



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.4

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RESTRUCTURING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)

Aware of the provisions of Article VIII of the Convention and *recalling* the establishment by Resolution 1.4 of the Scientific Council, made up of members appointed by the Conference of the Parties and members appointed by individual Contracting Parties;

Also recalling the provisions of Resolutions 3.4, 4.5, 6.7, 7.12 and 8.21, dealing with various aspects of the composition, functions and operation of the Scientific Council;

Acknowledging the fundamental contribution to the implementation of the Convention made by the Scientific Council since its establishment;

Further recalling that the Future Shape process undertaken during the triennium 2009-2011 identified the restructuring of the Scientific Council as one of the sixteen target activities for CMS, as outlined in Resolution 10.9 on Future Structure and Strategies for CMS and the CMS Family, and Resolution 10.1 on Financial and Administrative Matters; and

Welcoming the document prepared by the Secretariat on options for a revision of the operational organization of the Scientific Council (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.17.1);

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. *Reaffirms* that the Scientific Council will continue to be composed of members appointed by individual Parties (Party-appointed Councillors) and members appointed by the Conference of the Parties (COP-appointed Councillors);
2. *Further reaffirms* that Parties will continue to appoint qualified experts as members of the Scientific Council and that Party-appointed Councillors will continue to contribute to the work of the Council in their expert capacity and not as representatives of the Parties that appointed them;
3. *Decides* that, for each intersessional period between two consecutive meetings of the Conference of the Parties, a representative selection of the membership of the Scientific Council, to be named the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, should be identified,

composed of COP-appointed Councillors, and Party-appointed Councillors selected regionally, to be appointed at each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the basis of a recommendation from the Secretariat in consultation with the Standing Committee;

4. *Further decides* that, for future triennia, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council will be composed of:

- i) Nine COP-appointed members with expertise in taxonomic and thematic issues; and
- ii) Fifteen Party-appointed members selected within the Standing Committee geographic regions, as follows: three from Africa; three from Asia; three from Europe; three from Oceania; three from South and Central America and the Caribbean;

5. *Decides* that Sessional Committee members shall normally be nominated for a minimum term of two triennia; half of the first appointees shall be nominated for a single triennium. Each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, starting from the 12th Meeting (COP12), will decide upon the renewal of half of the membership of the Sessional Committee, in order to balance continuity and renewal;

6. *Decides* that, in appointing members to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council from the pool of Party- and COP-appointed Councillors, the Conference of the Parties shall aim to achieve all of the following goals:

- i) a balanced scientific representation of expertise in taxonomic and cross-cutting thematic areas;
- ii) a selection of individuals with a broad understanding of key scientific issues and concrete experience in translating science into policy in their regions; and
- iii) coverage of the predicted scientific expertise needed by the Convention for the next triennium;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide for a consultative process, including Party, scientific and expert advice, in order to elaborate its recommendation in consultation with the Standing Committee to the Conference of the Parties on the composition of the Sessional Committee, observing the goals stated in the previous paragraph;

8. *Encourages* Party- and COP-appointed Councillors not included in the Sessional Committee to contribute to the work of the Scientific Council, coordinate with Sessional Committee members and participate in working groups, including through meetings and the interactive tools available to the Scientific Council, as well as to pursue activities at the national level;

9. *Requests* the Standing Committee at its 44th Meeting, in order to facilitate the convening of the first meeting of the Sessional Committee before COP12 to intersessionally select and appoint the Sessional Committee members in accordance with the procedure set out in Paragraphs 6 and 7;

10. *Decides* that, for all the effects and purposes outlined in Article VIII of the Convention and relevant resolutions, the advice, recommendations, and all other outputs of the Sessional Committee shall be considered by the Conference of the Parties and all relevant governing bodies as products of the Scientific Council itself;
11. *Instructs* the Secretariat to develop Terms of Reference for the Scientific Council, in consultation with the Council itself, with a view to their submission to the Standing Committee at its 44th Meeting for review and provisional adoption, pending their final adoption by COP12;
12. *Requests* the Scientific Council, with advice from the Secretariat, to develop and establish a revision of its Rules of Procedure, as well as elements of its *modus operandi* in accordance with this resolution;
13. *Mandates* the Standing Committee to approve the revised Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Council;
14. *Requests* the Scientific Council to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to COP12; and
15. *Decides* to evaluate the results of the present restructuring of the Scientific Council with a view to confirm or review it during COP14.