

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3 - 8 February 2025

SUMMARY

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY
MORNING

Opening remarks of the Chair *No document*

The Chair welcomed the participants and opened the meeting.

Opening remarks of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General gave opening remarks and reflected on the increasing workload for CITES Parties, Committees and the Secretariat.

1. Agenda..... SC78 Doc. 1

The Committee adopted its provisional agenda as set out in document SC78 Doc. 1.

2. Adoption of the working programme..... SC78 Doc. 2

The Committee adopted its working programme as set out in document SC78 Doc. 2.

3. Rules of Procedure..... SC78 Doc. 3

The Committee noted that its Rules of Procedure as set out in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 3 remain valid for this meeting. The Committee noted that, whenever Georgia is absent, Israel will be acting Member for the European region.

4. Credentials..... *No document*

The Standing Committee noted that all Members and acting Members of the Standing Committee had provided credentials.

5. Admission of observers SC78 Doc. 5

The Committee noted the list of observer organizations that had been invited to attend the meeting as set out in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 5.

7. Financial matters (*Resolutions Conf. 19.1 and 18.2*)..... SC78 Doc. 7

The Committee noted document SC78 Doc. 7 and agreed that further discussion on these matters would be referred to the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC).

8. Report on proposed budget scenarios for 2026-2028 SC78 Doc. 8

The Committee noted document SC78 Doc. 8 and agreed that further discussion on these matters would be referred to the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC).

9. Administrative matters

9.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC78 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1)

The Committee noted document SC78 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1) and agreed that further discussion on these matters would be referred to the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC).

9.2 Report of the United Nations Environment Programme on administrative matters..... SC78 Doc. 9.2

The Committee noted document SC78 Doc. 9.2 and agreed that further discussion on relevant matters would be referred to the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC).

11. Access to funding (Decision 19.9)SC78 Doc. 11

The Committee established a drafting group composed of the following Standing Committee Members [Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, New Zealand (Chair) and the United States of America] with the mandate to incorporate those elements of Decisions 18.4 and 19.4 through 19.7 relevant to the Secretariat's work into Resolution Conf. 19.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium* and to keep those elements of Decisions 18.4 and 19.4 through 19.7 relevant to Parties in a new set of draft decisions on *Access to funding*.

12. Arrangements for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Resolution Conf. 19.1)

12.1 Preparations for CoP20 *No document*

The Committee thanked His Excellency Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change of Uzbekistan for his presentation and noted the progress made by Uzbekistan in the preparations for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12.2 Draft provisional agenda.....SC78 Doc. 12.2

The Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for CoP20 annexed to document SC78 Doc. 12.2.

12.3 Draft provisional working programmeSC78 Doc. 12.3

The Committee approved the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 12.3 as the basis for the preparation of a provisional working programme for CoP20, noting that the two-day break should be on Sunday 30 November and Monday 1 December 2025 and the comments made in plenary.

12.4 Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties [Decision 18.1 (Rev. CoP19)] SC78 Doc. 12.4

The Committee agreed to propose to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties amendments to Rule 25.6 as follows:

If two or more proposals including proposals amended in accordance with Rule 24, paragraph 2 or in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Rule, relate to the same taxon, but are different in substance, the Chair shall so advise the Conference, clearly indicating the implications of the adoption of one proposal for the other(s), and allow each of the proposals to be introduced prior to submitting any of them for discussion and decision. The Conference shall first decide on the proposal that will have the least restrictive effect on the trade and then on the proposal with the next least restrictive effect on the trade, and so on until all proposals have been submitted to decision. ~~When however,~~ If, in relation to the same taxon, the adoption of one proposal necessarily implies the rejection of another proposal, the latter proposal shall nevertheless not be submitted to decision in relation to any other taxon remaining in the

latter proposal. Nothing in the procedure stipulated in this paragraph is intended to affect the procedure in the other paragraphs of Rule 25.

The Committee agreed that its Chair would include in the Standing Committee's report to the Conference of the Parties a draft decision to continue consideration of the possible inclusion of a stepwise approach in Rule 25.6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to replace Decision 18.1 (Rev. CoP19).

The Committee welcomed the examples of a stepwise approach in paragraph 23 of document SC78 Doc. 12.4 and information document SC78 Inf. 15.