

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



Meeting of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland)

REPORT FOR THE 62ND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

*The Finance and Budget Subcommittee of the Standing Committee (FBSC) met in the mornings of 23 and 26 July and at the lunch break of 23 July. The present report contains the recommendations of the Subcommittee for the Standing Committee.**

Martin Krebs of the Depository Government (Switzerland) was continuing with the Chairmanship. The Secretary-General and the Administrative and Fund Management Officer were assisting the meetings of FBSC.

Representatives of all regions were present.

Agenda item SC62 Doc. 9.1

Takes note of document SC62 Doc. 9.1

- FBSC commends the Secretariat on its prudent and forward-looking budgeting and efficient use of resources;
- FBSC takes note of the over-expenditures for 2011 (estimated SC61 as 5-10 %) which is 4.38 % over the budget of USD 5.20 million and recommends to the SC to approve the expenditures for 2011 and to take note of the status of the trust fund reserve by 31 December 2011 in the amount of USD 2,298,264;
- FBSC appreciates the voluntary contributions and external funds made available by France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR (China), Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the Secretariat, as well as the European Commission as a major donor; and
- FBSC appreciates the actions made by the Secretariat to solicit for and secure unpaid contributions and recommends to the SC to urge Parties to pay their contributions promptly.

Agenda item SC62 Doc. 9.2

Takes note of document SC62 Doc. 9.2

- FBSC approves the changes in the costed programme of work for 2012 and 2013 and recommends to the SC to take note of the changes;
- FBSC notes the report on the costed programme of work for 2012 and takes note of the constraints the Secretariat faces in implementing it under resource constraints;
- FBSC appreciates the contributions made by the United Kingdom and the United States to the Secretariat for improvement of information management;

* *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.*

- FBSC notes with concern how UNEP handled the settlement agreement in relation to a personnel matter, including the access of the CITES Trust Fund, on the termination of a post at CoP15 and recommends to the SC to request the SC Chair to seek confirmation with UNEP that in the future such issues will be settled while duly respecting the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP and the CITES Standing Committee and the governance structure of the Convention; and
- FBSC notes the budgetary support offered by UNEP amounting to USD 150,000 to be used partially for the settlement of the personnel matter and the majority of the funds to be allocated to support preparations for CoP16 and the 40th anniversary of CITES, and recommends the SC to express its appreciation to the Executive Director for this allocation.

Agenda item SC62 Doc. 9.3

Takes note of document SC62 Doc. 9.3

- FBSC recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to prepare the draft budget 2014-2016 for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) in the format proposed in Annexes 2 and 3 by the Secretariat;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to work with the FBSC to further develop the format of the costed programme of work for 2014-2016, which is contained in Annex 1. In doing so, the Secretariat is directed to include an appropriate way of assigning priority rankings to activities of the Secretariat.
- FBSC recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to prepare for CoP16 a “zero real growth budget scenario” for the triennium 2014-2016 as well as a “zero nominal growth budget scenario” for the triennium 2014-2016 and to request the Secretariat for the latter to make an assessment of the consequences on the operation of the Secretariat;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to circulate the draft budget documents for CoP16 with FBSC and take account of its remarks in finalizing the documents for CoP16;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to charge the Secretariat to undertake a comparative analyses on minimal annual contributions with other conventions and on observer fees to meetings of the Conferences of the Parties and meetings of subsidiary bodies of other conventions and to make available the results of this analyses to FBSC; and
- FBSC requests the SC to assess the utility and performance of the FBSC, and in case of a positive appraisal, to instruct the Secretariat to propose an amendment of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) with a view that FBSC becomes a permanent subcommittee.

Agenda item SC62 Doc. 9.4

Takes note of document SC62 Doc. 9.4

- FBSC recommends to the SC to take note of the Secretariat’s intention to propose at CoP16 to request the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to serve as a financial mechanism of the Convention;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to take note of the Secretariat’s intention to propose at CoP16 to request the GEF to enhance the GEF biodiversity focal area by including a species-based component;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to take note that the Secretariat will engage in an outreach process; and
- FBSC recommends to the SC to take note of the Secretariat’s activities to explore the possibility of innovative finance options for the implementation of CITES and recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to regularly inform the FBSC on activities undertaken in this respect.

Agenda item SC62 Doc. 8.2

Takes note of document SC62 Doc. 8.2

- FBSC recommends to the SC that it expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director of UNEP for signing the MoU;
- FBSC notes a number of instances where UNEP has failed to comply with the terms of the MoU;
- FBSC recommends to the SC that it expresses its concerns regarding the implementation of the MoU and requests the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure that UNEP fully complies with the MoU; including paragraphs 4, 5, 18, 24 and 34;
- FBSC is of the firm opinion that the CITES Secretariat is entitled to accrued programme support costs (PSC) funds under the agreement reached between UNEP and the SC at its 45th meeting (Paris, June 2001) and it notes that UNEP has refused to release these funds; and
- FBSC recommends to the SC to charge the Chair to communicate the above to the Executive Director of UNEP and to request him as well that UNEP fully honours the agreement reached at SC45 on the PSC and allocates all of the accrued PSC funds from June 2001 to 31 August 2011 to the CITES Secretariat in accordance with the agreement.