

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Meeting of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee of the Standing Committee

REPORT FOR THE 66TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

This document has been prepared by the Finance and Budget Subcommittee of the Standing Committee (FBSC) in relation to agenda item 9.2 on Administrative matters and submitted to the Standing Committee at its sixth session.

Agenda item SC66 Doc. 9.2 (Administrative matters)

Takes note of document SC66 Doc. 9.2

- FBSC welcomes the implementation of the new administrative reform and implementation of Umoja.

Agenda item SC66 Doc. 10.1 (Financial reports 2014 and 2015)

Takes note of document SC66 Doc. 10.1

- FBSC notes the report on the costed programme of work for 2014 and 2015 (up to 31 October 2015);
- FBSC notes the information regarding European Union (EU), new Party to the convention during 2015, and recommends to the SC to approve the use of the assessed contribution for part of the year 2015 for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (organizational support and outreach and Sponsored Delegates Project);
- FBSC notes the information on translation costs and recommends to the SC to invite the Secretariat to continue to review and monitor such expenditures for the meetings of the governing bodies (CoP and SC) and the scientific committees;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to prepare a policy on translation of documents to be presented at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- FBSC notes the information provided by the Secretariat on registration fees for observer organizations from other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and natural resource management bodies;
- FBSC notes that registration fees from observers shall be used to offset any deficit in translation costs for the meetings of the governing bodies (CoP and SC) and the scientific committees, as well as to cover any eventual shortfall in funds for the Sponsored Delegates Project, as approved during SC65;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to undertake a further study on an appropriate fee structure and level of the registration fees to be presented at the 17th Conference of the Parties;
- FBSC takes note of paragraph 4 of the document on further support from the host country to support the CITES Secretariat in manner comparable to other convention secretariats based in Switzerland and the willingness of the host country to further discuss future support with the Secretariat; and

- FBSC recommends to the SC to request the Conference of the Parties, at their 17th meeting, to direct the Secretariat to explore the potential benefits of alternative hosting arrangements for the Secretariat and make a recommendation to the SC, at its 69th meeting, if any changes are beneficial to the Convention and the Parties.

Agenda item SC66 Doc. 10.2 (Proposed budgetary scenarios for 2017-2019)

Takes note of document SC66 Doc.10.2

- FBSC discussed the proposed three alternative budget scenarios for 2017-2019 and requested the Secretariat to break down the UN standard salary costs for 2016 and show it separate for the zero nominal growth scenario.

Other agenda items:

- Access to GEF funding:
- FBSC also discussed agenda item 10.3 on *Access to GEF funding*, which was presented by the Secretariat, and commended the Secretariat for raising awareness of CITES issues;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to direct the Secretariat as follows:
 - i) Invite the GEF Secretariat to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to give awareness-raising and guidance to Parties on accessing GEF funding;
 - ii) Report on progress on its findings at the SC67 for consideration of the risks, benefits, necessity and implications, in order to get further guidance in preparation for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Decision 16.2 b);
 - iii) Convey Resolution Conf. 16.2 and Decision 16.2 to the GEF Council, through the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the GEF (Decision 16.2 c);
 - iv) Continue, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, to explore a closer working relationship with the GEF to enhance its biodiversity strategy in GEF-6 by strengthening the species-based component (Decision 16.2 d); and
 - v) Convey CITES priorities to the GEF for it to take them into account when developing the biodiversity strategy in GEF-7, consistent with the mandate of the GEF (Decision 16.2 e).

In addition, FBSC recommends that SC recommends to CoP17 that it not proceed with Decision 16.2 (a) regarding exploring the necessity and feasibility as well as the legal and other implications of the GEF becoming a financial mechanism for CITES (decision 16.2 a).