

Statement on GHG Issues by the observers of IUCN

IMO MEPC 59, closing plenary, 17 July 2009

(Response to J10 paper & GHG debate; reproduced in the session report MEPC 59/24/Add.1)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

This year's theme for the IMO is "Climate change – a challenge for IMO too".

This challenge should not be narrowly seen as only reducing or limiting GHG emissions any more. The climate action required is much wider and was accepted in the Bali Action Plan of 2007. The action comprises mitigation, adaptation, technology, and financing. These are to be guided by a shared vision, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The sense of urgency for action on climate change is undisputed, as we heard many times this week.

In this context, we would like to call on all delegates to be proactive before COP 15, rather than just wait for the relevant outcomes.

IUCN being an intergovernmental organization, we feel free to call upon you as follows:

Distinguished delegates, when you come back to your capitals, tell your environment department that a global market-based scheme for shipping is feasible. Tell your foreign office that it could comply with the provisions of UNFCCC. Tell your finance ministry that it could generate financing for international action outside of the constrained national budgets. Tell your politicians that the impact on end consumers in developed countries will be minute, estimated at an extra \$1 of every \$1,000 of imported goods.

In developing countries, tell your politicians that it will cost you nothing. Instead it will provide additional financing for reducing deforestation, adapting to impacts of climate change and for technology transfer and transformation in the entire shipping sector.

Distinguished delegates, financing is make-or-break of COP 15. Therefore, discuss with your climate negotiators paragraph 173, option 4 of the current text for COP 15. This option proposes a financing scheme based on carbon price on emissions from international maritime transport. IMO can do it!

Mr Chairman, if we, the delegates successfully help COP 15 to agree on such a financing scheme, IMO will have required guidance and a green light to expeditiously deliver on the proposed plan in J10. This will very likely bring enormous benefits for the environment, shipping, and the IMO – in that order.

The time for action is now.