



Round Table:

"The fight against poaching and trafficking of endangered species"

Paris Declaration

- 1. We, Heads of State and Ministers, assembled in Paris on 5 December 2013 on the occasion of the Élysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa, express our deepest concern about the scale and devastation caused by the unprecedented growth in poaching and trafficking affecting elephants and the other large endangered species throughout Africa.**
- 2. Indeed, the consequences of this criminal looting and trafficking directly weaken the foundations for development and security in Africa.**
- 3. The heavily armed gangs that increasingly operate across borders and who fuel trafficking of all kinds as well as political instability, pose a serious a challenge to the security and sovereignty of our States. As an environmental drama, with the prospect of the possible disappearance from Nature in the short term of several of our world's**

iconic large species of animals, poaching and illegal trafficking jeopardise opportunities for economic and social development, and for the preservation of the environment in ever wider areas of our countries.

- 4. We thus make a commitment to take decisive action without delay, and solemnly call on the international community to join in with, and support, this effort.**
- 5. We welcome, in this respect, the large-scale projects presented by several countries during our meeting, and in particular the initiatives for concerted management of cross-board natural resources which demonstrate a broad awareness and a willingness to take action without delay.**
- 6. We also welcome and support the resolute commitment of regional cooperation bodies, the African Development Bank and the countries most often targeted by illegal products obtained from poaching.**
- 7. Finally, we welcome the announcements made by France, as well as by other countries of the North and South, both to strengthen its fight against trafficking and to support African countries mobilised in this effort.**
- 8. Together, we also call on the international community to formally give its full support to the Marrakech Declaration (adopted on 30 May 2013), to the 14/8 decision on the management of biodiversity in Africa of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Arusha, 12-14 September 2012) and to the political and operational conclusions of the Gaborone International Summit (3-4 December 2013).**

- 9. Taking effective action requires a combination of strengthened repressive arsenals and methods together with integrated development policies, which take account of the human, economic, social and environmental dimensions of the fight against poaching and trafficking.**
- 10. We therefore reaffirm our determination to strengthen the CITES and the initiatives it has given rise to, UNODC and Interpol, and intensify our cooperation with these organisations,**
- 11. We support the draft resolution that would initiate, within UNODC, the creation of a mechanism for effective monitoring of the commitments made under the International Convention on the fight against organised crime, of which trafficking in endangered species is an integral part. Indeed, global coordination and appropriate legal tools are required to effectively combat such trafficking.**
- 12. We furthermore lend our support to the conclusions of the special event organised at the initiative of Germany and Gabon on 26 September in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to strengthen the involvement of the United Nations, and in particular to the four proposals made on this occasion:**
- setting up of a "Group of Friends of the fight against trafficking of endangered species" in New York;**
 - appointment of a representative or special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General;**

- voting on a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly;
- organisation of a global high-level conference under the auspices of the UN.

13. We also call on the destination countries of products obtained from poaching endangered species, and illegal ivory in particular, to strengthen their efforts to identify imports, exports and re-exports in contravention of the rules of the CITES and apply severe penalties against those involved in such trafficking (traders, intermediaries and consumers).

14. We call on all major donors to lend their support to African national and regional initiatives. The fight against poaching can indeed only be effective if it is included in the sustainable development policies supported by international institutions and major donors.

15. We reaffirm our commitment to continue to actively address this issue. On the basis of this declaration, our countries thus intend to participate in the high-level London Conference organised on 12 and 13 February 2014 as well as in the one the Congo intends to organise in Brazzaville in the spring of 2014 and will work actively towards its success.

Done in Paris, on 05 December 2013