

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



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Administrative and financial matters

ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL MEETINGS

Background

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Central African Republic and Rwanda submitted document [CoP16 Doc. 9 \(Rev. 1\)](#) on *Arrangements for meetings*. It expressed concerns that the rules regarding the arrangements for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the permanent committees do not apply to other meetings organized by the Secretariat. The document contained a draft resolution entitled "Guidelines on meetings organized or funded by the CITES Secretariat".
3. During the discussion of the document at CoP16, the Secretariat stated that it did not support the adoption of the draft resolution, noting that no other multilateral environmental agreement was subject to such guidelines for non-official meetings and that implementation of those proposed in the draft resolution would have budgetary implications. Following bilateral consultation, the proponents withdrew the document, stating that, following discussion with the Secretariat, they were satisfied that concerns regarding the organization of special meetings could be addressed through the consideration of suggestions at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee [see summary records CoP16 Com. II Rec. 1 (Rev. 1) and Com. II Rec. 5].
4. The Secretariat would therefore welcome the comments and suggestions of the members of the Standing Committee and other Parties to identify the concerns to be addressed. The Secretariat then proposes to prepare a document for consideration at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66). For this purpose, it intends to establish a consultative group, including the proponents of document CoP16 Doc. 9 (Rev. 1) and any other Party that might be interested. However, it would prefer to keep the consultative group small, in order to be efficient.

Recommendation

5. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - a) provide its comments regarding any concerns about the organization of non-official meetings;
 - b) endorse the Secretariat's proposal to provide a document for consideration at SC66, following discussions with a consultative group; and
 - c) invite interested Parties to inform the Secretariat if they wish to be included in the consultative group.

* <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/cop/16/sum/E-CoP16-Com-II-Rec-01.pdf>
<http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/cop/16/sum/E-CoP16-Com-II-Rec-05.pdf>

and