

2nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC2)

Bonn, Germany, 10– 13 July 2017

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC2/Inf.1

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 11.4 RESTRUCTURING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

(prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document summarizes progress in the implementation of specific provisions of Resolution 11.4, notably concerning the definition of a consultative process to elaborate recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on the composition of the Sessional Committee, and the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Council.

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Introduction

1. [Resolution 11.4](#), adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CMS at its 11th meeting, provides for several organizational changes to the Scientific Council.
2. In particular, Resolution 11.4 stipulates that, for each intersessional period between two consecutive meetings of the Conference of the Parties, a representative selection of the membership of the Scientific Council, to be named the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, should be identified, composed of COP-appointed Councillors and Party-appointed Councillors selected regionally, to be appointed at each ordinary meeting of the COP on the basis of a recommendation from the Secretariat in consultation with the Standing Committee.
3. In relation to the appointment of Sessional Committee members, Resolution 11.4 also requests the Secretariat to provide for a consultative process in order to elaborate, in consultation with the Standing Committee, its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on the composition of the Sessional Committee (Res.11.4, § 7).
4. Resolution 11.4 also requests the Scientific Council, with advice from the Secretariat, to develop and establish a revision of its Rules of Procedure in accordance with the resolution, and mandates the Standing Committee to approve the revised Rules of Procedure.

Progress in the definition of a consultative process

5. In considering a possible consultative process leading to recommendations to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the composition of the Sessional Committee for the subsequent intersessional period, the Secretariat identified a number of options, notably for the nomination and selection of Party-appointed members selected regionally, with different implications, and sought the advice and guidance of the Standing Committee at its 44th meeting (document [UNEP/CMS/StC44/14](#)).
6. From the discussion at StC44 a broad consensus emerged for an option providing for the identification of candidate Party-appointed members by the regions through a consultation process among the Parties in the regions, coordinated by the relevant members of the Standing Committee, and the submission of definite recommendations on the candidates to be appointed to the COP, formulated in consultation between the Secretariat and the Standing Committee. Further details can be found in paragraphs 112-122 of the draft [StC44 report](#).
7. The outcomes of the StC44 deliberations were reported to the 1st Meeting of the Sessional Committee (ScC-SC1, Bonn, 18-21 April 2016). Relevant discussions at the meeting raised issues about the expected renewal of half of the membership of the Sessional Committee by COP12, notably whether the expected renewal should concern only the Party-appointed members or also the COP-appointed members. Potential difficulties in membership renewal were also pointed out as there is an odd number of regional representatives (15) with three members from each of the five regions. The usefulness of identifying alternate members to substitute for appointees in case they had to resign or were unable to attend a particular meeting was also discussed.

8. Based on the discussions at ScC-SC1, the Secretariat sought the guidance of the Standing Committee at its 45th meeting in relation to the issues mentioned above (document [UNEP/CMS/StC45/doc.13.1](#)).
9. Invited to express a position on whether the 50 per cent renewal of the membership of the Sessional Committee should apply also to the COP-appointed membership, the Standing Committee, after discussion, agreed that the COP-appointed councillors were exempt from the rotation provision, at least for the appointment of the Sessional Committee for the triennium 2018-2020. COP12 will be requested to confirm whether this interpretation will remain applicable also for subsequent cycles.
10. On the issue of the renewal of the Party-appointed membership of the Sessional Committee, the Secretariat solicited a decision by the Standing Committee on the number of members to be replaced for each region before the regional consultations. Based on a consultation with the current members to ascertain who was willing and able to continue to serve, and on vacant positions, the Standing Committee agreed that two regions (Asia and South & Central America & the Caribbean) should be required to choose two members each for rotation at COP12, while the remaining regions (Europe, Africa and Oceania) should replace only one member each.
11. On the question of the appointment of alternate members, the Standing Committee generally supported the possibility of identifying alternate members for the region, in the understanding however of that not being obligatory.

Revision of the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Council

12. The Sessional Committee considered the issue of the revision of the Rules of Procedure at its first meeting, on the basis of a preliminary analysis of the sections of the extant Rules of Procedure in need of revision prepared by the Secretariat (document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC1/Doc.3.2](#)).
13. The production of a revised version of the Rules of Procedure was included in the Programme of Work for the Sessional Committee for 2016-2017 under the responsibility of Working Group 1 on institutional and legal matters. The schedule for the activity foresaw the submission of a revised set of Rules of Procedure to the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee (StC45). However, time limitations and capacity constraints at the level of the Secretariat prevented the deadlines for document submissions to StC45 from being met.
14. The Secretariat intends to take stock of progress with the Working Group during ScC-SC2, and define a new schedule for the delivery of this activity.