

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

REPORT FINANCE AND BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE (FBSC)

The Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) of the Standing Committee met five (5) times during the period 7-11 March 2022. The present report contains the recommendations of the Subcommittee for consideration of the Standing Committee.

Mr. Martin Krebs (Depositary Government – Switzerland), as acting chair of FBSC chaired the FBSC during SC74.

The Secretary-General of CITES and the Administrative and Fund Management Officer and representative from UNEP were assisting the meetings of FBSC.

Representatives of all regions were present at the meetings as follows:

- Africa: Kenya and Namibia
- Asia: Kuwait
- Central and South America and the Caribbean: Peru
- Europe: Israel (online)
- North America: United States of America
- Oceania: Australia
- Depositary Government: Switzerland

Representatives from China attended the FBSC deliberation of agenda item 19 on the Language Strategy for the Convention by invitation.

Recommendations:

Agenda item 7: Financial reports

The FBSC recommends that the Standing Committee:

- a) Approve the reports on the costed programme of work for the full years 2019 and 2020, and for the period up to 30 September 2021;
- b) Take note of the projected savings for the core Trust Fund (CTL) for the year 2021;
- c) Approve the transfer of resources from the expected savings from 2021 under the meeting related components in the amount of USD 336,600 to cover the cost of the organization for the governing bodies meetings during 2022, on a one-time exceptional basis;
- d) Invite the Conference of the Parties to further review the participation charges for all observer organizations other than the UN and its specialized agencies at meeting of the governing bodies of the Convention and make determination on the use of those collected charges; and

- e) Take note of other information provided in the report.

Agenda item 8: Report on proposed budget scenarios for 2023-2025

The FBSC recommends that the Standing Committee:

- a) Take note of the report; and
- b) Request the Secretariat to take into account feedback received and outcomes from the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee in preparation of the proposed budget scenarios for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda item 10.1: Administrative matters including host country arrangements for the Secretariat

The FBSC takes note of document SC74 10.1 and recommend the Standing Committee:

- a) Appreciate the continued contribution by the host country of the Secretariat;
- b) Note the UNEP document on the allocation and utilization of programme support cost;
- c) Take note of the evaluation of central administrative costs following the adoption of Umoja, in particular, the classification into core (indirect) and common (direct) administrative costs, to be interpreted and applied in the new context;
- d) Note the outstanding bills due to UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) for administrative services provided, and request the UNEP Executive Director to authorize the utilization by CITES of the unspent programme support fund balance at the closure of financial year 2021, to settle the outstanding bills amounting to US\$ 232,309, notwithstanding UNEP's current policy that restricts carrying forward positive balances at closure of UNEP biennial financial period;
- e) Request that UNEP provide in its report to the 75th meeting of the Standing Committee/19th Conference of the Parties regarding any update to UNEP's current policy that restricts carrying forward positive balances at closure of biennial financial period to the detriment of MEAs;
- f) Defer to CoP19 the question of whether to consider possible supplementary funding sources for future administrative costs when Programme Support Cost is inadequate; and
- g) Welcome the OIOS audit conducted in 2021 and request the Secretariat to provide update on implementation of recommendations at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda item 10.2: Administrative hosting models for the Secretariat

The FBSC takes note of the oral reporting in plenary by the Secretariat and recommend the Standing Committee:

- a) To keep this item under further review.

Agenda item 19: Language strategy for the Convention

The FBSC recommends that the Standing Committee:

- a) Request the Secretariat to conduct a survey on how other biodiversity MEA's and natural resources management bodies are handling language services for non-working languages for that MEA/body, including those that do not have any language strategies; and
- b) Request the Secretariat to present new options including those outlined in document SC74 Doc. 19, and including those developed through information received by the Secretariat in its survey pursuant to paragraph a) and discussions from the FBSC at SC74 for further review at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.