

Draft methodology for the Outputs and Officers of the resumed Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

1. The present non-paper provides the Chairperson's draft proposal for the methodology for the Outputs and the Officers of the resumed Review Conference.

Outputs of the resumed Review Conference

2. The Review Conference in 2006, 2010 and 2016 agreed to outputs consisting of two parts: (1) a summary of discussions prepared by the President of the Conference with the assistance of the Secretariat, and finalized three weeks after the Conference in cooperation with the Bureau; and (2) the negotiated outcome. Delegations will need to decide whether to continue to have outputs of the resumed Review Conference in 2022 that follow the same format.

3. Delegations will also need to decide how they want the outcome of the forthcoming resumed Review Conference to be developed, e.g., through the format of a drafting committee, or the services of a rapporteur, informal consultations or any other agreed format. In this regard, reference is made to provisional rule 10(2) of the provisional rules of procedure which states that "The Review Conference shall establish a committee for the purpose of drafting Conference documents other than the record of deliberations. The committee shall be chaired by a member of the Bureau and shall be open to broad participation from among representatives of all participating States."

4. At the Review Conference in 2006, a Drafting Committee was established pursuant to rule 10, paragraph 2, of the provisional rules of procedure, chaired by Mr. Curcio (Spain), a member of the Bureau (para. 23, A/CONF.210/2006/15). The Drafting Committee was entrusted with identifying and consolidating areas of general agreement following plenary discussions on the review and assessment and on proposals for strengthening the effectiveness of the Agreement. The results of the work of the Drafting Committee were then submitted to the plenary for approval (para. 24, A/CONF.210/2006/15). In 2010 and 2016, a draft outcome was prepared by the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, on the basis of the discussions in the plenary. The Drafting Committee, which was open to broad participation from among representatives of all participating States, was convened thereafter, within the hours normally allocated for the meeting while the plenary was suspended, to consider and finalize the draft text.

5. Accordingly, delegations are kindly invited to express their views regarding:

- a. The planned outputs of the resumed Review Conference in 2022;
- b. The method for developing a negotiated outcome of the resumed Review Conference.

In particular, delegations may wish to indicate whether they would like to follow past practice, as set out above, or alter this practice (and if so, what the new practice would consist of).

Officers for the resumed Review Conference

6. The officers for the resumed Review Conference consist of the members of the Bureau and the members of the Credentials Committee.

7. With regards to the Bureau for the resumed Review Conference, Rule 10(1) of the Provisional rules of procedure (Election of Officers of the Review Conference), states that “The Review Conference shall elect a President from among the representatives of the States Parties. The Review Conference shall also elect from among representatives of the States Parties five Vice-Presidents, giving due consideration to geographic representation. The Review Conference shall elect two additional Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of the participating States not party to the Agreement, who may be from any region. The Review Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.”

8. As per past practice, those officers previously elected to the Bureau would resume and continue their functions at the resumed Review Conference. However, if any members of the Bureau are unable to continue in this capacity, an election would need to be held to fill the vacancies in the Bureau (Para. 11, A/CONF.210/2006/6). In the past, the Conference elected as Vice-Presidents five representatives of States Parties and two representatives of States non-party to the Agreement.

9. In 2016, the Review Conference elected Luke Daunivalu (Fiji), Cristián Laborda (Chile), María del Mar Fernández Merlo (Spain) and James Waweru (Kenya) as Vice-Presidents from among States parties and Li Yongsheng (China) from among States not party to serve as Vice-Presidents. The two remaining positions of Vice-President were not filled. The availability of the currently serving Vice-Presidents would need to be confirmed by their Governments.

10. The Conference also elected Mr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil) to serve as President of the Conference. Mr. Hazin has confirmed his availability to continue to serve as President when the Review Conference is resumed in 2022, hence no action is needed on behalf of the resumed Review Conference.

11. In this regard, it is recalled that the slate of the Bureau is normally developed through informal consultations prior to the resumption of the Review Conference to the extent possible, and that the nominees have been elected by acclamation on the first day of the Conference or its resumption. It may be convenient to follow a similar process in 2022 in order to fill any vacancies for the resumed Review Conference. Regional groups would thus be encouraged to hold consultations to fill any vacancies in the slate of States Parties. States non-parties may also wish to consult as a group on the filling of any vacancy in the slate of States non-parties. It would be desirable to finalize these consultations well in advance of the resumed Review Conference if possible.

12. The Credentials Committee is composed of nine members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President from representatives of the Parties to the Agreement. As per past practice, the representatives of the same States appointed to sit on the credentials committee continued to do so, if they remain available. It is understood that the same procedure would be followed in 2022. In 2016, the

Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Ukraine and Uruguay served as members of the Committee.

13. Accordingly, delegations are kindly invited to:

- a. Confirm whether they would agree to continue the past practice with regards to the officers of the resumed Review Conference, as set out above;
- b. Confirm to the President through the Secretariat the continued availability of the currently serving officers of the Review Conference in 2022, and, if needed, commence consultations to identify potential replacements for any officers that may no longer be available to continue in that capacity.