

MATTERS RELATED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

1. At its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994) the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision No. 3 directing the Standing Committee to consider operational concerns such as method and timing of the replacement of regional members, voting and other relevant issues, and to submit a report at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This was considered necessary after the adoption of Resolution Conf. 9.1 on the Establishment of Committees, which provides for representation by more than one member in certain regions.
2. At its 35th meeting (Geneva, 1995), the Standing Committee charged a working group, formed during the same meeting to draft revised Rules of Procedure for the Committee, to also consider the question of representation of the regions in the Standing Committee. The working group was chaired by the Alternate Vice-chairman of the Standing Committee, the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago). At the suggestion of the working group, the Standing Committee agreed that the group should work through correspondence and report at the following meeting of the Committee.
3. At its 36th meeting (Geneva, 1996), the Standing Committee considered document Doc. SC.36.4, which was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the report of April 1995 of the chairwoman of the working group and which contained comments and recommendations from the Secretariat. No decision was taken concerning the contents of the document. In particular, the Committee did not consider that any of the issues raised would require that Resolution Conf. 9.1 be amended. During the discussion, however, the following points were made.
  4. – Concerns were expressed about the possibility that subregions might be formed within existing regions and that they might vote differently.
  5. – The document prepared by the Secretariat should be used by the regional representatives in their preparation for the regional meetings at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
  6. – The document should serve as a guideline for discussion at the regional level, however, it would be preferable if the regions acted in a co-ordinated manner.
7. The Standing Committee however agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a document on the basis of document Doc. SC.36.4 Annex for consideration at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and asked that further comments on the text be sent to the Secretariat. No further comments were received by the Secretariat.
8. Annex 1 to the present document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of document Doc. SC.36.4 Annex but takes into account the fact that the European region comprises more than 30 Parties and is now entitled to be represented by three members in the Standing Committee.
9. As similar issues were relevant to the Animals and Plants Committees, and as Annexes 2 and 3 of Resolution Conf. 9.1 do not provide for the review of the membership of these Committees at every regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat prepared documents for consideration by the two Committees at their thirteenth and seventh meetings respectively. These documents were also based on document Doc. SC.36.4 Annex. Extracts from them, which provide information on the timing of replacement that could be accepted by the regions if a procedure similar to that applicable for the Standing Committee were adopted, are attached to this document as Annexes 2 and 3.
10. The Animals Committee agreed that all members of the Committee should conduct consultations within their respective regions regarding the selection of regional members and alternate regional members, the shared or split representation, the status of alternate members and the timing of replacement of members and alternate members, as these would need to be taken into account at the regional meetings that would take place during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. As two members of the Committee felt that it would not be appropriate to specify any particular length of service for Committee members in an amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.1, the Committee agreed that its members should discuss this point too within their region.
11. From discussions in the Plants Committee, at its seventh meeting, it appeared that the regular changing of many of the regional members at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties might explain why it is difficult to establish good contacts within the regions. This is one of the reasons why the Plants Committee supported the idea of having the membership to the Committee extended for a period of two intervals between consecutive meetings of the Conference of the Parties. However, the Committee felt that the final decision on this subject should be the responsibility of the regions themselves. In addition, the Plants Committee was of the opinion that its membership should be based on the selection of persons, not on the selection of countries. Finally, having seen the number of Parties in Europe increase to 31, the Plants Committee believed it was important that the representation of that region be increased to two members. To be implemented, the latter would require an amendment to Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 9.1 and, if such an amendment were accepted by the Parties, it might be expected that the same requirement would be made with regard to the Animals Committee. This would require an equivalent amendment to Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 9.1.
12. Although the United States of America has submitted a document to propose that Resolution Conf. 9.1 be amended (see document Doc. 10.27), the proposed amendments are not relevant to the question of the regional representation in the Standing Committee and/or to the purposes of the present document. However, if adopted, it will have an effect on the selection of the members of the Animals and Plants Committees.
13. The present document should be considered by the Parties during their meetings at the regional level. They should report to the Conference of the Parties, which should then decide whether amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.1 are necessary and/or whether guidelines or possibly decisions valid for all the regions should or could be established regarding their repre-

sentation in the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees.

14. Finally, section 5 of Annex 1 to this document has been added as another relevant issue. It concerns the work

to be accomplished in the regional meetings formally scheduled during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## Doc. 10.7 Annex 1

### REGIONAL REPRESENTATION IN THE STANDING COMMITTEE

#### Selection of Regional Members and Alternate Regional Members

1. The membership of the Standing Committee is determined in Resolution Conf. 9.1, Annex 1. In the selection of regional members and alternate regional members, the following considerations should be taken into account.
2. – For regions with one member and one alternate member (North America and Oceania), a rotation in the selection is recommended.
3. – For regions with two members and two alternate members (Asia and Central and South America and the Caribbean) or with three members and three alternate members (Africa and Europe), the selection should try to achieve a balanced representation (geopolitical, cultural, ecological).
4. – As many alternate members never have the opportunity to represent their region at Standing Committee meetings, each region may consider it appropriate to select as regional members the alternates of their former members. If this is accepted, any member and its alternate should be elected at the same time and for the same period of time (see also item 13 below).

#### Shared or Split Representation

5. The regions with more than one member and one alternate member should decide on the role of their representatives, in accordance with one of the following options:
6. – the members or alternate members represent the region as a whole; or
7. – the members and alternate members represent specified parts of the region.
8. If the option in paragraph 6. is chosen, the members or alternate members should always express similar views and vote in the same way at meetings of the Standing Committee or when issues are considered by correspondence.
9. If the option in paragraph 7. is chosen, Members or alternate members could express different views and vote accordingly.
10. **It would be preferable if all regions were able to adopt the same option.**

#### Status of Alternate Members

11. As is clear from the text of Resolution Conf. 9.1, Annex 1 [DETERMINES a) i) D)], each Party elected as an alternate member is elected for a specific member. This should be kept in mind at the time of their designation in regions with more than one member and one alternate member.
12. This is of particular importance if the option in paragraph 7. above is chosen.

#### Timing of Replacement of Members and Alternate Members

13. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.1, Annex 1, the terms of office of the regional members shall commence at the close of the regular meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting thereafter. The Resolution does not refer to alternate members but it may be assumed that the same rule could or should apply. This could (or should) be institutionalized by amending subparagraph DETERMINES a) ii) to include the words and alternate regional members after the words "regional members". This rule is followed in the paragraphs below.
14. – For regions with one member and one alternate member, the selection may be conducted as it has been so far, taking into account however the recommendation made in paragraph 2. For North America and Oceania the members and alternate members were designated at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Replacement should take place at the eleventh meeting.
15. – For regions with more than one member and one alternate member, it is recommended that, to guarantee some continuation, not all members and alternate members be changed at the same meeting. Considering the current representation of the regions in the Standing Committee, the following suggestions are made.
16. – Asia and Central and South America and the Caribbean, both with two members, had one member and one alternate member elected at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the other member and alternate member elected at the ninth meeting. The first member and alternate member will finish their mandate at the end of the tenth meeting and the other member and alternate member at the end of the eleventh meeting. From the tenth meeting, these regions should elect one member and one alternate member at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
17. – Africa has three members and three alternate members. One member and one alternate member were elected at the eighth meeting and the other two at the ninth meeting. The first member and alternate member will finish their mandate at the end of the tenth meeting and the other two members and alternate members at the end of the eleventh meeting. From the tenth meeting, this region should elect one member and one alternate member at one meeting of the Conference of the Parties and two members and alternate members at the next meeting, and so on.

18. – Europe has two members and two alternate members but is now entitled to have three of each. Both members and alternate members were elected at the ninth meeting and should finish their mandate at the end of the eleventh meeting. At the tenth meeting, the region should elect its third member and alternate member. From the eleventh meeting, this region should elect two members and two alternate members at one meeting of the Conference of the Parties and one member and one alternate member at the next meeting, and so on.
- Regional Meetings at Meetings of the Conference of the Parties
19. Since the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, half a day has been reserved in the working programme for a session of the Parties on a regional basis. At the ninth meeting in particular, many of the Parties met on a regional basis almost every day to consider issues under discussion by the Conference. As it is likely that the Parties will wish to continue to meet in such a way at future meetings, each region will have a room reserved for the two weeks of the tenth meeting where they will have the possibility to meet whenever they want.
20. Should the regional meetings be made more formal? Should they have an agenda? Should they be structured in a different way? These are questions that should be answered by the regions themselves in the Secretariat's view.
21. Following the past practice, the chairman of each regional meeting is the representative of the regional member of the Standing Committee. This appears logical and should not be changed. However, several regions have now more than one member. Therefore, each of these regions, or its members themselves, should decide which Party will chair the regional meetings.
22. At each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, each region will have specific tasks to fulfil, as follows. This should normally be done at the session scheduled in the working programme of the meeting.
23. – At the tenth meeting only, adoption of rules for the selection of the members and alternate members of the Standing Committee, on the basis of the information presented in this document.
24. – Selection, if appropriate, of members and alternate members of the Standing Committee, following the adopted rules. The members and alternate members of the Standing Committee are Parties.
25. – Selection of the members and alternate members of the Animals and Plants Committees. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.1, Annexes 2 and 3, the members and alternate members of the Animals and Plants Committees are persons. Although this is not indicated in the Resolution, it appears obvious that the persons to be chosen should be experts in animals or plants in general and of the region they are representing in particular. At the tenth meeting however, the selection should not take place before the Conference of the Parties has considered and voted upon the proposed amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of Resolution Conf. 9.1 submitted by the United States of America (document Doc. 10.27), with the objective of replacing the designation of persons by that of Parties. Annexes 2 and 3 to this document provide information on the timing of replacement that could help the regions to make their decisions.
26. – The other tasks to be fulfilled at the regional meetings depend to a large extent on the agenda of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The members of the Standing Committee representing each region, perhaps with the help of the alternate members, should establish an agenda before the session scheduled within the working programme of the Conference of the Parties. This agenda should cover the points mentioned in the previous paragraphs of this section and provide for discussion of the main agenda items to be considered by the Conference of the Parties, at plenary sessions or at sessions of Committees I and II, in particular those of special interest to the region concerned.

## Doc. 10.7 Annex 2

### REGIONAL REPRESENTATION TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

#### Timing of Replacement of Members and Alternate Members

1. If the same procedure as that for the Standing Committee is applied and if the text of Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 9.1 remains as it is, the present members and alternate members of the Animals Committee should be replaced as follows.
2. – For regions with one member and one alternate member, the selection may be conducted as it has been so far for the Standing Committee, taking into account however the recommendation made in paragraph 2. of Annex 1 to this document, i.e. a rotation in the selection is recommended. For Europe and Oceania the members were elected at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and confirmed at the ninth. Replacement should take place at the tenth meeting. For North America the member was elected at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Replacement should take place at the eleventh meeting. If the suggestion to have two members for Europe is accepted, measures should be taken to avoid election of the two members taking place at the same meeting.
- This means that either the new member should be elected for one interval only or, perhaps preferably, the present member should have his term of activity extended for a third interval.
3. – For regions with two members and two alternate members, it is recommended that, to guarantee some continuation, not all members and alternate members be changed at the same meeting. Considering the current representation of the regions in the Animals Committee, the following suggestions are made.
4. – For Africa, one member was elected at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and confirmed at the ninth. The second member was elected at the ninth meeting. The first one should finish his mandate at the end of the tenth meeting and the second one at the end of the eleventh meeting.

5. – For Asia and Central and South America and the Caribbean, both members were elected at the ninth meeting and should finish their mandate at the end of the eleventh meeting. In order to avoid both members being replaced at the same meeting, the region may agree either to extend the mandate of one of the two members until the end of the twelfth meeting or to reduce it and to elect a new member at the tenth meeting already. The first option appears preferable.

6. **It must be said that, if a region wishes to re-elect a member or alternate member of the Animals Committee, there is nothing to prevent it from doing so.**
7. Finally, as alternate members are alternates of specified members, they should be elected at the same time as the members.

### Doc. 10.7 Annex 3

#### REGIONAL REPRESENTATION TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

##### Timing of Replacement of Members and Alternate Members

1. If the same procedure as that for the Standing Committee is applied and if the text of Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 9.1 remains as it is, the present members and alternate members of the Plants Committee should be replaced as follows.
2. – For regions with one member and one alternate member, the selection may be conducted as it has been so far for the Standing Committee, taking into account however the recommendation made in paragraph 2. of Annex 1 to this document, i.e. a rotation in the selection is recommended. For North America and Oceania the members were designated at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and confirmed at the ninth. Replacement should take place at the tenth meeting. For Europe the member was designated at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Replacement should take place at the eleventh meeting. If the suggestion to have two members for Europe is accepted, the second member should be elected at the tenth meeting and replaced at the twelfth. Thus a member would be elected at each meeting.
3. – For regions with two members and two alternate members, it is recommended that, to guarantee some continuation, members and alternate members should not both be changed at the same meeting. Considering the current representation of

the regions in the Plants Committee, the following suggestions are made.

4. – For Africa, one member was elected at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and confirmed at the ninth. The second member was elected at the ninth meeting. The first one should finish her mandate at the end of the tenth meeting and the second one at the end of the eleventh meeting.
5. – For Asia and Central and South America and the Caribbean both members were elected at the ninth meeting and should finish their mandate at the end of the eleventh meeting. In order to avoid both members being replaced at the same meeting, the region may agree either to extend the mandate of one of the two members until the end of the twelfth meeting or to reduce it and to elect a new member at the tenth meeting. The first option appears preferable.
6. **It must be said that, if a region wishes to re-elect a member or alternate member of the Plants Committee, there is nothing to prevent it from doing so.**
7. Finally, as alternate members are alternates of specified members, they should be elected at the same time as the members.

MATTERS RELATED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

1. This document has been submitted by the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation on behalf of the European Region.

**Doc. 10.7.1 Annex**

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Regarding a Change in Regional Representation in the Animals and Plants Committees

In order to reflect the change in the number of parties in Europe, a change in the number of European representatives from one to two should be effected in the Animals and Plants Committees. In order to achieve this, some minor textual changes are necessary in the text of Resolution Conf. 9.1 as follows:

Annex 2:

- a)i) should read “a person chosen by each of the major geographic regions consisting of North American and Oceania.”  
(the word “Europe” has been deleted)
- a)ii) should read “two persons chosen by each of the major geographic regions consisting of Africa, Asia, Europe, South and Central America and the Caribbean; and”  
(the word “Europe” has been inserted)

Annex 3:

- a)i) should read “a person chosen by each of the major geographic regions consisting of North American and Oceania.”  
(the word “Europe” has been deleted)
- a)ii) should read “two persons chosen by each of the major geographic regions consisting of Africa, Asia, Europe, South and Central America and the Caribbean; and”  
(the word “Europe” has been inserted)