

Update on Contributions

A Secretariat Report

22 Feb 2024

1. Background

- 1.1. Financial Regulation E.7 requires the Executive Secretary to keep the Bureau updated on contributions and voting status and this report serves that purpose.
- 1.2. The Secretariat would like to bring to Bureau members' attention some extracts from the Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations which may aid Contracting Governments in arrears.
 - Financial Regulation section E.3: It shall be open to any Contracting Government to defer the payment of any increased portion of its annual contribution resulting from a change in Capacity to Pay Groups. The Contracting Government must obtain written agreement to defer the increased portion of its annual contribution from the Executive Secretary 30 days before payment is due. The deferred portion shall be paid in full by 31 December of that year. The non-deferred portion must still be paid to the Commission by 30 June.
 - Financial Regulation section F.5(f): The provisions of this Regulation and of Financial Regulations F.1. and F.2. will cease to have effect for a Contracting Government if it makes a payment of 2 years outstanding contributions and provides an undertaking to pay the balance of arrears and the interest within a further 2 years.

2. Current Position

- 2.1. The right to vote of representatives of any Contracting Government shall be suspended automatically when the annual payment, including any interest due, has not been received by the Commission by the earliest of these dates:
 - 3 months following the due date; or
 - The day before the first day of the next biennial or special meeting of the Commission or meeting of the Bureau if such a meeting is held within 3 months following the due date; or
 - In the case of a vote by postal or other means, the date upon which votes must be received if this falls within 3 months following the due date,

The right to vote of the Contracting Government concerned shall be suspended as provided under Rule E.2. of the Rules of Procedure, unless the Commission decides otherwise in the case of exceptional circumstances.

- 2.2. Annex A shows countries with and without voting rights as at 09:00 22 February 2024.

- 2.3. At the time of writing:

- For 2023 financial contributions, the Commission has received 50 payments, 57% of the members. The due date for 2023 invoices was 30 June 2023.
- For 2024 financial contributions, the Commission has received 10 payments, 11% of the members. The due date for 2024 invoices is 30 June 2024.
- This means that the Commission is currently quorate and therefore can hold a vote if this becomes necessary. It is required for a simple majority (45) of countries to be in good standing for voting to be quorate.
- The arrears balance as of the date of this document totals nearly £720k for the seven years 2017-2023, which is approximately 42% of the IWC annual contributions budget.

2.4. Not receiving contributions on time is critical for the Commission to be able to operate and pay its obligations as they fall due. Non-payment / late payments of contributions create risks to the IWC's ability to function.

2.5. A verbal update will be given to the Bureau if the position has changed from that set out in this report.

3. Annual contribution status on the IWC website

3.1. In May 2023, the IWC launched a new section on our webpage which provides a report on the status of annual financial contributions, updated once per month.

3.2. A copy of the January 2024 report is available on the IWC website.

4. Summary

4.1. The Bureau is requested to:

- Note the status of contributions and voting for Member Governments.
- Emphasise the need to pay contributions in full and on time and strongly encourage Member Governments in arrears to pay their remaining contributions immediately.

ANNEX A – Voting Status

09:00 22 February 2024

Countries **with** full voting rights:

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Austria
4. Belgium
5. Brazil
6. Bulgaria
7. Cambodia
8. China P.R. of
9. Colombia
10. Croatia
11. Cyprus
12. Czech Republic
13. Denmark
14. Dominican Republic
15. Estonia
16. Finland
17. France
18. Germany
19. Guinea-Bissau
20. Hungary
21. Iceland
22. Ireland
23. Israel
24. Italy
25. Kiribati
26. Korea, Rep of
27. Lithuania
28. Luxembourg
29. Mexico
30. Monaco
31. Morocco
32. Netherlands
33. New Zealand
34. Nicaragua
35. Norway
36. Palau
37. Poland
38. Portugal
39. Senegal
40. Slovak Republic
41. Slovenia
42. South Africa
43. Spain

Countries **with** full voting rights:

44. St Kitts and Nevis
45. Sweden
46. Switzerland
47. Tuvalu
48. United Kingdom
49. Uruguay
50. USA

KEY

- 1 = 1 year in arrears
 2 = 2 years in arrears
 3 = 3 years in arrears
 + = more than 3 years in arrears

Countries **without** full voting rights:

1. Antigua and Barbuda (2)
2. Belize (+)
3. Benin (2)
4. Cameroon (+)
5. Chile (2)
6. Congo, Rep (+)
7. Costa Rica (3)
8. Cote d'Ivoire (+)
9. Dominica (+)
10. Ecuador (+)
11. Eritrea (+)
12. Gabon (+)
13. Gambia, The (+)
14. Ghana (+)
15. Grenada (2)
16. Guinea (+)
17. India (2)
18. Kenya (3)
19. Lao PDR (2)
20. Liberia (+)
21. Mali (2)
22. Marshall Islands (2)
23. Mauritania (+)
24. Mongolia (3)
25. Nauru (3)
26. Oman (3)
27. Panama (2)
28. Peru (2)
29. Romania (2)
30. Russian Federation (2)
31. San Marino (2)
32. Sao Tome & Principe (+)
33. Solomon Islands (+)
34. St Lucia (2)
35. St Vincent & The Grenadines (+)
36. Suriname (3)
37. Tanzania (+)
38. Togo (2)