

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

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Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Online, 2-4, 21 and 23 June 2021

TOWARDS A RESOLUTION ON CITES AND FORESTS

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Members: representative for Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) (Chair), representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón and Ms. Núñez Neyra), representative for Europe (Mr. Carmo), representative for North America (Ms. Gnam);
- Parties: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and
- Observers: Animal Welfare International, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale, Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes, ForestBased Solutions, Forest Trends, Humane Society International, International Wood Products Association, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) consider document PC25 Doc. 12 and its addendum;
- b) consider the value of developing a new resolution on CITES and forests;
- c) explore the pertinence of developing draft decisions that could be put forward by the Secretariat for consideration of the CoP;
- d) provide any additional recommendation, for the Secretariat to consider should it bring forward a draft resolution on CITES and forests.

Recommendations

The working group recommends that the Plants Committee agree to:

- a) note that there is general support for developing a resolution on *CITES and forests*;
- b) recognize that views on the process for pursuing such an initiative differ;
- c) recognize that at least three options have been identified for developing a new resolution on *CITES and forests* as indicated below, but that the working group was unable to reach consensus on the preferred option or way forward:

- i) **option 1:** inviting the Secretariat to produce a draft strategic resolution on *CITES and forests* for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting (SC74), accompanied by draft decisions to allow for the assessment of the implementation of the new resolution in the CoP19-CoP20 intersessional period, should it be adopted at CoP19. Possible text for such draft decisions is shown in Annex 1 to the present document.
  - ii) **option 2:** inviting the Secretariat to submit draft decisions for consideration at SC74 to allow consideration of the benefit of pursuing a strategic resolution on *CITES and forests* during the CoP19-CoP20 intersessional period. Possible text for such draft decisions is shown in Annex 2 to the present document.
  - iii) **option 3:** inviting the Secretariat to submit to the Chair of the Standing Committee a recommendation to initiate an intersessional decision-making procedure to establish an intersessional working group that would give consideration to this initiative and report the outcomes of its work to SC74, noting that in accordance with Rule 20.1 of the Rules of procedure of the Standing Committee, this procedure is intended for matters of urgency that require a decision to be made between meetings of the Committee.
- d) consider the three options discussed by the working group, agree on the preferred option or way forward, and invite the Secretariat to inform the Standing Committee accordingly at its 74th meeting or, as appropriate, its Chair.

DRAFT DECISIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPTION 1

***Directed to the Secretariat***

19.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) assess the implementation of the Resolution Conf. 19.XX on *CITES and forests*, and invite feedback from Parties in its implementation;
- b) seek technical and scientific advice from the Plants Committee on possible revisions to update the provisions of Resolution Conf. 19.XX;
- c) seek strategic advice from the Standing Committee on possible revisions to update the provisions of Resolution Conf. 19.XX;
- d) report to the Plants and Standing Committees on the outcomes of this work.

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

19.BB The Plants Committee shall review any report resulting from Decision 19.AA and develop technical and scientific advice for consideration of the Secretariat.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

19.CC The Standing Committee shall review any report of the Secretariat relating to the implementation of Decision 19.AA and develop strategic recommendations for consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPTION 2

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 19.AA The Plants Committee shall consider the value of developing a possible new strategic resolution on CITES and forests, as outlined in Document PC25 Doc. 12 and Document PC25 Doc. 12 Addendum; prepare an overview of the issue from a technical and scientific perspective; and provide its recommendations for consideration of the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

- 19.BB The Standing Committee shall consider the report and recommendations of the Plants Committee under Decision 19.AA and develop recommendations, including identifying existing Resolutions that would need to be revised or repealed, and provide its report for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.