

## Report of the Management Working Group: Report on the activities of the Management Working Group

### Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the present report of the Management Working Group.

### Background

1. This report provides an overview of the work carried out by the Management Working Group during the period from the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC63), which was held from 20-24 June 2024, until 31 October 2024, the date of publication of SC64 documents.
2. The role and composition of the Management Working Group is set out in Resolutions IX.24 and X.4. The Group is comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee of the previous triennium, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee established for the current triennium, the Chairs of the Subgroup on Finance of the previous and current Standing Committees, the Chairs of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in the previous and current triennia, as well as any other interested Contracting Parties, keeping in mind the desirability of equitable regional participation, a representative of the International Organization Partners (IOPs), and the Secretary General *ex officio*.
3. The current membership of the Group is as follows: China, Gabon, Mexico, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, the current and previous Chairs of the STRP, WWF representing the IOPs, and Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Samoa and Switzerland as interested Parties. China as the Chair of the Standing Committee serves as the Chair of the Group.

### Work undertaken by the Management Working Group

4. The Group met virtually on 8 October 2024 to discuss progress in the implementation of the STRP workplan, the work of the Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel, preparations for SC64 and preparations for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15). The Group expressed satisfaction with the work of the STRP and its progress in completing high-priority tasks, and with the work of the CEPA Oversight panel in updating the CEPA handbook, developing new digital CEPA resources and updating the informational brochure for CEPA Focal Points. Group members provided guidance to the Secretariat on preparations for SC64 and COP15.
5. During the meeting, members discussed how to best follow up on Decision SC62-49 which "*requested the Management Working Group to prepare a document that identifies the process*

*for recruiting a new Secretary General, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 63rd meeting, noting that this Decision supersedes Decision SC59-40".* A document was presented to SC63 as SC63 Doc.7.2 for consideration by the Standing Committee. During SC63 differing views were expressed on the text and the preferred modality for the process, and a contact group was formed to continue discussions. The differing views were shared through document SC63 Doc.7.2.Rev.1, and through Decision SC63-37, *"The Standing Committee took note of the views expressed regarding the process for recruiting a new Secretary General and requested SC64 to continue discussions on this matter on the basis of the annex to document SC63 Doc.7.2. Rev.1".* Management Working Group members instructed the Secretariat to republish document SC63 Doc.7.2.Rev.1 for continued discussion and consideration by the Standing Committee at SC64.