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Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

57. The Information Management Strategy

The Secretariat gave a presentation highlighting the main points of document Doc. 11.57 and asked for endorsement of the Strategy.

The delegation of Switzerland suggested that the Secretariat make a video explaining CITES to be included in the information pack. Document Doc. 11.57 was supported by the delegations of Chile, China and Mexico. The delegations of Liberia and Sierra Leone asked whether the Secretariat would provide the computer hardware and software to which the Secretariat replied that there were other external donor agencies that would be more suitable to approach. The delegation of Mexico asked whether it would be possible to access the main database included on the CD-ROM so that it could be incorporated into their own systems. In response to a question from the delegation of Poland, the Secretariat explained that the data were in the public domain and could therefore be copied and distributed.

The Strategy was approved.

18. Interpretation and implementation of Article III, paragraph 5, Article IV, paragraphs 6 and 7 and Article XIV, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, relating to introduction from the sea

The chairman of the working group introduced documents Com. 11.17 and Com. 11.18, being a draft resolution and a draft decision respectively. He stressed that the delegations of Iceland, Japan, Mexico and Norway and the observers from the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) and the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA) had participated in the working group but were opposed to the documents.

The delegation of Portugal on behalf of the Member States of the European Union expressed support for the documents and at their request the observer from the European Commission read out some proposed amendments to the draft resolution in document Com. 11.17. They noted that the operative part consisted of recommendations rather than legally binding measures and therefore suggested that the first paragraph of the operative part should be amended from "AGREES that" to RECOMMENDS that, and that the word "means" in the same sentence should read is understood to mean. Similarly they suggested changing the paragraph beginning "AGREES FURTHER" to begin RECOMMENDS FURTHER and that the words "shall be" in the same sentence should be replaced by is.

The document, including the amendments from the observer from the European Commission, was supported by the delegations of Brazil, Canada, Fiji, the United States of America and Vanuatu and the observer from Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL). The delegation of New Zealand noted that they were generally supportive of the document but had not received guidance from their Law of the Sea lawyers and suggested additional intersessional work.

The document was opposed by the delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, China, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Saint Lucia, Tunisia, Uruguay and Venezuela and the observers from the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations and OLDEPESCA. Their main objection was that they believed the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and regional fisheries management agreements should deal with the issue.

At the request of the delegations of Antigua and Barbuda and Japan, document Com.11.17 with the amendments proposed by the observer from the European Commission was put to a vote by secret ballot.

The result of the secret ballot, from which 11 Parties abstained, was 36 votes in favour and 50 against. The draft resolution was therefore rejected.

34. Conservation of and control of trade in Tibetan antelope

The delegation of China referred to document Com.11.5 (Rev. 1), a draft resolution prepared by a working group. The delegation of the United Kingdom said that they did not believe the document tackled internal sale adequately and suggested a number of editorial amendments under "RECOMMENDS", these being:

- in paragraph a) include the words (including internal sale) between "eliminating commercial trade" and "in Tibetan antelope";
- in paragraph c) delete "illegal" and insert after "trade" (including internal sale); and
- in paragraph d) insert internal or external between "into" and "trade" at the end of the paragraph.

The delegation of the United Kingdom also suggested amending paragraph a) under "URGES" by inserting or sale after "processing" and inserting and products at the end of the paragraph.

The delegation of the United States of America sought clarification on "parts and raw materials" in paragraph d) under "RECOMMENDS" and suggested adding e.g. wool and hides after "raw materials". Finally, they suggested deleting "provide" in paragraph a) under "DIRECTS" and replacing it with seek external.

The delegation of Portugal on behalf of the Member States of the European Union said they agreed with the document but suggested including legal in paragraph d) under "RECOMMENDS" between "non-Parties where" and "stocks". The delegation of India requested that and consuming be added to paragraph a) under "URGES" after "processing".

The delegations of Belgium and Mexico expressed concern over the accuracy of the translation of the draft resolution into French and Spanish respectively.

In response to a query from the delegations of Indonesia and Suriname, supported by the delegation of South Africa, regarding the suggested amendment to include internal sale into the draft resolution, the delegation of India said that reference to internal sale was merely a recommendation and was not an operative aspect of the draft resolution. The Chairman concluded that adherence was at the discretion of Parties. There being no further comments, the amended document was agreed with the reservations by the three Parties.

50. Use of microchips for marking live animals in trade

The Secretariat introduced document Com.11.20, and drew particular attention to the footnote and the draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.2 regarding information on microchip transponders.

Various Parties suggested a number of amendments and a vigorous debate ensued on the relative merits of these. The Secretariat agreed with the inclusion of CONSIDERING in the preamble and a new paragraph under "RECOMMENDS" but offered to re-draft the document together with the delegations of Belgium and the Czech Republic, and the delegation of Portugal on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

52. Movement of sample crocodylian skins

The Secretariat introduced document Com.11.24 and explained that the only amendment was the reference to sample reptile skins and other related products. The delegations of Ecuador and Spain asked for clarification regarding the accuracy of the Spanish translation. The Committee approved the document.

58. Potential risk of wildlife trade to the tourism industry

The delegation of Kenya withdrew document Doc. 11.58.

Documents Com.II. 11.06 and Com.II. 11.09 were approved with amendments. Document Com.II. 11.08 was approved without amendment. The session was closed at 11h55.