

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-28 August 2019

Summary record of the second plenary session

27 August 2019: 09h15 - 11h30

Chairs: T. Jemmi (Switzerland)
A. Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland)

Committee I Chair: R. Hay (New Zealand)
Committee II Chair: C. Hoover (United States of America)

Secretariat: I. Higuero
T. De Meulenaer
S.H. Flensburg
K. Gaynor
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
F. Davis
J. Gray
R. Mackenzie

Administrative and Financial Matters

4. Rules of Procedure

4.2 Review of the Rules of Procedure

The draft decision in document CoP18 Doc. 4.2, with the amendment recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 1, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted. Decision 17.1 was deleted, as agreed by Committee II.

7. Administration, finance and budget of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties

7.1 Administration of the Secretariat

Document CoP18 Doc. 7.1 was noted, as had been agreed by Committee II.

7.2 Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on administrative and other matters

Document CoP18 Doc. 7.2 was noted, as had been agreed by Committee II.

7.3 Financial reports for 2016-2019

The Chair of Committee II reported that the Committee had accepted the report of expenditures incurred in document CoP18 Doc. 7.3 and had approved the reports of implementation of the costed programmes of work for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, up to 30 June 2019. These were adopted.

7.4 Budget and work programme for 2020 to 2022

The draft resolution on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022* in document CoP18 Com. II. 18, with the amendment recorded in summary record Com II. Rec. 15, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

7.5 Access to funding, including GEF funding

The eight draft decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 7.5, with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 1, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.10 to 17.16 were deleted.

7.6 Sponsored delegates project

The draft decision in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 7.6, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

Decision 17.17 was deleted.

8. Draft resolution on language strategy for the Convention

The draft decision in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 1, with the amendment recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 12, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

9. Committee reports and recommendations

In the context of nomination of new regional and alternate members to the Convention's committees, Antigua and Barbuda noted that, at a previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties, they had raised the issue of composition of committees. They expressed particular concern about disproportionate representation of the North America region, and recommended that the Secretariat review the composition of the committees with a view to improving regional representation. The Chair indicated that this concern would be noted.

9.1 Standing Committee

9.1.2 Election of new regional and alternate regional members

Canada, Kuwait, New Zealand, Niger, Peru and Portugal, as regional representatives of the Standing Committee for their respective regions, reported Parties newly nominated as regional and alternate regional representatives to serve on the Standing Committee, as indicated with an asterisk in the table below.

Region	Regional Representative	Alternate
Africa	Morocco* Congo Ethiopia Namibia	Senegal* Chad Kenya Madagascar
Asia	China Indonesia* Kuwait	Japan Nepal Republic of Korea
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Peru Honduras* Bahamas	Brazil Nicaragua* Dominican Republic
Europe	Poland* Israel Belgium* Russian Federation	Ireland* Belarus* Spain* Georgia
North America	Canada	United States of America*
Oceania	New Zealand	Australia

These nominations were confirmed.

9.2 Animals Committee

9.2.2 Election of new regional and alternate regional members

Canada, Kuwait, New Zealand, Niger, Peru and Portugal, as regional representatives of the Standing Committee for their respective regions, announced newly nominated regional and alternate regional representatives to serve on the Animals Committee, as indicated with an asterisk in the table below.

Region	Regional Representative	Alternate
Africa	Mr. Guy Appolinaire Mensah (Benin) Mr. Pantaleon M.B. Kasoma (Uganda)	Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt)* Ms. Ngalié Maha (Cameroon)*
Asia	Mr. Giyanto (Indonesia) Mr. Ashgar Mobaraki (Iran)	Mr. Arvin C. Diesmos (Philippines) Ms. Saeko Terada (Japan)*
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Mr. Edgardo Daniel Ramadori (Argentina)* Mr. Mauro Gongora (Belize)*	Ms. Shirley Ramirez (Costa Rica)* Ms. Gloria Patricia Suazo Diaz (Honduras)*
Europe	Mr. Mathias Lörtscher (Switzerland)* Ms. Dagmar Zíková (European Union)*	Mr. Ruslan Novitsky (Belarus)* Mr. Gerald Benyr (Austria)*
North America	Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Díaz (Mexico)*	Ms. Cecilia Lougheed (Canada)*
Oceania	Mr. Hugh Robertson (New Zealand)	Ms. Sarah McIntyre (New Zealand)*
Nomenclature Specialist	Peter Paul van Dijk	

These nominations were confirmed.

9.3 Plants Committee

9.3.2 Election of new regional and alternate regional members

Canada, Kuwait, New Zealand, Niger, Peru and Portugal, as regional representatives of the Standing Committee for their respective regions, reported newly nominated regional and alternate regional representatives to serve on the Plants Committee, as indicated with an asterisk in the table below.

Region	Regional Representative	Alternate
Africa	Mr. Ali Mahamane (Niger) Ms. Aurélie Flore Pambo (Gabon)	Ms. Kirsti Nghidinwa (Namibia) Ms. Beatrice Khayota (Kenya)
Asia	Ms. Tika Dewi Atikah (Indonesia)* Mr. Byoung Yoon Lee (Republic of Korea)	Ms. Zeng Yan (China)* Ms. Shereefa Al-Salem (Kuwait)

Central and South America and the Caribbean	Ms. Fabiola Roció Núñez Neyra (Peru)* Mr. César Augusto Beltetón Chacón (Guatemala)	Mr. Fernando Olave (Chile)* Ms. Delys Albert Puentes (Cuba)*
Europe	Mr. Paulo J.L. Carmo (Portugal) Ms. Ursula Moser (Switzerland)*	Mr. David Kikodze (Georgia) Mr. Daniel Wolf (Germany)*
North America	Ms. Rosemarie Gnam (United States of America)*	Mr Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico)
Oceania	Mr. Damian Wrigley (Australia)*	Mr. Marika Vuli Tuiwawa (Fiji)

These nominations were confirmed.

The Chair noted that Ms. Ronell Renett Klopper had been nominated by South Africa as the new Nomenclature Specialist on the Plants Committee, and her appointment was confirmed by acclamation. The Chair thanked the outgoing Nomenclature Specialist on the Plants Committee, Mr. Noel McGough, for his contribution to the work of CITES.

10. CITES Strategic Vision post-2020

The draft resolution on *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 7, with amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 15, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted. Committee II had also accepted the four draft decisions in paragraph 15 b) of document CoP18 Doc. 10, with amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 1, and these were adopted.

Decisions 17.18 to 17.21 were deleted.

11. Review of the Convention

The draft decision in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 10, with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 15, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

12. Securing better implementation of marine fish species listings in the Appendices

The Chair of Committee I reported that the draft resolution in document CoP18 Doc. 12 had not been agreed and was rejected.

13. Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees*

The draft resolution on *Establishment of committees* in Annex 3 to document CoP18 Doc. 13, with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 2, and the two draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 13, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.3, 17.5 and 17.9 were deleted.

14. Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees

Document CoP18 Doc. 14 was noted, as agreed by Committee II.

Decisions 16.09 (Rev. CoP17) and Decision 16.10 (Rev. CoP17) were deleted.

15. Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

15.1 Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions

Document CoP18 Doc. 15.1 was noted, as agreed by Committee II. Extension of Decisions 17.55 and 17.56 was agreed with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 2, as accepted by Committee II. The two draft decisions recorded in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 11, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

15.2 Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

The draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources regarding trade in toothfish*, as recorded in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 20, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.50 and 17.51 were deleted.

15.3 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

The two draft decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 15.3, with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 2, as accepted in Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.53 and 17.54 were deleted.

15.4 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The draft resolution on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 3 (Rev. 1), as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

Decisions 16.13 (Rev. CoP17) to 16.16 (Rev. CoP17) were deleted.

15.5 International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

The draft decision in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 15.5, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

Decision 17.52 was deleted.

15.6 World Heritage Convention

The draft resolution on *Cooperation and synergy with the World Heritage Convention* in Annex 1 and the three draft decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 15.6, with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 3, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

16. CITES Tree Species Programme

The four draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 16, as accepted by Committee I, were adopted.

17. Rural communities

17.1 Report of the Standing Committee

17.2 Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP17) and Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

17.3 Participatory mechanism for rural communities

and

18. CITES and livelihoods

18.1 Report of the Secretariat

18.2 Proposal by Peru

18.3 Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

The Chair of Committee II explained that items 17 and 18 had been considered together. The revision of Decision 17.57 and seven draft decisions recorded in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 17, with

the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 15, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.¹

19. Food security and livelihoods

Decisions 17.41 to 17.43 were deleted.

20. Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species

The two draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 20, with amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 6, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.44 to 17.48 were deleted.

21. Capacity building and identification materials

21.1 Capacity-building and identification materials

The Chair of Committee II stated that his report of the outcomes under this item would be delivered under item 54.1

21.2 Capacity-building activities specified in Resolutions and Decisions

and

21.3 Framework to facilitate coordination, transparency and accountability of CITES capacity-building efforts

Sub-items 21.2 and 21.3 were considered together. Eight draft decisions in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 15 were adopted, as had been accepted by Committee II.

22. United Nations World Wildlife Day

The draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 17.1 on *World Wildlife Day* contained in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 22, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

The new draft decision in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 6, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

Decision 17.49 was deleted.

23. Youth engagement

The draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 17.5 on *Youth engagement* contained in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 23, with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 6, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

Decisions 17.26 and 17.27 were deleted.

Interpretation and implementation matters

Existing Resolutions and Decisions

24. Review of Resolutions

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 24 on *Review of Resolutions*. It invited the Parties to consider and adopt: the amendments to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *Submission of draft resolutions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties* in Annex 1 to the document; the amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* in Annex 2; and the amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance*

¹ Note from the Secretariat: the amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *CITES and livelihoods* in document CoP18 Com. II. 17 were also agreed, as recorded in document CoP18 Com. II Rec. 15 (Rev. 1).

procedures in Annex 3. It noted an additional amendment in Annex 3, whereby the footnote reference to Resolution Conf. 10.10 should read “Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens with respect to the provisions on the National Ivory Action Plan process*”.

The United States of America expressed support for the amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) in Annex 2 to the document, suggesting that it might be appropriate to consider similar changes to the corresponding provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*. The Chair indicated that the Secretariat would note this suggestion.

The amendments presented in Annexes 1 to 3 to document CoP18 Doc. 24, with the additional amendment by the Secretariat to the Resolution Conf. 14.3 in Annex 3, were adopted. Decision 14.19 (Rev. CoP17) was deleted.

25. Review of Decisions

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 25. In the Annex to the document, the Secretariat had recommended action to be taken in relation to certain Decisions that were not subject to recommendations under other agenda items. The European Union expressed the view that the list of reporting requirements maintained on the CITES website in accordance with Decision 17.120 was useful and important and should be kept updated and supported the incorporation of Decision 17.120 into Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP17). The United States of America wished to retain Decision 16.58 (Rev. CoP17).

It was agreed to retain Decision 16.58 (Rev. CoP17). Decisions 17.124 to 17.130 were deleted. All other recommendations in the Annex were adopted.

The Secretariat listed other Decisions to be deleted in light of discussions at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties: 17.28 to 17.30, 17.36 to 17.40, 17.119, 17.145 to 17.151, 15.87 (Rev. CoP17), 16.139 (Rev. CoP17), 16.140 (Rev. CoP17), 17.160, 17.161, 17.172, 17.201, 17.202, 17.203 to 17.208, 17.217, 17.218, 17.239, 17.240, 17.241 to 17.245, 17.259 to 263, 17.318, 17.319, 16.159 (Rev. CoP17) and 16.163 (Rev. CoP17). These Decisions were deleted.

General compliance and enforcement

26. National laws for implementation of the Convention

The six draft decisions in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 2, as amended in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 12, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.58 to 17.64 were deleted.

27. CITES compliance matters

The draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement* in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 27, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

28. Compliance Assistance Programme

Three draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 28, with the amendment recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 5, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

29. Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews

The draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 29, with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 5, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decision 17.111 was deleted.

30. Compliance in relation to Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

30.1 Report of Madagascar

and

30.2 Report of the Standing Committee

Sub-items 30.1 and 30.2 were considered together. Six draft decisions in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 8, with the minor amendment recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 15 were adopted, as accepted by Committee II.

31. Domestic markets for frequently illegally traded specimens

The amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 31, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

Revisions to Decisions 17.87 and 17.88, as set out in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 6, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

32. Enforcement matters

The amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP 17) on *Compliance and enforcement* in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 32, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

Three draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 32, with amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 6, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.83, 17.84 and 17.85 were deleted.

33. Combating wildlife cybercrime

33.1 Report of the Secretariat

33.2 Report of the Standing Committee

Sub-items 33.1 and 33.2 were considered together. The outcome was that the revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement* set out in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 6, together with draft decisions set out in the same document, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted. For clarity, these draft decisions are shown for information in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 25.

Decisions 15.57 and 17.92 to 17.96 were deleted.

34. Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

The draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, with amendments shown in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 6, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

The recommendations contained in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 were noted.

Decisions 17.97 to 17.100 were deleted.

35. Disposal of confiscated specimens

Six draft decisions in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 9, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decision 17.118 was deleted.

36. Storage and management of illegal trade data collected through the Parties' annual illegal trade reports

Amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on *National reports* as described in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 7, together with two draft decisions in the same document, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.121 and 17.122 were deleted.

37. Working conditions of wildlife rangers and their implications for implementation of CITES

Document CoP18 Doc. 37 had been considered by Committee II and was noted.

Regulation of trade

38. Designation and roles of Management Authorities

A draft resolution on *Designation and role of Management Authorities* detailed in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 5, with amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 13, as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

39. Guidance for making legal acquisition findings

A draft resolution on *Legal acquisition findings* in in-session document CoP18 Com. II. 4 with amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec 12., as accepted by Committee II, was adopted.

The three draft decisions described in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 7, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.65 to 17.68 were deleted.

40. Due diligence by CITES Parties and obligations of importing countries

Draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement* as described in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 7, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

The draft decision in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 7 was adopted.

41. Electronic systems and information technologies

The four amended draft decisions and three new draft decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 41, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.156 to 17.159 were deleted.

42. Traceability

The draft decisions proposed in Annex 1 of document CoP18 Doc. 42 (Rev. 1), with the amendments recorded in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 10, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.152 to 17.155 were deleted.

43. Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA

The four draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 43, as amended in summary record CoP18 Com. II Rec. 10, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

Decisions 17.89 to 17.91 were deleted.

44. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

44.1 Report of the Standing Committee

Five draft decisions on this subject, contained in Annex 5 to document CoP18 Doc. 44.1, as accepted by Committee I, were adopted and the non-binding guidance contained in Annex 4 of the same document, as agreed by Committee I, was adopted.

Decisions 17.178 to 17.180 were deleted.

44.2 International trade in live African elephants: Proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*

Noting that only one third of the Parties had voted on document CoP18 Doc. 44.2, the European Union, supported by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, asked to reopen debate on this item. Costa Rica opposed this motion. No other Party voiced opposition and the debate was reopened in accordance with Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure.

The European Union, identifying three areas of concern, suggested a number of amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*. They stated that these amendments were intended to ensure that the work to be carried out under document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 was conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner.

- In the last paragraph of the preamble, they suggested replacing “only certain” with best.
- In operative paragraph one they suggested the following changes:
 1. Agrees that where the term “appropriate and acceptable destinations” appears in an annotation to the listing of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix II of the Convention with reference to the trade in live elephants* taken from the wild, this term shall be defined to mean *in-situ* conservation programmes or secure areas in the wild, within the species’ natural and historical range in Africa, except in exceptional circumstances where, in consultation with the Animals Committee, through its Chair with the support of the Secretariat, and in consultation with the IUCN elephant specialist group, it is considered that a transfer to ex-situ locations will provide demonstrable in-situ conservation benefits for African elephants, or in the case of temporary transfer in emergency situations;

* Excluding elephants that were in ex-situ locations at the time of the adoption of this resolution at CoP18.

- In operative paragraph two, they suggested deleting the word “other”.

Kenya and Mali, on behalf of the African Elephant Coalition, Gabon, Jordan, Niger, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, and Togo, supported the amendments proposed by the European Union.

Zimbabwe, supported by Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Japan, the United States of America, and Zambia opposed the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) in document CoP18 Doc. 44.2 and the further amendments suggested by the European Union. Zimbabwe considered that these changes effectively amended the annotation to the Appendix-II listing of *Loxodonta africana* and reminded the Plenary that Parties had rejected this proposal during Committee I. Zimbabwe declared a dispute with Burkina Faso, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, and the Syrian Arab Republic as the proponents of document CoP18 Doc. 44.2 and with the European Union, under Article XVIII of the Convention.

Eswatini expressed concerns that the proposed amendments to the resolution would undermine the sovereign rights of Parties and would make trade in Appendix-II African elephant populations more restrictive than trade in Appendix-I populations. The United States expressed their support for allowing science to drive decision-making, but considered that Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) should not be amended until information had been collected and assessed in accordance with the Decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1.

Seeing that there was no consensus, the Chair called for a vote. South Africa raised a point of order expressing concern that the dispute declared by Zimbabwe had not been resolved ahead of the vote. This was supported by Zimbabwe.

The Secretariat remarked that a dispute had never been declared in the history of the Convention. It clarified that the mechanism for declaring a dispute was intended to address issues between two or more Parties with respect to the interpretation or application of the provisions of the present Convention and that the relevant Parties may only proceed with the dispute once discussions had been concluded on this agenda item.

The meeting adjourned at 11h30.