



**COMMISSION
NINTH REGULAR SESSION**
Manila, Philippines
2-6 December 2012

Funding for Northern Committee

**WCPFC9-2012-30
2 December 2012
1725**

Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to raise the issue of Commission funding for developing State members of the Commission and Participating Territories to attend meetings of the Northern Committee (NC). This issue requires some clarification in view of the increased demand for NC funding and the budgetary implications to the Commission.

Background

2. Regarding the NC, Article 11.7 of the Convention states that “(a)ny member of the Commission not represented on the committee may send a representative to participate in the deliberations of the committee as an observer. Any extraordinary cost incurred for the work of the committee shall be borne by the members of the committee.”

3. Under Financial Regulation 3.5, “(t)he draft budget shall include an item specifying the costs required to finance the travel and subsistence for one representative 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.”

4. To date, Commission funding for the NC meetings has been USD10,000 per year since 2008. This amount has been increased to USD18,000 in the indicative budget for 2013. This level of funding allows one member of the Secretariat to attend the meeting as well as Cook Islands and Vanuatu who are members of the NC.

5. This issue was raised by the Secretariat in the FAC in paper WCPFC-2012-FAC6-11. The FAC requested a policy decision from the Commission before proceeding.

Options for Funding Participation in the NC

6. Option one is to reflect the current level of funding required to allow funding for the two members of the Commission who are also members of the NC and Secretariat staff. This option would cost USD18,000.

7. Option two is to allow the 9 countries who have exclusive economic zones (EEZ) north of the equator funding to attend the NC as well as those in option one. This option would require an additional USD45,000 in the line item for the NC in 2013 for a total budget of USD63,000.

8. Option three is to allow all developing State members of the Commission and Participating Territories to attend the NC. If all members who are eligible for funding under Article 11.7 decided to attend the NC, this option would require an additional USD108,000 in the line item for the NC in 2013 for a total of USD118,000.

Recommendations

9. The Commission is invited to consider the issue of funding and source of such funds to support attendance by developing State members and Participating Territories, where appropriate, to Northern Committee meetings.