

<p><b>CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel</b> <b>Changwon, Republic of Korea, 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008</b></p>
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**3rd Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel**  
**08.00h, 29<sup>th</sup> October and 08.00h, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2008**

**Present** John Bowleg (Chair), Charles Amankwah, Stefan Bohorquez, Rebecca D’Cruz, Sandra Hails, Esther Koopmanschap, Gerhard Sigmund, Chris Prietto, Rosa Montanez

**Apologies:** Herb Raffaele, Chair of sub-group on Finance; Anada Tiéga

**Observer:** Deon Stewart

**1. Adoption of the agenda.**

The agenda was adopted.

**2. Brief introduction of members**

The Chair invited each participant to introduce him/herself. He acknowledged the contributions of Peter Bridgewater and Anada Tiéga over the last triennium for their work on the Panel. Esther Koompanschap was welcomed to her first meeting as a member of the Panel and confirmed that she will be able to continue as a member into the next triennium.

**3. Review of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting report**

Chris Prietto noted that the new CEPA Panel had successfully developed and addressed its brief and has managed it well in two and a half years of operation. The core of the work was the drafting of the new CEPA Programme for consideration at COP10.

**4. Strategic Plan issues**

(i) It was noted that no drafting group had been set up by SC38 on the 27<sup>th</sup> October so there was no immediate need to have a CEPA Panel presence on this; after the introduction of the Plan on the 30<sup>th</sup> October it was agreed that Panel members should be prepared to attend any subsequent drafting group.

(ii) Gerhard Sigmund noted that a drafting group has been set up for the Changwon Declaration and it will meet in the afternoon (of the 29<sup>th</sup>). *It was agreed* that Panel members should look at this and consider whether any further input is necessary from Panel members. The declaration will be considered in plenary on Friday 31st.

**5. Draft CEPA Programme for consideration at COP10**

(i) It was noted that the CEPA Programme of work is closely tied to the Strategic Plan and that if the potential change in the timings of the COPs moves from three to four years then

the consequent eight-year period for the Plan and thus also the CEPA Programme would be too long for the latter. In the event of this, *it was agreed* that a review process was essential with the possibility to make necessary adjustments to the Programme of work.

- (ii) Gerhard Sigmund suggested that we had not reflected in our draft the sense that this new programme is a continuation of Resolution VIII.31; a reassurance that we are building on the established programme and not fundamentally changing it. After some discussion it was agreed that that Panel members could introduce some minor textual changes to paragraph 9 during plenary discussions of the draft with an additional paragraph referring to a follow up brief document to show the relationship between Resolutions VII.9, VIII.31 and X. Following further discussion, it was agreed that Chris Prietto would produce a first draft of the suggested changes, and pass this around Panel members for approval. *It was agreed* that Panel members Gerhard Sigmund or Charles Amankwah, as CEPA Government Focal Points and members of Contracting Party delegations would introduce the changes during the Plenary.

*[Post-meeting note: The changes introduced during plenary by Austria and adopted included:*

*Operative paragraph 9:*

*CONFIRMS that this Resolution and its Annex incorporates the key recommendations from ~~replace and supersede~~ Resolutions VII.9 and VIII.31 and their Annexes in an expanded framework that reflects the broader approach proposed in this CEPA Programme 2009-2014;*

*NEW operative paragraph: REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to give priority in its work plan to developing, a short advisory document which shows the relationships between Resolutions VII.9 and VIII.31 and COP10 DR10.8 to assist CEPA Focal Points in the on-going implementation of the CEPA Programme; ]*

## 6. Selection of the CEPA Panel for the next triennium.

- (i) *It was agreed* that the Panel should suggest in its report to Standing Committee 40 that the Deputy SG should be the Secretariat ex-officio member rather than the Secretary General since the former has direct line management responsibilities for the Secretariat's communication staff (including the CEPA Programme Officer and the Communications Officer).
- (ii) Regarding the designated Panel member *Chair of the STRP/WI CEPA Specialist Group*, it was noted that the Wetlands International CEPA SG no longer exists, that an STRP Specialist Group was never set up (although recommended in Resolution VIII.31) and that STRP had instead appointed a CEPA expert. *It was agreed* that the Panel should report this to SC40, noting that STRP now has one CEPA expert and that the title of this designated Panel member should be changed to STRP CEPA expert member.

- (iii) The discussion on the Panel membership of the Ramsar Regional Centres (RRCs) noted that the Panel had decided to include a representative of the RRCs at its second meeting and, after some discussion, *it was agreed* that this should be continued on a rotational basis to ensure that a balance of the diversity of members is maintained and that for the next triennium RRC West and Central Asia should represent the RRCs on the Panel.
- (iv) Following further discussion with the current representative of the RRCs (CREHO), *it was agreed* that there is an urgent need to develop an effective network of the RRCs in order to share experiences, work plans etc., and that this should be communicated to Standing Committee.
- (v) Panel members were reminded that following our report to SC36-16, it was agreed by Standing Committee that the membership of the CEPA Panel should include two Government and two NGO CEPA Focal Points. While a clear mechanism for nominating the Government CEPA Focal Points, no such mechanism was clearly articulated for the nomination of NGO CEPA Focal Points. The Panel drafted the following criteria and agreed that the Panel Chair should approach the SC Chairs for a decision on this so that a process can be launched before SC40 for the nomination of the to NGO CEPA Focal Points.

The NGO CEPA National Focal Points should:

- Have served as the NGO NFP for a minimum period of 2 years
- Worked collaboratively with national and regional wetland-related networks and networkers
- Have been actively involved in some aspects of the implementation of the Convention
- Be fluent in written and spoken English

*Note: During COP, the SC Chairs agreed to these criteria and their use in nomination of CEPA NGO NFPs.*

- (vi) *It was agreed* that a few of the current Panel members should be present as observers at the next Panel meeting to ensure continuity of the Panel's work.
- (vii) *It was agreed* that the formal changes to the membership of the Panel noted in paragraphs i, ii and iii above, should be reported to SC40, and recommend that the membership of the CEPA Panel as outlined in Standing Committee DOC 34.11, be amended accordingly.

## 7. CEPA Panel work plan

- (i) *It was agreed* that a key job of the new Panel should be a review of the Panel's work plan, identifying what has been done, new items that have been identified, and a prioritised list of activities finalized at its first meeting. The list already presented by the Panel to SC36 has been prioritised by the Panel as shown below; additional tasks suggested since SC36 by Parties or by Panel members are included and marked \*.

- Review of CEPA implementation demonstrated through the National Reports submitted to COP. The Panel further discussed the need to consider whether the National Reports submitted triennially by Parties is an appropriate mechanism for assessing the level and scope of CEPA implementation. An assessment of this using the COP10 national Reports should be made by the Panel.
- Review of Ramsar regional initiative reports and particularly those from the Ramsar Regional Centres to clarify the role they play in delivering objectives under the CEPA programme and specifically reporting on training/capacity building
- Continuation of work with the Advisory Board on identifying priorities for capacity building for wetland management.
- \*Improving the performance of the CEPA NFPs: the need for training workshops in using the new CEPA planning tool launched at the COP.
- \*Advise the Secretariat on how regular Convention meetings and Ramsar-related meetings can be used to help raise the profile of the Convention and the performance of the Secretariat. E.g. Georgia is offering to host the next SC meeting.
- \*What does the Secretariat do well that can be shared with Parties: using the Secretariat experience with Danone/Evian, knowledge and know-how on working with the private sector could be shared. Perhaps successful experiences from the IOPs in working with the private sector could be identified. All this advice should be delivered to the Parties through the SC.
- The need for some general guidance on CEPA for site managers: that could be easily incorporated into site manager training programmes.

#### **8. Close of the meeting**

The Chair closed the meeting thanking all members of the Panel for their dedicated input over the last triennium. The CEPA Programme Officer also thanked the Panel members for their support and lively input over the period.