



**TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Ninth Session
Bali, Indonesia
2 - 8 December 2015**

HEADQUARTERS MATTERS

**WCPFC12-2015-FAC9-09
4 November 2015**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to table to the FAC the issues affecting the operations at the Commission Headquarters in Pohnpei.

Introduction

1. This paper discusses a number of issues related to Secretariat's operations in Pohnpei including headquarters' property, security, telecommunications, travel and utility services.

Current Issues

Telecommunications and Internet

2. Telecommunications and internet services on Pohnpei have been stable over the last year. The Secretariat maintains a satellite communications link as a redundancy measure.

Utility Services

3. Since the last Commission meeting, the frequency and duration of blackouts, the large number of brownouts and surges in the electrical system have been problematic at the Headquarters' building and staff residences not connected to the main power line which supplies the state hospital. This year a number of computers and UPSs have been damaged beyond repair due to the electrical surges. Many areas of town not connected to the main power line now experience 4 hours a day without electricity up to 5 days a week.

Headquarters Building

4. The weather in Pohnpei has been severe this year. A tropical depression hit the island in May causing some minor damage to the Headquarters' buildings. The metal eaves of the Headquarters building were blown off during the storm and more durable eaves were installed on the building.

Security

6. The headquarters' compound maintains 24 hour security through directly hiring guards. There has been no instance of theft except for one attempted theft on the Commissions headquarters' compound since the last annual meeting. At professional staff housing, there has been one attempted break in.

Staff Travel

7. Travel to Pohnpei continues to be difficult. Many flights have been cancelled or delayed this year which has impacted staff preparation and attendance at meetings as well as for personal travel. In some cases, the Secretariat has had to send staff on earlier flights to ensure they are able to attend important meetings.

Meeting Travel

8. 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." Continued delays in receiving timely nominations for meetings is problematic. In addition to the higher direct cost of late ticket purchases necessitated by delayed nominations and notification of attendance, additional per diem was required in some cases when participants had to arrive earlier or stay later as a result of limited flight availability.

Recommendation

9. The Committee is invited to note and discuss the paper.