

**Matters Related to the Standing Committee**

REGIONAL REPRESENTATION ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The attached draft resolution has been prepared and submitted by Malawi on behalf of the African Region.

This issue was discussed in the meeting of the African Region during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Kyoto, 1992), as well as in a plenary session. The Parties encouraged Malawi to prepare a draft resolution for consideration at the ninth meeting.

Note from the Secretariat

The Secretariat is in favour of a revision of the regional representation on the Standing Committee, provided that the necessary provisions appear in the CITES budget, i.e. CHF 40,000.

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Doc. 9.7 Annex

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DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Regional Representation on the Standing Committee

REALIZING that the majority of species of wild fauna and flora that the Convention seeks to protect and enhance occur in the developing countries of the world;

RECOGNIZING the important role that the Standing Committee plays in steering the work and performance of the Convention in the periods between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the majority of wildlife trade problems occur between the South and the North and that the Standing Committee has significant influence in deciding the status of the affected species listed in the appendices;

ACKNOWLEDGING also that there exists an imbalance in the regional representation in the Standing Committee, in that four regions include between twenty and forty-one Parties, while two regions include three or four Parties;

CONCERNED that skewed representation on the Standing Committee could cause unfair assessment in deciding issues of great concern to producer States;

RECOGNIZING the importance of ensuring that representations of regions of the Convention clearly reflects the participation of the Parties covered by each region;

REMEMBERING that at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Kyoto, 1992) Malawi on behalf of the African region raised the issue of membership of the Standing Committee and was encouraged to prepare a document for submission at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION

DECIDES to base future membership of the Standing Committee on the following criteria:

- a) the regions as at present conceived will remain the same (i.e. Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America and the Caribbean, North America and Oceania);
- b) the Standing Committee will be composed of one member for every 15 Parties in any given region; and
- c) regional representatives will maximize contact and dialogue among the Parties concerned and minimize communication problems.