

55th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 17 February 2024

UNEP/CMS/StC55/Report

MEETING REPORT

Opening remarks and introductions

1. The Executive Secretary of CMS, Ms Amy Fraenkel, opened the meeting in her role as temporary Chair of the Standing Committee (StC).

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Executive Secretary invited the meeting to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda and Documents ([UNEP/CMS/StC55/Doc.2.1](#)). There being no comments from the floor, the agenda was adopted as presented.

Elections of officials to fill the posts of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee for 2024-2026

3. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that the government of the United Kingdom had been nominated as Chair of the StC, and the government of Uruguay as Vice-Chair. There being no objections, both nominations were approved. The Executive Secretary congratulated the governments of the United Kingdom and Uruguay for their successful elections, and looked forward to work with them closely for the period going ahead.

Elections of the members of the Finance and Budget Sub-Committee

4. The Executive Secretary mentioned the importance of the Finance and Budget Sub-Committee, which had proved essential during the last intersessional period, which included the holding of an Extraordinary COP (ExCOP). She indicated that nominations received from the five CMS regions for formation of this Sub-Committee were:
 - Africa: Kenya
 - Asia: India
 - Europe: Monaco
 - Oceania: New Zealand
 - South and Central America and the Caribbean: Uruguay
5. There being no objections from the floor, all members were elected.
6. The Executive Secretary indicated that one of the first orders of business was to elect a Chair of the Sub-Committee. Noting that CMS had been fortunate to have Mr Patrick Omondi, Kenya, as Chair of this Sub-Committee during the last intersessional period, the Executive Secretary asked the meeting if there was a firm intention for a Sub-Committee Chair. As no nominations were mentioned or put forward, she proposed that the Secretariat would send a communication to the Sub-Committee to secure this position as soon as possible after COP14.

7. The Executive Secretary informed that, when looking through all COP14 Resolutions and Decisions, there were a number of decisions that would have an important role for the StC. She noted that the last StC had played a key role in finalizing the Programme of Work (POW) and contributing to developments with respect to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). For the next intersessional period, this would essentially focus on the next replenishment of GEF, for which the views of the StC would be sought in order to finalize inputs for consideration in the shaping of GEF 9. She noted that the CEO and Chairperson of GEF was committed to seek support for biodiversity needs that cut across the different biodiversity-related conventions.

Dates and venue of the 56th meeting of the Standing Committee

8. The Secretariat informed that the StC was scheduled to meet once a year, and proposed to have the next meeting in early 2025 and another in early 2026. StC meetings usually took place in Bonn, Germany. The dates for the seventh meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScCSC7) had been fixed at 17-20 September 2024 in Bonn. The eighth meeting (ScCSC8) would take place during a certain period before the COP, as its role was to review all the documents containing a scientific element. The ScC meeting would also take place in line with COP15.

Any other business

9. Kenya noted that it would be good to see the new Chair and Vice-Chair take up their seats on the podium.
10. The United Kingdom thanked the meeting for entrusting them with the role of Chair and invited any further contributions.
11. Kenya, on behalf of the Africa region, congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair on their appointments and looked forward to working together and lending support.
12. New Zealand, on behalf of the Oceania region, also congratulated them on their appointment.
13. India, on behalf of the Asia region, further lent their full support.
14. Monaco, on behalf of the Europe region, also noted the nominations and looked forward to working together.
15. Costa Rica, on behalf of the South and Central America and the Caribbean region, congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair for their appointments, supported by Peru.

Concluding remarks

16. The Secretariat mentioned that an attendance sheet was being circulated, and requested all delegates to add their names to it.
17. The Executive Secretary of CMS thanked everyone for attending, noting that the StC was the key body in terms of governance in carrying COP mandates forward during the intersessional period.
18. The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.