

Conf. 13.8

(Rev. CoP16)*

Participation of observers at meetings of the Conference of the Parties

RECOGNIZING that Article XI, paragraph 7, of the Convention provides for the participation of observers at meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

RECOGNIZING the valuable contributions of observers to meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

RECALLING Decisions 11.14, 11.70, 11.71, 11.73, and 11.124 to 11.128 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000);

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

DECIDES that any body or agency that informs the Secretariat of its desire to be represented at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties and that wishes to be considered as an international agency or body in accordance with Article XI, paragraph 7 (a), should be registered by the Secretariat only if it demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Secretariat that it is:

- a) qualified in protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and flora; and
- b) an organization in its own right, with a legal persona and an international character, remit and programme of activities;

INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to apply Rule 3, paragraph 5, of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties such that it may not accept any additional names of observers of bodies and agencies (other than the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies) after the six-week deadline, and that it may not accept any changes in the names after this deadline except where a body or agency has registered no more than two observers before the deadline and the Secretariat is satisfied that the person whose name is to be replaced is prevented from attending through force majeure;

RECOMMENDS that:

- a) in selecting venues for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties make every effort to ensure that these have space for observers on the floors of the halls for the plenary sessions, Committee I and Committee II; and
- b) the Secretariat and the Host Country of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties make every effort to ensure that each State, agency or body that is represented at the meeting by observers is provided with at least one seat on the floor in the meeting rooms of the plenary sessions, Committee I and Committee II, unless one-third of the Party representatives present and voting object;

INSTRUCTS the Presiding Officers at plenary sessions and sessions of Committee I and Committee II:

- a) to make every effort to allow observers time in the sessions to make interventions; they may give them a time limit for speaking if necessary and encourage them not to be redundant in speaking on a particular issue; and
- b) when possible, to invite knowledgeable observers to participate in working groups of Committee I and Committee II; and

* Amended at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

INSTRUCTS the Secretariat not to provide sponsorship through the Sponsored Delegates Project to any representative of a Party at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties who is also an observer for a non-governmental organization.