

**REPORT OF THE 39TH MEETING
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS**

Bergen, Norway, 25 November 2011

Agenda item 1: Introductory remarks

1. Opening the meeting, the outgoing Chair, Mr Mohammad Saud A. Sulayem (Saudi Arabia), expressed the honour he felt in welcoming the newly elected members of the Standing Committee. He conveyed his thanks to the Executive Secretary for her warm words during the final Plenary Session of COP10 and noted his appreciation of the friendly working atmosphere during the COP.

2. Mr Sulayem referred participants to document UNEP/CMS/StC39/Doc.1 *Provisional Agenda*, which was approved without amendment.

Agenda item 2: Election of officials to fill the posts of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee for the triennium 2012-2014

3. Mr Sulayem referred participants to document UNEP/CMS/StC39/Inf.1 *Rules of Procedure* and recalled that under Rule 12 it was the responsibility of the incoming Standing Committee to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members. He opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chair of the Standing Committee for the triennium 2012-2014.

4. The representative of Pakistan nominated Mr Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana), as Chair of the Standing Committee.

5. This nomination was seconded by Chile, Mali, New Zealand, Poland and South Africa, and approved by acclamation.

6. Mr Sulayem invited nominations from the floor for the position of Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee for the triennium 2012-2014.

The representative of Germany nominated Mr Øystein Størkersen (Norway), as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee.

7. This nomination was seconded by Chile, Mali, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa Uganda and Ukraine, and approved by acclamation.

8. Mr Sulayem, formally handed over his responsibilities to the newly elected Chair of the Standing Committee, Mr Oteng-Yeboah.

9. Mr Oteng-Yeboah said that he was honoured to accept the trust and responsibility placed in him and he praised the leadership shown by his predecessor. He noted that the new Standing Committee was coming to office at a difficult time

financially and that this represented an additional challenge for Parties in putting COP decisions into practice. He pledged that he would continue to operate a transparent management system and would work in pursuit of the mandate set out by the Joint COP Working Group on Budget and Future Shape.

Agenda item 3: Date and Venue for the 40th Meeting of the Standing Committee

10. Mr Bert Lenten (Deputy Executive Secretary) stated that the arrangements for the 40th Meeting of the Standing Committee would be confirmed as soon as possible, but that the meeting would probably be held in October 2012, in Bonn, Germany.

Agenda item 4: Any other business

11. Mr John Mshelbwala (Nigeria), the outgoing Chair of the Scientific Council, introduced Mr Fernando Spina (Italy), the incoming Chair. Mr Spina said that he had been surprised and honoured to be elected, that he looked forward to continuing to work on behalf of CMS, and that he would seek guidance, as appropriate, from the Standing Committee during the course of his duties.

12. The newly elected Vice-Chair, Mr Øystein Størkersen, recalled that Resolution 10.5 had established an Intersessional Working Group (IWG) to oversee the preparation of the new CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023. He noted that the Standing Committee would need to lead the process for appointing the members of the IWG.

13. The Chair instructed the Secretariat to send a notification to Parties calling for nominations from each regional grouping for the IWG on the Strategic Plan. The same should be done for any other COP10 decisions requiring the establishment of a Working Group or Task Force.

14. The representative of Mali stressed the importance of capacity building and especially the need to train young people to take on the implementation tasks required under CMS. Many Parties currently lacked the means to optimize their capacity; it would therefore be important for the Small Grants Programme to support such initiatives.

15. Acknowledging the importance of this issue, the Executive Secretary commented that the Secretariat and Scientific Council could provide guidance on applying to the Small Grants Programme. The Secretariat was working with Parties to develop capacity building activities within the limited resources at its disposal. UNEP played an important role in environmental capacity building and would be able to provide further advice.

16. The Chair instructed the Secretariat to circulate the Terms of Reference setting out the duties and responsibilities of Standing Committee members, as well as any other relevant information on Standing Committee procedures, so that all members could be fully prepared for future meetings.

Agenda item 5: Closure of the meeting

17. There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 19.15.

ANNEX 1 to StC39 report

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(as at 14 October 2011)

1. Introductory remarks
2. Election of officials to fill the posts of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee for the triennium 2012-2014
3. Date and Venue for the 40th Meeting of the Standing Committee
4. Any other business
5. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX 2 to StC39 report

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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