

## Resolution on Coral Bleaching and Climate Change to the Convention on Biological Diversity

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting  
27 and 28 October, 1999, Guadeloupe (France)*

- Reaffirming the ITMEMS<sup>1</sup> and ISRS<sup>2</sup> statements and USCRTF<sup>3</sup> resolution on coral bleaching;
- Recognizing that in 1998 the mass coral bleaching and mortality events appear to be the most severe and extensive ever documented and tropical sea surface temperatures were the highest on modern record;
- Noting that the geographic extent, increasing frequency, and regional severity of mass bleaching events are likely a consequence of a steadily rising baseline of marine temperatures, in combination with regional climate variability (e.g., El Niño events);
- Noting also that the rise in sea temperature and consequent coral bleaching and mortality events pose a significant threat to coral reef ecosystems and the human populations which depend on them, particularly small island developing states;

### *The ICRI Partners*

- Note with approval the conclusions and recommendations on priority areas for action resulting from the CBD expert consultation on coral bleaching<sup>4</sup>.

### Encourage the CBD and its SBSTTA to:

- Adopt the conclusions and recommendations on priority areas for action resulting from the CBD expert consultation on coral bleaching;
- Consider ICRI as a forum for the discussion of the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of climate change on coral reef systems; and

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<sup>1</sup> International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, November 1998; Townsville, Australia

<sup>2</sup> International Society for Reef Studies, 1998

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, March 1999, Maui, Hawaii

<sup>4</sup> 11-13 October 1999, Manila, Philippines

- Consider the ICRI partners as potential facilitators for the CBD work with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), the Ramsar Convention, and the World Heritage Convention to achieve their shared objectives on coral bleaching and mortality.