

**WGOE Updates  
IWC Bureau Meeting  
March 2024**

Please Note: *This is a provisional programme of work and the WGOE Chairs are consulting WGOE members in parallel. Should they receive any views or objections to the approach this week (w/c 26/02/24), they will share as supplementary information for consideration by the Bureau.*

**Updated WGOE timeline:**

- w/c 11<sup>th</sup> March – WGOE virtual meeting to discuss the quorum paper (written comments also welcome if attendance not possible) (2 hours)
- w/c 25<sup>th</sup> March – Circulate paper on exceptional circumstances, voting rights and payment plans
- w/c 1<sup>st</sup> April – WGOE virtual meeting to discuss ‘exceptional circumstances’ (written comments also welcome if attendance not possible) (2 hours)
- w/c 1<sup>st</sup> April – WGOE virtual meeting to discuss ‘voting rights and payment plans’ and other “Medium priority” items (written comments also welcome if attendance not possible) (2 hours)
- w/c 8<sup>th</sup> April – If needed WGOE virtual meeting to discuss other “low priority” items and any outstanding previously discussed items. (90 minutes)
- w/c 8<sup>th</sup> April – updated quorum paper circulated for WGOE feedback (to reflect discussion at WGOE and written comments)
- w/c 15<sup>th</sup> April – Updated ‘voting rights and payment plans’ paper and ‘exceptional circumstances’ papers circulated for WGOE feedback (to reflect discussion at WGOE and written comments)
- w/c 13<sup>th</sup> May - Comments on all papers due
- w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Final draft versions of all papers shared prior to submission to the IWC
- w/c 17<sup>th</sup> June - Optional virtual WGOE meeting to capture any concerns with the final versions of the papers
- w/c 24<sup>th</sup> June - Update papers following virtual meeting and circulate final versions prior to submission to IWC Secretariat
- 1<sup>st</sup> July - Ensure final papers are submitted to IWC Secretariat by the 60-day deadline

## WGOE Intersessional Taskings

Task	Detail	Suggested Priority	Virtual Meeting date
<b>Quorum</b>	Develop a proposal that addresses quorum, Rule of Procedure B.1, to be discussed as the first item of business at IWC69, before any other decisions are adopted.	HIGH	w/c March 11 (2 hours)
<b>Exceptional Circumstances</b>	For future application of the change to RoP E.2(a) and Financial Regulation F.2 agreed at IWC 68, work intersessionally to define criteria for what constitutes exceptional circumstances and a process for decision-making.	HIGH	w/c April 1 pt. 1 (2 hours)
<b>Voting Rights</b>	Further consideration of the proposal to align voting right suspension with the Biennial Meeting schedule and allow Contracting Governments in arrears to participate in intersessional decision making.	MEDIUM	w/c April 1 pt.1 (2 hours)
<b>Payment Plans</b>	Further consideration of the proposal to make payment plans more accessible: voting rights could be restored regardless of the length of time in arrears, provided the Contracting Government enters into and adheres to a re-payment plan, including an upfront good-faith payment.	MEDIUM	w/c April 1 pt.2 (2 hours)
<b>Hybrid format / absentee voting</b>	Consider the IWC conducting meetings in a hybrid format and/or allowing for absentee voting, to facilitate the participation of all contracting governments.	MEDIUM	w/c April 1 pt.2 (2 hours)
<b>Structural Reform Proposals</b>	Further consideration of the proposals from the WG-OE that were not adopted at IWC 68	LOW	w/c April 8 (if needed) (90 minutes)
<b>Visas</b>	Consider issues related to obtaining visas for contracting governments to participate in IWC meetings.	LOW	w/c April 8 (if needed) (90 minutes)