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Background on COP and regional representation of governing bodies

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MANILA • PHILIPPINES



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Conference Of The Parties or COP

- The Conference of the Parties is the decision-making body of the Convention
- Meets every 3 years
- Consisting of government representatives (Parties and non-Parties) Inter-governmental organizations, NGOs and other observers.
- Obligations
 - Establishes and maintains under review the financial regulations of the Convention
 - Adopts the budget for each triennium and reviews the implementation
 - Reviews the conservation status of migratory species and the progress made towards their conservation
 - Provides guidance to the Secretariat, receives reports and makes recommendations to Parties.

The success of the COP is based on thorough preparation by all actors such as the Secretariat and Convention bodies as well as Parties



Decision-making

- The COP generally makes its decisions by consensus
- As a result, voting is rare, however, when it occurs, all countries that have submitted valid credentials have the right to vote
- Voting is normally done by a show of hands
- Representatives may also request a nominal or secret ballot.
- Parties that have 3 or more years of delay in paying their subscription fees are not eligible to vote, unless the delay in payment is due to justified causes
- The Presiding Officer (chair) is responsible for counting the votes and announcing the result



Plenary and Committee of the Whole

Plenary

- Decision making body.
- Meets at opening of COP, elects officers, adopts agenda.
- Meets and end of COP, adopts all decisions

Committee of the Whole (COW)

- Subsidiary body of COP
- Vice chair of COP will preside
- Discussions and interim decisions – to be referred to Plenary for adoption
- Working groups established, and meet in parallel or outside of sessions



Standing Committee (StC)

- Responsible for carrying out activities , on behalf of the COP
 - Ensures that decisions are implemented
 - Oversees the implementation of the budget
- Proposes recommendations for consideration at the next COP
 - Advises and provides guidance to the Secretariat
 - Represents the COP in negotiations with the host Government and UNEP in relation to the Secretariat
 - Acts as a Bureau at the COP and carry out any other specific tasks entrusted to it by the COP.
- Will meet the day before COP and again immediately after COP
- In between COP sessions, it normally meets once a year to fulfill its role of monitoring progress in implementing the work of the Convention.



The composition of the Standing Committee is decided at each COP

The COP is recommended to: a) consult within the regional groups and determine which Parties will be nominated as regional or alternate members of the Standing Committee. (B) communicate this information to all Parties under item 17.1 of the COP agenda.

Regional Representation:

Africa	3 Parties
Europe	3 Parties
Asia	2 Parties
LAC	2 Parties
Oceania	1 Party

Depository and Host Government
Hosts of previous and next COP

A Finance sub-committee will be established among the members of the Standing Committee



Members of the Standing Committee for the Triennium 2015-2017

Region	Members	Alternate Members
Africa	Congo (Brazzaville) South Africa Uganda	Algeria Mali Tanzania
Asia	Mongolia (Vice Chair) Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan Pakistan
Latin America and the Caribbean	Bolivia Costa Rica	Argentina Panama
Europe	Norway (Chair) France Ukraine	Georgia Latvia Switzerland
North America	-	-
Oceania	Australia	Philippines
Depository	Germany	
Host of COP11	Ecuador	
Host of COP12	Philippines	



Current Members of the Standing Committee			
Region	Country	First Elected to Standing Committee	Eligible for further term
Africa	Congo (Brazzaville)	2014	Yes
	South Africa	2014	Yes
	Uganda	2011	No
Asia	Mongolia - Vice-Chair	2014	Yes
	Kyrgyzstan	2014	Yes
South & Central America & the Caribbean	Bolivia	2014	Yes
	Costa Rica	2014	Yes
Europe	Norway - Chair	2011 ¹	Yes
	France	2014	Yes
	Ukraine	2011	No
Oceania	Australia	2014	Yes
Host Previous COP	Ecuador	n/a	n/a
Host Next COP	Philippines	n/a	n/a
Host Government/ Depository	Germany	n/a	n/a



¹ In 2011 Norway was included as the previous COP Host, and in 2014 it became a regional member.



Scientific Council and its Sessional Committee



- Provides scientific and technical advice to the Secretariat and COP
- Ensures that all scientific and technical information submitted to the COP, through proposals, resolutions, etc., is produced on the basis of reliable scientific data
- The Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council met in Bonn in July to discuss COP documents and make recommendations



The Sessional Committee of the of the Scientific Council

- Resolution 11.4 established the **Sessional Committee** of the Scientific Council as a representative selection of the membership of the Scientific Council appointed for each intersessional period between two consecutive ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
- The Sessional Committee is composed of:
 - nine COP-appointed Councillors with expertise in taxonomic and thematic issues;
 - fifteen Party-appointed Councillors selected from within the Standing Committee's geographic regions, as follows: three from Africa; three from Asia; three from Europe; **three from Oceania**; three from South and Central America and the Caribbean.
- Sessional Committee members should normally be appointed for a minimum term of two triennia. Each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, starting from the 12th meeting (COP12), should decide upon the renewal of half of the membership of the Sessional Committee. As a transitional measure, half of the first appointees were to serve for a single triennium.



Appointment of the Sessional Committee of the of the Scientific Council

- Resolution 11.4 requests the Secretariat to provide for a consultative process in order to elaborate, in consultation with the StC, recommendations to the COP on the composition of the Sessional Committee
- StC44: identification of candidate Party-appointed members by the regions coordinated by the StC
- StC45:
 - agreed that two regions (Asia and South & Central America & the Caribbean) should nominate two members each for rotation at COP12, while the remaining regions (Europe, Africa and **Oceania**) should replace **only one member** each
 - supported the possibility of identifying alternate members for the regions (to be confirmed by COP12)
- Current Sessional Committee members for Oceania:
 - Dr. Vincent Hilomen (Philippines)
 - Ms. Saras Sharma (Fiji)
 - Mr. Graeme Taylor (New Zealand)



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