Establishment of the Pro Tempore Secretariat

1. The First Conference of the Parties agrees to establish a Pro Tempore Secretariat.

2. The Conference of the Parties is pleased to accept the proposal made by Costa Rica to act, direct and operate a Pro Tempore Secretariat for a period of two (2) years and to undertake the functions and duties described in Article VI of the Convention, as well as any other function and duty assigned by the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the interim nature of the arrangement and the availability of resources.

3. The Pro Tempore Secretariat shall carry out mainly the following duties and responsibilities assigned by the Parties:

   a. Supporting, organizing and participating in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies, working in conjunction with the host country of the meeting, as appropriate;

   b. Coordinating and facilitating communications among and between Parties and observers;

   c. Making available to the Parties in the working languages all reports, recommendations and decisions adopted, and any other documents necessary for the work of the Parties;

   d. Administration of the Inter-American Convention Special Fund (IACSF), according to the guidelines agreed by the Parties; and,

   e. Other such duties and responsibilities as approved by the Parties.

San José, Costa Rica, August 2002