



Rules of Procedure of dialogue meetings

(as approved by the Standing Committee at its 53rd meeting, Geneva, June-July 2005)

Representation

Rule 1

Each Party that is a range State of an extant population of the species (or group of species) to be discussed shall be entitled to be represented at a dialogue meeting by a representative and an alternate representative, who shall be government officials designated to attend by the Management Authority of the Party that they represent.

Rule 2

Other Parties and organizations (including donors) may be represented by observers only if their attendance is approved by the representatives of the range States.

Rule 3

The CITES Secretariat shall participate in dialogue meetings in order to advise the Parties and to serve as Secretary and organizer of the meeting.

Rule 4

Following the recommendations of the range States, the Secretariat may invite intergovernmental organizations and other technical experts to attend a meeting as resource persons.

Chairman

Rule 5

The Chairman of the Standing Committee shall serve as the Chairman of each CITES dialogue meeting. If he/she is unable to serve, he/she should appoint the Vice-Chairman or Alternate Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee to serve in his/her place or identify a Chairman who is acceptable to the range States.

Vice-Chairmen

Rule 6

Two Vice-Chairmen for each meeting shall be elected from among the participants.

Decisions

Rule 7

All decisions of dialogue meetings shall be made by the representatives of the range States. In the absence of a representative, the alternate representative shall for all purposes serve in his/her place.

Rule 8

Decisions shall as far as possible be made by consensus. Where this is not possible, this should be indicated in the final communiqué of the meeting, which may indicate majority and minority views.

Communications

Rule 9

No record is kept of the discussions that take place at dialogue meetings and they should be considered as confidential. Consequently, participants should not communicate with the media or with organizations that are not participating, or have not participated, in a dialogue meeting concerning the statements made by other participants.

Rule 10

A communiqué from each meeting shall be drafted by the Secretary in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, and shall be presented for agreement. Such communiqué, if agreed, shall serve as the official record of the outcome of the meeting, and shall be made available in the three working languages of the Convention. Communiqués shall be formally presented at the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.

Final provisions

Rule 11

These Rules of Procedure have been established by the Standing Committee, which may amend them at any time.

Rule 12

In matters not covered by the present Rules, the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee that are currently in effect shall apply as far as practicable.