



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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13th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 4

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP)**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document contains the revised Rules of Procedure as instructed in Decision 12.1 *Rules of Procedure* adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (COP12, Manila, 2017).

The Secretariat has reviewed the consistency and order of the Rules of Procedure. The document proposes amendments to the current Rule 22. It also proposes a new order for adoption at this meeting.

Rev.1 recommended that Rule 5 and 6 be amended to incorporate the role of the CMS COP Presidency.

Rev. 2 further clarifies this role and the process for the election of officers.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP)

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (COP12, Manila, 2017) adopted new *Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Conference of the Parties* and Decision 12.1 on *Rules of Procedure*. Decision 12.1 on *Rules of Procedure* provides the following:

12.1 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *Review the consistency, order and presentation of the Rules of Procedure;*
 - b) *Submit the revised Rules of Procedure to the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting for adoption.*
2. The Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting also adopted Resolution 12.1 *Presidency of the Conference of Parties*, which states that the host country of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be designated as the Presidency for the intersessional period following the meeting it hosted.

Implementation of Decision 12.1

3. The Secretariat reviewed the consistency of the Rules of Procedure. It found that one minor clarification would be useful regarding Rule 22 *Submission of Resolutions and Decisions*, which is reflected in the proposed amendment contained in Annex 1.
4. The Secretariat also recommends that Rule 5 be amended to incorporate the role of the current COP Presidency as Chair of the Meeting until the meeting elects a new Chair.
5. The Secretariat also reviewed the order of the Rules of Procedure and recommends a new order as contained in Annex 2.
6. During the intersessional period, the Standing Committee at its 48th meeting considered and adopted several refinements for the submission of proposal to amend the appendices of the Convention ([UNEP/CMS/StC48/Report](#)). These were reflected in the Secretariat's guidance to Parties on preparation of proposals and would not, in the Secretariat's view, require additional changes to the Rules of Procedure.
7. Pursuant to Decision 12.1 (b), the Secretariat is now submitting the revised Rules of Procedure for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting.
8. If the Parties adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure, the changes will apply with immediate effect.

Recommended actions

9. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a). adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure as included in Annex 1.
 - b). adopt the proposed new order of the Rules of Procedure as contained in Annex 2

ANNEX 1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.

[Rule 5]: Election and Duties of Chairs

1. ~~The Chair of the Standing Committee~~ A representative of the current COP Presidency, or in their absence, the Chair of the Standing Committee, shall act as Chair of the meeting until the meeting elects a Chair in accordance with Rule 5, paragraph 2 (a)
2. The Conference in its first session shall elect from among the representatives of the Parties:
 - a) a Chair of the Conference;
 - b) a Chair of the Committee of the Whole, who shall also serve as Vice-Chair of the Conference; and
 - c) a Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Whole.
3. The Chair of the Conference and the Chair of the Committee of the Whole shall preside over sessions of the Plenary and the Committee of the Whole respectively in the capacity of Presiding Officer and shall have no voting power.
4. If the Chair of the Conference or the Chair of the Committee of the Whole is absent or is unable to discharge his/her duties, the respective Vice-Chair shall ~~deputize for him/her~~ act as Presiding Officer until the Chair returns.

[Rule 6]: Bureau

1. The Officers listed in Rule 5 paragraph (2), together with the Chairs of the Scientific Council and the Standing Committee, and, the members of the Standing Committee and the Chair of the Scientific Council shall constitute the Bureau of the Conference with the general duty of ensuring the effective enforcement of the Rules of Procedure and forwarding the business of the meeting including, where appropriate, altering the timetable and structure of the meeting and specifying time limits for debates.

Submission of documents**[Rule 22]: Submission of Resolutions and Decisions**

3. All proposed Resolutions and Decisions that include a scientific element shall be submitted by the Executive Secretary to the Scientific Council for scrutiny of their scientific and technical accuracy at least 120 days prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Scientific Council shall provide appropriate advice to the Standing Committee on ~~all~~ such proposed Resolutions and Decisions.

PROPOSED NEW ORDER OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

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