



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2019/025

Geneva, 26 April 2019

CONCERNING:

Postponement of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18)
and 71st and 72nd meetings of the Standing Committee (SC71 and SC72)

1. Further to Notification to the Parties No. 2019/024 of 21 April 2019.
2. Following the tragic events which occurred in Sri Lanka on 21 April 2019, the Secretariat has consulted the Standing Committee about the implications for CoP18, SC71 and SC72.
3. Following this consultation, the Secretariat notifies Parties that CoP18 and the associated SC71 and SC72, which were due to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 22 May to 3 June 2019 are hereby postponed. The Government of Sri Lanka has graciously accepted this postponement.
4. In the coming weeks, the Secretariat will work with the Government of Sri Lanka to make new arrangements for the meetings and inform the Standing Committee as soon as possible. The Secretariat remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the conference and all meeting participants. In view of the circumstances, the Secretariat is also liaising closely with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.
5. To ensure smooth administration for the meetings when they are held, the Secretariat requests Parties and observers to conclude any remaining activities relating to registration and submission of credentials. Consequently, when new dates for the meetings are agreed there will be a need only to make any necessary corrections to the existing situation and not to re-register and resubmit information again. The Secretariat will be in touch with all sponsored delegates directly about their travel arrangements.
6. The Secretariat thanks all Parties and observers for their cooperation and understanding in these difficult circumstances.