

**Final reports of the Chairs of retired working groups:
Transition Committee**

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited to take note of the report.

1. At its 13th meeting (COP13) the Conference of Contracting Parties, through Resolution XIII.3 on *Governance of the Convention*, decided to retire the working groups listed in Annex 1 of the same Resolution, and invited the Chairs of these subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to provide to the Standing Committee the final report on the outcome of the work of their subsidiary body, to be posted on the Convention website by the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee.
2. The final report of the Transition Committee is overleaf.

Report of the Chair of the Transition Committee 2015-2018

In 2008, COP10 at Changwon established a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group through Resolution X.4, to enable the outgoing officers of the Standing Committee to inform the incoming officers of its customary practices and pending issues. Paragraph 7 of the Resolution states that the Transition Committee shall be composed of the outgoing and newly-elected Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Standing Committee and Chairs of the Subgroup on Finance, with the Deputy Secretary General *ex officio*, and that it will be chaired by the incoming Chair of the Standing Committee. Finally, it urges the members of the Transition Committee to ensure that any financial consequences that may be associated with this briefing session will be as limited as possible.

Uruguay, as host of COP12 and Chair of the Standing Committee during the period 2015-2018, and in accordance with Resolution X.4, organized a meeting of the Transition Committee immediately after assuming the Chair of the Standing Committee, together with the delegations of Romania and South Africa, the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair respectively. At that meeting Romania announced, as expressed in Resolution XII.4 paragraph 9, that the outgoing Executive Team (Romania, South Africa and Canada) would continue with its mandate to monitor compliance with the 360-degree evaluation process of the then Secretary General, Mr. Christopher Briggs, and that its recommendations should be applied by the new Executive Team. This process culminated in the resignation of the Secretary General, after which a new process began for the recruitment of his successor.

In 2018, on the occasion of COP13 in the United Arab Emirates, the delegations of Uruguay and the host country held a bilateral meeting in their respective capacities of outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Standing Committee, in order to consider matters related to the items on the Standing Committee agenda, their functions and the roles of the Contracting Parties in that framework. The outgoing Vice Chair of the Standing Committee and the Secretary General of the Convention were informed of the meeting.