



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2021/031

Geneva, 8 April 2021

CONCERNING:

Establishment and membership of Standing Committee
intersessional working group

1. This Notification is issued at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee.
2. On 6 April 2021, using the procedure for intersessional decision-making under Rule 20 of its Rules of Procedure, the Standing Committee decided to establish an intersessional working group to consider what role, if any, CITES could play in reducing the risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with the international wildlife trade, with the following terms of reference:

Taking into account relevant materials, including the outcomes of the IPBES workshop on biodiversity and pandemics, the working group shall review the nexus between international wildlife trade and zoonotic diseases as follows:

- i) provide a summary of views on the current contribution of CITES, if any, to identifying and mitigating zoonotic disease risk;
- ii) taking into consideration the context and scope of the Convention, identify opportunities, as well as constraints on how, if anything, CITES could further support an integrated approach to animal, human and environmental health, and contribute to global efforts to reduce the risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with wildlife trade; and
- iii) report its conclusions to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.

In undertaking its work, the working group could include consideration of:

- current evidence and information gaps regarding the links between international wildlife trade and zoonosis risk, including areas where advice might be sought from the Animals Committee;
- existing Resolutions and Decisions and whether additional guidance to CITES Parties is needed; and
- the strengthening of existing cooperative relationships, or development of new relationships, between CITES and other intergovernmental organizations, including those involved in animal or public health, trade, food and transport.

3. The Committee hereby invites those Parties and observer organizations that have been accredited to attend previous CITES meetings to indicate their interest in joining the intersessional working groups indicated in paragraph 2 above. Such Parties and observers are requested to convey their interest by clicking on this link: <https://scwgzoonotic.questionpro.com>. The deadline for declaring an expression of interest through this online platform is **30 April 2021**.

4. Prior to their confirmation of membership, national non-governmental organizations should provide a letter or email from their national Management Authorities approving their participation in the working group in accordance with Rule 4.2 of the Standing Committee's Rules of Procedure. If an observer organization that has not attended past CITES meetings wishes to participate in the two new intersessional working groups, they should provide the necessary documentation outlined in Rule 4.2.
5. After this deadline, the Standing Committee will confirm the final membership of these intersessional working groups on the CITES website, ensuring respect for its Rules of Procedure concerning the balance of representation between Parties and observers, as indicated in Rule 17.1.