

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Review of Resolutions

REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS FOLLOWING DECISION 14.19

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.19 as follows:

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee should review any proposals from the Secretariat to correct non-substantive errors or minor editorial faults in current Resolutions and decide whether they should be referred to the Conference of the Parties. In cases where the Committee agrees with the proposals and considers that they need not be referred to the Conference, it may instruct the Secretariat to republish the Resolutions with the necessary corrections.

3. At its 57th meeting (SC57, Geneva, July 2008), the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group to review documents prepared by the Secretariat in compliance with the Decision. Working through electronic communication, the group agreed to propose amendments only to:
 - a) harmonize the terminology and follow United Nations editorial standards;
 - b) improve the clarity of the text;
 - c) correct the grammar or spelling;
 - d) update names and references where appropriate;
 - e) eliminate redundancy or superfluity; and
 - f) ensure that there is a correspondence between the three language versions.
4. At SC58 (Geneva, July 2009), the Secretariat submitted document SC58 Doc. 16 with draft revisions to a first batch of Resolutions. The English and Spanish reviews included all valid Resolutions up to CoP8, and the French up to CoP4. Most of the proposals made by the working group were adopted by the Committee, but some, deemed of a substantive nature, were forwarded to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at CoP15. These changes were combined with other substantive draft amendments in document CoP15 Doc. 18 (*Review of Resolutions*), which led to the revision of a series of Resolutions.
5. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties renewed Decision 14.19.
6. The Annex to this document contains the result of the working group's review on a second batch of Resolutions, namely those adopted at CoP9 (Fort Lauderdale, 1994), and one last Resolution from the previous batch that the Secretariat had not had time to include in document SC58 Doc. 16. The group has followed the same process as before and, unless otherwise indicated, the recommendations reflect a consensus in the group. Each amendment is accompanied by a short rationale but, if needed, the Secretariat will provide a more detailed explanation for the recommendations.
7. There is, however, a notable difference between the work presented here and that presented at SC58. As explained in paragraph 4 above, document SC58 Doc. 16 contained draft amendments in the three language versions of the Resolutions. Since then, however, the French in-house translator, who was

overseeing the review in that language, has retired and her position will not be filled. As a result, all French translation now has to be done externally and the in-house Spanish translator has taken on the coordination of this work, at the expense of his capacity to oversee the review in Spanish. In addition, the Conference decided at CoP15 to abolish the posts of the translators at the end of 2011. After that date, therefore, the coordination of translation into French and Spanish will have to be done by other staff. Consequently, the Secretariat no longer has the in-house resources to continue the non-substantive review of the Resolutions in French and Spanish, and will soon no longer have the capacity to conduct the review in English either. The Secretariat therefore plans to conclude this exercise with the present batch of Resolutions. Nevertheless, the Parties may wish to continue the non-substantive review through a different mechanism. Based on the discussions held at the present meeting, the Secretariat will therefore propose that the Decision be either repealed or amended at CoP16.

Recommendations

8. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) review the proposals in the Annex and to accept or reject them, or to refer them to the Conference of the Parties, in compliance with Decision 14.19; and
 - b) discuss whether it would be worth continuing the review through a different mechanism after CoP16.