



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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COMPOSITION AND ORGANISATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Ninth Meeting (Rome 1-5 December 2008)

Recalling Resolutions 1.1, 2.5, 3.7 and 6.6 establishing and governing the CMS Standing Committee and, in particular, the composition of its membership;

Acknowledging the need for clear, concise and consolidated terms of reference governing the Standing Committee;

Desiring to ensure that the membership reflects the numbers and conservation interests of Parties in each main geographic region and, as far as possible, the richness and diversity of migratory species within each region; and

Also *desiring* to ensure as far as possible both continuity and efficient rotation in the membership of the Committee;

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

1. *Resolves* to re-establish the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties with the following terms of reference;

Within the policy agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee shall:

- (a) Provide general policy and operational direction to the Secretariat;
- (b) Provide advice and assistance to Parties concerning implementation of the Convention;
- (c) Carry out, between one meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the next, such interim activities on behalf of the Conference as may be necessary or explicitly assigned to it;
- (d) Provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the preparation of agendas and other requirements of meetings and on any other matters brought to it by the Secretariat in the exercise of its functions;

- (e) Oversee, on behalf of the Parties, the development and execution of the budget of the Secretariat as derived from the Trust Fund and other sources and also all aspects of fund-raising undertaken by the Secretariat in order to carry out specific functions authorised by the Conference of the Parties, and oversee expenditures of such fund-raising activities; and shall be supported, in this activity, by the subcommittee established through resolution 9.14 paragraph 12;
 - (f) Represent the Conference of the Parties, vis-à-vis the Government of the host country of the Secretariat's headquarters, the United Nations Environment Programme and other international organisations for consideration of matters relating to the Convention and its Secretariat;
 - (g) Submit at each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties a written report on its work since the previous ordinary meeting;
 - (h) Draft resolutions or recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (i) Act as the Bureau at meetings of the Conference of the Parties until such time as the Conference Rules of Procedure are adopted; and
 - (j) Perform any other function as may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Establishes* the following rules for the Standing Committee:
- (a) The Membership of the Standing Committee shall be agreed at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with the Conference's Rules of Procedure (but also see 2 (l) below) and shall comprise:
 - (i) three parties elected from each of the geographic regions (a) Africa and (b) Europe;
 - (ii) two parties elected from each of the geographic regions (a) Asia and (b) South and Central America and the Caribbean;
 - (iii) one party from each of the geographic regions (a) North America and (b) Oceania;
 - (iv) the Depositary and Host Government of the host of the Secretariat; and
 - (v) where appropriate, the Host Government of the next and previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
 - (b) Each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) also shall elect twelve regional representatives to serve as alternate members and, in particular, to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee in the absence of the member of the region for which they are alternate member.
 - (c) The term of office of regional members and alternates shall expire at the close of the next ordinary meeting of the COP following the meeting at which they were originally elected. Regional members may not serve more than two consecutive terms of office.
 - (d) If an extraordinary meeting or a special meeting of the Conference of the Parties is held between two regular meetings, the host Party of that meeting shall participate in the work of the Committee on matters related to the organisation of the meeting.

- (e) Parties not members of the Committee shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee by an observer who shall have the right to participate but not to vote.
 - (f) The Chairman of the Scientific Council shall be entitled to participate in meetings of the Standing Committee as a non-voting observer.
 - (g) The Chairman may invite any person or representative of any other country or organisation to participate in meetings of the Committee as an observer without the right to vote.
 - (h) The Secretariat shall inform all Parties of the date and venue of Standing Committee meetings.
 - (i) The Committee shall, by consensus, establish its own rules of procedure.
 - (j) The Secretary for the Committee shall be provided by the Secretariat of the Convention.
 - (k) The membership of the Committee shall be renewed at every ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 - (l) If a regional representative or alternate resigns from the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall organise a ballot among all Parties from that region to elect a successor, the voting system described in the COP ROPs being adopted *mutatis mutandis*.
3. *Requests* members of the Committee to make every effort to pay their own travel expenses;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to make provision in budgets for the payment, upon request, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of nominated representatives from the group of countries which have been identified by the responsible organs of the Convention as being eligible for travel assistance and from the next host Party (should that also qualify for funding). Within the policy agreed by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat:
- (a) Shall make provisions for payment of travel costs for regional members from the group of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition (or alternate members deputising for them) to attend a maximum of one Standing Committee per calendar year;
 - (b) Shall refund travel expenses, upon request, to no more than one representative of a Party at any one meeting of the Standing Committee;
 - (c) May refund to the Chairman of the Standing Committee all reasonable and justifiable travel expenses for travel undertaken on behalf of the Conference of the Parties or on behalf of the Secretariat;
 - (d) May pay refunds in United States dollars or euros;
 - (e) Shall receive claims for refunds, supported by receipts, which must be submitted to the Secretariat within thirty calendar days of the completion of the travel; and
 - (f) Shall endeavour, to the extent possible, to obtain external funding for travel expenses;

5. Resolves that the duties of the Regional Representatives on the Standing Committee are as follows:
 - (a) to maintain a fluid and permanent communication with the Parties of their region and the Secretariat;
 - (b) wherever possible, to request opinions from Parties of their regions on items under consideration by the Standing Committee; and
 - (c) to report on their activities and communications at meetings of the Committee, and at any regional meetings that take place during the COP or inter-sessionally; and
6. Decides that Resolutions 2.5, 3.7 and 6.6 are hereby repealed.