



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/079

Geneva, 31 October 2018

CONCERNING:

Election of Regional Members of the Standing Committee and of Members of the Animals and Plants Committees

1. The selection of Regional Members and Alternate Regional Members of the Standing Committee and of the Animals and Plants Committees takes place at regional meetings held during the regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The selected Members and Alternates are formally elected by the Conference of the Parties, which also appoints the nomenclatural specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees.
2. A list of the current Regional Members of the Standing Committee and of the Members of the Animals and Plants Committees is presented in Annex 1 to this Notification. The names of the Members whose term ends at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 23 May to 3 June 2019) appear in italics. The Secretariat notes that the formal term of Members chosen by the Standing Committee to fill intersessional vacancies is taken to begin at the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. It should be noted that, although the nomenclatural specialists are not selected by the regions, they have been included in the table in Annex 1, as the process for seeking candidates applies to their positions as well.
4. The Conference of the Parties has adopted guidelines regarding the process to be followed for the selection of the above-mentioned Members and Alternate Members. These are contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17). Paragraphs 3 and 5 of that Resolution, regarding regional representation in the Standing Committee and regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees respectively, are included in Annex 2 to this Notification for ease of reference.
5. It should be noted that the candidatures for membership of these Committees should be submitted at least 120 days before the meeting at which the elections are to take place, i.e. by **23 January 2019** for elections to take place during CoP18.
6. With regard to candidatures for membership of the Standing Committee, the Conference has indicated that these should be submitted through the Secretariat. Therefore, any candidatures received from Parties by the deadline will be sent to all Parties in the region concerned.
7. With regard to candidatures for membership of the Animals and Plants Committees, it should be noted that the Conference has indicated that proposals for candidates should be supported by the relevant governments in order to ensure as far as possible that they will obtain the necessary means to undertake their activities. The Conference of the Parties has further decided that the names of the candidates, their *curricula vitae* and a declaration of interest disclosing any current financial interest that might call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a Member or Alternate Member of the Committee, should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned. To facilitate this communication, any such candidatures received from Parties by the deadline of 23 January 2019 will be circulated accordingly by the Secretariat.

Annex 1

Committee Members and Alternate Members for election/re-election

Members and Alternate Members whose term ends at the close of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties are indicated in *italics*.

STANDING COMMITTEE

Member	Alternate
Africa	
– <i>Niger</i>	– Morocco
– Congo	– Chad
– Ethiopia	– Kenya
– Namibia	– Madagascar
Asia	
– China	– Japan
– <i>Indonesia</i>	– Nepal
– Kuwait	– Republic of Korea
Central and South America and the Caribbean	
– Peru	– Brazil
– <i>Guatemala</i>	– <i>Honduras</i>
– Bahamas	– Dominican Republic
Europe	
– <i>Hungary</i>	– <i>Poland</i>
– Israel	– <i>Albania*</i>
– <i>Portugal</i>	– <i>Belgium</i>
– Russian Federation	– Georgia
North America	
– Canada	– Mexico
Oceania	
– New Zealand	– Australia

* At CoP17 the spokesperson for the European region explained that it had agreed that Albania would only serve as an alternate for Israel for one intersessional period

ANIMALS COMMITTEE

Members and Alternate Members whose term ends at the close of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties are indicated in *italics*.

Member	Alternate
Africa	
– Mr. Guy Appolinaire Mensah Benin	– <i>Mr. Moustafa Fouda</i> <i>Egypt</i>
– Mr. Pantaleon M. B. Kasoma Uganda	– <i>Ms. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka</i> <i>Uganda</i>
Asia	
– Mr. Giyanto Indonesia	– Mr. Arvin C. Diesmos Phillipines
– Mr. Ashgar Mobaraki Iran	– <i>Mr. Nobuo Ishii</i> <i>Japan</i>
Central and South America and the Caribbean	
– <i>Mr. Marcel Enzo Calvar Agrelo</i> <i>Uruguay</i>	– <i>Mr. Néstor Herrera</i> <i>El Salvador</i>
– <i>Mr. Paul Edward Ouboter</i> <i>Suriname</i>	– <i>Mr. José Alberto Álvarez Lemus</i> <i>Cuba</i>
Europe	
– <i>Mr. Mathias Lörtscher</i> <i>Switzerland</i>	– <i>Mr. Simon Nemtzov</i> <i>Israel</i>
– Mr. Vincent Fleming United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	– Ms. Dagmar Zíková European Union
North America	
– Ms. Rosemarie Gnam United States of America	– Ms. Carolina Caceres Canada
Oceania	
– Mr. Hugh Robertson New Zealand	– Mr. Troy Makan New Zealand
Specialist on zoological nomenclature	
– Mr. Peter Paul Van Dijk	

PLANTS COMMITTEE

Members and Alternate Members whose term ends at the close of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties are indicated in *italics*.

Member	Alternate
Africa	
– Mr. Ali Mahamane Niger	– Ms. Kirsti Nghidinwa Namibia
– Ms. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo Gabon	– Ms. Beatrice Khayota Kenya
Asia	
– <i>Mr. Edwino S. Fernando</i> <i>Philippines</i>	– <i>Mr. Joeni Setijo Rahajoe</i> <i>Indonesia</i>
– Mr. Byoung Yoon Lee Republic of Korea	– Ms. Shereefa Al-Salem Kuwait
Central and South America and the Caribbean	
– <i>Ms. Vera Teresinha Rauber Coradin</i> <i>Brazil</i>	– <i>Ms. Karina Ramírez</i> <i>Peru</i>
– Mr. César Augusto Beltetón Chacón Guatemala	– <i>Ms. Delys Albert Puentes</i> <i>Cuba</i>
Europe	
– Mr. Paulo J.L. Carmo Portugal	– Mr. David Kikodze Georgia
– <i>Mr. Maurizio Sajeve</i> <i>Italy</i>	– Ms. Ursula Moser Switzerland
North America	
– Ms. Adrienne Sinclair Canada	– Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz Mexico
Oceania	
– <i>Mr. Greg Leach*</i> <i>Australia</i>	– Mr. Marika Vuli Tuiwawa Fiji
Specialist on botanical nomenclature	
– <i>Mr. Noel McGough</i>	

* Mr Greg Leach resigned with effect from the close of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Extract from Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

Regarding regional representation in the Standing Committee

3. RECOMMENDS that the following guidelines be implemented:

a) Selection of regional members and alternate regional members

- i) In the selection of regional members and alternate regional members, the following considerations should be taken into account:
 - A. for regions with one member and one alternate member, a rotation in the selection is recommended; and
 - B. for regions with more than one member and one alternate member, the selection should try to achieve a balanced representation (geopolitical, cultural, ecological);
- ii) The regional candidatures should be officially submitted by the interested Parties through a governmental channel, at least 120 days before a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. These candidatures should be communicated to all the Parties of the region through the Secretariat;
- iii) If more candidatures are submitted than there are positions available for any region, a vote should take place in a session of the Parties of that region to be held during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. To be elected, a candidate should obtain an absolute majority (i.e. more than half the votes). Only the delegations duly accredited by the Conference should have the right to vote. The election should take place during the second week of the meeting; and
- iv) The election of a member and of the alternate should take place at the end of the term of office of their predecessors, in accordance with the above-mentioned procedure, through successive votes during a single process; and

b) Timing of replacement of members and alternate members

- i) The terms of office of the regional members and their alternates shall commence at the close of the regular meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting thereafter;
- ii) For regions with one member and one alternate member, the selection should occur at every second meeting; and
- iii) For regions with more than one member and one alternate member, to guarantee some continuity, not all members and alternate members should be changed at the same meeting;

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Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees

5. RECOMMENDS that the following guidelines be implemented:

a) Election of the candidates

- i) Parties proposing candidates as representatives should confirm, at the time of nomination, that the candidate will be supported and that they will obtain the necessary means to undertake their activities;
- ii) The names of the proposed candidates, and their *curricula vitae*, should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned at least 120 days before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the representatives will be elected. Although not regional representatives the same process should apply to candidates seeking election as specialists on botanical and zoological nomenclature;
- iii) Ideally the candidates should be associated with a Scientific Authority, have adequate knowledge of CITES and receive sufficient institutional support to carry out their duties. This information should also be included in the *curricula vitae*; and
- iv) As long as the representatives are persons, a Party shall not be accepted as a proposed candidate subject to a later identification of the person concerned by the Party; and

b) Timing of replacement of regional members and alternate members

- i) The procedure should be the same as that described above for the Standing Committee;
- ii) As alternate members are alternates of specified members, they should be elected at the same time as the members;
- iii) If a region wishes to re-elect a member or alternate member, there is nothing to prevent it from doing so; and
- iv) in the event that no nominations be received before the deadline the incumbent shall remain, if so willing and able, as an representative until a replacement is elected; and

c) Conflict of interest

A "conflict of interest"¹ refers to any current financial interest which could significantly impair the individual's impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a member of the Committee. A candidate's employment by itself does not automatically constitute a conflict of interest:

- i) Parties proposing candidates as members or alternate members are to request that, together with their names and *curriculae vitae*, each candidate provides a declaration of interest which should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned at least 120 days before the meeting of the Conference by the Parties at which the representatives will be elected. In that declaration, the candidate should disclose any current financial interest that might call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a member or alternate member of the Committee;

¹ Conflict-of-interest policies in scientific assessment bodies typically make a distinction between "conflict of interest" and "bias", which refers to a point of view or perspective that is strongly held regarding a particular issue or set of issues.

- ii) Following an election, the declaration of interest and the *curriculum vitae* of each member and alternate member shall be made available by the Secretariat to the Chair and the members of the Committee concerned, and to the Chair of the Standing Committee;
- iii) Each member shall, at the beginning of each meeting of the Committee, declare any financial interests that he or she considers calls into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the agenda for that meeting of the Committee. If a member has declared such an interest, he or she may take part in discussions but not in the decision-making regarding the agenda item in question. If the member is the subject of the potential conflict of interest, he or she shall not chair the meeting or sub-meeting for the agenda item in question; and
- iv) When taking part in meetings or seminars outside the CITES framework, the members and alternate members should specify that their interventions are not made on behalf of the Committee or of any CITES body, unless specific instructions have been issued by the Committee to that effect;