

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Summary record of the second plenary session

24 September 2016: 14h00 - 17h50

Chairs: Ø. Størkersen (Norway)
M. Nkoana-Mashabane (South Africa)

Secretariat: J. Scanlon
D. Morgan
S. Flensburg

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
F. Davis
M. Jenkins
B. Price

Administrative and financial matters

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs of the meeting and of Chairs of Committees I and II

The Chair of the Standing Committee, as interim Chair of the meeting, announced that the Committee had nominated H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane (South Africa) as Chair of the meeting, H.E. Mr. Bomo Edna Molewa (South Africa) as Alternate Chair, and Mr. Cyril Taolo (Botswana) and Ms. Shereefa Al-Salem (Kuwait) as Vice-Chairs. Ms. Karen Gaynor (Ireland) and Mr. Jonathan Barzdo (Switzerland) had been nominated as Chairs of Committees I and II respectively. These nominations were accepted by acclamation. He then invited the Chair of the meeting to the podium.

H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane thanked the conference for her nomination and wished the meeting success.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda in document CoP17 Doc. 2 (Rev. 2) was adopted.

3. Adoption of the working programme

In response to a request for clarification from the Russian Federation regarding the timing of discussion on budgetary matters, the Secretariat explained that the budget would not be proposed for adoption until near the end of the meeting. The working programme in document CoP17 Doc. 3 (Rev. 2) was adopted.

4. Rules of Procedure

The Chair explained that there were three documents for consideration: CoP17 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1), Doc. 4.2 and Doc. 4.3 (Rev. 1). She indicated that the proposals contained in CoP17 Doc. 4.2 were addressed in Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1); if the latter were adopted, there would be no need to consider the former any further. She also suggested that proposals in CoP17 Doc. 4.3 (Rev. 1) be considered intersessionally. She then asked the Secretariat to introduce CoP Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1) noting that the meeting had a long agenda and imploring the Parties to use a pragmatic approach in adopting Rules of Procedure for the present meeting on the

understanding that outstanding issues would be addressed intersessionally under the guidance of the Standing Committee. She drew attention to information documents submitted by the European Union and its member States (CoP17 Inf. 9, CoP17 Inf. 20 and CoP17 Inf. 29) and the United States of America (CoP17 Inf. 10).

4.1 Report of the Secretariat

and

4.2 Proposal of Botswana and South Africa

The Secretariat introduced CoP17 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1) indicating that the proposed new Rules of Procedure contained in Annex 2 of the document were the outcome of intersessional work and incorporated comments received from a number of Parties, the originals of which were contained in CoP17 Inf. 12. No consensus had been reached on some issues, reflected by the presence of text in square brackets in Annex 2. She suggested that the meeting concentrate on the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties at this time.

The United States of America summarized its views on CoP17 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1), particularly with regard to the participation of Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIOs) in the Convention, drawing attention to guiding principles in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article XXI of the Convention, which indicated that the participation rights of REIOs should not be additional to the aggregate rights of their Member States, and that REIOs should only participate on matters within their competence. They expressed their position that a REIO vote only with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are accredited and present in the room at the time of the vote. They believed that these principles could be addressed through the adoption of the text in square brackets in proposed new Rule 9 (on quorum) and paragraph 3 of proposed new Rule 26 (on right to vote) and through the adoption of the complete text in paragraph 4 of proposed new Rule 26. They generally supported other proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure but did not support new Rule 28 (on majority) or Rule 32 (on amendment). They agreed that the Standing Committee be mandated to look at the Rules of Procedure intersessionally.

The Russian Federation, followed by China, Kuwait, speaking on behalf of the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Uganda and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported the position of the United States. China also proposed deletion of the last line in paragraph 3 of proposed new Rule 4 (on observers). Brazil indicated that they were not yet in a position to adopt the proposed new Rules of Procedure and proposed the establishment of a working group to address outstanding issues.

The European Union (EU) indicated its pleasure at participating in a meeting of the Convention as a Party for the first time. They noted that all EU Member States were present and accredited at the meeting and intended to stay throughout. They drew attention to CoP17 Inf. 29 which set out information on the distribution of voting rights between the European Union and its members States. They stated that they could not accept the bracketed text in proposed new Rule 26 and proposed instead that text from Article XXI paragraph 5 be inserted directly into the Rules of Procedure, to ensure that the latter did not illegitimately limit the rights of Parties under the Convention. Under proposed new Rule 9, they believed that rules regarding quorum should relate to specific votes and did not consider this to be reflected accurately in the text in square brackets. Canada, Germany and Mexico supported the position of the European Union.

Noting that no consensus had been reached on adoption of the Rules of Procedure, the Chair established a working group, chaired by the Chair of the Standing Committee, to address outstanding issues and report back to the meeting on the following day. The group comprised: Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, the European Union, Germany, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, the United States and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

4.3 Proposal of Israel

Israel withdrew CoP17 Doc. 4.3 (Rev. 1) on the understanding that issues raised in it would be addressed intersessionally. They implored Parties to be sparing in their use of secret ballots at meetings, as recommended in Rule 25 of the existing Rules of Procedure, believing that such ballots reduced transparency and created other problems.

5. Credentials Committee

5.1 Establishment of the Credentials Committee

The Chair of the Standing Committee reported that the following had been nominated as members of the Credentials Committee: Mr. Bandar Alfaleh (Saudi Arabia) – Chair; Mr. Rod Hay (New Zealand) to represent Oceania; Ms. Kristen Koyama (United States of America) for North America; Mr. Milan Chrenko (Slovakia) for Europe. He noted that Africa and South and Central America and the Caribbean had not yet submitted nominations and encouraged them to do so. Uganda suggested a representative of the host nation would be appropriate. The proposed committee members were accepted by acclamation.

6. Admission of observers

The Secretariat sought formal acceptance of the observers listed in the Annex of document CoP17 Doc. 6, noting that all national non-governmental agencies or bodies had provided evidence of the approval of their participation from the State in which they were located. This was agreed.

Strategic matters

10. Committee reports and recommendations

10.1 Standing Committee

10.1.1 Report of the Chair

The Chair of the Standing Committee summarized document CoP17 Doc. 10.1.1 (Rev. 1), thanking the Committee vice-Chairs and all its members, as well as the Secretariat, for their hard work and support. He drew attention to the comments from the Secretariat which would be discussed further by Committee II.

Document CoP17 Doc. 10.1.1 (Rev. 1) was noted and the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 was referred to Committee II for consideration.

10.2 Animals Committee

10.2.1 Report of the Chair

The Chair of the Animals Committee summarized document CoP17 Doc. 10.2.1. She thanked the Committee members, the vice-Chair, the alternate Chair, the Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat for their commitment, hard work and support. She also thanked the Governments of Israel and Mexico for hosting the two meetings since CoP16. She invited Parties to defer discussion of the recommendation regarding a review of the Committee's terms of reference until after agenda item 11 as the latter dealt with similar issues. This was supported by the European Union. The Secretary General thanked the Chair for her excellent leadership and the Government of Canada for supporting her, this was echoed by the European Union.

Document CoP17 Doc. 10.2.1 was noted and the recommendation contained in paragraph 35 was referred to Committee II for consideration.

10.3 Plants Committee

10.3.1 Report of the Chair

The acting Chair of the Plants Committee summarized document CoP17 Doc. 10.3.1. She thanked the Committee members, the nomenclature specialist and the Chair of the Animals Committee for their commitment, hard work and support. She also thanked the Governments of Mexico and Georgia for hosting the two meetings held since CoP16. She reported that the previous Chair and vice-Chair had stepped down after the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee.

St Kitts and Nevis noted that the report identified species that might be eligible for deletion from the Appendices and encouraged the Animals Committee to act in a similar fashion.

The Secretary General expressed his grateful thanks to the outgoing Chair, Ms. Margarita Clemente, for her 20 years of service as Chair of the Plants Committee and to the Government of Spain for their support to her; this was echoed by the European Union. He further thanked the acting Chair and the Government of Canada for their willingness to step in to complete the work of the Committee prior to CoP17.

Document CoP17 Doc. 10.3.1 was noted.

14. Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

14.1 Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 14.1, which contained two proposed decisions for adoption, on cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and other biodiversity-related conventions. He drew attention to the recommendations from the Secretariat and suggested these be discussed in Committee II.

The European Union and the United States supported the Secretariat's work with other biological Conventions and had further suggestions for textual amendments. The Chair asked that these be submitted to the Secretariat and Committee II. The Convention on Migratory Species, UNEP and Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP) also supported the Secretariat's work.

Switzerland drew attention to document CoP17 Inf. 41 prepared by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and NatureConsult on modular reporting.

The Chair noted all contributions and referred further discussion to Committee II.

14.2 International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 14.2, which reported on the implementation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). It described progress in its five Focus Areas and how ICCWC is operated and coordinated. The Annex of the document contained a series of draft decisions to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties and a tentative budget and source of funding to implement these.

Chile supported the document and reported that they had, in conjunction with the United States, produced a field manual on combatting illegal trade in both plants and animals that they would make available to the Secretariat and countries in their region.

The United States also supported the document and reported that they had provided technical and financial support. They also offered to provide specialist personnel for further support when possible. South Africa highlighted the support provided to Madagascar, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates, and, supported by INTERPOL, commended the document to the Parties. The World Bank Group was proud to be part of ICCWC and looked forward to further assistance from fellow donor agencies.

The document was noted and the recommendations in Annex 1 adopted.

20. Empowering the next generation: CITES and Youth Engagement – Report of the Youth Forum on People and Wildlife

South Africa and the United States introduced document CoP17 Doc. 20, which asked the Conference of the Parties to consider the report of the outcomes of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and the Youth and Conservation programme engagements, including any recommendations. The report will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties as an information document. The United States proposed a draft resolution and draft decisions. Israel noted that, while they supported the content of the draft resolution and decision, these could not be adopted in the current session as it would contravene Rule 20 of the existing Rules of Procedure. The Chair proposed that they be brought back to Plenary after they had been circulated and Parties given time to consider them.

Angola and India reported that they had similar programmes and, with Senegal, fully supported the initiative.

After a short presentation by the South African Minister of Tourism, the meeting adjourned at 17h 50