



**SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF
THE CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND • 15-19 APRIL 2008**

PC = Plants Committee • AC = Animals Committee • SC = Standing Committee • RC = Resolution Conf. • CoP = Conference of the Parties

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Opening of the Meeting		No document	No comment
No Document			
2. Rules of Procedure		(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)	
2.1	2.1 Current Rules of Procedure PC17 Doc. 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains the Rules of Procedure adopted at PC16 in Lima, Peru, 2006 	See comments under PC17 Doc. 2.2 below
2.2	2.2 Proposed Amendments PC17 Doc. 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of committees resolves that, <i>“the Animals and Plants Committees shall adopt their own Rules of Procedure, which shall, however, be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee as far as is practicable.”</i> Draft Rules of Procedure for meetings of the AC and PC were presented by the Committee Chairs at CoP14. This document contains the draft presented to CoP14 with minor amendments proposed by the Secretariat. 	<p>Support in part / Oppose in part the following paragraphs of the proposed Rules of Procedure:</p> <p>Rule 7 (1): <i>“...Bodies, or agencies or organizations should be represented by one delegate only.”</i> SSN <u>opposes</u> this text as NGOs may have representatives each with technical expertise on different issues.</p> <p>Rule 7 (2): <i>“...The right of any such observer to participate shall be withdrawn if so agreed by the Committee in the time period between the publication of this list and the beginning of the meeting.”</i> SSN <u>opposes</u> this rule as it could be applied arbitrarily to limit NGO participation in the meetings. The proposed rule undermines the authority of the Chair to invite attendees based on their expertise. It is more restrictive and less transparent than that applied at meetings of the CoP, at which any decisions on the exclusion of NGOs may be adopted no earlier than the first day of the meeting and must be supported by the one third of the representatives present and voting (Rule 2 of the rules of procedure for the CoP). SSN believes that it is inappropriate for a technical committee to be less transparent than the CoP on any matter relating to observer participation.</p> <p>Rule 17: <i>“Meetings of the Committee shall be called at the request of the Chairman or of a simple majority of the members.”</i> SSN <u>supports</u> this language but also supports retention of the text in the current Rules of Procedure which states that <i>“the Committee shall normally meet at least once every year.”</i></p> <p>Rule 19: <i>“Notice of meetings shall normally be given by the</i></p>

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			<p><i>Secretariat at least 90 days in advance of the meeting.</i>” SSN <u>supports</u> this change from 105 days in the current Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>Rule 20: “<i>Documents to be considered at a meeting shall be provided to the Secretariat by Parties, or by members of the Committee, at the latest 75 days before the meeting ...</i>” SSN <u>supports</u> this change from the 90 days in the current Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>Rule 26: “<i>In cases where a member or alternate member of the Animals and Plants Committee has a financial or personal interest that could call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding a subject to be discussed by the Committee, he or she must disclose the interest to the Committee in advance of the discussions. Following any such disclosure and where appropriate after consultations with the Secretariat, the member or alternate member may participate in the discussion but not in the making of any decision with regard to the subject.</i>” SSN <u>supports</u> the inclusion of this language as the Members of the Committee are individuals and not representatives of government and, therefore, may have financial or personal interest in the decisions of the AC or PC.</p> <p>Rule 30: SSN <u>encourages</u> the Committee to retain the text from the current Rules of Procedure (current Rule 24) that has been deleted in Rule 30: “<i>A concise executive summary of the decisions of the Committee shall be prepared...that will include reports of the working groups in the language in which they were produced.</i>” Working group reports are a vital part of the CITES record for Parties, observers and the public especially considering that the summary is so brief.</p>
3. Adoption of the agenda and working programme			
3.1	3.1 Agenda PC17 Doc. 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional agenda for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption 	No comment
3.2	3.2 Working Programme PC17 Doc. 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional working programme for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption 	No comment
4. Admission of observers No document		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	No comment
5. Regional reports			No comment

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<p>PC23 Doc. 5.3-5.5</p> <p>6. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.7 directs the AC and PC to evaluate the need to further review and revise the terms of reference in RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of the Committees for presentation to CITES CoP15. The Secretariat provides a chart of instructions from CoP14 to the AC and PC for the period between CoP14 and CoP15. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> the following changes to the terms of reference of the AC/PC in Annex 2 of RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) in order to bring the text in line with RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species (additions <u>underlined</u>, deletions strikethrough): “f) <u>establish a list of those taxa included in Appendix II that are considered as being subject to significantly affected by levels of trade, and review and assess all available biological and trade information including comments by the range States on these taxa to:</u> “i) <u>exclude all species for which there is adequate information to conclude that trade is not having a significant detrimental effect on their populations Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) are being implemented;</u> ii) <u>formulate recommendations or remedial measures for those species for which trade is believed to be having a detrimental effect there are possible problems relating to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a).”</u>” SSN <u>recommends</u> that the instructions from CoP14 should be addressed by the PC and AC under the related agenda items
<p>7. Cooperation with advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 7</p>	<p>Reports on the activities of the Secretariat and the Chairs of the AC and PC in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2007 CSAB meeting agreed that it may be valuable for conventions to adopt, endorse or use guidelines developed by other conventions CITES Secretariat suggests this include RC 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on the CBD’s <i>Addis Ababa principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity</i> and harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature of species For the next CSAB meeting in May 2008, the secretariats will prepare a summary of guidelines which might be adopted, endorsed or used by the conventions <u>2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIP is an initiative led by UNEP-WCMC, with US\$3.6 million of funding from the Global Environment Facility, to streamline biodiversity indicators for the 2010 biodiversity target The CITES Secretariat was asked to be the key indicator partner for the ‘Status of species in trade’ element of the indicators of sustainable use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions:</u> SSN generally <u>supports</u> discussions on harmonizing nomenclature of species among the conventions. SSN also welcomes the recognition that “guidelines from other conventions (and other organizations) [i.e. including CITES] could also be more widely adopted” and <u>encourages</u> the CITES Secretariat and the AC and PC to promote CITES within other conventions, particularly the CBD. SSN recalls that RC 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) applies to non-detriment findings and as such is specific to CITES, but considers that the advice in Annex 2 should be made known to the advisory bodies of other conventions. SSN <u>believes</u> that other conventions could utilize relevant provisions of CITES including, recognition that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wild fauna and flora are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth (CITES Preamble) species should be maintained throughout their range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystems in which it occurs (Article IV) any living specimen should be so handled as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment (Article III, IV, V) the Precautionary Approach should be applied in cases of uncertainty (RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP14))

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicators are scheduled to be developed by the end of 2009 and the Secretariat will keep the Committees advised of progress ▪ Secretariat recommends that interested Committee members and observers offer comments and advice on the development of the indicators • <u>International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of governments, and inter-and non-governmental organizations, including the CITES Secretariat. Most recent meeting held in November 2007. ▪ The Steering Committee recommended that urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a means and enhancement of existing institutions, to provide an objective source of information about biodiversity change and its impacts on ecosystem services and human well-being ▪ The Committee invited the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider establishing an international interface between science and policy to address these objectives <p><u>Conclusion:</u> The AC and PC are invited to identify volunteers to offer guidance on the development of indicators for the sustainable use of species in trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the fundamental principle in decision-making regarding the level of sustainability must be scientifically based (RC 14.7) • <u>2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership:</u> The BIP website states that the 'status of species in trade' element "<i>monitors changes in the species threatened by international trade, as listed in the Appendices of CITES</i>" and proposes that "<i>trade data can be used to identify trends in a variety of aspects of sustainable use, including production rates of sustainable and non-sustainable commodities or species, the source and quantity of specimens from specific areas, and trends in harvest rates of species. For example, changes in the CITES Appendices can denote a change in the perceived or actual threat posed by international trade, acting as an indirect proxy for changes in threats to the survival of the species in question</i>" (www.twentyten.net). SSN is concerned by these statements. The CITES Appendices do not reflect whether permitted trade in a listed species is sustainable, nor can trade data alone indicate sustainability. SSN <u>recommends</u> that the CITES scientific committees have a formal role in the development of these indicators. • <u>International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity:</u> no comment. • <u>Conclusion:</u> Recalling that "<i>the proper implementation of Article IV is essential for the conservation and sustainable use of Appendix-II species</i>" (RC. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)), indicators for sustainable use of species in trade should be based on the text of CITES and its Resolutions, with emphasis on Article IV requirements. SSN <u>recommends</u> that the CITES scientific committees have a formal role in the development of these indicators.
8. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species			
8.1	8.1 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade PC17 Doc. 8.1	<p><i>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, adopted at CoP13 and a discussion paper on the evaluation, including an overview of species selected • Invites the AC and PC to determine how an advisory working group will be established and to instruct the Secretariat on further steps needed to undertake the evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>encourages</u> the AC and PC to invite observer organizations to join the advisory working group. • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC and PC select species, including species that have been selected more than once, to be used as case studies in the evaluation. We believe that case studies will best illustrate problems associated with the Review. • The establishment of an accessible database of the relevant information concerning the species that were subject to the

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8.2	<p>8.2 Progress report on the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 8.2</p>	<p>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Madagascar 	<p>Review of Significant Trade is vital to the evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>commends</u> Madagascar for their significant efforts to improve CITES implementation SSN is concerned that little information is provided on the process or standards for the making of non-detriment findings. SSN, however, commends Madagascar for its intention to post information on their quota-setting methodology online to promote transparency, and encourages other CITES Parties to follow this example. SSN is concerned that the report states that there is no telephone or Internet in the offices of the head of the department responsible for conservation of biodiversity, nor in the offices of the Customs officials. Such services should be a priority for funding. SSN encourages the AC to recommend that the CITES Secretariat, and the broader CITES Community, assist Madagascar in finding funding sources for long-term assistance with logistics SSN believes that a country-based Review is a valuable exercise but that it should not replace or diminish the capacity of the AC and PC to conduct species-based Reviews
8.3	<p>8.3 Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 8.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the PC to note a report that presents an a brief summary of the status of reviews undertaken after CoPs 11, 12, and 13 	<p>Noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recalls that the Secretariat indicated at AC19 that it had hired a consultant to develop an “Access database containing all relevant information concerning the animal species that were subject to the Review of Significant Trade.” SSN encourages the Secretariat to make this database available on-line so that problems involving Article IV implementation, recommendations made, and actions taken for these species can be reviewed by all interested Parties.
8.4	<p>8.4 Species selected following CoP13</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 8.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides reports on the biology and management of and trade in <i>Christensonia vietnamica</i>, <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i>, <i>Pachypodium bispinosum</i>, <i>Pachypodium succulentum</i>, <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>, <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i> and <i>Taxus wallichiana</i>, and provides a preliminary categorization of these species in compliance with paragraphs h) and i) of RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13). The AC is requested to review these reports and responses, revise the categorizations provided and, to formulate recommendations for species of urgent concern and of possible concern. 	<p><i>Christensonia vietnamica</i> (orchid): SSN <u>encourages</u> the PC to classify this critically endangered species as of Urgent Concern even though no wild trade has been reported since 2003, and to recommend that Vietnam adopt a zero quota for wild exports: SSN also agrees with the Secretariat’s recommendation that this species should be considered for listing in Appendix I, and encourages the PC to recommend that Vietnam sponsor such a proposal for the next CoP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The species may now be extinct in the wild Until 2003, approximately 95% of the global trade of <i>C. vietnamica</i> was in wild specimens The species is not protected in Vietnam

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No non-detriment findings have been made <p><u>Myrmecophila tibicinis (fluteplayer's or cow horn orchid):</u> SSN <u>supports</u> the classification of this species as of Possible Concern and encourages the PC to request Belize to clarify the taxonomic status of the orchids currently being exported as well as to provide information on the impact of trade as no surveys have been undertaken to assess the species' status in the wild</p> <p><u>Pachypodium bispinosum (succulent shrublet):</u> SSN <u>supports</u> the classification of this species as of Possible Concern. We note that no population studies have been carried out to determine the impact of the harvest or to make non-detriment findings for this species.</p> <p><u>Pachypodium succulentum (bottle tree):</u> SSN <u>encourages</u> the PC to classify this species as of Possible Concern. Though the species is estimated to have an extensive range (over 300,000 km²) and anecdotal information indicates that it is common or very common in at least parts of this, no concrete population data are available.</p> <p><u>Pterocarpus santalinus (red sandalwood):</u> SSN <u>supports</u> the classification of this species as Urgent Concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classified as Endangered by IUCN • The species is traded internationally in large volumes; smuggling and illegal felling are of significant concern • All exports are recorded as artificially propagated though it is unclear if cultivation is meeting current demand • Prior to CoP 14, extracts were not included in the Annotation covering this species. This has meant that a significant proportion of the trade, including that in powder, was outside of CITES trade controls prior to September 2007, when an amended annotation covering extracts came into effect • Significant imports are recorded as having originated from non-range States <p><u>Rauvolfia serpentina (snakewood):</u> SSN <u>encourages</u> the PC to classify the populations of India, Myanmar, and Thailand as of Urgent Concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within India, the species is believed to have declined by more than 50% between 1985 and 1995; though all exports have been

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			<p>reported as artificially propagated, illegal harvests are reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian customs data include very substantial imports of “serpentine roots” from Myanmar that are not reported to CITES. It is very likely that these are <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>. Myanmar states that they have never issued permits for these exports. • No scientific surveys of this species have been undertaken in Myanmar • No details of how non-detriment findings have been made were available from Thailand, the largest exporter <p><i>Taxus wallichiana</i> (Himalayan yew): SSN <u>supports</u> the classification of this species as of Possible Concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The export of wild specimens of <i>T. wallichiana</i> from India has been prohibited since at least 1996. This prohibition would not appear to apply to formulations in which product of the species concerned is present in unrecognizable and physically inseparable form, or to finished products. • There are continuing reports of illegal harvest of <i>T. wallichiana</i> in India • Paclitaxel (a compound derived from this and other <i>Taxus</i> spp. used in anti-cancer medications) produced and exported from India may be based on <i>T. wallichiana</i> from Nepal (reported as <i>T. baccata</i>) and therefore should have been reported under CITES. The PC should seek to clarify the source of <i>Taxus</i> exports from Nepal.
8.5	8.5 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP14 PC17 Doc. 8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminds the PC that RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species directs the PC <i>inter alia</i> to select species of priority concern for review. • Provides a summary of annual recorded net level of exports for Appendix-II species over the five most recent years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>encourages</u> the PC to include <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> (bigleaf mahogany) in the Review as concerns remain as to whether Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), is being correctly implemented.
8.6	Progress report of regional representatives on seven Asian species PC17 Doc. 8.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.20 directs the range States of <i>Cistanche deserticola</i>, <i>Dioscorea deltoidea</i>, <i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>, <i>Picrorhiza kurrooa</i>, <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>, <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i> and <i>Taxus wallichiana</i>, the regional representatives for Asia on the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to ensure: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN is concerned that no responses were received to CITES Notification No. 2007/033 and recommends that the PC adopt a proactive approach to obtaining responses (perhaps by asking the PC regional representatives to make direct contact with each relevant range State) • SSN notes that <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>, <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>, and

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	<p>a) implementation of regionally coordinated actions to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in the seven species and</p> <p>b) submission of progress reports at the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No responses were received to an October 2005 CITES Notification (No. 2007/033) reminding Parties to submit the above information for discussion at PC17 	<p><i>Taxus wallichiana</i> are addressed under PC17 Doc. 8.4.</p>
<p>9. Review of the use of source code 'R'</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 9</p>	<p>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.52 directs the AC/PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtain information on the management program for species to which source code 'R' is applied review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching and identify common elements in these programs based on this review, propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code 'R' to CoP15 Provides data on all exports of specimens of species with the source code declared as 'R', for the years 1991-2005 and requests the AC/PC to select countries using the code on a regular basis so that the Secretariat may request information on the management programs for these species AC/PC are invited to decide how they will review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> that the following countries using the R code be requested to supply additional information on their management programs: Australia (<i>Ornithoptera</i> spp.), Benin (reptiles), Cuba (<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>), Ghana (reptiles), Honduras (reptiles), Indonesia (butterflies), Italy (<i>Acipenser</i> spp.), Madagascar (reptiles and amphibians), Macedonia (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>), Nicaragua (birds, amphibians), Peru (birds, reptiles, fish), Papua New Guinea (butterflies), Turks and Caicos Islands (<i>Strombus gigas</i>), Togo (reptiles), Tanzania (reptiles), Uzbekistan (<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>). While this represents a fair diversity of fauna taxa, the AC/PC may inquire of Parties present if they have examples of management systems for plants that might resemble ranching.
<p>10. International expert workshop on non-detriment findings</p> <p>PC17 Docs 10.1 (Rev. 1), 10.2</p>	<p>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Mexico on behalf of the International Steering Committee in charge of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings Decision 14.49 encourage Parties to provide financial support for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs) Provides information on the date, venue, objectives, format, working groups, and species to be discussed in the workshop Invites AC and PC Members, Parties, and NGOs to suggest experts and case studies to be considered for discussion in the workshop Invites Scientific Authorities to provide information on the use of the IUCN checklist in making non-detriment findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN, as a member of the workshop Steering Committee, <u>commends</u> Mexico for its leadership on this issue and looks forward to participating in the workshop

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		Invites Parties, NGOs and IGOs to provide financial support for the workshop	
11. Periodic review of plant species included in the CITES Appendices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 14.8 on Periodic Review of the Appendices, states that: the AC and PC “shall establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The list should be established at their first meeting after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period.” No document available at the time this document was prepared 	No comment
12. Strategic Planning			
	12.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee PC17 Doc. 12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a list of all instructions directed to the PC that can be found in current Resolutions and Decisions Invites the PC to include these instructions its work programme for 2008-2010 	No comment
	12.2 Establishment of the Plants Committee priorities No document	No document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> that the PC utilize the Review of Significant Trade when there are concerns that trade in a species does not meet the requirements of Article IV of the treaty. Though additional review and management processes may be helpful, these should be undertaken in coordination with the Review of Significant Trade.
13. Annotations			
	13.1 Cactaceae and Orchidaceae: review of annotations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Switzerland Decision 14.130 directs the PC to analyze the amendments of annotations #1, #4 and #8 of proposal CoP14 Prop. 26, and if there is merit in refining them, prepare a proposal for consideration at CoP15. (Note that annotation #8 for Orchidaceae was deleted at CoP14). CoP14 Prop. 26 proposes exemptions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artificially propagated cut leaves <i>Hylocereus</i> spp. and <i>Selenicereus</i> spp. fruits Finished products of certain Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Herbarium specimens 	<p>SSN has the following comments on these proposed exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artificially propagated cut leaves: SSN is concerned that such leaves may be difficult to distinguish from those of wild plants and that excessive harvesting of foliage may be detrimental to plants. SSN agrees with the United States that it may be preferable to annotate certain taxa, e.g. cycads, with an exemption for artificially propagated cut leaves. <i>Hylocereus</i> spp. and <i>Selenicereus</i> spp. fruits: Appendix II Cactaceae have Annotation #4 meaning that (except for Mexican cacti) trade in cactus fruits derived from naturalized or artificially propagated plants is exempt from CITES controls; it is therefore redundant to have a specific exemption for these fruits Parts and derivatives of <i>Selenicereus</i> spp.: may be acceptable

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		<p>for <i>S. grandiflorus</i> (dragon fruit) because there are no known wild populations and dried products probably originate from farms; however, exempting such specimens of other <i>Selenicereus</i> spp. may lead to collection and illegal trade in wild specimens, causing harm to wild populations; there are some 28 described species in the genus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finished products of certain Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: PC15 agreed that a broad exemption for pharmaceutical products might permit the circumvention of certain trade controls; therefore SSN does not agree with this exemption. • Herbarium specimens: RC 11.5 (Rev. CoP12) provides an exemption for exchange of herbarium specimens between registered scientific institutions. SSN recommends that the Parties focus on registration of their scientific institutions if there is a concern that trade in herbarium specimens is being impeded rather than agreeing to this exemption
<p>13.2 Orchids: annotation for species included in Appendix II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.133 directs the Parties to make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The PC shall evaluate the results and adopt appropriate measures. • Decision 14.134 directs the PC to monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and report to CoP15 • In response to Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033, Ecuador reports that it has not applied the exemption for orchid hybrids because of the difficulty in distinguishing them from other specimens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC should encourage those Parties implementing the exemption for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II to produce identification materials on the current exemptions • Considering that the current annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II became effective 13 September 2007, SSN is concerned that it may be too soon to assess effectively the implementation of the annotation. SSN recommends that the PC request the CITES Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties on this issue at least one year after the annotation has been in place. The Notification should also request comments from those Parties not implementing the annotation.
<p>13.3 Tree species: annotations for species included in Appendices II and III</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.148: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) directs the PC to review and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the annotations to the tree species listed in Appendices II and III and/or prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations; b) states that the amended annotations shall focus on the articles that initially appear in international trade as exports from the range States and on those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource and; c) directs the PC to draft, if necessary, proposals to amend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing the important role that transformed wood products (such as flooring and molding (Harmonized System Code (HS) 4409, "continuously shaped"), doors and windows (HS 4418), and furniture (HS 94)) play in generating demand for some of the most commercially valuable and ecologically threatened wild tree species, SSN <u>recommends</u> that the PC use this opportunity to adopt a more comprehensive approach to annotations that will allow for more coherent and sustainable management of wild stocks in international trade.

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	<p>RC 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) and/or to amend the Appendices so these may be submitted to CoP15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the PC to decide on the action needed to comply with Decision 14.148 	
<p>14. Review of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> spp. in Appendix II PC17 Doc.14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Switzerland Decision 14.131 directs the PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) analyze trade data and conservation status of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species (except those species currently included in Appendix I); b) prepare a revised list of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II; c) prepare proposals for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion of <i>Euphorbia</i> species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and d) determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II. States that an informal working group was established after CoP14 on this issue Proposes two approaches for work on this issue: a) identify individual species to list in Appendix II (preferred by Switzerland) or, b) eliminate certain species from Appendix II Provides a summary of issues regarding trade in <i>Euphorbia</i> spp. and also 2000-2006 trade data for these species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN proposes that this review of <i>Euphorbia</i> species be included under the Periodic Review, with the PC acting if the Review indicates that it would be appropriate to transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices
<p>15. Transport of live plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) on Transport of live specimens directs the AC and PC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the Live Animals Regulations and the Perishable Cargo Regulations; b) to examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; c) to examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; and d) to examine regularly high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> that the PC establish an intersessional working group, open to all interested Parties and observers, on this issue SSN supports the efforts of the Parties to ensure that living specimens are prepared and shipped so as to minimize the risk of injury or damage to health (as required in Articles III, IV and V)

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		<p>exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the PC to decide on the action needed to implement these instructions. 	
16. Timber issues			
<p>16.1.1 Progress report on the implementation of the action plan for bigleaf mahogany</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CoP14 adopted Decision 14.145 which contains an action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>). This action plan states that all range States should facilitate the making of non-detriment findings by submitting reports on progress in the implementation of this Action Plan to the Secretariat no later than 90 days before PC17 Provides the responses of range States to Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033 issued on 5 October 2007 which requested responses to a questionnaire on tasks under the action plan The Committee is invited to analyze the report on progress made in implementing the action plan and discuss a way forward to implement the tasks directed to it by Decision 14.145 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>commends</u> the Parties that responded to the request on implementation of the bigleaf mahogany action plan SSN is concerned that the largest exporting country of mahogany, Peru, did not respond to the Notification. SC55 urged Peru to ratify the Strategic Action Plan for Mahogany at the highest political level. SSN notes that implementation of the action plan assists Parties in making non-detriment findings but that it should not preclude Parties from recommending that bigleaf mahogany be included in the Review of Significant Trade, as the plan cannot ensure that exports are truly non-detrimental 	
<p>16.2 International Workshop of Experts on Non-Detriment Findings on Bigleaf Mahogany (Cancun, April 2007): endorsement and adoption of guidelines for making NDFs for mahogany</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Mexico, as Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group of the PC The action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany (Decision 14.145) directs the range States to adopt and implement forest management plans and to develop and conduct forest inventories as outlined in the results of the workshop after its endorsement and adoption by the PC Invites the PC to review and endorse the results of the International Workshop of Experts on Non-Detriment Findings on Bigleaf Mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>), held in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico, in April 2007 	Support	
<p>Volumetric conversion of standing trees to exportable mahogany sawn wood</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.1.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex provides the results of a CITES regional implementation workshop was held on 'Improving International Trade in the Bigleaf Mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) in Nicaragua in August 2007). Requests the PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) study, verify and debate the contents of the Annex; b) issue conclusions on the same and incorporate any 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noting that inflated conversion factors are a central mechanism for incorporating illegal mahogany wood into the supply chain prior to export under CITES permits, and that several Central American Parties are already using the World Bank methodology in the Annex to derive appropriate factors, SSN recommends that the PC (1) endorse the methodology of the World Bank study as technically sound and replicable, and (2) establish a time frame 	

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	<p>relevant modifications, if necessary;</p> <p>c) determine how to proceed with regard to the method for volumetric conversion of standing trees to exportable mahogany sawn wood; and</p> <p>d) advise range States of the methodology to follow.</p>	<p>within which all range States that have not already done so conduct and issue results of their own studies, using this methodology as the basis for their own country-specific version.</p>
<p>Progress report on the joint CITES ITTO timber project: first regional meeting</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariats of ITTO and CITES are collaborating on a project aimed at ensuring that international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation. The project will focus on <i>Pericopsis elata</i> (afromosia), <i>Gonystylus</i> spp. (ramin) and <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> (bigleaf mahogany) • ITTO and the CITES Secretariat will provide an oral report on the first regional workshop held under this project, regarding an action plan for <i>Pericopsis elata</i> exported from Cameroon, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to be held in April 2008. • Provides a preliminary action plan for the project 	<p>Noted</p>
<p><i>Cedrela odorata</i>, <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>, <i>D. granadillo</i> and <i>D. stevensonii</i></p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the responses of range States to Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033 issued on 5 October 2007, regarding implementation of the Action plan for <i>Cedrela odorata</i>, <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>, <i>Dalbergia granadillo</i> and <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>commends</u> the Parties that responded to the request on implementation of the action plan • SSN is concerned that the largest exporting country of <i>Cedrela odorata</i>, Peru, did not respond to the Notification • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the PC compile a chart of the responses of the range States so that gaps in information can be pursued
<p>Problems regarding population-specific Appendix-III timber listings</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the United States of America • There have been several instances in which a CITES Party has listed a timber species in Appendix III, but has limited that listing to cover only its own national population. Some non-listing range countries issue CITES certificates of origin for these species, whereas other range countries do not issue any CITES documents. • Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP14) states, “for species that are traded for their timber, consideration is given to including only that geographically separate population of the species for which the inclusion would best achieve the aims of the Convention and its effective implementation, particularly with regard to the conservation of the species in the country requesting its inclusion in Appendix III.” • Notes that this text was adopted for the purpose of addressing circumstances similar to Costa Rica’s initial listing 	<p>SUPPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>agrees</u> that restricting implementation of an Appendix III listing undermines the effectiveness of the listing. • The United States states that under such an interpretation, specimens of the listed species could potentially be transported illegally over the border of the listing country into a neighboring range country and then exported free from any CITES requirements. • Such listings also limit the ability to collect information about the trade in these species outside of the listing countries.

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	<p>of the bigleaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) in Appendix III in 1995. In that case, Costa Rica limited the listing to the populations in the Americas, and thus excluded plantation-grown specimens originating outside the natural range of the species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US would like to learn if other countries have problems implementing Appendix III timber listings limited to the population of the listing country and invites the feedback of the PC on this issue. 	
<p>Physical inspection of timber shipments</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.60, directs the Secretariat to establish an electronic working group to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) solicit and compile existing procedures adopted by the Parties for: i) identification of CITES-listed and look-alike timber species; and ii) physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species; b) indicate how those procedures can be accessed by CITES authorities; and c) identify possible elements for further work and report at SC58. The Secretariat will issue a Notification to the Parties later in 2008, informing Parties of the establishment of the working group and the electronic discussion forum Italy has expressed its interest in Chairing the electronic working group; PC Members are invited to join the working group and to suggest ideas on membership of the group at the present meeting 	<p>Noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN encourages the PC to open this working group to all interested Parties and observers
<p>17. Non-detriment findings</p>		
<p>17.1 Timber species and medicinal plants</p>		
<p>17.1.1 Overview on non-detriment findings for timber species and medicinal plants</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 17.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.135 directs the PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop principles, criteria and indicators for the making of non-detriment findings for wild specimens of high-priority taxa such as timber species, <i>Prunus africana</i> and other medicinal plants; and b) before CoP15, support the organization of a workshop on non-detriment findings for tree species. Invites the PC to decide on the action needed to comply with Decision 14.135, and to consider how best to achieve its effective implementation. 	<p>SSN <u>encourages</u> the PC to implement Decision 14.135 by submitting case studies to the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings, and to report on this issue at PC18</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC may want to make use of the results of the meeting of the <i>Prunus africana</i> working group (mid 2008) and/or the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (November 2008) 	
<p>17.1.2 Summary report on the non-detriment findings for ramin (<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.) for Malaysia in 2008</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 17.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Management Authority of Malaysia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>encourages</u> Malaysia to submit this document as a case study for the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (November 2008)
<p>17.1.3 Final report on the study on abundance, distribution and conservation status of <i>Guaiacum sanctum</i> L. in Mexico</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 17.1.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Scientific Authority of Mexico Decision 11.114 directs the Plants Committee to assess the status of <i>Guaiacum</i> species in the wild, the status in trade and threats to the species. Provides the final report on the study of <i>Guaiacum sanctum</i> in Mexico, including the elements needed to formulate non-detriment findings (NDFs); can be used as a reference for studies and NDFs in other exporting countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>commends</u> Mexico for undertaking the research project on the species SSN <u>encourages</u> Mexico to submit this document as a case study for the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (November 2008) SSN <u>recommends</u> that if there area concerns regarding the implementation of Article IV of the treaty for <i>Guaiacum</i> species, these be included in the Review of Significant Trade
<p>17.2 Agarwood-producing species</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 17.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Plants Committee regional representative of Oceania Decision 14.143 directs the PC, in consultation with range States and the Secretariat, to develop principles, criteria and indicators for the formulation of non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species Invites the PC to provide comments on a draft methodology for the formulation of non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species drafted by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia TRAFFIC has agreed to assist with preparation of a case study on agarwood to be considered at the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings in November 2008 Invites the PC to consider the recommendation that Decision 14.143 be implemented through the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings and reported on at PC18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>agrees</u> that Decision 14.143 be implemented through the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings and reported on at PC18
<p>18. Definition of non-timber forest products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.142 directs the PC and the Secretariat, In consultation with relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the FAO, to draft a definition of non-timber forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the PC adopt a definition of 'non-timber products' because this is the term used in RC 10.13 (Rev. CoP14)

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PC17 Doc. 18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> products to be considered at CoP15 RC 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) states, that <i>“timber and non-timber products derived from trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated...”</i> Notes that Decision 14.142 refers to a definition of 'non-timber forest products' not merely 'non-timber products'. The PC should consider whether a plantation can be considered a forest Participants at an Experts Group Meeting on Agarwood in November 2006 agreed that the FAO definition could be an appropriate definition to be used in CITES. 	
19. Hybrids and cultivars under the Convention			
19.1 Overview of hybrids and cultivars under the Convention PC17 Doc. 19.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.147 directs the PC to discuss hybrids and cultivars, and other entities recognized in horticulture (e.g. forms and varieties), and provide recommendations to CoP15 regarding their treatment under the Convention, particularly with regard to Article I, paragraph (b). Provides a report to serve as the basis of discussions on this issue. Definitions of the terms 'hybrid', 'cultivar' and 'variety' have not been formally adopted by the Conference of the Parties but have been provided in biodiversity glossaries developed by UNEP and others. Invites the PC to review the report and the definitions proposed, and to consider whether one would be appropriate for CITES 	See comments under PC17 Doc. 19.2	
19.2 Summary of CoP14 Decisions on hybrids and cultivars PC17 Doc. 19.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Regional Representative for North America at the request of the PC At CoP14, the Parties adopted an annotation to the listing of <i>Taxus cuspidate</i> which exempts certain, <i>“Artificially propagated hybrids and cultivars.”</i> During the discussion of this proposal, concerns were expressed that cultivars cannot be distinguished from their species, and therefore their exclusion from a listing did not conform to the provisions of the Convention In response, CoP14 adopted Decision 14.147, directing the PC to discuss hybrids and cultivars, and provide to CoP15, recommendations regarding their treatment under the Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Regarding hybrids</u>: SSN <u>agrees</u> that the exclusion of hybrids from a listing by annotation does not conform to the provisions of the Convention. The Convention does not provide the possibility to include certain whole animals or plants and exclude others; on the contrary, it is clear from subparagraph (i) of paragraph (b) of Article I that <i>“any animal or plant, whether alive or dead”</i> is considered as a 'specimen' and therefore subject to the provisions of the Convention. <u>Regarding cultivars</u>: SSN <u>agrees</u> that the exclusion of cultivars from a listing does not conform to the provisions of the Convention. The Convention does not provide the possibility to include certain whole animals or plants and exclude others; on the contrary, it is clear from subparagraph (i) of paragraph (b) of 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Regarding hybrids</u>: RC 11.11 (Rev. CoP14) allows hybrids to be excluded from CITES controls by a specific annotation in Appendix II or III; this differs from the Convention, which require that all listings include whole live or dead specimens and allow that only readily recognizable parts and derivatives may be excluded by annotation. Plants Committee needs to consider whether any further guidance is required, and if so, whether this should be accomplished by amending Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP14). • <u>Regarding cultivars</u>: The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants contains a glossary that includes the definitions of infraspecific taxa or other designations below the level of species such as cultivar, form, variant, and variety. The PC needs to consider how these infraspecific taxa and other designations should be appropriately treated under the Convention 	<p>Article I that “any animal or plant, whether alive or dead” is considered as a ‘specimen’ and therefore subject to the provisions of the Convention.</p>
20. Nomenclatural matters		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the nomenclature specialist on the PC • Requests the PC to address the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) experts to review the reference source, <i>World Ferns</i>; b) consider standard references for <i>Gonystylus</i>, <i>Aquilaria</i> and <i>Gyrinops</i>; c) experts to review the draft text of the revised orchid checklist Volume 1; d) consider options for updating the CITES standard reference for Cycads; and e) consider harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy across the biodiversity-related MEAs 	<p>SSN <u>recommends</u> the establishment of a Nomenclature Working Group, and urges that it continues the tradition, established by the old Nomenclature Committee, of being open to all interested Parties and observers</p>
21. Identification matters			
	<p>21.1 Progress report on the Identification Manual</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 19.21.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a report on the progress made with the production of the Identification Manual that currently can be viewed on-line in PDF format files • The Secretariat proposes to transform the Manual into a web-based database in which the identification segment for each species or group of species could be created and modified by users in an approach known as a “Wiki” • A demonstration of a Wiki format CITES Identification Manual will be presented during the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>supports</u> the Secretariat’s efforts to transform the Identification Manual to an online format. • However, SSN is concerned that many Parties may not have regular, reliable access to the internet. These same Parties also do not necessarily have paper copies of available identification manuals. Before spending more time or resources on this initiative, SSN urges the PC to recommend that the Secretariat make sure that paper copies of the identification manual are available and distributed in sufficient number in developing countries where availability of computers and the Internet is problematic. The PC should ask the Secretariat to issue a CITES Notification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ requesting Parties that need paper copies to inform the

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			Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reminding Parties of the availability of such copies and of how to procure them ▪ calling on Parties that have developed material for the identification of CITES-listed species to send information on resources they have available to the Secretariat so that this information can be supplied to all Parties ▪ calling on Parties, observers and others to provide funding needed to purchase and send identification manuals to Parties that do not have them
	21.2 The development of genetic techniques for the forensic identification of <i>Gonystylus</i> (ramin) timber and wood products PC17 Doc. 19.21.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the United Kingdom • Provides the result of a project to develop a quick and cost-effective method for the forensic genetic identification of ramin (<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.) timber and wood products, for use by enforcement agencies and commercial traders • States that it should be possible to replicate this type of test for a large proportion of traded timbers 	Noted. SSN <u>commends</u> the United Kingdom for the development of this practical identification technique and encourages the PC to support the development and use of this technique for additional timber species.
	22. Time and venue of the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document 	No comment
	23. Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document 	No comment
	24. Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document 	No comment



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