

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



Twenty-first meeting of the Plants Committee  
Veracruz (Mexico), 2-8 May 2014

Strategic matters

Plants Committee Strategic planning for 2013-2016 (CoP16-CoP17)

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat has compiled in Annex 1 to this document the list of all instructions directed to the Plants Committee, or that may require that it be consulted or informed, that can be found in the currently valid Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties.
3. Annex 2 to this document lists all currently valid Decisions of the Conference of the Parties directed to the Plants Committee or that may require its assistance.
4. The Plants Committee is invited to include the instructions mentioned above in its work programme for 2014-2016, to determine priorities and to consider how best to achieve their effective implementation.

INSTRUCTIONS IN RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

Resolution	Title	Relevant part
9.24 (Rev. CoP16)	<i>Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II</i>	<p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>...</p> <p>URGES Parties that are considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices, in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, to consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee as early as possible in advance of submitting the proposal;</p> <p>...</p> <p>RESOLVES that, to monitor the effectiveness of protection offered by the Convention, the status of species included in Appendices I and II should be regularly reviewed by the range States and proponents, in collaboration with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, subject to the availability of funds;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Annex 4</p> <p>...</p> <p>B. The following review procedures shall apply when a species is transferred to Appendix II pursuant to paragraph A. 2. c) above.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where the Plants Committee, the Animals Committee or a Party becomes aware of problems in compliance with the management measures and export quotas of another Party, the Secretariat shall be informed and, if the Secretariat fails to resolve the matter satisfactorily, it shall inform the Standing Committee which may, after consultation with the Party concerned, recommend to all Parties that they suspend trade with that Party in specimens of CITES-listed species, and/or request the Depositary Government to prepare a proposal to transfer the population back to Appendix I.</li> <li>2. If, on review of a quota and its supporting management measures, the Animals or Plants Committee encounters any problems with compliance or potential detriment to a species, the relevant Committee shall request the Depositary Government to prepare a proposal for appropriate remedial action.</li> </ol> <p>...</p> <p>Annex 6</p> <p>...</p> <p>C. <u>Supporting statement</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. ...</li> </ol> <p>In cases of proposals to transfer Appendix-II species that are subject to the Review of Significant Trade to Appendix I, the proponent should consult the affected range State(s) and, as appropriate, the Animals</p>

Resolution	Title	Relevant part
		Committee or Plants Committee.
11.1 (Rev. CoP16)	<i>Establishment of Committees</i>	<p><b>Regarding the establishment of committees</b></p> <p><b>Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees</b> [note new paragraph c) under this section]</p> <p>and</p> <p>Annex 2</p>
12.8 (Rev. CoP13)	<i>Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i>	<p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p><b>Regarding conduct of the Review of Significant Trade</b></p> <p>DIRECTS the Animals and Plants Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat and experts, and in consultation with range States, to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade, to identify problems and solutions concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), in accordance with the following procedure:</p> <p>...</p>
14.3 Annex	<i>CITES compliance procedures</i>	<p>13. The Animals and Plants Committees, acting in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties, advise and assist the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties with regard to compliance matters, <i>inter alia</i>, by undertaking necessary reviews, consultations, assessments and reporting. These Committees are entrusted with specific tasks in the handling of matters related to the Review of Significant Trade.</p>
14.4	<i>Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber</i>	<p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>...</p> <p>URGES Parties to support and contribute to work, guided by the CITES Plants Committee, to develop appropriate listing proposals based on the best available science to ensure the conservation of timber species and help ensure that trade does not threaten their survival;</p>
14.8 (Rev.CoP16)	<i>Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II</i>	<p>REAFFIRMING that Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on Establishment of Committees, in Annex 2, paragraph h) under 'RESOLVES', directs the Animals and Plants Committees to undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices;</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>AGREES to the following:</p> <p>a) The Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience, especially during joined meetings, regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices (including financing of reviews, processes, format and outputs).</p> <p>b) The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The list should be established at their first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period.</p> <p>c) The Animals and Plants Committees are strongly</p>

Resolution	Title	Relevant part
		<p>encouraged to follow the following guidelines:</p> <p>...</p>
16.2	<p><i>Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2014-2016</i></p>	<p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>...</p> <p>AFFIRMS that:</p> <p>a) all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and all regular meetings of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee should be held in Switzerland unless a candidate host country pays the difference in costs between its proposed venue and Switzerland; and</p> <p>b) no more than two regular meetings each of the Standing Committee, and the Animals and Plants Committees should be convened between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>DIRECTS the Secretariat to make provision for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of members, including attendance at the relevant committee meetings, and other expenses of the Chairs of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, other than members from developed countries;</p> <p>...</p> <p>REQUESTS the Secretariat:</p> <p>...</p> <p>c) in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, to assign scientific consultants and define terms of reference for specific science-based projects. Such a process should be implemented in a fashion that would not have a negative impact on the budget but rather effectively utilize the scientific excellence of the Parties which is available to the Secretariat via the Chairs of the technical committee;</p>
16.3 Annex	<p><i>CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020</i></p>	<p>Resolution Conf. 16.3 provides a framework for the future development of the existing body of Resolutions and Decisions. This Resolution should provide guidance on how the goals and objectives are to be achieved. The Conference of the Parties, the Committees or the Secretariat as appropriate will take required action.</p>
16.5	<p>Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>NOTING that, since its 13th meeting (Geneva, August 2003), the Plants Committee has recognized that CITES contributes to many of the Targets of the GSPC;</p> <p>...</p> <p>RECALLING Decision 15.19 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), which directs the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to collaborate with processes established to develop the GSPC beyond 2010, as it relates to CITES activities;</p> <p>...</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>...</p> <p>DIRECTS the Secretariat to encourage the exchange of</p>

Resolution	Title	Relevant part
		<p>information related to the GSPC and other plant conservation and sustainable use initiatives, by: ... d) inviting a CBD representative to participate as an observer at Plants Committee meetings that address GSPC;</p> <p>DIRECTS the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to promote CITES collaboration with CBD on the implementation of the GSPC by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) representing the CITES Plants Committee at meetings of CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and other GSPC meetings subject to the availability of external funding; and</li> <li>b) providing contributions for CBD documents regarding the implementation of the GSPC.</li> </ul> <p>Annex</p> <p>GSPC's Objective... The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed... Target: Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy. CITES potential contribution through: CITES Parties and Plants Committee and the Regional Directories.</p>
16.7	Non-detriment findings	<p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>...</p> <p>DIRECTS the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to maintain a prominent section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website and to update it regularly with information from the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties and other sources;</li> </ul>

INSTRUCTIONS IN RESOLUTIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE  
CONSULTING OR INFORMING THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

Resolution	Title	Relevant part
9.19 (Rev. CoP15) Annex 3	<i>Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes</i>	<p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>...</p> <p>RESOLVES that the Secretariat Shall perform the following functions:</p> <p>...</p> <p>d) receive and review reports on registered nurseries, provided by the Parties, and present summary conclusions to the Plants Committee;</p>
9.25 (Rev. CoP16)	<i>Inclusion of species in Appendix III</i>	<p>...</p> <p>NOTING that Resolution Conf. 8.23, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (Kyoto, 1992), recommended <i>inter alia</i> that, before submitting a species for inclusion in Appendix III, Parties request the advice of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee regarding the trade status and biological status of that species;</p> <p>...</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>...</p> <p>RECOMMENDS that, when considering the inclusion of a species in Appendix III, a Party:</p> <p>...</p> <p>c) inform the Management Authorities of other range States, the known major importing countries, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee that it is considering the inclusion of the species in Appendix III and seek their opinion on the potential effects of such inclusion;</p> <p>...</p> <p>REQUESTS the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee to assist Parties if necessary in reviewing the status of species in Appendix III, subject to available funding;</p> <p>URGES Parties having included species in Appendix III to periodically review the status of these species and, taking into account these guidelines and any recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, to consider the necessity to maintain them in that Appendix;</p>
10.21 (Rev. CoP16)	<i>Transport of live specimens</i>	<p>NOTING that air transport is the preferred method for transporting many live animals and plants and that there are special requirements necessitated by air transport;</p> <p>FURTHER NOTING the extent to which, in the case of the transport of live animals, the <i>Live Animals Regulations</i> of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and, in the case of the transport of live plants, IATA's <i>Perishable Cargo Regulations</i>, are to be used for transport of live specimens and that the <i>Live Animals Regulations</i> and the <i>Perishable Cargo Regulations</i> are amended annually and are therefore more quickly responsive to changing needs;</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>DIRECTS the Animals and Plants Committees to deal with</p>

Resolution	Title	Relevant part
		<p>matters related to the transport of live specimens;</p> <p>...</p> <p>RECOMMENDS that:</p> <p>a) suitable measures be taken by the Parties to promote the full and effective use by Management Authorities of the IATA Live Animals Regulations (for animals), the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations (for plants) and...</p> <p>b) Parties invite the above organizations and institutions to comment on and amplify the IATA <i>Live Animals Regulations</i> (for animals) and the IATA <i>Perishable Cargo Regulations</i> (for plants), so as to promote their effectiveness; see further references to plant species along this whole section...</p> <p>...</p> <p>DIRECTS the ... Plants Committee..., in consultation with the Secretariat:</p> <p>a) to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the IATA <i>Live Animals Regulations</i> and the IATA <i>Perishable Cargo Regulations</i> and the <i>CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants</i>;</p> <p>ENCOURAGES the Secretariat, Parties and relevant organizations to assist in the distribution and increase public awareness of the IATA <i>Live Animals Regulations</i>, the IATA <i>Perishable Cargo Regulations</i> and the <i>CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants</i>;</p> <p>NOTES that in order to improve implementation of the IATA Live Animals Regulations, the IATA <i>Perishable Cargo Regulations</i> and the <i>CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants</i> by the Parties, there is a need for greatly increased awareness of the Regulations through more effective methods of training of personnel of transport companies, exporters and enforcement agencies; and</p> <p>REPEALS:</p> <p>a) Resolution Conf. 9.23 (Fort Lauderdale, 1994) – Transport of Live Specimens; and</p> <p>b) the CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants (1981).</p>
11.11 (Rev. CoP15)	<i>Regulation of trade in plants</i>	<p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Regarding education about plant conservation through CITES</b></p> <p>RECOMMENDS that:</p> <p>...</p> <p>c) Parties develop and maintain a good liaison with national plant trade organizations, to inform them about all aspects of the implementation of CITES for plants, and to communicate to the Secretariat specific implementation problems presented by these national organizations, for</p>

Resolution	Title	Relevant part
		consideration by the Plants Committee;
11.19 (Rev. CoP16)	<i>Identification Manual</i>	<p>The Conference of the Parties DIRECTS the Secretariat to:</p> <p>...</p> <p>h) inform the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees on the progress made whenever appropriate; ...</p>
12.8 (Rev. CoP13)	<i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i>	<p>The Conference of the Parties ...</p> <p><b>Regarding monitoring, reporting and reintroduction of species into the review process</b></p> <p>DIRECTS the Secretariat, for the purpose of monitoring and facilitating the implementation of this Resolution and the relevant paragraphs of Article IV:</p> <p>a) to report at each meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee on the implementation by the range States concerned of the recommendations made by the Committee; and</p> <p>b) to maintain a register of species that are included in the review process set out in this Resolution and a record of progress with the implementation of recommendations; and</p> <p><b>Regarding coordination of field studies</b></p> <p>DIRECTS the Secretariat, where appropriate, in consultation with the Chairman of the Animals or Plants Committee, to contract IUCN or other appropriate experts to coordinate, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, the conduct of the field studies required for Appendix-II species identified as being subject to significant levels of trade, and to raise the funds necessary for such studies;</p>

DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE  
OR THAT MAY REQUIRE ITS ASSISTANCE

**Review of Significant Trade**

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13.67 The Conference of the Parties has adopted the *Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade* contained in Annex 2 to these Decisions. (Rev. CoP14)

**Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees**

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***Directed to the Standing Committee***

16.9 The Standing Committee shall, at its 65th meeting and on the basis of a review from the Secretariat, assess the functioning of the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph c) under *Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees* of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16), and make recommendations for refining the definition of conflict of interest, if appropriate, and for a mechanism to deal with such conflicts, having reference to such mechanisms developed in other multilateral environmental agreements or relevant international organizations and bodies, for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

16.10 The Secretariat shall compile examples of conflicts of interest procedures under other relevant agreements and organizations, and shall prepare a report for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

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***Directed to the Parties***

- 16.13 a) Parties should consider promoting actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES and to strengthen the science-policy interface at the national and international levels, including through the governing body of IPBES, as appropriate; and
- b) bearing in mind that IPBES consolidation remains in process, Parties are invited to provide inputs to the Secretariat in order to provide timely responses to IPBES in regard to CITES involvement.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

- 16.14 At its 64th meeting, the Standing Committee shall establish a Working Group on IPBES, including the Chairs of the Animals and **Plants Committees** and the Secretariat, to assist its efforts to ensure that:
- a) there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES as well as a contributor to IPBES;
- b) communication between CITES and IPBES for the conveyance of government requests is effective;
- c) the development of the work programme for IPBES takes into account the needs of national scientific and management authorities to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, and related trade decisions; and
- d) CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines, particularly the deadline of 5 May 2013 for requests to and suggestions for the initial IPBES work programme.

The intersessional working group shall report to the Standing Committee at its 65th and 66th meetings.

Any inputs to IPBES developed by the intersessional working group shall, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee, be conveyed to IPBES by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee shall consider at its 66th meeting the need for drafting a resolution which specifically recognizes the relationship between CITES and IPBES.

The Standing Committee shall report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.

#### ***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

16.15 The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of Decision 16.14;
- b) subject to external funds, participate as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and
- c) report regularly to the Standing Committee on their activities under paragraph a) above.

#### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

16.16 The Secretariat shall:

- a) under the policy guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, and in cooperation with the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on IPBES, established pursuant to Decision 16.14, continue to track and contribute to the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies;
- b) subject to external funds, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES;
- c) explore with other biodiversity-related conventions possible means for facilitating cooperation between the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the IPBES Secretariat, once the latter is established;
- d) seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and **Plants Committees** and the Secretariat; and
- e) report regularly to the Standing Committee, as well as at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the results of this work.

### **Capacity building**

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#### ***Directed to Parties***

16.28 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) support and provide financial and in-kind resources for capacity-building activities, particularly those in support of Goals 1 and 3 of the *CITES Strategic Vision*;
- b) use the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities;
- c) participate in reviewing the contents of the CITES Virtual College through their Management and Scientific Authorities, as appropriate; and
- d) translate the contents of the CITES Virtual College into national languages.

### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 16.29 The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding, where needed:
- a) undertake a review of capacity-building activities found in Resolutions and Decisions to assess whether and how they could be rationalized and consolidated, and report its findings and recommendations at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, and report on proposed revisions to Resolutions and Decisions, and, if considered appropriate, present a draft resolution on capacity building at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - b) collaborate with the Animals and **Plants Committees** on relevant capacity-building activities, *inter alia* to improve and expand the Secretariat's training materials on the making of non-detriment findings, including those available through the CITES Virtual College;
  - c) within the mandate of Goals 1 and 3 of the *CITES Strategic Vision*, provide targeted capacity-building support to CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Customs and law enforcement entities, the judiciary, legislators and other stakeholders, particularly in new Parties and Small Island Developing States;
  - d) assist and support the Parties' own capacity-building efforts to implement the Convention at the national level;
  - e) deliver general and specialized training through regional workshops and the CITES Virtual College;
  - f) develop and further enhance partnerships with institutions and organizations providing Parties with capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, for example through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the International University of Andalusia;
  - g) provide guidance to Parties on accessing financial resources to support the implementation of CITES (such as the Global Environment Facility and the African Elephant Fund); and
  - h) undertake needs assessments and gap analyses to improve CITES capacity-building efforts.

### **Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants**

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#### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 14.39 The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding, in consultation with the UNEP World Conservation (Rev. Monitoring Centre: CoP16)
- a) conduct a survey of reporting practices of Parties relating to trade in artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II, e.g. regarding the degree of completeness and detail;
  - b) identify cases where the compilation of trade data pertaining to artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II has contributed to a significant extent to the detection of illegal trade or to any other analysis related to the conservation of wild flora;
  - c) taking into consideration the results of paragraphs a) and b) above, analyse the Convention text and Resolutions in order to identify binding and non-binding elements of reporting, with special emphasis on artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II. The Secretariat shall list options for streamlining such reporting; and
  - d) report on its findings to the **Plants Committee** prior to its 21st meeting.

#### ***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 14.40 The Plants Committee shall, after considering the report of the Secretariat: (Rev. CoP16)
- a) determine whether there are any taxa of Appendix-II plants artificially propagated for which detailed reporting is less valuable; and

- b) report its findings to the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

14.41 The Standing Committee shall:  
(Rev.

- CoP16) a) taking into consideration the findings of the **Plants Committee**, determine whether it is possible to streamline the reporting of trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants; and
- b) report on its findings at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and submit draft wording to amend Resolutions concerned, where appropriate.

**Review of reporting requirements**

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***Directed to Parties***

16.43 Parties should:

- a) submit the report for 2013-2014 using the revised format agreed at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65) for reporting under the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b), of the Convention; and
- b) submit a special report by 30 June 2014, using a format provided by the Secretariat, which provides statistical information for the calendar year 2013 on: administrative measures (e.g. fines, bans, suspensions) imposed for CITES-related violations; significant seizures, confiscations and forfeitures of CITES specimens; criminal prosecutions or other court actions; and disposal of confiscated specimens.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

16.44 The Standing Committee, with the assistance of its Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements and the Secretariat, shall undertake the following actions at its 65th meeting or, if necessary, its 66th meeting (SC65 and SC66):

- a) adopt a revised format for reporting under Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b) and ensure distribution of the revised format through a Notification to the Parties;
- b) review identified special reporting requirements and the results of related reviews undertaken by the Animals and **Plants Committees** in accordance with Decision 16.45;
- c) assess whether each special reporting requirement identified in paragraph b) above is still current and valid, or whether it is outdated or otherwise unnecessary and can be considered for deletion, taking account of advice from the Animals and **Plants Committees** as appropriate;
- d) consider how best to assist Parties with the preparation and submission of national reports, including the opportunities offered for using information technology to capture information using online or electronic report formats;
- e) consider appropriate means for collecting statistical information on illegal trade through the annual report, taking into account the data fields contained in the INTERPOL Ecomessage or other relevant reporting formats;
- f) consider the linkages between the *CITES Strategic Vision*, and its indicators, and the Aichi Targets, including how best to report CITES input to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and related global biodiversity indicators;
- g) consider whether any *CITES Strategic Vision* indicators should be amended, deleted or added;
- h) provide advice to the Secretariat on the publication of the outcomes resulting from implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision* indicators; and
- i) prepare a report for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work and its future recommendations, if any.

### ***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

- 16.45 The Animals and **Plants Committees**, with the assistance of the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements and the Secretariat, shall undertake the following actions at their 27th meeting (AC27) and 21st meeting (PC21), respectively:
- a) review the special reporting requirements identified by the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements which relate to animals and plants, respectively;
  - b) assess whether any of these reporting requirements are still current and valid, or whether they are outdated or otherwise unnecessary and can be considered for deletion; and
  - c) advise the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements of the results of the review and assessments mentioned in paragraphs a) and b) above, in a timely manner, so that it can provide a collated report on valid reporting requirements for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65).

### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 16.46 The Secretariat shall:
- a) continue to collaborate with the Secretariats of other conventions, UNEP and other bodies in order to facilitate the harmonization of knowledge management and streamlining of reporting, including ways to reduce the burden of reporting on Parties;
  - b) identify potential financial and other resources for publishing the outcomes resulting from implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision* and its indicators;
  - c) support the work of the Standing Committee and the Animals and **Plants Committees**, including their efforts to ensure that the graphic presentation of information on implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision* indicators is published on the CITES website by the end of 2015 and then updated as resources allow, and as new information becomes available;
  - d) develop a special report format for use by Parties under Decision 16.43 to provide statistical information for the calendar year 2013 on: administrative measures (e.g. fines, bans, suspensions) imposed for CITES-related violations; significant seizures, confiscations and forfeitures of CITES specimens; criminal prosecutions or other court actions; and disposal of confiscated specimens;
  - e) collate for the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee a list of the currently valid reporting requirements under the Convention and advise on appropriate mechanisms for their implementation; and
  - f) report at the 65th and 66th meetings of Standing Committee and at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.

## **Identification Manual**

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### ***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat***

- 16.59 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:
- a) form an intersessional working group comprising at least one representative from each region of both Committees to assist in identifying CITES-listed taxa, taking account of existing CITES identification and guidance material as well as other material produced by Parties, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations;
  - b) determine, in collaboration with Parties, the current availability of identification and guidance material (printed and electronic) to increase accessibility to Parties;
  - c) consult with Parties to assess the need for additional identification material, including material under production by Parties and requested in Decisions;

- d) compile a list of outstanding Decisions directing the Parties, the Animals and **Plants Committees**, and the Secretariat to produce identification and guidance material for CITES-listed taxa;
- e) review, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and, taking into account new Web-based technologies, make recommendations, including amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*, to promote accuracy and availability of identification and guidance material; and
- f) report progress at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Parties***

16.60 The Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the Working Group by:

- a) providing to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance material that is used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention;
- b) evaluating the status of pending identification material and identify difficulties associated with the completion of this material; and
- c) consulting with enforcement and inspection officials to assess current needs with regard to identification materials and guidance needs, and possible improvements to meet those needs.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

16.61 The Secretariat is directed to issue a Notification to the Parties within six months of the close of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties requesting information on available identification and guidance materials for compilation by the Secretariat and report on its contents at the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee to assist in the establishment of the Working Group and in the implementation of Decision 16.59.

**Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species**

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***Directed to the Secretariat***

15.52 The Secretariat shall:

- a) contingent on the availability of external funds, contract an appropriate expert to prepare a guide to advise the Parties on the appropriate use of source codes;
- b) provide a draft of this guide to the Animals and **Plants Committees** for review and comment; and
- c) prepare and distribute the final product, incorporating the feedback of the Animals and **Plants Committees**, to inform the Parties on the appropriate use of source codes.

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

15.53 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review and provide feedback to the Secretariat on the draft guide to advise the Parties on the appropriate use of source codes.

**Bushmeat**

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***Directed to the Standing Committee***

16.149 The Standing Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, and in consultation with interested Parties, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, relevant United Nations programmes, relevant Parties, the Animals and **Plants Committees** as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other experts and stakeholders shall:

- a) review Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*, taking into consideration the decisions and guidance developed under the CBD, the outcomes of the joint CITES/CBD meeting on bushmeat and other relevant sources of information; and
- b) submit the results and its recommendations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group***

- 14.73 The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is encouraged to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in its work, and is invited to draw to the attention of the Standing Committee and/or the Conference of the Parties to any matters relating to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.11.
- 14.74 The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is encouraged to continue its work, also by collaborating with the Convention on Biological Diversity Liaison Group on non-timber forest resources, and to (Rev. CoP16) report to the Standing Committee on progress made in implementing national action plans relating to the trade in bushmeat and other initiatives it takes regarding this subject. A report on the subject of bushmeat should be submitted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Malagasy ebonyes (*Diospyros* spp.) and Malagasy rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)***

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- 16.152 The Conference of the Parties has adopted the Action Plan attached as Annex 3 to these Decisions to facilitate adequate implementation of the Appendix-II listings of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar) and *Dalbergia* spp. (populations of Madagascar).

***East African sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*)***

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***Directed to the Plants Committee and the Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species***

- 16.153 The Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species shall:
- a) review and gather further information on the conservation status of, trade in and use of *Osyris* species within the region and internationally;
  - b) assess the impact of such trade on the conservation status of *Osyris* species in Eastern Africa;
  - c) assess the impact of such trade extending to populations not covered by the Appendix-II listings;
  - d) assess the data required to make non-detriment findings following the existing guidance;
  - e) identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently-listed populations; and
  - f) report on their work at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, prepare proposals to amend the Appendices for submission at that meeting.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 16.154 The Secretariat shall work with the **Plants Committee** to seek the external funding required for the implementation of Decision 16.153.

***Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)***

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***Directed to exporting and importing countries of agarwood-producing taxa***

- 16.155 To facilitate the implementation of the annotation to agarwood-producing taxa, based on document CoP16 Inf. 3 and further information available, exporting and importing countries of agarwood-producing taxa should produce an identification manual for agarwood products and communicate it to the Secretariat.

### ***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 16.156 The Plants Committee shall consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) respectively, and report back at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 16.157 The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.9 (*Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*) to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, and shall report on these issues at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 15.95 Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in cooperation with the agarwood range States and the **Plants Committee**, organize a workshop to share experiences, discuss management of wild and (Rev. CoP16) plantation-source agarwood, identify and agree on strategies that balance the conservation and use of the wild populations, while relieving the pressure on these by using the planted material.
- 16.158 The Secretariat shall, upon receipt of the identification manual mentioned in Decision 16.155, make it available to Parties via the CITES website.

## **Neotropical tree species**

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### ***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 16.159 The Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species shall work under the auspices of the Plants Committee.

During its 21st meeting, the Plants Committee shall define the membership and the terms of reference of the Working Group.

The Working Group shall preferably work through electronic means in order to reduce costs and speed up information exchange and progress in the activities included in its terms of reference.

The Working Group shall report on its progress at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee. In turn, the Plants Committee shall prepare a report on work completed for submission at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 15.93 The Secretariat, within the scope of its cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization (Rev. CoP16) and other bodies, shall seek external funding to support the work of this Working Group, if necessary.

## **Annotations**

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### ***Directed to the Standing Committee***

- 16.161 Acknowledging that, at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties agreed to include definitions of terms in annotations in the *Interpretation* section of the Appendices as an interim measure until a final decision is reached, the Standing Committee shall examine the issue of where definitions of terms in annotations should be included permanently and make a recommendation in that regard.

### ***Directed to the Standing Committee, Animals Committee and Plants Committee***

- 16.162 The Standing Committee shall form a working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and **Plants Committees**, recognizing that the Animals and Plants Committees are an important source of expertise and advice to Parties on such scientific and technical issues. The group shall be chaired by a member of the Standing Committee and shall include, but not be limited to, members from the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee, observer Parties, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, enforcement authorities, including Customs, and industry representatives. The terms of reference for the working group shall be:

- a) to explore the shared understanding among Parties of annotations, both their meaning and function, and the adoption of appropriate and reasonable procedures for crafting plant annotations;
- b) to evaluate and address issues related to the drafting, interpretation and implementation of annotations, and assist Parties in drafting future annotations, drawing on appropriate expertise from within and outside its membership;
- c) initially, to focus its efforts on evaluating the existing annotations for plant taxa listed in Appendices II and III, with an emphasis on ensuring that such annotations are clear as to the types of specimens to be covered by a listing, can be readily implemented, and focus on those parts and derivatives primarily exported from the range States and those commodities that dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource;
- d) based on the results of the timber trade study directed to the Secretariat in Decision 15.35 (Rev. CoP16), to review the existing annotations for tree species and, if appropriate, draft amendments to those annotations and prepare clear definitions for the terms used in the annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers;
- e) to review the appropriateness and practical implementation of the annotation(s) of the agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), taking into consideration the previous work done by the range and consumer States of these species;
- f) to review outstanding implementation challenges resulting from the listings of *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in the Appendices, and propose appropriate solutions at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- g) to draft definitions of terms included in annotations, in cases where the terms are not easily understood or where there has been difficulty in implementing the listing as a result of confusion about what commodities are covered, and submit them to the Standing Committee for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the *Interpretation* section of the Appendices;
- h) to consider the effectiveness of including definitions of terms in annotations in the *Interpretation* section of the Appendices instead of elsewhere (e.g. in Resolutions) and, based on the determination, draft a proposal to include all definitions in a single location;
- i) to conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and
- j) to prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

***Directed to Parties***

16.163 At its 17th meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall review the outcomes of the work undertaken by the working group called for in Decision 16.162 and evaluate the need for continuing such a working group. If agreed, the Parties shall maintain Decision 16.162 and make changes to the terms of reference, as appropriate.

**Annotations for tree species included in Appendices II and III**

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***Directed to the Standing Committee and Plants Committee***

- 14.148 a) Based on the results of the timber trade study, the Standing Committee and Plants Committee, (Rev. CoP16) via the working group called for in Decision 16.162, shall review the annotations for tree species listed in Appendices II and III and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the annotations and prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers.
- b) The amended annotations shall focus on specimens that appear in international trade as exports from range States and those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource.

- c) As appropriate, the Standing Committee, in close cooperation with the Plants Committee, shall draft a proposal to amend any annotation in the Appendices and any amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15).
- d) The Standing Committee, in close cooperation with the Plants Committee, shall request that the Secretariat submit on its behalf any proposal to amend Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17). The Plants Committee shall request that the Depositary Government submit on its behalf any proposal to amend the annotations in the Appendices for consideration at CoP17.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 14.149 Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare a glossary with definitions and training materials to illustrate the content of the amended annotations, the terms used and their practical implementation when applying the law and controls.
- 15.35 The Secretariat shall commission a trade study, subject to available funding, to be conducted by an external consultant in cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization, to review the trade in timber species listed in Appendices II and III to determine the types of specimens that initially appear in international trade or are exported from range States and regarding those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource. Once the specimens that meet these criteria have been determined, the study should also determine which six-digit universal HS codes and associated definitions are applicable to these specimens. The Secretariat shall provide the results of this study to the **Plants Committee**.

**Extinct or possibly extinct species**

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***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

- 16.164 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* as they apply to species that are either extinct or possibly extinct and report to the Standing Committee on their findings.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

- 16.165 The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Animals and Plants Committees referred to in Decision 16.164 and make recommendations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

**Annex 2**  
**Terms of Reference for an evaluation**  
**of the Review of Significant Trade<sup>1</sup>**

Objectives

1. The objectives of the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade are to:
  - a) evaluate the contribution of the Review of Significant Trade to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a);
  - b) assess the impact over time of the actions taken in the context of the Review of Significant Trade on the trade and conservation status of species selected for review and subject to recommendations, taking into consideration the possible effects of these measures on other CITES-listed species;
  - c) formulate recommendations in view of the results and findings of the evaluation and the impact assessment; and

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<sup>1</sup> Note from the Secretariat: this Annex was adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- d) prepare a document on the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade and the resulting conclusions and recommendations for consideration at the first appropriate meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### Process

2. The evaluation will commence immediately after the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, contingent on the availability of sufficient funds to ensure its completion.
3. The Animals and **Plants Committees** will oversee the evaluation, which will be administered by the Secretariat. Consultants may be engaged to assist it in this regard.
4. A working group composed of members of the Animals and **Plants Committees**, Parties, the Secretariat and invited experts will be responsible for advising on the evaluation process, reviewing the findings of associated research and developing recommendations for wider consideration by the Parties.
5. The Secretariat will regularly report on the progress of the evaluation at meetings of the Animals and **Plants Committees**.
6. A final report, which may include proposed amendments to existing Resolutions or Decisions, or other recommendations, and which will incorporate the comments of the Animals and **Plants Committees** and of range States addressed in the report, will be submitted by the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees for consideration at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chairman of the Animals or Plants Committee may submit an interim report to the Standing Committee when appropriate and considered useful.

#### Content of the evaluation

7. The evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade should include the following activities:
  - a) assess:
    - i) the process used to select species for review (including the reliance on numerical data), and the species selected as a result;
    - ii) the process and means used to compile and review information concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), for the selected species (including communications with the range States), and the subsequent use of this information by the Animals and **Plants Committees** for the categorization of species and the issuance of recommendations;
    - iii) the types and frequency of recommendations made;
    - iv) the nature and rate of responses to recommendations, and problems identified;
    - v) the use of the recommendations by range States as guidance for managing target species and other CITES-listed species with similar characteristics;
    - vi) the nature and scale of the support provided to range States for implementing the recommendations, including field projects, financial aid and assistance in building local capacities;
    - vii) the ongoing process to monitor and review the implementation of recommendations, having regard to differing points of view as to where this responsibility should lie; and
    - viii) the impacts of the process on other aspects of CITES implementation, including how problems identified in the course of the review but not directly related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), were addressed;
  - b) conduct case studies of a representative range of species and countries subject to recommendations to assess subsequent short- and long-term changes, and whether these could be attributed to the process, in:
    - i) conservation status of the target taxa in the range States;

- ii) trade volumes and patterns of the target taxa, considering trade involving the range States subject to recommendations, other range States and non-range States;
  - iii) production or management strategies for the target taxa;
  - iv) market developments of conservation relevance (such as shifts in supply or demand);
  - v) costs and benefits associated with the management of and trade in the target taxa (such as the effects of trade suspensions and export quotas, shift in trade to non-CITES species or increased illegal trade);
  - vi) protection status of the target taxa within range States, and regulatory measures outside range States;
  - vii) trade patterns, conservation status and management for other CITES-listed species that might be suitable 'substitutes' for the target taxa; and
  - viii) changes in conservation policies in range States; and
- c) analyse the information to assess the effectiveness, costs and benefits<sup>2</sup> of the Review of Significant Trade as implemented so far, by reference to the cost of the process and the time it takes, and identify means to improve the contribution it makes to the objectives of the Convention by reducing the threats to wild species.

### Annex 3

#### Action plan for *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp.

#### Madagascar shall:

1. Establish, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, a science-based precautionary export quota for the listed taxa where an adequate non-detriment finding can be undertaken and clearly documented for any species planned for export;
2. Establish, as appropriate, and with key partners [including the CITES Secretariat, CITES **Plants Committee**, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), main importing countries, and national and international research/conservation organizations] a process (research, information gathering and analysis) to identify the main species to be exported. Workshops should be organized for selected species to establish the adequate non-detriment findings required in paragraph 1;
3. Collaborate, as appropriate, and with key partners, as indicated in paragraph 2 above, to prepare identification material and tests for use in CITES enforcement to identify main taxa as they are traded;
4. Put in place an embargo on export of stocks of these timbers until the CITES Standing Committee has approved the results of a stockpile audit and use plan to determine what component of the stockpile have been legally accumulated and can be legally exported;
5. Collaborate, as appropriate, and with key partners, as indicated in paragraph 2 above, to establish enforcement mechanisms to assist in implementation of any export quota, stockpile control and opening of any legal and sustainable trade utilizing timber tracking systems and other technology as appropriate;
6. Provide written reports on progress with the implementation of the plan to the Secretariat and **Plants Committee**, in compliance with document deadlines for meeting of that Committee; and
7. Provide a document outlining progress with the implementation and any required adjustments to the Action Plan at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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<sup>2</sup> The phrase 'effectiveness, costs and benefits' is intended to address issues such as whether or not the funds spent on the process give value for money comparable to that for other CITES activities, and whether the time-scale envisaged in the process is too long for species that are in rapid decline.

**The Plants Committee shall:**

1. Work with Madagascar to implement this Action Plan and provide a format for and guidance on reporting on progress at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
2. Receive reports from Madagascar on the implementation of the plan, analyse and assess these, and assist and advise on same at its 21st and 22nd meetings; and
3. Recommend and facilitate the preparation of a standard reference for the names of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar) and *Dalbergia* spp. (populations of Madagascar) to be adopted, if appropriate, at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**Importing countries, especially developed country Parties, shall:**

1. Work with Madagascar to implement this Action Plan, make recommendations on sources of funding when necessary, and provide funding and technical support to implement the plan on a voluntary basis.

**The Secretariat shall:**

1. Subject to available resources, assist Madagascar in the preparation of a stockpile audit and use plan, consistent with the Convention and relevant Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, for presentation to the CITES Standing Committee;
2. Seek external funding from interested Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, exporters, importers and other entities directly interested in supporting this Decision;
3. Inform relevant Parties of the management of funds that have been raised, of technical assistance available and how they may access these resources;
4. Request technical assistance of ITTO in the framework of Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*, and
5. Promote, facilitate and assist capacity building in Madagascar and in importing countries, including as appropriate transit countries, through workshops, training and other activities considered relevant between the 16th and 17th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.