



**COMMISSION  
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
10 – 14 December 2018

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**CONSIDERATIONS FOR SIDS TO HOST WCPFC COMMISSION MEETINGS**

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**WCPFC15-2018-DP15  
13 November 2018**

**FFA Member CCMs**



9 November 2018

Feleti P. Teo OBE  
Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission  
PO Box 2356, Kolonia  
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Feleti,

#### **Considerations for SIDS to host WCPF Commission meetings**

I write on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee.

FFA Members continue to be concerned with the increasing size of Commission meetings impacting the ability of smaller island nations to host meetings. Whilst this is not a new issue, it is one that is important to us. We note the Secretariat provides host countries with the *Recommended requirements for hosting the Scientific Committee or Annual Commission Meetings of the WCPFC*. We note these are guidelines that have not been adopted by the Commission. In particular, these guidelines make reference to minimum meeting capacities of 150 and 550 people for the Scientific Committee and Annual Sessions, respectively.

FFA Members are seeking the support of CCMs to ensure that where possible, all SIDS with the capability to host meetings, be afforded the opportunity to host WCPFC meetings and that the Commission demonstrates flexibility in its consideration of a SIDS' offer to host a Commission meeting.

The kind of flexibility we are seeking includes reductions in delegation sizes from time to time, where this sort of action is required to support a SIDS in hosting a Commission meeting. FFA Members recognise that there are concerns with how much of a reduction delegations may have to make, as well as the infrastructure, logistics and capacity of a SIDS to accommodate WCPFC delegates. As such, those SIDS wanting to host meetings and that require reduced meeting sizes, should provide information on the maximum number of delegates and meeting facilities that could be accommodated. This would provide delegations with an indication of the reductions they would need to make.

Whilst we are not looking to implement hard and fast rules around this issue, we ask that all delegations take note of this request, and provide us the ability and opportunity to share our islands and culture when undertaking the work of the Commission.

FFA members look forward to discussions of our views at the meeting in Honolulu. We would welcome any inquiries, which should be directed to the FFA Secretariat ([pamela.maru@ffa.int](mailto:pamela.maru@ffa.int)). Please distribute this letter to all CCMs.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tapaeru Herrmann', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Tapaeru Herrmann, Chair

Forum Fisheries Committee