

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

Fifty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Bangkok (Thailand), 14 October 2004

SUMMARY RECORD

The Chairmanship was taken by Mr K. Stansell, as the outgoing Chairman (United States of America). He confirmed the presence of representatives of all the regionally-elected members of the Committee, as well as representatives of the Previous Host Country and the Next Host Country. He announced that there were four items on the agenda: appointment of members of the clearing house on technical implementation issues; Memorandum of Understanding with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); elections of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Alternate Vice-Chairman; and date and venue of the next meeting.

1) Clearing house on technical implementation issues

The Chairman recalled that, at the 51st meeting of the Committee, nominations had been submitted for the membership of the clearing house. The appointment of Ms Andrea Gaski of the United States had been confirmed. India had submitted the names of two persons but subsequently withdrew these nominations. After that meeting, Ireland had indicated that it had a candidate. There being no other nominations, it was agreed that the second member of the clearing house would be a person to be nominated by Ireland.

2) Memorandum of Understanding with FAO

The Chairman recalled the process that had been established at the previous meeting of the Committee, where a working group had been appointed to revise the draft Memorandum of Understanding with FAO. The representative of Oceania (Australia), as a member of the working group, reported that good progress had been made in the discussions and a consensus text had been agreed. The representative of Europe (Iceland), supported by the representative of Asia (Japan) stated that they had seen the document and that it was not acceptable in its present form. They stated that further consultations were required and requested that discussion in the Committee be deferred until a later meeting. The Chairman recalled that the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting had requested the Standing Committee to report on this issue at the 14th meeting. He proposed that further discussion be postponed until the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee. This was agreed and, at the request of the representative of Europe (Germany), it was also agreed that written comments on the current draft should be submitted to the members of the working group so that they can take these into account in preparing for the next meeting of the Committee.

3) Elections

a) Chairman

The Chairman requested nominations for chairmanship of the Committee. The representative of North America (Canada) nominated Ghana. The representative of

Europe (Germany) nominated Chile. The representative of Asia (Japan) nominated Japan. After a short consultation, the representative of Africa (Ghana) stated that they would not stand for election.

A vote by secret ballot followed. There were 11 votes for Chile and 4 votes for Japan. Thus Chile was elected as Chairman of the Standing Committee.

The representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Chile) assumed the Chairmanship.

The new Chairman thanked the members of the Standing Committee for the honour and responsibility they had bestowed upon Chile.

b) Vice-Chairman and Alternate Vice-Chairman

The Chairman called for nominations. The representative of Europe (Czech Republic) nominated China and Ghana. The representative of Asia (China) stated that China would be pleased to serve as the alternate to Ghana. There being no further nominations, the appointments of Ghana as Vice-Chairman and China as Alternate Vice-Chairman were approved by acclamation.

5) Next meeting of the Standing Committee

At the suggestion of the Secretary-General, it was agreed that the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee would be planned for the middle of 2005, and that it would be in Geneva.

The outgoing Chairman offered his thanks to the Committee and to the Secretariat for all the support they had given to him during his tenure. The Secretary-General thanked Mr Stansell for his hard work for CITES, drawing attention to some important developments that had taken place during his chairmanship.

The Chairman added his thanks to those of the Secretary-General. He said that Chile would inform the Secretariat soon of the name of its representative to the Standing Committee and he thanked the Committee for their cooperation.