



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/045

Geneva, 29 May 2020

CONCERNING:

Postponement of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee  
and 25th meeting of the Plants Committee

1. Further to Notifications to the Parties No. 2020/020 and 2020/021 of 10 March 2020, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and following extensive deliberations between the Chairs and members of the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, it is confirmed that the face-to-face meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees will not take place as scheduled from 13-17 July and on 17 and 20-23 July, respectively.
2. The Standing Committee, after considering the concerns raised by the Secretariat related to the health and safety of participants, sanitary measures and border controls that have been or could be put in place by the Swiss and other governments, and restrictions caused to air travel, could not envisage face-to-face meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees in July 2020. The Committee further considered the options provided by the Secretariat and most were of the view that online meetings with simultaneous interpretation would not be desirable given issues related to connectivity, equitability, timing of the meetings, workload impacts due to "stay at home" orders in various countries, agendas, technology and other issues related to holding the meetings in this way.
3. Other scenarios involving short-term postponement of the meetings were also considered by the Committee, but the general view was that there were uncertainties about the ability of members to travel in the next months. Additionally, most Standing Committee members believed that extended Animals and Plants Committee meetings could be considered for 2021. The Standing Committee, therefore, advised the Secretariat to postpone the Animals and Plants Committees meetings until 2021.
4. It was also advised that, in the interim, the Animals and Plants Committee Chairs, with the members, should review their workplans and, with support of the Secretariat, consider ways for addressing the intersessional work instructed to them by the CoP in advance of the meetings to be re-scheduled in 2021.
5. The Secretariat will be communicating on the arrangements for rescheduled meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees in due course.