



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/046

Geneva, 4 June 2020

CONCERNING:

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

1. In Notification to the Parties No. 2020/045 of 29 May 2020, the Secretariat announced the postponement of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC31 and PC25 respectively) until 2021.
2. Resolution Conf. 18.1 on *Establishment of committees* affirms that all regular meetings of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee should be held in Switzerland unless a candidate host country pays the difference in costs between its proposed venue and Switzerland.
3. The conference facilities in Geneva (Centre International de Conférences Genève) generously made available to the Secretariat by the Swiss government are closed for renovation from January to June 2021. The Secretariat has been in discussion with several Parties who expressed an interest in hosting Animals and Plants Committee meetings in 2021, but no firm commitments have been received.
4. The Secretariat will be continuing to seek alternative venues in Geneva that may be able to host extended AC31 and PC25 meetings in 2021, but is also making an appeal to Parties to consider offering to host one or both of these meetings during the first half of 2021.
5. Parties should also be aware that in advising that AC31 and PC25 should be postponed, most members of the Standing Committee believed that the meetings in 2021 should be longer than normal meetings of the committees. This possibility will be discussed with any potential host country.
6. Parties are invited to express an initial interest in hosting AC31 and/or PC25 by 30 June 2020, so that detailed discussions on the financial and logistical elements can be held.