

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Administrative and financial matters

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON LANGUAGE STRATEGY FOR THE CONVENTION

1. This document has been submitted by the Republic of Iraq on behalf of the Arab countries.*

GREATLY APPRECIATING the generosity of the Republic of Sri Lanka to host the 18th Conference of Parties to the CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is being held after the agree in the last CoP (17) that was held in October 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa, this will be the second time for the cop to be held in South Asia after CoP8 in Japan in 1992;

CALLING that the interest of all the Arab Parties, to develop strategies that explore the Arabic Language as one of the UN languages into the Convention, in its work at national, regional, and global levels, the enhancement of synergies with multilateral environmental agreements;

REMINDING the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 3190 at its 28th session in December 1973, the Arabic language to be an official language of the General Assembly and its bodies;

APPRECIATING the work of the Secretariat and its working group on language strategy for their work in relation to the development of a language strategy for the Convention;

BEARING that adding the Arabic language provide parties with translation of the most important CITES information documents into their own official languages and to provide them to the Secretariat, so that it may make them publicly accessible on the CITES website;

CONSIDERING the use of multiple languages in the work of the Convention, the governing and subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat could: help to improve the implementation of the Convention by Parties; make the Convention more accessible to a wider public; and foster the interest and engagement of non-party States. However, as for some other conventions, budgetary constraints have precluded the provision of a language service in all six official languages of the United Nations; and

CONCERNED when seeking to fill vacancies in the Secretariat, the Secretary General should take into account the language skills of applicants, with a view to augmenting the capacity of the Secretariat to communicate in all official languages;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ACKNOWLEDGES that the use of multiple languages in the work of the Convention, the governing and subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat could: help to improve the implementation of the Convention by Parties; make the Convention more accessible to a wider public; and foster the interest and engagement of

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

non-party States. However, as for some other conventions, budgetary constraints have precluded the provision of a language service in all six official languages of the United Nations;

- 2 AGREES that the key goals for a language strategy are:
 - a) an equal language service for other official languages of the Convention at the start of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties; and
 - b) introduction of Arabic as an official language;
- 3 AGREES that, when seeking to fill vacancies in the Secretariat, the Secretary General should take into account the language skills of applicants, with a view to the capacity of the Secretariat to communicate in all official languages; and
4. FURTHER AGREES that the cost of translation of non-official documentation that results from projects or from externally funded activities should also be provided from external funds unless the Conference of the Parties specify otherwise.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

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TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The authors of this document propose the following tentative budget and source of funding.