



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.17

26 November 2025

Original: English

15th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026
Agenda Item 17

ELECTION OF PARTIES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

In accordance with Resolution 9.15 *Composition and Organisation of the Standing Committee*, the Secretariat has prepared guidance for Parties regarding the election of regional and alternate members to the Standing Committee.

ELECTION OF PARTIES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

1. The Secretariat has prepared this note to assist Parties in their deliberations for the election of members to the Standing Committee to serve during the period from the close of the 15th meeting to the close of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. Resolution 9.15 outlines the composition and organization of the Standing Committee. In paragraph 2(k), it states that “[t]he membership of the Committee shall be renewed at every ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties”. Regarding its composition, it states the following:
 2. (a) *The Membership of the Standing Committee shall be agreed at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with the Conference’s Rules of Procedure (but also see 2 (l) below)¹ and shall comprise:*
 - (i) *three Parties elected from each of the geographic regions (a) Africa and (b) Europe;*
 - (ii) *two Parties elected from each of the geographic regions (a) Asia and (b) South and Central America and the Caribbean;*
 - (iii) *one Party from each of the geographic regions (a) North America and (b) Oceania;*
 - (iv) *the Depositary and Host Government of the host of the Secretariat; and*
 - (v) *where appropriate, the Host Government of the next and previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties.*
 - (b) *Each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) also shall elect twelve regional representatives to serve as alternate members and, in particular, to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee in the absence of the member of the region for which they are alternate member.*
 - (c) *The term of office of regional members and alternates shall expire at the close of the next ordinary meeting of the COP following the meeting at which they were originally elected. Regional members may not serve more than two consecutive terms of office (...)*

¹ Resolution 9.15, Paragraph 2(l): *If a regional representative or alternate resigns from the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall organise a ballot among all Parties from that region to elect a successor, the voting system described in the COP ROPs being adopted mutatis mutandis.*

3. The table below indicates the 11 regional representatives currently serving as members of the Standing Committee.

Current Regional Members of the Standing Committee			
Region	Country	First elected to the Standing Committee	Eligible for further term
Africa	Algeria	2020 – COP13	No
	Kenya	2020 – COP13	No
	Zimbabwe	2024 – COP14	Yes
Asia	Bahrain	2024 – COP14	Yes
	India	2024 – COP14	Yes
South & Central America & the Caribbean	Panama	2020 – COP13	No
	Uruguay – Vice-Chair	2020 – COP13	No
Europe	United Kingdom - Chair	2024 – COP14	Yes
	Italy	2020 – COP13	No
	Monaco	2020 – COP13	No
Oceania	New Zealand	2020 – COP13	No

4. From the above table, it is clear that seven new regional representatives will need to be elected as members of the Standing Committee, as they have completed two consecutive terms. If proposed by the regions, Parties may agree at the COP to replace members that have only served one term of office, if they so wish.
5. As per Resolution 9.15, paragraph 2(b), the COP shall also elect 11 regional representatives to serve as alternate members and, in particular, to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee in the absence of the member of the region for which they are an alternate member. There is no time limit for service in this role. The current list of alternates is as follows:

Current Alternate Members of the Standing Committee	
Region	Country
Africa	Seychelles
	Uganda
	Morocco
Asia	Maldives
	Bangladesh
South & Central America & the Caribbean	Costa Rica
	Peru
Europe	Croatia
	France
	Montenegro
Oceania	Cook Islands

6. Under Rule 1.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee (StC), the members of the Committee shall elect its Chair and Vice-Chair from among themselves at the first meeting of the StC following each regular meeting of the COP.

7. Parties should also be aware that, at the meeting of the StC immediately following COP15, a Finance and Budget Subcommittee will be established from among the members of the StC, with one country representative from each of the CMS regions nominated by the region, and that the Subcommittee shall elect a Chair from among its members.²

Recommended actions

8. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
- a) consult within regional groups and determine which Parties will be nominated as regional or alternate members of the Standing Committee; and
 - b) elect the regional and alternate members of the Standing Committee, in accordance with Resolution 9.15, under Agenda item 17 of COP15.

² As per Paragraph 1(e) of Resolution 9.15, and Paragraph 1(a) and (b) of Annex 4 of Resolution 14.2 *Financial and Administrative Matters*.