



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Report of the 17th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Geneva, Switzerland, 16 April 1997

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Agenda Item 1: Opening remarks

1. On Wednesday, 16 April 1997, the Standing Committee held its 17th meeting at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Palais des Nations, following the closure of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. The brief meeting was attended by representatives of all members of the Committee, i.e. (1) those beginning their second term of office: Saudi Arabia (Asia) and the Netherlands (Europe); (2) those newly appointed by the Conference of the Parties: Guinea (Africa), Uruguay (America and the Caribbean), and the Philippines (Oceania); and (3) Germany (Depositary). In addition, a number of alternate regional members were present as observers. The Committee agreed that Germany should chair the meeting in view of the expiry of the term of the former Chair (Australia).
3. The only agenda item under consideration was the election of the Committee's Chair and the Vice-Chair for the forthcoming term. The representative of Asia (Saudi Arabia) was elected Chair by consensus. The representative of Europe (Netherlands) was elected Vice-Chair, also by consensus. In accepting their nominations, the representatives undertook to work closely with the other Committee members and the Secretariat to progress the work of the Convention.
4. It was agreed that the Chairman should convene the next ordinary meeting of the Committee after consulting the other members, through the Secretariat. February 1998 was considered to be an appropriate time to hold the meeting.
5. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 16:15.