

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

Strategic matters

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

1. This document has been prepared by the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.41 to 17.43 on *Food security and livelihoods*.
 - 17.41 *The Standing Committee shall consider the proposed resolution contained in document CoP17 Doc.17 on Food security and livelihoods.*
 - 17.42 *The Standing Committee shall invite the proponents of the resolution, in an effort to develop a revised version for consideration by the Standing Committee.*
 - 17.43 *The Standing Committee shall consider the work undertaken in Decisions 17.41 and 17.42, and make recommendations, as necessary, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. The Standing Committee at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017) established an intersessional working group on livelihoods and food security with a mandate to:
 - a) take account of the options in paragraph 6 b) and c) of document SC69 Doc. 16; and
 - b) make recommendations to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.
4. The membership of the intersessional working group on livelihoods and food security was agreed as follows: Namibia (chair), Antigua and Barbuda (original proponent), Brazil, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Indonesia, China, South Africa, United States of America, Animal Welfare Institute, NASCO, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Humane Society International, Ivory Education Institute, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Parrots Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC.
5. The working group conducted its work electronically. The Chair of the working group reported to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) that it was unable to reach a consensus between two distinct divergent views, and that more work is necessary¹. Consequently, at SC70, the Standing Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the renewal of Decisions 17.41 to 17.43.²

* *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.*

¹ See document [SC70 Doc.17](#)

² Noting that one Committee member objected to their renewal. See [SC70 Sum. 11 \(Rev. 1\)](#).

6. Consequently, at SC70 the Standing Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the renewal of Decisions 17.41 to 17.43.³

Recommendations

7. The Conference of the Parties is invited to renew Decisions 17.41 to 17.43.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat notes that the proponents of the original draft resolution⁴ were unable to develop a revised version for consideration by the Standing Committee as stipulated by Decision 17.42. The Standing Committee addressed this situation by recommending that the Decisions be carried over to the next intersessional period.
- B. The Secretariat has on a number of occasions offered to provide support to the working group, but these were not responded to. Therefore, the Secretariat does not have further information regarding the discussions of the working group apart from what was reported in document [SC70 Doc.17](#). The report seems to indicate that a fundamental disagreement on how to approach the issue remained within the working group, including the acceptability of the options given in its mandate.
- C. The Secretariat remains of the view it expressed at CoP17⁵, which was that Resolution Conf.16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *CITES and livelihoods* comprehensively addresses livelihoods and community concerns, including the issue of food security.
- D. The Secretariat notes with some concern that, if the opposing views of Parties and stakeholders remain as divergent and fundamental as they were at CoP17, simply renewing the Decisions for another three years may not lead to a better outcome. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take this into account when considering whether or not to adopt the proposed renewal of Decisions 17.41 to 17.43.
- E. Should the Conference of the Parties agree to renew Decisions 17.41 to 17.43, the Secretariat recommends that Decision 17.43 should be revised as follows:

Decision 17.43 (Rev. CoP18)

The Standing Committee shall consider the work undertaken in Decisions 17.41 and 17.42, and make recommendations, as necessary, to the 1948th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

³ Noting that one Committee member objected to their renewal. See [SC70 Sum. 11 \(Rev. 1\)](#).

⁴ See document [CoP17 Doc.17](#)

⁵ *Idem.*

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 proposed revised decisions will have no direct financial cost, but modest workload implications for the Standing Committee.