



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Eighteenth Session
Suva, Fiji (Hybrid)
27 November to 3 December 2024

**Discussion Paper on an Option to Support Meeting Travel
(as an alternative to using the Special Requirements Fund)**

FAC18-2024-3a
29 November 2024

Submitted by the Secretariat

Option

1. Allocate USD300,000 within the General Account Fund (GAF) to fund the travel expenses for two representatives from each developing state and, where appropriate, territories and possessions. The GAF will continue to be assessed according to the existing contribution formula outlined in the Financial Regulations, and all members will continue to contribute to the GAF as they currently do.
2. Remove the current USD50,000 offset funded by the Fees and Trust Fund/CNM Contribution Fund—which is financed by Cooperating Non-Member Contributions and Observer meeting fees as shown in Annex 4 of the budget paper—that applies to all members. Instead, reallocate this USD50,000 offset exclusively to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), applying it proportionally to reduce their overall contributions.
3. Under this proposal, SIDS would be required to pay roughly USD48,000 in additional contributions divided proportionally among the SIDS members.

Required Changes to the Financial Regulations

4. If the Option outlined in paragraphs 1-3 above were adopted, the Financial Regulations would require amendment, as follows:

*3.5 The draft budget shall include an item specifying the costs required to finance the travel and subsistence for ~~one~~ **two** representatives from each developing State Party to the Convention and, where appropriate, territories and possessions, to each meeting of the Commission and to meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission.*

Removal of Financial Regulation 7.8

~~7.8 Financial Regulation 7.5 and 7.7 on the application process and reporting requirements, respectively, shall be waived for:-~~

~~a) one traveler from each small island developing States and Participating Territories delegation to meetings of the Annual Session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; and~~

~~b) the travel for the Chairs of SC, TCC, FAC Co-Chair and the WCPFC Vice Chair from SIDS to the Annual Session.~~