

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

Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Lausanne (Switzerland), 9 to 20 October 1989

Matters Related to the Standing Committee

ELECTION OF ALTERNATE REGIONAL MEMBERS

This document has been prepared by the United States of America.

1. Prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Standing Committee, it came to the attention of the Chairman that one of the six regional members would not be able to attend the meeting. It was impractical to consult with the members of that region to choose an alternate member and Resolution Conf. 6.1 Annex 1 provides no guidance in this situation. Eventually, an ad hoc solution was found. The Chairman selected another member of the region to act as an alternate for that meeting.
2. Because of their representational function and authority to vote, attendance of regional members at Standing Committee meetings is important to the effective functioning of the Committee.
3. The attached draft resolution (Annex) would amend Resolution Conf. 6.1 Annex 1 to cover the situation where a regional member is unavailable to attend a Standing Committee meeting. It does so by creating the position of alternate regional member. The alternate regional member would only have authority to act as the regional representative at any Standing Committee meeting, or portion of a meeting, at which the regular representative is unavailable to attend. During that time, he or she would assume any offices of the regional member (e.g., Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson). There is no intention that any executive officers be elected by or from alternate regional members.
4. An alternate regional member, when not acting as a regional member, could be represented at any Standing Committee meeting by an observer (as could any other Party).
5. We would urge any regional member that is unavailable to attend a Standing Committee meeting to notify the Chairman of the Standing Committee as soon as possible so that provisions for attendance by the alternate regional member can be made.
6. If the attached draft resolution is adopted, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties should elect an alternate regional member for each of the six major geographical regions whose term would expire coincidentally with that of the member of the region to which it belongs.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Membership of the Standing Committee

NOTING that composition of the membership of the Standing Committee was established by Resolution Conf. 6.1 Annex 1 adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ottawa, 1987), which provides, in part for one Party to be elected from each of the six major geographical regions consisting of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South and Central America and the Caribbean, and Oceania;

RECOGNIZING that members, for whatever reason, may not be able to attend meetings of the Standing Committee and that such absences may reduce the capacity of the Standing Committee to carry out its assigned tasks;

RECALLING that under Resolution Conf. 6.1 Annex 1, the Secretariat shall make provisions in its budget for the payments, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of one person representing each of the six regional members, and that members should make every effort to pay their own travel expenses;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

DECIDES

a) to amend Resolution Conf. 6.1 Annex 1, by adding the following paragraph D) to the "DETERMINES" section of the Resolution:

"D) A Party elected as an alternate member from each of the six major geographic regions described in paragraph A) to attend meetings as a regional member only in the absence of the member of the region to which it belongs;"

and

b) by amending paragraph b) 1) to read as follows:

"all Committee members may participate in Committee business but only the regional members or alternate regional members shall have the right to vote except in the case of a tie vote, when the Depositary Government shall have the right to vote to break the tie;"