



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

September 26-28, 2006 – Mazatlán, México

COP3/2006/R-8

**Establishment of a Work Group on the Terms of Reference for a
Permanent Secretariat**

CONSIDERING that established in Article VI of the Convention, relative to the establishment of a Secretariat;

TAKING into account the exchange of points of view that took place during COP3CIT;

AWARE of the importance of defining with precision the terms of reference for the operation of a permanent Secretariat;

RECOGNISING the need to adopt the necessary mechanisms, at its own opportunity, to proceed to the nomination of a Secretariat

OBSERVING the need to advance in the consolidation of the Convention;

**THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTERAMERICAN
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA
TURTLES**

RESOLVES TO:

ESTABLISH a work group about the terms of reference for the establishment of a permanent Secretariat, under the following considerations:

1. The work group will be formed by a representative of each one of the Parties, to be nominated by the focal points no later than 30 natural days from the issuing of the actual resolution.
2. The Work group will operate intersessionally through available electronic means (emails and/or call conferences).
3. With the objective of fulfilling the requested tasks on time, the Work Group, with support from the Pro-Tempore Secretariat, will be coordinated by a representative of the Costa Rican Government.



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4. The coordinator of the Work Group will be in charge of the integration of documents, and will be responsible of presenting them in the next COP, either ordinarily or extraordinarily.
5. The Work Group's mandate is to elaborate and present to the COP specific proposals about the terms of reference for the establishment of a permanent Secretariat, of which by listing, will consider:
 - Legal status of the Secretariat.
 - Secretariat's structure.
 - Secretariat's function.
 - Mechanisms for the selection and nomination of the Secretariat, including aspects such as the length of the mandate.
6. For the start of the Work Group, the Pro-Tempore Secretariat will prepare, within 45 natural days, a document that contemplates the aspects mentioned before; this document will be emitted to the Coordinator, who will prepare a base document for analysis.
7. The Work Group should start its work before the end of 2006, using the base document that will be circulated by the Coordinator.
8. The Work Group should make recommendations to the COP, so that relevant measures and/or resolutions are adopted.

Given the interrelation between the mandate of the Work Group established by this resolution and the Work Group about financial aspects and related issues, the coordinators of both groups will maintain close communication in order to exchange relevant information.

Mazatlan, Mexico, September 2006