



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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12<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Manila, Philippines, 23 - 28 October 2017  
Agenda Item 4.2

**ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDENCY OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES**

*(Prepared by The Philippines)*

Summary:

This proposed Resolution calls for the establishment of the office of a 'Presidency' and proposes the roles and functions of such an office. The draft Resolution is complementary to Resolution 9.15 and the proposed Rules of Procedure contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.4.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDENCY OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES

### Background

1. At the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the drafting group of the Committee of the Whole discussed the Rules of Procedure extensively and amended them. The Parties then decided to submit the text, contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Report/Annex II, to the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties for adoption. The proposed Rules of Procedure establish the office of a 'Chair of the Conference'.
2. The Rules of Procedure, if adopted, foresee that the Chair of the Conference will, as Presiding Officer, preside over the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as over the Bureau being created. The Bureau will have the general duty of ensuring the effective enforcement of the Rules of Procedure and progressing the business of the meeting including, where appropriate, altering the timetable and structure of the meeting and specifying time limits for debates.
3. The Rules of Procedure further provide that the Chair of the Conference shall preside over the sessions of the plenary in his/her capacity as 'Presiding Officer':

*(1) In addition to exercising powers conferred elsewhere in these Rules, the Presiding Officer shall at plenary sessions of the meeting:*

- (a) open and close the session;*
- (b) direct the discussion;*
- (c) ensure the observance of these Rules;*
- (d) accord the right to speak;*
- (e) put questions to a vote and announce decisions;*
- (f) rule on points of order; and*
- (g) subject to these Rules and the Convention, have complete control of the proceedings and the maintenance of order.*

*(2) The Presiding Officer may, in the course of discussion at a plenary session of the meeting, propose to the Conference:*

- (a) time limits for speakers;*
- (b) limitation of the number of times the members of a delegation or the observers from a State not a Party, body or agency may speak on any question;*
- (c) the closure of the list of speakers;*
- (d) the adjournment or the closure of the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion; and*
- (e) the suspensions or adjournment of the session.*

### Discussion

4. To date, it was presumed that the Chair of the Conference would exercise his/her roles during meetings of the Conference of Parties, i.e. his/her role would be officially completed when the Conference of the Parties adjourns its business. However, in practice, the Chair of the Conference has often also played a supportive and representative role during the intersessional periods.

5. Several other multilateral processes, including many multilateral environmental agreements, have formally established the office of 'Presidency'. In these processes, the Presidency plays a valuable and facilitative role during as well as beyond the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Particularly a role in promoting the implementation of outcomes from the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and assisting the Secretariat in moving the intersessional work forward until the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. This resolution therefore proposes formalizing a role for the Chair of the Conference as the 'Presidency' during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and during the intersessional period. In addition to his/her functions and duties as set out in the Rules of Procedure for the Chair of the Conference, the Presidency would also carry out the functions set out in this resolution. The role as proposed in the resolution is one which would be entirely complementary to existing CMS bodies and would help facilitate political actions and positive outcomes that further the objectives of the Convention.

#### Recommended actions

7. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to adopt the draft resolution contained in Annex 1 to this document.

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**PRESIDENCY OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES**

*Noting* the work that has been carried by former hosts of meetings of the Conference of Parties acting as Chair of the Conference in facilitating and promoting strong outcomes for meetings of the Conference of Parties,

*Acknowledging* the positive role that Presidencies have played in other processes of multilateral environmental agreements and international processes,

*Considering* Resolution 9.15 on the roles and functions of the Standing Committee and *seeing* the role of the Chair of the Conference not overlapping with these functions,

*Recognizing* the need to formalize and designate specific functions to the Chair of the Conference as an effort to strengthen the overall work of the Convention and support its existing bodies and the need for this work to continue between COPs,

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Decides* that the 'Chair of the Conference', as defined in Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Parties shall, as 'Presidency of the Conference of Parties' take on the following roles and functions in addition to his/her duties defined in the Rules of Procedure, during meetings of the Conference of Parties and intersessionally.
  - a) Provide political leadership and direction towards achieving the objectives of the Convention;
  - b) Act as facilitator among all parties to the negotiations;
  - c) Steer efforts by the international community towards implementing the Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Conference of Parties;
  - d) Promote collaboration amongst Parties and stakeholders with respect to implementing adopted Resolutions and Decisions;
  - e) Assist the Secretariat in elevating the Convention's objectives on the international political agenda.
2. *Agrees* that the Presidency should be held by a minister or equivalent high level official;
3. *Urges* the Presidency to provide a report on its activities set out in paragraphs a) to e) above to each subsequent meeting of the Conference of Parties;
4. *Urges* the Presidency to provide a report on its activities set out in paragraphs a) to e) above to the Standing Committee at each of its regular subsequent meetings.