



Australian Government

*Decision Making Procedures for the  
World Heritage Convention:  
other Conventions*

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# *Other Conventions*



# *Basic facts*

## IAEA (1957)

- 151 members, Vienna based
- General Conference, Board of Governors
- Medium term strategies, biennial program and budget plans
- Permanent ambassadors
- c2200 staff

## FCCC (1994)

- 194 members, Bonn based
- Conference of Parties; COP/MOP, subsidiary bodies
- Emerging work in rounds – Kyoto, post Kyoto
- Elaborates rules and methodologies
- Cancun ~12,000 participants
- c400 staff

## WTO (1948/1995)

- 153 members, Geneva based
- Key decisions by full membership
- Provides legal rules for international trade; focus on trade liberalisation and negotiation; conducts dispute settlement
- Members may participate in all councils etc, except Appellate Body, Dispute Settlement panels
- Works in large ‘rounds’
- Permanent ambassadors
- c600 staff

## CITES (1975)

- 175 members, Geneva based
- Conference of Parties and Standing Committee
- Strategic vision (2008-13) with indicators
- Controls import and export through adding/deleting from lists
- c30 staff

# *Issues*

- Policy development
- Financial consequences of decisions
- Frequency of meetings
- Transparency
- Rapporteur role

# *Issue: Policy development*

WH: policy development through workshops; limited time during sessions; secretariat limited time

## IAEA

- Policy/science a key focus of work for members and secretariat
- Very responsive to new issues & technologies
- Sometimes highly country-specific decisions

## FCCC

- Rapidly emerging system; policy a key focus of work for members & secretariat
- Policy through workshops and sessions
- No decisions about individual countries

## WTO

- Analysis and policy development a key focus, usually through expert meetings
- Broad policy principles underpin individual negotiations
- Considerable focus on consistency
- Dispute resolution decisions also set policy

## CITES

- Decisions cover short term or specific issues, Resolutions give long standing guidance
- Heavy compliance and species-specific focus; specific approaches for consistency (a challenge across c30,000 listings)

## *Observations: Policy development*

- Major priority for governing bodies and secretariats
  - Highly structured policy development processes
  - Frequent meetings to develop specifics
- Major focus on consistency
  - Systems to balance case-load with consistency and strategy (WTO, CITES)
  - Explicit focus on consistency (eg decisions recorded in easily-accessible format)

# *Issue: Financial consequences of decisions*

WH: no formal mechanism for States Parties, left to secretariat

## IAEA

- Program and Budget Committee
- Annual General Conference approves work plan and budget

## FCCC

- Administrative, financial and institutional committee meets in parallel with negotiating sessions
- No decisions final until cleared by AFI committee

## WTO

- Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration
- Annual General Conference approves work plan and budget

## CITES

- Finance and Budget Subcommittee approves costed programme of work; identifies core activities to be financed by Trust Fund; assigns priority ranking to non-core activities
- Convention under UNEP

## *Observations: Financial consequences of decisions*

- Highly structured processes to address financial consequences of decisions
  - Detailed documentation and monitoring
  - Powerful subcommittees, integrated into decision-making processes
  - Cooperative between parties and secretariat



# *Issue: Frequency of meetings*

WH: GA every 2 yrs, Committee annually, other meetings ad hoc

## IAEA

- General Conference meets annually
- Board of Governors meets 5x year
- 100s of expert meetings/yr

## FCCC

- COP annually; subsidiary bodies 2x/yr
- Other working groups 2-4+x/yr
- 60+ expert meetings/yr

## WTO

- Ministerial Conference every 2 years
- General Council meets 4-6x/yr
- 100s of expert meetings/yr

## CITES

- Conference of Parties each 2-3 yrs
- Standing Committee annually
- Plant and Animal Committees annually
- 30+ expert meetings/yr

## *Issue: Frequency of meetings*

- Other Conventions
  - higher frequency of meetings
  - greater number of policy making meetings
  - give priority agenda time to address policy issues arising from meetings

# *Issue: Transparency*

WH: no media access to meetings; no regular reporting on meetings in any detail

## IAEA

- Conference and Board discussions closed to media
- Regular press conferences, newsfeeds, podcasts, etc

## WTO

- Certain limited media access to formal sessions
- Regular briefings and documents (accredited journalists only)

## FCCC

- Media admitted to plenary of formal sessions
- Formal sessions streamed online
- Secretariat newsletter
- Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Flickr
- Contracted 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting coverage (very few limits on access)
- Cancun: 2000 journalists

## CITES

- Media not generally allowed in formal sessions
- Contracted 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting coverage (very few limits on access)

## *Observations: Transparency*

- Considerable variation
- Most environment conventions very open
  - Observers allowed to almost all meetings
  - Media often allowed
  - ENB reporting service
- IAEA and WTO more restricted
  - Older conventions
  - Deal with sensitive national issues (nuclear, trade)

# *Issue: Rapporteur role*

WH: rapporteur elected, performs major task in personal capacity

## IAEA

- Rapporteurs elected to sign off reports produced by secretariat

## FCCC

- Rapporteurs elected to sign off reports produced by secretariat

## WTO

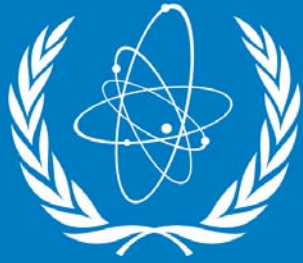
- Rapporteurs elected to sign off reports produced by secretariat

## CITES

- Rapporteurs elected to sign off reports produced by secretariat

## *Observations: Rapporteur role*

- All other Conventions have elected rapporteurs signing off documents produced by secretariat
  - Rapporteur role does not involve active participation
  - Rapporteurs usually do not sit on podium (except at opening and closing)



International Atomic Energy Agency

**IAEA**

**UNFCCC**



**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

