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|  | CONVENTION ONMIGRATORYSPECIES | UNEP/CMS/COP12/CRP2226 October 2017 |

**REVISING THE FORMAT FOR NATIONAL REPORTS**

(UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.19.2)

*(Prepared by the Ad Hoc Working Group)*

DRAFT DECISIONS

***The Conference of the Contracting Parties***

12.AA Decides

(a) to convene an informal advisory group immediately after the close of the 12th meeting of the COP for the intersessional period to COP13, to provide constructive yet robust feedback on the proposal(s) made by the Secretariat for revision of the National Report Format.

(b) that the informal advisory group shall be composed of Parties to the Convention on the basis of the same regions as the Standing Committee, with a maximum of two representatives per region while the Chairs of the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council shall be ex-officio members of the informal advisory group. Partner organizations and relevant MEA Secretariats will also be invited to participate in the informal advisory group discussions.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

12.BB Taking account of advice from the informal advisory group, the Secretariat shall develop a proposal to be submitted to the Standing Committee at its 48th meeting for a revision of the Format for the national reports to be submitted to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently, which shall as a minimum seek to achieve the following:

(i) improve the ability of national reports to provide information on progress towards implementation of the Convention and to serve as one of the sources of information for [the review mechanism established by Resolution [XX]];

(ii) address the request in paragraph 10 of Resolution 11.2 as well as the recommendations emerging inter alia from the Strategic Plan Working Group concerning improved alignment of the National Report Format with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, and improving the ability of national reports to provide information on assessing progress towards the achievement of the targets contained in that Plan, without creating additional reporting burdens for Parties;

(iii) take account of the lessons learned and recommendations arising from the analyses presented of the national reports submitted to COP11 and COP12 respectively;

(iv) take account of the other suggestions for improvements to the National Report Format contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.27;

(v) take account of the views of a representative selection of Parties (ideally from all UN Regions) convened to provide constructive yet robust feedback on the proposal(s) made;

(vi) resulting in an overall shortening and simplification of the format; and

(vii) where feasible and to the extent appropriate, achieving improved synergies with the reporting processes of instruments within the CMS Family and with those of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

12.CC The Standing Committee is requested to:

(a) consider and if appropriate endorse the proposals produced by the Secretariat further to Decision 12.BB above for a revision of the National Report Format, so that it can be issued at least a year (preferably more) in advance of the deadline for submission reports to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and make any appropriate recommendations to COP13 concerning the National Report Format, including on its subsequent use; and

(b) consider whether it may be desirable, subject to the availablity of resources, to develop and produce guidance to accompany any revised National Report Format and/or any other related capacity-building support to assist Parties in compiling their reports according to the revised format.