



**Convention on the
Conservation of Migratory
Species of Wild Animals**

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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: STANDING COMMITTEE

1. The Standing Committee was established by Resolution 1.1. Its functions and composition were fundamentally redefined by Resolution 2.5 and further refined by Resolution 3.7.
2. Resolution 1.1 recognised the usefulness of a small group acting as a permanent advisory committee for the Convention's implementation and allocated the committee certain tasks and determined its composition.
3. Resolution 2.5 reconstituted the Standing Committee, redefining its roles and its composition - consisting of no more than seven members including the Depositary, the Host of the next COP and a wide geographical spread of representatives. The term of office for geographically nominated countries was fixed to expire at the close of the second ordinary meeting following that at which they were nominated.
4. Resolution 3.7 revised the composition of the Committee, establishing five geographical regions (Europe, America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Oceania) all of which were to be represented along with the Depositary and the Host of the next COP. The concept of alternate geographical members was introduced.

Current Membership

Members, Regions and year of election						
Region/Role	Member	94	97	Alternate	94	97
Africa	Guinea		✗	South Africa		✗
America and the Caribbean	Uruguay		✗	Argentina		✗
Asia	Saudi Arabia (Chair)*	✗	✗	Pakistan*	✗	✗
Europe	Netherlands (Vice-Chair)*	✗	✗	Poland		✗
Oceania	Philippines		✗	Australia		✗
Depositary	Germany	permanent member				
Host of COP6	South Africa	serves single term only				
* Term of office will expire at the end of COP6 under the present rotation system						

Elections to the Standing Committee

2. Resolution 2.5 sets the number of terms served by geographically-based members of the Standing Committee (including alternates) at two COPs (i.e. a member elected at COP1 stands down at COP3). Except in Oceania, with just two Parties, it is not customary for countries to seek re-election.

3. The Conference of the Parties is invited to examine the current rotationsystem to determine whether or not some fine-tuning is required. In the interest of continuity, for example, it would be preferable that no more than three and no fewer than two full members stand down at any given time. Under the present regime, one can observe from the table on the previous page that only one alternate will have completed two terms by COP6, whereas at COP7 four of the five alternates will have to be replaced. It may also be the case that an alternate member serves two terms without ever being called upon to attend a Standing Committee meeting.

4. Consideration might therefore be given to a more radical amendment to the procedures so that after having served as *alternate* member for the *first* half of the term, the country concerned would automatically become the *full* member for its region for the *second* half. (i.e. a country elected at COP6 would serve as alternate until COP7 and as full-member until COP8 when its term would expire). Under this proposed system, a country would become familiar with the Standing Committee's work by receiving papers during the period served as alternate (and, on occasion, being called upon to substitute for the full member), before assuming the role of full member in the second half of their term. Unlike the present set-up, where alternates might never attend a Standing Committee meeting, the new arrangement ensures an equitable rotation of members.

5. Under this procedure, the countries from each region would continue to constitute separate regional electorates, each choosing one of their members to serve on the Standing Committee. However, the countries would serve one term as member and one term as alternate, instead of two terms as member or alternate. For this system to be fully implemented, the terms of full members and alternates would have to be de-synchronised (this is presently an issue for every region except Europe, where the full member and alternate's terms conveniently expire at different times).

6. If the COP were to adopt this approach and agree to introduce the new system straight away, some alternates would need to stand down early or to extend their terms in order to maintain continuity

in the full membership and to assure an appropriate number of new alternates (i.e three) to take on the role of full members at COP7. One such hypothetical scenario (others could be envisaged) is outlined below:

Region	Current Member	Action to be taken at COP6	Alternate member	Action to be taken at COP6	New alternate
Africa	Guinea (1997-	Continue until COP7	South Africa (1997-	Stand down	to be elected at COP6
Asia	Saudi Arabia* (1994 - 1999)	Stand down	Pakistan (1994- 1999)	Become <i>full</i> member until COP7	to be elected at COP6
America and the Caribbean	Uruguay (1997-	Continue	Argentina (1997-	Continue as alternate until COP7; then become <i>full</i> member	---
Europe	Netherlands** (1994-1999)	Stand down	Poland (1997-	Become <i>full</i> member until COP7	to be elected at COP6
Oceania	Philippines (1997-	Continue until COP7	Australia (1997-	Continue until COP7*	---
Depositary	Germany (permanent)	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Host of next conference	To be decided by COP	Automatic	N/A	N/A	N/A

* By then, it is hoped that there will be at least one more Party from Oceania, which would take over from Australia as alternate, and Australia would become the full member (until COP8)

7. Thus, the Standing Committee until COP7 would be constituted as follows (continuing members in **bold** type and alternates in parentheses):

Guinea (new alternate to be elected); Pakistan (new alternate to be elected); **Uruguay** (Argentina); Poland (new alternate to be elected); **Philippines** (Australia); Germany; and the next host country.

After COP7, the Committee would comprise:

Argentina, Australia, and Germany; the three (former) alternates elected at COP6 from the regions of Africa, Asia and Europe; and the next host country.

8. The Standing Committee will be invited to consider this paper at its meeting on 9 November before the COP, and to decide whether it merits consideration by the Conference of the Parties with or without any further adjustment.