



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Fourth Conference of the Parties

April 23rd-24th, 2009 – San José, Costa Rica

CIT-COP4-2009-R1

Naming of the Pro Tempore Secretary in Exceptional Circumstances

CONSIDERING Article VI of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, which contemplates the establishment and outlines functions of a Secretariat, and the urgent necessity of naming a Secretary who can continue immediately to support the work within the framework of this Convention;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that at the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties held in Lima, Peru, in October 2007, the terms of reference for the Establishment and Functioning of the Secretariat in a Permanent Manner were approved by Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1, but left unresolved in that resolution the issue of the nationality of the Secretary.

CONSIDERING that the Government of the United States offered to host the Pro Tempore Secretariat in its country for a period no longer than four years, as indicated in Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R4; and

CONSIDERING that the Pro Tempore Secretariat currently faces exceptional circumstances, including the expiration of the current Pro Tempore Secretary's term, which requires the immediate appointment of a new Pro Tempore Secretary to carry out the duties established in Article VI of this Convention, the uncertainty of the permanent location for the Secretariat, and the absence of candidates who were nationals of the Contracting Parties.

The IV Conference of Parties of the Convention agrees:

1. To eliminate the brackets established in numeral 5 of Annex I and numeral I of Title I of Annex II of the terms of reference for the IAC Secretariat, Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1, in order to reflect the consensus of the Parties that the Secretary shall be a national of one of the Parties. Consequently, in the future, only nationals of the Parties will be eligible to become Secretary.
2. To approve for one time, in response to the current exceptional circumstances, the possibility of naming a Secretary Pro Tempore of the IAC that is not a national of one of the Parties, but is a national of a Signatory state until the next COP, or for a maximum period of two years. This shall not be considered in terms of setting a precedent for the future.
3. To use the criteria for qualifications established in Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1 of the First Extraordinary Meeting in Lima to interview the candidate(s) considered under the current exceptional circumstances.
4. To instruct the current Chair of the Conference of Parties that in the case that a new



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Pro Tempore Secretary is not named under the current exceptional circumstances, there will be a renewed summoning to search for a Pro Tempore Secretary in accordance with the terms of reference adopted in Lima in the First Extraordinary Meeting in Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1.

5. In the case that the terms of numeral 4 is applied, the criteria established in rule 5.5 of the Rules of Procedure will be used and the selection process for a new Pro Tempore Secretary will not exceed a period of sixty calendar days.
6. To request the Pro Tempore Secretariat to initiate the procedure outlined in CIT-COPE1-2007-R1 to determine the naming of the Permanent Secretary at the next Conference of the Parties. The candidates for this position shall be nationals of one of the Parties.