

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Summary record of the fourth plenary session

6 March 2013: 9h15-11h15

Chair: Ø. Størkersen (Norway)
Secretariat: J. Scanlon
J. Barzdo
Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
P. Cremona
A. Mathur
R. Parry-Jones

Mexico drew the attention of the Conference to the death of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez. The Conference observed a one-minute silence to honour the late President.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, having recently acceded to the Convention, expressed its thanks to Thailand and the Secretariat and provided details of the measures it was taking to implement the Convention.

The Chair of the Credential Committee announced that the credentials of 136 Parties had been accepted.

Administrative matters

4. Rules of Procedure

South Africa, as chair of the informal working group on agenda item 4, reported that, despite lengthy discussion, the working group been unable to reach consensus on the proposals in documents CoP16 Doc. 4.2 (Rev. 1) and Doc. 4.3 (Rev. 1), or on the majority required to change the Rules of Procedure. It proposed the formation of a working group to further discuss the proposals intersessionally and report at CoP17. Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, supported this suggestion but felt that the issue of secret ballots needed to be decided at the present meeting. Mexico believed that there was still a chance of achieving consensus, but China disagreed and requested that a vote be taken on Japan's appeal, in the previous session, against the ruling of the Chair that the amendment of the Rules of Procedure could be decided by a simple majority. This request was supported by Guinea, Japan, Kuwait and Qatar. Noting that the working group discussions on this topic had not led to a consensus, the Chair agreed to call for a vote on the appeal by Japan.

At the request of the Chair, the Secretariat clarified that a 'Yes' vote was in favour of the appeal and in support of the view that a two-thirds majority was required to amend the Rules of Procedure. A 'No' vote was against the appeal and would support the view that a simple majority was required to amend the Rules of Procedure. China requested that the vote on the appeal be taken by secret ballot. This request was seconded by 25 Parties, which were named by the Chair. The result of the secret ballot was 71 votes in favour, 56 against and three abstentions. The appeal was therefore accepted. It was thus clarified that any proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure would be decided by a two-thirds majority.

4.2 Proposal to improve transparency of voting during meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, introduced document CoP16 Doc. 4.2 (Rev. 1) and the proposal to amend Rule 25, paragraph 2, so that any request that a vote be taken by secret ballot required the support of a simple majority.

Indonesia noted that, in 1994, when the current rules regarding secret ballots were adopted, 10 Parties represented 8 % of the total number of Parties, and that a similar proportion today would be 14 Parties. Colombia proposed an amendment to the proposal in the document, to require that any request for a secret ballot have the support of 40 Parties. The Chair put this proposed amendment to a vote and China requested the vote be by secret ballot. This request was agreed, being seconded by 27 Parties, which were named by the Chair. The result of the secret ballot was 67 votes in favour, 60 against and four abstentions, so the proposal was rejected.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, requested that a vote be taken on its proposal to amend to Rule 25, paragraph 2, contained in document CoP16 Doc. 4.2 (Rev. 1). China requested that the vote be by secret ballot. This request was accepted, being seconded by 28 Parties, who were named by the Chair. The result of the secret ballot was 62 votes in favour, 62 against and five abstentions. The proposal was thus rejected.

4.3 Proposed amendment to Rule 25 on *Methods of voting* – Use of secret ballots

Mexico introduced document CoP16 Doc. 4.3 (Rev. 1) proposing two amendments to Rule 25, paragraph 2: the first to require that any request for a vote to be taken by secret ballot be seconded by one-third of the representatives present and voting; the second to specify that the vote on whether to take a decision by secret ballot may not itself be taken by secret ballot. China requested that the proposals of Mexico be decided by secret ballot.

The United States proposed an amendment to the proposal in document Doc. 4.3 (Rev. 1), to change "one-third" to "25" and to delete the proposed additional sentence. China requested that the vote on this amendment be taken by secret ballot. This request was supported by 29 Parties, which were named by the Chair. The result of the secret ballot was 41 votes in favour, 91 against and one abstention. The proposed amendment was thus rejected.

Israel moved that the two proposed amendments to Rule 25, paragraph 2, contained in document Doc. 4.3 (Rev. 1) be voted on separately. Mexico agreed. China recalled its request that the vote be taken by secret ballot. This request was seconded by 35 Parties, which were named by the Chair.

The result of the secret ballot concerning the first amendment (to replace "10 representatives" by "one-third of the representatives") was 66 in favour, 64 against and two abstentions. The proposal was thus rejected.

The result of the secret ballot concerning the second amendment, (the addition of a sentence at the end of Rule 25, paragraph 2), was 67 in favour, 50 against and 11 abstentions. The proposal was thus rejected.

The meeting was adjourned at 11h15.