

Report of the Management Working Group

Report on the process of selection of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for the 2019-2021 triennium in accordance with Resolution XII.5

1. The Secretariat outlined the process of selection of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, indicating that a diplomatic note had been sent to all Contracting Parties in November 2018 seeking nominations. A total of 51 nominations were received. The final group comprised 35 members: eight representatives from Africa, seven from Asia, ten from Europe, six from Latin America and the Caribbean, three from North America and one from Oceania, with a gender balance of nine women and 26 men.
2. The work of the Secretariat in supporting the establishment of the Panel was noted by Australia but concern was expressed with the complexity of the process and the difficulties in engaging faced by some Contracting Parties and regional groups, given the very tight timelines imposed.
3. The Secretariat expressed concerns on the complexity of the process and suggested that it could be reviewed towards COP14.

Report on the establishment of the CEPA Oversight Panel

4. Sweden, as Chair, outlined the progress to date in establishing the Panel. The Secretariat had sent out a call for nominations through regional representatives on the Standing Committee. In addition to the Chair (Sweden, as the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee) and the Vice-Chair of the Panel (Lisa Rebelo, the Vice-Chair of the STRP), the following Contracting Parties had been nominated, comprising one member from each region:
 - Australia;
 - Honduras;
 - Nepal;
 - Uganda;
 - Ukraine; and
 - the United States.
5. Also included as members of the Panel were:
 - CEPA NGO Focal Points from Iraq and Sudan; and
 - the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust as International Organization Partner.
6. It was noted that instructions in existing Resolutions for establishing the Panel were inconsistent and outdated. Further guidance had been sought from the Standing Committee to enable a new structure and process.
7. The importance was noted of streamlining and expediting the process for the next triennium to ensure that the Panel might be established at COP14.

8. An intervention was made by Australia.
9. The Management Working Group took note of the composition of the Panel, and recommended that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to implement a process to establish the Panel for the 2021-2024 triennium prior to COP14, so that the Parties might agree on a final composition at that meeting.