian Leopard Initiative, the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme, the Strategy for Snow Leopard Conservation in the Russian Federation, the Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan 2024–2030 and Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Management Plan 2017–2026 of Nepal, the Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan 2024–2034 of Bhutan, a climate-integrated landscape approach to snow leopard conservation, the Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme of Pakistan, the Bishkek Declaration of 2017 entitled "Caring for snow leopards and mountains: our ecological future", signed by 12 snow leopard range countries, including all five Central Asian countries, the Samarkand Resolution of 2024 for snow leopard conservation and climate adaptation, adopted at the eighth Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard and its Ecosystems in the Western Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai, signed by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the initiative of India to create the International Big Cat Alliance, the Jaguar 2030 road map, the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation Nature Conservation Strategy on conservation of flagship species that include the amur tiger, the amur leopard and the snow leopard, and the International Tiger Forum,

Recognizing that the greatest threats to the survival of the snow leopard are habitat loss and fragmentation, prey depletion and illicit trafficking, illegal hunting, including poaching, and climate change,

Recalling its resolution [78/155](#) of 19 December 2023, entitled "Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development", which calls upon parties to the Convention and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention,

Welcoming the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing the efforts towards safeguarding the snow leopard, including the establishment of breeding programmes and the development of a regional strategy

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.

and national action plans for the conservation of the snow leopard in some range States that aim to safeguard the survival of the snow leopard throughout its range,

Noting the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, and looking forward to the timely implementation of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032, which underlines priorities for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory species and their habitats as well as the importance of ecological connectivity,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 23 October International Day of the Snow Leopard;
 2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders to observe the International Day of the Snow Leopard, as appropriate;
 3. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to enhancing international and regional cooperation in support of efforts to conserve the snow leopard, given its role in the overall ecosystem;
 4. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate the observance of the International Day of the Snow Leopard, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#);
 5. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions and that such activities would be subject to the availability and provision of voluntary contributions;
 6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations for appropriate observance.
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