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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.873

Call for expressions of interest in taking one of the 'open seats' on the Budgetary Sub-committee

The Budgetary Sub-committee exists to review income and expenditure and proposed budgets to help expedite the work of the full Finance and Administration Committee.

The composition of the Budgetary Sub-committee (BSC) and how it operates is summarised in the attachment.

In summary, there is a rota via which Contracting Governments are invited to join the BSC. In addition to this, however, there are two 'open seats' for any country interested in joining the BSC outside of its usual term as defined by the rota.

There are currently vacancies for both 'open seats. **Any country wishing to take up one of these seats (which would be for a term of 2 years, i.e. 2010/11 and 2011/12), should inform the Secretariat as soon as possible, but before the start of the meeting of the F&A Committee in Agadir on Friday 18 June.**

The open seat(s) will be allocated at the F&A Committee meeting. If the level of demand exceeds the number of seats available, then preference will be given to a country that has not served on the BSC before or served the longest time ago.



Dr Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Budgetary Sub-Committee operations

This document summarises the *modus operandi* for the Budgetary Sub-committee agreed by the Commission as of IWC/57.

Membership

Membership of the Budgetary Sub-committee (BSC) consists of:

- 2 members from 'capacity to pay' Group 1
- 2 members from 'capacity to pay' Group 2
- 2 members from 'capacity to pay' Group 3
- Japan, USA + one other from 'capacity to pay' Group 4
- membership is for 3 years (except for Japan and the USA who have a 'permanent' place since they are likely to be the two highest paying contributors under almost any formula for the calculation of financial contributions for the foreseeable future, being the highest payers now and probably in the future)
- any member that declines to serve will be replaced by the next member in alphabetical sequence within its Group
- new members of the Commission will be fitted into the cycle at the nearest alphabetical point after they have had a period in which to familiarise themselves with the organisation
- two 'open seats' (i.e. for any interested countries) as a fifth membership category.

The table in the Annex shows the current membership and the provisional rota for BSC membership for 2010/2011 to 2012/2013 (assuming no country declines to serve).

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- The term for Chair and Vice-Chair is for three years and under normal circumstances the Vice-Chair would replace the outgoing Chair.
- Elections shall take place at the end of sub-committee meetings.
- Any member is eligible to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair.

The appointment as Chair or Vice Chair of a BSC member who was coming to the end of their term might block participation of other interested countries. The Secretariat is preparing a paper for review at IWC/58 regarding how this situation might be handled. In fact this situation has already arisen, since Austria, who was coming to the end of its 3-year term at IWC/57 was elected as Vice-Chair.

Open Seats

- The term for the "open-seats" is two years (offering a balance between continuity and opportunity for wider participation in the BSC);
- A call for expressions of interest in taking an open seat when one becomes available will be made through a Circular Communication in advance of an Annual Meeting. The open seat(s) will be allocated at the F&A Committee meeting.
- If the level of demand in any one year for "open seats" exceeds the number of seats available, then preference will be given to a country that has not served on the BSC before or served the longest time ago.

Contracting Governments as Observers to the BSC

- There is no restriction to contributing countries wishing to attend as observers.
- Non BSC members would not receive documents intersessionally but all documents will be made available to observers at the BSC meeting.
- Observers will not be eligible to be appointed as Chair or Vice Chair.
- The Chair has discretion to invite comments from observers.

Annex:

Current and future membership of Budgetary Sub-committee based on Contracting Governments as at June 2010

	Term of membership (years)	Current membership (as per rota)	Current (effective) membership*	Future membership assuming no country declines to serve		
				2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Group 1	3	Gambia the (!!)	Gambia the (2)	Gambia (the) (3)	Guinea (1)	Guinea (2)
		Grenada (!!)	Grenada (2)	Grenada (3)	Guinea Bissau (1)	Guinea Bissau (2)
Group 2	3	Panama (*1)		Poland (1)	Poland (2)	Poland (3)
		Peru (*1)		Romania (1)	Romania (2)	Romania (3)
Group 3	3	Cyprus (*1)		Iceland (1)	Iceland (2)	Iceland (3)
		Greece (*1)		Netherlands (1)	Netherlands (2)	Netherlands (3)
Group 4	3	Italy (!!)	Italy (2)	Italy (3)	UK (1)	UK (2)
		Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan
		USA	USA	USA	USA	USA
Open seats	2	vacant	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>
Chair		Andrea Nouak (Austria)	Andrea Nouak (Austria)	Andrea Nouak (Austria)	To be elected	To be elected
Vice-Chair		Thomas Schmidt (Germany)	Thomas Schmidt (Germany)	Thomas Schmidt (Germany)	To be elected	To be elected

* Number in brackets indicates how many years a country has already been a member.

(!!) Willing to participate when asked during IWC60

(*1) Invitations to participate sent in June 2009 plus reminders in May 2010 - no affirmative responses as yet.

Group 3 nations entitled to participate by rotation: Iceland, Ireland (#1), Israel (#1), Korea (Rep of) (#2), Luxembourg (#1), Netherlands

(#1) Gave negative responses when asked, due to excess work for single representative.

(#2) Recent BSC member as Group 2 Contracting Government.