

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Administrative matters

PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. The Secretariat uses the CITES Trust Fund to support the participation of committee members in the meetings of the permanent committees in accordance with Resolutions Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 15.1.
3. In Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15), on *Establishment of committees* [in paragraph h) under the first 'Resolves']], the Conference of the Parties resolves that:

to the extent possible, the Secretariat shall 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, for representatives from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing states.

4. In Resolution Conf. 15.1, on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the biennium 2012-2013* (under the third 'Decides'), the Conference of the Parties decides that:

the CITES Trust Fund should not be used to cover travel costs and per diem of committee members and other representatives of developed countries.

5. The Secretariat assumes that the decision recorded in Resolution Conf. 15.1 is an extension of the principle recorded in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15). This implies that the only Parties whose committee members and representatives whose travel costs would not be covered from the Trust Fund are those from developed countries. Currently, however, there is no agreement as to which countries should be considered as 'developed'. The result is that the Secretariat continues to receive requests for support from committee members or representatives who, by some indicators, are considered to be from such countries. It must then justify its decision to refuse to support them. It would be preferable if the rules relating to eligibility for support were clear for all Parties.
6. For determining which countries are considered to be 'developed', and therefore ineligible to receive support to attend a committee meeting, the Secretariat has in the past referred to several lists that categorize countries into different groups. In particular, it has consulted the [Human Development Index](#) (HDI) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and taken into account which countries are included in the categories "Very High Human Development" and "High Human Development" (see Annex 1). It has also used membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as an indicator that a country should be considered as 'developed' (see Annex 2).
7. This is in accordance with the approach taken by UNEP, which provides financial support, upon request, to facilitate participation of delegates from developing countries in UNEP-organized meetings, provided that funds for this purpose are made available by the donors. As there is no agreed list of developing and

developed countries, the membership of OECD is considered as an indicator of the status of developed countries only for the purpose of determining provision of financial support. Therefore, UNEP does not entertain requests for financial support from countries that are members of OECD.

8. In an attempt to harmonize its approach with that of other biodiversity-related conventions, the CITES Secretariat asked a number of other secretariats for information on the approach that they take in relation to the allocation of funds to support participation in meetings. The results can be summarized as follows:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

The Parties to CBD have agreed on guidelines for the allocation of travel funds for delegates attending CBD meetings, as contained in Annex 3 to the present document.

Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS):

In paragraph 8 of its Resolution 9.14 on financial and administrative matters, the Parties to CMS agree to:

set the threshold of eligibility for funding delegates to attend the Convention's meetings at 0.200 per cent on the United Nations scale of assessment in the following order of priority for the allocation of funding:

- (a) Countries lowest on the scale, and others with no unpaid pledges to the Convention, in ascending order up to the 0.200 per cent threshold;*
- (b) Countries with unpaid pledges to the Convention in ascending order on the scale, up to the 0.200 per cent threshold; and*
- (c) Non-Party developing countries, Range States and countries actively preparing accession that had not previously received a subsidy to attend a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.*

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands:

The Secretariat of Ramsar considers all countries on the "[DAC list of ODA Recipients](#)" of OECD as eligible to receive support to attend official meetings of the Convention (DAC: Development Assistance Committee; ODA: Official Development Assistance).

9. The Secretariat would now like to publish, for the sake of transparency and for the information of all Parties, the criteria for determining which are the countries whose representatives or committee members are eligible (or not eligible) to receive financial support to attend committee meetings.
10. In view of the reference to 'developed countries' in Resolution Conf. 15.1, the Secretariat favours the continued use of the HDI to identify the countries eligible to receive financial support because it uses four criteria of development, including 'gross national income per capita', whereas the DAC list of ODA recipients uses only the latter criterion.

Recommendation

10. The Secretariat proposes that, for the purpose of determining the will of the Conference of the Parties as expressed in Resolutions Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 15.1 (and their successors), the Parties whose committee members and other representatives will be supported from the Trust Fund be:
 - a) all Parties not included in the 'Very High Human Development' and 'High Human Development' categories of the UNDP HDI; and
 - b) all Parties in the UN List of Small Island Developing States.
11. The Standing Committee is requested to endorse this proposal or, otherwise, to indicate the criterion that should be used.

UNDP Human Development Index – 2010 Rankings

Very High Human Development	High Human Development	Medium Human Development	Low Human Development
1. Norway	43. Bahamas	86. Fiji	128. Kenya
2. Australia	44. Lithuania	87. Turkmenistan	129. Bangladesh
3. New Zealand	45. Chile	88. Dominican Republic	130. Ghana
4. United States	46. Argentina	89. China	131. Cameroon
5. Ireland	47. Kuwait	90. El Salvador	132. Myanmar
6. Liechtenstein	48. Latvia	91. Sri Lanka	133. Yemen
7. Netherlands	49. Montenegro	92. Thailand	134. Benin
8. Canada	50. Romania	93. Gabon	135. Madagascar
9. Sweden	51. Croatia	94. Suriname	136. Mauritania
10. Germany	52. Uruguay	95. Bolivia	137. Papua New Guinea
11. Japan	53. Libya	(Plurinational State of)	138. Nepal
12. Korea (Republic of)	54. Panama	96. Paraguay	139. Togo
13. Switzerland	55. Saudi Arabia	97. Philippines	140. Comoros
14. France	56. Mexico	98. Botswana	141. Lesotho
15. Israel	57. Malaysia	99. Moldova	142. Nigeria
16. Finland	58. Bulgaria	(Republic of)	143. Uganda
17. Iceland	59. Trinidad and Tobago	100. Mongolia	144. Senegal
18. Belgium	60. Serbia	101. Egypt	145. Haiti
19. Denmark	61. Belarus	102. Uzbekistan	146. Angola
20. Spain	62. Costa Rica	103. Micronesia	147. Djibouti
21. Hong Kong, China (SAR)	63. Peru	(Federated States of)	148. Tanzania (United Republic of)
22. Greece	64. Albania	104. Guyana	149. Côte d'Ivoire
23. Italy	65. Russian Federation	105. Namibia	150. Zambia
24. Luxembourg	66. Kazakhstan	106. Honduras	151. Gambia
25. Austria	67. Azerbaijan	107. Maldives	152. Rwanda
26. United Kingdom	68. Bosnia and Herzegovina	108. Indonesia	153. Malawi
27. Singapore	69. Ukraine	109. Kyrgyzstan	154. Sudan
28. Czech Republic	70. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	110. South Africa	155. Afghanistan
29. Slovenia	71. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	111. Syrian Arab Republic	156. Guinea
30. Andorra	72. Mauritius	112. Tajikistan	157. Ethiopia
31. Slovakia	73. Brazil	113. Viet Nam	158. Sierra Leone
32. United Arab Emirates	74. Georgia	114. Morocco	159. Central African Republic
33. Malta	75. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	115. Nicaragua	160. Mali
34. Estonia	76. Armenia	116. Guatemala	161. Burkina Faso
35. Cyprus	77. Ecuador	117. Equatorial Guinea	162. Liberia
36. Hungary	78. Belize	118. Cape Verde	163. Chad
37. Brunei Darussalam	79. Colombia	119. India	164. Guinea-Bissau
38. Qatar	80. Jamaica	120. Timor-Leste	165. Mozambique
39. Bahrain	81. Tunisia	121. Swaziland	166. Burundi
40. Portugal	82. Jordan	122. Lao People's Democratic Republic	167. Niger
41. Poland	83. Turkey	123. Solomon Islands	168. Congo
42. Barbados	84. Algeria	124. Cambodia	(Democratic Republic of the)
	85. Tonga	125. Pakistan	169. Zimbabwe
		126. Congo	
		127. São Tomé and Príncipe	

List of OECD members

Australia	Japan
Austria	Korea, Republic of
Belgium	Luxembourg
Canada	Mexico
Chile	Netherlands
Czech Republic	New Zealand
Denmark	Norway
Estonia	Poland
Finland	Portugal
France	Slovak Republic
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Spain
Hungary	Sweden
Iceland	Switzerland
Ireland	Turkey
Israel	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Italy	United States of America

CBD guidelines for the allocation of travel funds for delegates attending meetings

PROCEDURE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FROM THE SPECIAL VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND (BZ) FOR FACILITATING PARTICIPATION OF PARTIES IN THE CONVENTION PROCESS

1. The procedure should aim at the full and active participation of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition in the activities of the Convention to improve the legitimacy of Convention decisions and encourage the implementation of the Convention at local, national, regional and international levels.
2. The procedure for the participation of eligible delegates in meetings under the Convention should give priority to least developed countries and small island developing States and thereafter aim at ensuring adequate representation of all eligible country Parties. It should continue to be guided by the established United Nations practice.
3. The Secretariat should notify Parties as soon as possible and preferably six months in advance, of the dates and venue of the CBD meetings.
4. Following the dispatch of a notification, eligible Parties should be invited to inform, through official channels of communication, the Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than three months before the meeting whether funding is requested;
5. Based on the availability of financial resources and the number of requests received, the Secretariat shall prepare a list of sponsored delegates. The list shall be established in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 above with a view of ensuring adequate geographical representation of eligible regions with priority given to the least developed countries and small island developing States;
6. In accordance with paragraph 22 of decision VIII/31 of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat should, four (4) weeks in advance, notify the eligible countries that would not be sponsored, inviting them to seek other alternative sources of funding.
7. The Executive Secretary is invited to continue liaising with the Executive Director of UNEP with a view to ensuring a waiver on the 13 per cent administrative charges on the Trust Fund to Facilitate the Participation of Developing Countries with the understanding that the additional money secured will be used to enhance the representation of eligible Parties.