



SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION

REPORT OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

**30<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund**

**NAMIBIA**

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## 1. Opening of the meeting

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Commission Meeting was convened at the Hansa Hotel in Swakopmund, Namibia on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

The Chairperson, Mr. Stefaan Depypere (EU), welcomed delegates to the meeting. Ms Graca D’Almeida (Head of delegation Namibia) welcomed the delegates to Namibia.

## 2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat was appointed as the rapporteur for the meeting.

## 3. Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Arrangements

The Commission adopted the agenda ([DOC/COM/01/2022/Rev4](#)) ([Appendix I](#)) with the addition of the following items under agenda point 13 – Any other matters:

- Discussion on SEAFO biennial meetings (South Africa)

## 4. Introduction and Admission of Observers

The Observers present were:

- FAO - EAF Nansen Programme – Mr. Edoardo Mostarda
- Taiyo Fishing Namibia – Mr. Antonio Mansinho

The Commission admitted and welcomed the observers at the meeting.

## 5. Opening Statements by Contracting Parties and Observers

Five of the six Contracting Parties were represented. Angola was not represented.

The Chairperson delivered a short opening address. The full opening address are in [Appendix III](#).

Contracting Parties presented short opening statements. The full opening statements are in [Appendix III](#).

The list of participants is in [Appendix II](#).

## 6. Status of the Convention in Respect of Membership

The ES informed the meeting that no new notification for accession to the Convention was received during 2022 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

## 7. Report of the 2022 Scientific Committee (SC) Meeting

7.1. The Acting Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Paul Kainge (Namibia), presented the 2022 SC meeting report ([DOC/COM/03/2022](#)) to the Commission for adoption.

Seven Scientific Committee members from 3 Contracting Parties attended the Scientific Committee meeting. The Commission noted that no members from Angola, South Africa and The Republic of Korea attended the meeting and recalled the importance of attending SC meetings.

**ACTION: The Commission adopted the 2022 SC meeting report.**

### 7.2. Tagging protocols for toothfish

SC recommends the adoption of the CCAMLR Tagging Protocol for implementation in the SEAFO CA, with a minimum of one toothfish per tonne of green weight fish caught to be tagged. The Observer Forms and Captain's Logbooks should be updated to include the tagging & recapture sheets in the excel form.

**ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendations.**

### 7.3. New FAO/ASFIS codes on *Chaceon* species in SEAFO CA

SC recommended changing the ASFIS Code for *Chaceon erythrae* from "CGE" (SEAFO SYSTEM Annex 1) and "GER" (stock status report, logbooks, observer manual and forms) to "YHI".

SC further recommended changing the scientific name for Deep-sea red crab from *Chaceon maritae* to *Chaceon erythrae* (SEAFO SYSTEM Annex 1).

**ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendations.**

### 7.4. Review of scientific name of Pelagic armourhead

SC recommended the change in the scientific name in all relevant SEAFO documents.

**ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendation noting that the changes will be done on relevant future documents.**

### 7.5. FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Project (DSF) information update

SC advised that this project is beneficial to SEAFO (especially in the aspect of data-poor stock assessment) and recommended therefore that participation should continue.

**ACTION:** The Commission adopted the recommendation.

### 7.6. Future Scientific Committee meetings

SC recommended that physical meetings for SC coincide with TAC review years and that virtual meetings be conducted for non-TAC review years.

**ACTION:** The Commission adopted the recommendations.

### 7.7. Future SC work

In the finalization of standardized SEAFO SC maps to be made available for the public, the Commission requested that the need for protection of commercial confidentiality should be taken care of by SC.

## 8. Report of the 2022 Compliance Committee (CC) Meeting

The Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. Ichiro Nomura (Japan), presented the 2022 Compliance Committee Report ([DOC/COM/04/2022](#)) to the Commission for adoption.

**ACTION:** The Commission adopted the 2022 CC meeting report.

### 8.1. Annual Review of the “SEAFO System of Observation, Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement”

The CC considered the recommendation from the Scientific committee on the definition of lost gear in paragraph 8 of the SEAFO System and recommend the following changes to be made to Article 8(b) and (d):

(b) a vessel that has lost or abandoned gear shall make every reasonable attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible, including but not limited to a search and retrieval period of a minimum of 24 hours.

(d) if the lost gear, amounting to 10% or more of longline and pot lines or any part of trawling gear, cannot be retrieved the vessel shall notify the competent authorities of its flag State within 24 hours of the following:

**ACTION:** The Commission adopted the recommended changes.

## 8.2. Consideration of the provisional SEAFO IUU Vessel list for 2023

The CC recommended to the Commission to adopt the SEAFO IUU vessel list for 2023 presented in ([DOC/CC/05/2022](#)).

**ACTION:** The Commission adopted the recommendation.

## 9. Report of the 2022 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) Meeting

The Chairperson of SCAF, Ms. Soobin Shim (Republic of Korea), presented the 2022 SCAF Report ([DOC/COM/05/2022](#)) to the Commission for adoption.

**ACTION:** The Commission adopted the 2022 SCAF meeting report.

### 9.1 Approval of future use of surplus funds

The SCAF recommended to the Commission to use the past 12 months of accumulated interest from the Unit Trust investment towards reducing the Contracting Parties' contributions.

**ACTION:** The Commission adopted this recommendation.

### 9.2 Approval of the 2021 Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS).

The SCAF recommended to the Commission to approve the Audited Annual Financial Statements.

The SCAF recommend to the Commission to approve the appointment of the Auditors "Hamilton Chartered Accountants" for the next two years (2023 and 2024).

**ACTION:** The Commission adopted these recommendations.

### 9.3 Approval of the 2023 Budget and 2024 forecast Budget

The SCAF presented the provisional budget for 2023 of N\$ 3,000,260.19 as well as another drafted budget of NAD 3,203,549.13 for consideration by the Commission.

**ACTION:** The Commission approved the budget of N\$ 3,000,260.19 for 2023.

### 10. Report on meetings attended by the Secretariat

The Executive Secretary submitted a document ([DOC/COM/06/2022](#)) to the meeting in which is a synthesis of the meetings she attended during 2022 was presented.

The Commission took note of the report presented by the Executive Secretary and encourage the participation of the ES in relevant meetings and to network with other RFMO's and projects.

### 11. Reports of SEAFO Representatives at 2022 meetings of other Intergovernmental Organisations

Japan submitted a report as SEAFO Observer to the 27<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of ICCAT in November 2021 and to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of SIOFA in July 2022.

The EU submitted a report as SEAFO Observer to the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO in September 2022 and the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in November 2022.

South Africa submitted a report as SEAFO Observer to the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) which was held at its Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 24 October to 4 November 2022.

The reports were presented to the meeting and the importance of sharing experiences between RFMO's was stressed by the Chair.

### 12. Nominations of Parties to represent SEAFO at 2023 meetings of other International Organisations

The Commission adopted the following nominees to represent SEAFO as observers at the following meetings:

- ICCAT – Republic of Korea
- SIOFA - Japan
- NEAFC – EU
- NAFO – EU
- CCAMLR – South Africa

### 13. Any other matters

#### 13.1. EAF Nansen Programme feedback – FAO

Edoardo Mostada from the FAO EAF Nansen programme presented an overview of the program in the light of activities and ongoing scientific work in the SEAFO area. There will be no surveys in SEAFO during 2023 but analysis of data collected in 2022 will continue. A post survey workshop will be held for the leg 4.1 survey and the shark data analysis workshop will take place in January 2023 in Cape Town. The development of the new phase of the project will also continue in 2023.

The Chair encouraged Scientists and other members to submit their needs to the EAF Nansen program to be considered during the new phase.

#### 13.2. Angolan delegates English Training - ES

The ES reported that the FAO Deep Sea Fisheries project will not be in a position to fund English training (as discussed during the 2021 Commission meeting).

The ES should request Angola to provide more details regarding their English training needs for further discussion by the Commission.

#### 13.3. Review of the 2016 Performance Review Recommendations

The ES presented a summary of the recommendations from the 2016 Performance review and actions taken (DOC/COM/07/2022) and was tasked to present a list of outstanding items for each subsidiary body to be discussed during the 2023 annual meeting.

#### 13.4. Biennial Meetings Review

The Commission could not agree to change the principle which was agreed on in 2021 i.e., to continue to have annual meetings and on the principle of having biennial physical meetings and that the next physical meeting will be in 2024.

South Africa's position is recorded in a separate statement (Appendix IV).

It was agreed that the Secretariat provides its meeting room for the SC, CC and SCAF in the 2023 meetings, as well as a suitable meeting room for the Commission meeting of two days for those delegations who choose to participate physically.

The TACs will be rolled over for 2024 unless the results from the assessment (HCR) at the end of 2023 indicates a major reason to review the TACs. The SC will conduct a full stock assessment during the 2024 meeting.

#### **14. Election of Chair and Vice-chair**

The term of the current Chair and Vice-Chair ended and in accordance with the rotational rule, Japan and The Republic of Korea will take the Chair and Vice-Chair positions respectively for the period from 2023 - 2024.

#### **15. Venue and Date of next meetings**

- Proposed dates for the 2023 Scientific Committee meeting are 20 - 24 Nov 2023
- Proposed dates for the 2023 Annual Commission meeting (including SCAF and CC) are 27 – 30 November 2023.

#### **16. Adoption of the 2022 Commission report**

The Commission adopted the report.

#### **17. Closure of the Meeting**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 13:25 on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and he commended the Contracting Parties for their efficient and effective conduct during the meeting. He thanked the Secretariat for the preparations. He also thanked delegates for their positive inputs.



## APPENDIX I: List of Documents, Agenda and Annotated Agenda of the 2022 Commission Meeting

DOC/COM/01/2022\_Rev4 (25 Nov 2022)



### PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (COM) – 2022

**CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Stefaan DEYPERE (EU 2021-2022)  
**VICE-CHAIR:** Mr. Ichiro NOMURA (Japan 2021-2022)

**VENUE:** Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund  
**DATE:** 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2022

Item	Agenda Item	Working Document
1	Opening of meeting by Chairperson	
2	Appointment of rapporteur	
3	Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements	DOC/COM/00/2022 DOC/COM/01/2022 DOC/COM/02/2022
4	Introduction & Admission of Observers	
5	Opening statements by Contracting Parties	
6	Status of the Convention in respect of membership	
7	Report of the 2022 Scientific Committee meeting	DOC/COM/03/2022 DOC/COM/12/2022
8	Report of the 2022 Compliance Committee meeting	DOC/COM/04/2022
9	Report of the 2022 Standing Committee on Administration & Finance meeting	DOC/COM/05/2022
10	Report on meetings attended by Secretariat	DOC/COM/06/2022
11	Reports of SEAFO's representatives at other intergovernmental organization meetings	DOC/COM/09/2022 DOC/COM/10/2022 DOC/COM/11/2022 DOC/COM/13/2022 DOC/COM/14/2022
12	Nomination of Parties representing SEAFO at intergovernmental organizations	
13	Any other matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angolan delegates English Training - ES</li> <li>• Review of the 2016 Performance Review Recommendations - ES</li> </ul>	DOC/COM/07/2022
14	Election of Chair and Vice-chair	
15	Venue & date of next meeting	
16	Adoption of the 2022 Commission Report	DOC/COM/08/2022

DOC/COM/01/2022\_Rev4 (25 Nov 2022)

17	Closure of meeting	
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DOC/COM/02/2022\_Rev4 (25 Nov 2022)



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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

## PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (COM) – 2022

**CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Stefaan DEYPERE (EU 2021-2022)**VENUE:** Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund**VICE-CHAIR:** Mr. Ichiro NOMURA (Japan 2021-2022)**DATE:** 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2022**1. Opening of meeting**

The meeting will officially be opened by the Chairperson of the Commission.

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The Chairperson will ensure the appointment of a rapporteur.

**3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements**Members will review and adopt the agenda ([DOC/COM/01/2022](#), [DOC/COM/02/2022](#)). The Executive Secretary will inform the Delegation of any practical arrangements for the meeting.**4. Introduction and admission of Observers**

The Chairperson will announce Observers present.

**5. Opening Statement by Contracting Parties and Observers**

The Heads of Delegations will introduce their members and make opening statements. Written opening statements should be provided to the Secretariate before the meeting to be included in the meeting report. Observers who wish to make opening statements will do so after the opening statements of the Contracting Parties.

**6. Status of the Convention in respect of membership**

The Chairperson will inform members of the current status of accession to the Convention.

**7. Presentation of the 2022 Scientific Committee Report**The Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will present a summary of the Scientific Report including scientific advice and recommendations to the Commission ([DOC/COM/03/2022](#)). The Commission will discuss the Scientific Report and take appropriate decisions on the recommendations made. The FAO shared an information document ([DOC/COM/12/2022](#)) with the SC to be shared with the Commission. The document is an update of the FAO Deep-sea Fisheries project.**8. Presentation of the 2022 Compliance Committee Report**The Chairperson of the Compliance Committee will present a summary of the Compliance Committee Report including recommendations to the Commission ([DOC/COM/04/2022](#)). The Commission will discuss the Compliance Committee Report and take appropriate decisions on the recommendations made.**9. Presentation of the 2022 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance Report**The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance will present a summary of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance Report including recommendations to the Commission ([DOC/COM/05/2022](#)). The Commission will discuss the report and take appropriate decisions on the recommendation made.**10. Report on meetings attended by the Secretariat**The Executive Secretary will provide a report on meetings attended during 2022 ([DOC/COM/06/2022](#)).

**DOC/COM/02/2022\_Rev4 (25 Nov 2022)****11. Reports of SEAFO Representatives at the 2021/2022 meetings of other Intergovernmental Organisations**

SEAFO representatives at the 2021/2022 meetings of the other Intergovernmental Organisations will report back to the Commission on meetings attended. SEAFO representatives will bring to the attention of the members specific issues(s), if any, arose from the meetings.

ICCAT ([DOC/COM/09/2022](#)) & SIOFA ([DOC/COM/10/2022](#)): Japan  
NAFO ([DOC/COM/11/2022](#)) and NEAFC ([DOC/COM/14/2022](#)): EU  
CCAMLR ([DOC/COM/13/2022](#)) South Africa

**12. Nominations of Parties to represent SEAFO at other International Organisations in 2023**

The Commission will nominate representatives for the following meetings:

ICCAT  
SIOFA  
NEAFC  
NAFO  
CCAMLR

**13. Any other matters**

The Committee will discuss any other matters raised that was not previously included in the agenda.

- 13.1. EAF Nansen Programme feedback - FAO
- 13.2. Angolan Delegates English Training - ES
- 13.3. Review of SEAFO performance review 2016 - ES ([DOC/COM/07/2022](#)).

**14. Election of Chair and Vice-chair**

According to the Alphabetical listing of Contracting parties

ANGOLA  
EU  
JAPAN  
KOREA  
NAMIBIA  
SOUTH AFRICA

The current Chair and Vice-chair can be re-elected for another two-year period or the next CP's in line will be Japan as Chair and The Republic of Korea as Vice-chair for the period from 2023-2024.

**15. Venue and date of the next Commission meeting**

The members will agree on a venue and date for the next Commission meeting which will be a virtual meeting.

*The Commission concluded in 2021:  
To continue to have annual meetings.  
On the principle of having biennial physical meetings.  
That the next physical meeting will be in 2022 subject to the restriction of the pandemic.*

**16. Adoption of the 2022 Commission Report**

The meeting report will be adopted ([DOC/COM/08/2022](#)).

**17. Closure of meeting**

The Chairperson will close and adjourn the meeting after all items have been concluded.

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### **Appendix III: Opening Addresses**

#### **Opening Statement by the Delegation of the European Union**

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The European Union is pleased to be part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation.

We would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the SEAFO Secretariat to organize this meeting here in Swakopmund, after two years of virtual meetings. Taking into account the difficult circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were all required to think about alternative ways for conducting the necessary business of this organisation in a format that was safer, but also cost efficient and greener.

In this regard, the accessibility to new technologies should also facilitate the implementation of the principle that we agreed at the Annual Meeting last year; organizing a physical annual meeting biannually.

In our view, the declining fishing activity in the Convention Area and the fact that TACs of harvested species can be set biannually, could justify meeting physically every second year, which in return would provide some financial savings to the Organisation.

The European Union would also like to reiterate its support to the sustainable use of living marine resources, based on scientific evidence, the precautionary approach and considerations of its ecosystem impacts. And in this regard we note that SEAFO has been playing an important role in ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area.

Finally, the EU delegation looks forward to working with all SEAFO Parties in order to achieve the best possible results and to make this Annual Meeting a joint success.

Thank you very much.



## Opening Statement by the Delegation of the Japan

Mr. Chair, Executive Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, and as Vice-Chair of the Commission, I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Namibia for hosting the 19th Annual Meeting of SEAFO with great hospitality. I am glad to be able to participate in this year's Annual meeting of SEAFO in this beautiful city of Swakopmund face-to-face for the first time in the past three years. I am also delighted to be the part of discussion for sustainable management of fishery resources in the Convention Area. I further extend our sincere gratitude to the Executive Secretary, Dr. Lizette Voges and the staff of the SEAFO Secretariat for their tireless efforts in organizing this meeting.

As everyone agrees, SEAFO has been playing an important role in ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Southeastern Atlantic. Japan fully supports the sustainable use of marine living resources while recognizing the need to minimize possible impact of fisheries on ecosystem based on scientific evidence.

With a view to promoting sustainable use of the marine living resources based on scientific evidence in the SEAFO Convention Area, Japan intends to submit a Notice of Intent for the 2023 exploratory fisheries after this meeting. Japan cordially asks the members of the Scientific Committee and the Commission to assess the proposed exploratory fisheries during the intersessional period in accordance with the provisions of the relevant conservation and management measure. As before, the assessment of Japan's exploratory fisheries plan would be thus conducted on a correspondence basis.

Finally, I would like to conclude my remarks by hoping constructive discussions to be held so that SEAFO will be able to demonstrate itself as a very effective organization.

Thank you very much.

## Opening Statement by the Delegation of South Africa



forestry, fisheries  
and the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

### South Africa – SEAFO Opening Statement

Thank you, Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I greet you all on behalf of the Republic of South Africa.

South Africa is very pleased to be part of the 19th Annual Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation. This is following our regrettable absence for the first time to the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission that was held virtually last year, and we are committed to make all efforts to ensure that such, does not re-occur.

Chairperson, the past few years, the Covid-19 Pandemic has taught us a lot and most importantly to value human life and as we are approaching the festive season, We would like to urge all participants to continue to be vigilant and adhere to the common health protocols to ensure the health and safety of all participants here with us today. To all our colleagues that could not be here with us due to succumbing to the Covid-19 pandemic, may their Souls Rest in Peace.

Fishing and fishing related activities are of considerable importance to south Africa and we have since early this year, concluded the biggest Commercial Fishing Rights Allocations in the 10 most valuable fishing sectors, all allocated for a period of 15 years, except for one fishing sector. We are also in the process of concluding the allocation in the Small-scale Fishing sector.

Chairperson, it is regrettable that South Africa was absent from the Scientific Committee Meeting. For that we apologize profusely. We endeavour to remedy the situation and commit to having a representative at the next meeting.

Chairperson, the South East Atlantic is not immune from the negative impacts of climate change on fisheries resources and communities who depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. As a convention, we should also be asking ourselves the difficult questions which other commissions are also trying to answer, as to through the adoption of adaptation and mitigation measures, how can we prepare the convention to address the impacts of climate change? Through research, we need to seriously start identifying gaps, weaknesses and flaws in our existing management measures.

South Africa acknowledge the vigorous discussions that took place in the Compliance and Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) and look forward to productive deliberations on pertinent outcomes.

The participation of South Africa in SEAFO is vital to our country, to enhance the coordination of the implementation of our research programs, and to combine and acquire the knowledge from the other members. To that end we seek the favourable consideration by Commission to reconsider the format of the biennial vs the physical meetings.

We are looking forward to cooperating and working together in a more active and efficient manner, and we have no doubt that all the Member will contribute effectively to the business of the Commission.

Thank you.

## **Appendix IV: South Africa Special Statement regarding Biennials/ Physical Meetings**

South Africa wishes to revisit the SEAFO position on biennial meetings. We are uncertain as to what and how decisions has been reached on this score and we have certainly tried to engage some of the distinguished members and colleagues in the sides of this meeting. With that said, as a coastal state to SEAFO, alongside Namibia and Angola, we are concerned about the prospects of the biennial meetings for a number of reasons. Chair and distinguished members, South Africa would like to remind the members that not too long ago (pre COVID) we were engaging each other on the “Future of SEAFO” and the survival of the SEAFO. The 2017 meeting set a seminar day aside where the Commission and Scientific Committee engaged in the regards prior the Annual Meetings. This one day seminar explored extension of the convention area, the revisions of the staff regulations and Rules of Procedure (and numbering of the CM’s) as per review report of 2016.

This ties in directly to the issue of biennial meeting with its pros and cons. South /Africa still remains of the opinion that biennial meetings for SEAFO is not in our best interests as a coastal state whose commercial fisheries is right next to the SEAFO area.

The opportunities for networking, brainstorming, and relationship building are usually far greater at physical events than online.

Meetings provide a richer, more targeted, and more focused interactive experience than nearly any virtual meeting. This is particularly important in negotiations meetings.

There are costs involved with physical events such as travel, room rental, AV, catering, onsite staff and more.

However, after the disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic have passed, the benefits mentioned above can often be very well worth the costs.

Physical meetings bring people together, provide significant points of business interaction, and very significant economic benefit to member countries with regards to taking stock of managing the resources in an equitable and sustainable manner. Because of this, physical meetings will remain the best option well into the future and more especially to a vulnerable organisation such as SEAFO.

In conclusion chair, virtual meetings should be an alternative to our inability to meet physically or hybrid meetings be considered for delegates that cannot attend physical meetings.