



FIRST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Agenda Item 1

OPENING COMMUNICATION

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, I would like to welcome you all to the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (ExCOP1).

ExCOP1 was convened following the written request of 55 Parties, representing over one third of the Parties to the Convention, as notified by the Secretariat on 31 October 2023 ([Notification-2023/034](#)). The purpose of the extraordinary meeting is to consider the adoption of an interim budget to ensure the continuous operation of CMS in 2024.

Accordingly, I would like to draw the following to the attention of all representatives:

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

It is my pleasure to officially open, through this communication, the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (ExCOP1).

Item 2. Officers

The current COP Presidency, India, shall act as Chair for this extraordinary meeting, in line with Rule 12, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda ([UNEP/CMS/Ex.COP1/Doc.3.1.rev1](#)) is hereby adopted. It consists of one main agenda item (Item 5 – Proposed interim budget for 2024), as proposed in the request to hold an extraordinary meeting of the COP.

The annotated agenda (UNEP/CMS/Ex.COP1/Doc.3.2.rev1), including the application of a silent procedure to adopt the interim budget, is hereby adopted.

The meeting starts at 00:00 Central European Time (CET) on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 with the transmission of this opening communication, which encloses a document with the draft resolution text for an interim budget for 2024. The proposed text will be placed under silence procedure for 72 hours.

Questions, if any, may be directed, by or through a head of delegation, to the Executive Secretary (cms.secretariat@cms.int), with copies to the Finance and Administrative Officer, Enkhtuya Sereenen (enkhtuya.sereenen@un.org), and the Legal Officer, Maria Jose Ortiz (maria-jose.ortiz@un.org). Should any Party intend to break the silence, they should send a clear message to this effect to the same email addresses noted above.

If the silence is not broken during the preceding 72 hours, the resolution will be considered adopted. The Chair will confirm this through a written communication that will be transmitted to delegations on 1 December, thereby marking the end of the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Item 4. Credentials Committee

In accordance with Rule 3 of the rules of procedure, a Credentials Committee is hereby established confirming the nominations received:

- Africa: Seychelles
- Europe: Spain
- Latin America & the Caribbean: Costa Rica

Due to the exceptional nature of the meeting, an electronic copy of credentials that fulfil the requirements of rule 3 of the rules of procedure, will be accepted on the understanding that a hard copy will be presented to the Secretariat as soon as possible by postal correspondence.

Should any Party wish to break the silence, they must ensure their representative holds valid credentials. The Credentials Committee will review the credentials of any Party that wishes to break the silence.

Credentials that have been obtained to cover the silence procedure period of 28 – 30 November will remain valid until the close of the ExCOP1, including in the event that the 72-hour period is interrupted and the ExCOP1 goes beyond the expected period.

Item 5. Proposed interim budget for 2024

It is my pleasure to enclose a document with a draft resolution on the interim budget for 2024 for consideration and adoption by representatives ([UNEP/CMS/Ex.COP1/Doc.5](#)).

The interim budget has to be prepared on an annual basis in compliance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations. In February 2024, the Conference of the Parties, at its 14th meeting (CMS COP14), will adopt a budget for the triennium 2024-2026, which will supersede the interim budget for 2024.

The draft resolution on the interim budget for 2024 is the outcome of a review and consultations between the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the members of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (in line with Resolution 13.2, paragraph 23 (ii), and paragraph 4(a) of Annex 4 to the resolution).

The draft resolution is hereby placed under the silence procedure from 00:00 CET on Tuesday, 28 November 2023, for 72 hours, i.e., until 23:59 on Thursday, 30 November 2023.

Item 6. Adoption of the report of the meeting

The report of ExCOP1 will reflect the outcome of the extraordinary meeting and will be circulated with my closing statement, conveyed by the Secretariat to the delegations, on Friday 1 December 2023.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest thanks to all representatives for their contribution and cooperation in this process.

(Signed) Bivash Ranjan

Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

*As Chair of the First Extraordinary Meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species*

Enc. Proposed interim budget for the year 2024 (UNEP/CMS/Ex.COP1/Doc.5)