

IWC Bureau Meeting – September 2018

Minutes of Sept 2018 Bureau Meeting (1), held at 1500 on 4 Sept in Florianopolis, Brazil

- Attending: Joji Morishita (Chair), Hideki Moronuki, Kazunari Tanaka, Yuki Morita, Kazufumi Aoki (**Japan**)
Andrej Bibic (Vice Chair) (**Slovenia**)
Miguel Iniguez, (**Argentina**)
Nick Gales, Adam Clarke, Mike Double, Paula Perrett, (**Australia**)
Hermano Ribeiro (IWC67 Host) Rodrigo Almeida (**Brazil**)
Horace Walters, (**St Lucia**)
Ryan Wulff (Chair of Finance & Administration Committee), Lisa Phelps (Operational Effectiveness Working Group and Budgetary Sub-Committee Chair), Carolyn Doherty (**USA**)
Rebecca Lent, Katie Penfold, Kate Wilson (**Secretariat**)
- Apologies: Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)

Welcome from the Chair

The Chair thanked the Government of Brazil for providing such a beautiful location and excellent hospitality, and reminded members that the Bureau is not a decision-making body, but was established in order to provide advice and support to the Commission in terms of process and administration.

A potential meeting timetable for the Bureau was confirmed, with the following meeting slots available in sub-committee week if needed:

- Sat 8th (after Finance and Administration Sub-committee)
- Sun 9th (after the Private Commissioners meeting)

During Plenary week, the Bureau may also be required to meet if issues arise during Plenary that would benefit from Bureau discussion.

Appointment of Rapporteur

It was agreed that the Secretariat would rapporteur.

Adoption of Agenda

The Bureau agenda was adopted.

Commission Plenary Agenda

The Bureau agreed to continue the approach of recent meetings where items requiring a decision are highlighted at the beginning of the meeting. The group also acknowledged that it is not possible to decide on the Plenary schedule at this stage because it depends on how the sub-committee meetings run, but during this first week, a clearer picture should develop of which Schedule Amendments and Resolutions it might be possible to conclude early in Plenary.

The Bureau acknowledged the importance of the six-yearly Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) catch limits, noting that all the catch limits, including those which have changed from previous years, have been subject to Scientific Committee scrutiny which it was hoped would enable early conclusion of discussions on this Schedule Amendment.

With nine Resolutions to handle, the Chair stressed the need for early, informal discussions in order to develop an idea of which of these might be handled early in Plenary week, and which might need more time for discussion. It was envisaged that initial decisions on timing could be taken on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning of sub-committee week.

The Chair highlighted links between some of the Schedule Amendments and Resolutions, including Japan's Way Forward proposal and Brazil's Florianopolis Declaration, which could be seen as different sides of the same coin, both looking to the future of the IWC. The Bureau considered the benefits of discussing these proposals jointly

rather than in isolation, and agreed that there was scope for informal discussions. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, these two proposals could then either be handled jointly or separately.

The Bureau agreed that these discussions should be inclusive, informal and non-binding, and, like the Bureau itself, aim for participation that reflects the geographic and political make-up of the Commission.

It was agreed that the Governance Review should be handled separately. Although there were clearly links, the Governance Review focus is administration, processes and structures and should be kept separate from policy discussions.

Finance & Administration Committee Update

The Bureau noted that the Finance and Administration Committee (F&A) has a very full agenda, and would be handling more than twenty documents. A full day would be required.

The Chair of F&A explained that many of the issues on the agenda had significant policy implications. These include how we handle Memoranda of Understanding, Risk Management and Currency Strategy, and the future of the Red House warehouse. (This requires an assessment of what space and facilities the Commission want at the Red House in the long-term).

Voluntary fund administration and external funds are also on the F&A agenda, as well as some changes to Scientific Committee (SC) Rules of Procedure and financial regulations, and clarification of the SC Chair handover process (it emerged this year that the biennial meeting cycle creates a point every six years when the post-SC changeover of Chair is some months before the Commission meeting and a procedure is required to handle this). The Governance Review will also be handled by F&A and there will be a presentation by a member of the Review Panel (see below).

The Bureau has submitted the budget strategy proposal which the F&A Chair will introduce. It was noted that the Bureau is likely to be asked why these options were selected and will need to explain the rationale and approach. It was agreed that a solution to the financial shortfall would need to be found at this meeting and could not be postponed until 2020.

The Bureau agreed it has become increasingly important for new work proposals to include some consideration of both financial and human resource implications. F&A will take the opportunity to clarify the resource requirements of each Schedule Amendment and Resolution. It was also noted that some Resolutions (or other proposals) might require short-term spending in order to achieve long-term benefits and this should be considered as part of these discussions.

It was also highlighted that the F&A Budgetary Sub-committee has vacancies for a Vice Chair and additional members, and governments should be encouraged to support this group.

Governance Review Update

It was confirmed that the Operational Effectiveness Working Group (OEWG) will meet on 5th September, primarily to ensure continuing support for the Resolution so that it can be adopted as early as possible and by consensus. The OEWG meeting is also an opportunity for preliminary discussions on comments received from the SC and Secretariat (noting that OEWG will not have a mandate to take forward any further work on the Governance Review until/unless the Resolution is adopted). It was noted that the Conservation Committee is also submitting a response on the Governance Review.

A member of the Governance Review Expert Panel will give a presentation to F&A and also to Plenary. It was agreed that, in order to be make best use of these sessions, they should be forward-looking and focused on achieving a common understanding of how to handle the next stage of the Governance Review.

The Secretariat summarised the process and outcomes of their work on the Governance Review, highlighting that unanimous agreement was reached amongst staff that a top to bottom review of structure would be welcome, and a review of IT requirements and resources was also essential.

The 2019 Scientific Committee Meeting: update on Kenya

The Secretariat confirmed that the Government of Kenya has now paid 50% of the venue cost which covers the budgetary excess. Lower-cost accommodation has also been identified at \$50 per night rather than \$190 and the Government of Kenya has committed to provide transport between the venue and accommodation blocks at regular intervals.

The Secretariat will conduct another site visit shortly and can ask any further questions and raise additional issues during the visit.

Secretariat Papers on Hosting IWC Meetings

The Secretariat recapped that discussions have been ongoing for some time to improve the process and clarify responsibilities of host governments and the Secretariat, and the Secretariat has produced a suite of three documents to address Commission, Scientific Committee and workshop meetings.

These documents clarify the timeframe for organising each of these IWC meeting types, and identifies reference venues for Commission and Scientific Committee meetings. The reference venues provide a benchmark for setting a realistic meeting budget. These documents will be introduced in F&A and feedback is welcomed.

The Government of Slovenia made a generous offer to host the 2020 Commission meeting if no other host comes forward during this meeting. Whilst not wanting to deprive other countries of the opportunity to host the Commission, the IWC Vice Chair explained that this offer was made to ensure that this year's meeting does not end with no host identified for the next one. The Bureau thanked the Government of Slovenia for once again making such a generous offer.

Update on Funding and Expenditures from the Fund Entitled 'Supporting Meeting Participation of Governments of Limited Means'

The Secretariat confirmed that Benin, Costa Rica, Guinea and the Solomon Islands have received funding to attend IWC67. A number of other requests were received after the deadline or from countries whose contributions were in arrears. The Secretariat flagged that sufficient funds would not have been available if these applications had been eligible, and a prioritisation exercise would have been required. This was noted by the Bureau, as was the need to agree a clearer definition of 'state of arrears' and how it is applied to applications for funds.

The Bureau welcomed the addition of new IWC member governments and confirmed that they have the opportunity to make opening statements on Monday.

Executive Secretary Review

Private session - Commissioners only

Bureau Membership

There is likely to be a requirement for some rotation of Bureau membership for the next intersessional period, although staggering is needed to ensure continuity. Current Bureau members are encouraged to talk with governments who may be interested in Bureau membership and it would be helpful if any potential new members could make this offer during F&A. It was agreed that it is important to maintain the current political and geographical spread.

13. Any Other Business

The Chair is meeting with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on Sunday morning. The order for interventions was clarified as: member governments, non-member governments, other Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs) and NGOs. It was agreed that time was always constrained but civil society inclusion and input is important and the IWC has made real progress here in recent years.

Bureau members also agreed to support the process of identifying a new IWC Vice Chair for the period 2018-20, and that it would be helpful to have a candidate identified by the end of sub-committee week.

Minutes of Sept 2018 Bureau Meeting (2), held at 1830 on 8th Sept in Florianopolis, Brazil

Present: Joji Morishita (Chair), Hideki Moronuki, Kazunari Tanaka, Yuki Morita, Kazufumi Aoki (**Japan**)
Andrej Bibic (Vice Chair) (**Slovenia**)
Miguel Iniguez, (**Argentina**)
Nick Gales, Mike Double, Paula Perrett, (**Australia**)
Hermano Ribeiro (IWC67 Host) (**Brazil**)
Horace Walters, (**St Lucia**)
Ryan Wulff (Chair of Finance & Administration Committee)
Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)

Rebecca Lent, Kate Wilson (**Secretariat**)

For Security agenda item Mark Tandy (**Secretariat**)

The Chair began the meeting by inviting in the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee so that Bureau could thank them for hard work and graciousness in working to achieve a consensus agreement on cuts to the Scientific Committee budget.

Security

The Secretariat explained that large gatherings of protestors are expected at the meeting venue, probably on Monday. The police and our private security personnel are working to ensure the venue is secure. An area has been identified for peaceful protests and so there will be an opportunity for protestors to express their views. The Government of Brazil was thanked for its support. It was agreed that security would be added to the agenda of the Private Commissioners meeting.

Media

The Secretariat explained that media registrations were much higher than usual (51 this year compared with 22 in 2016). We had made some changes to the room layout to accommodate higher numbers and try to ensure that cameras could get the shots they want without disturbing delegates.

The Secretariat is also limiting each media organisation to three people.

Media registration will also now be handled away from the main meeting area so that accreditation documents can be verified before gaining access.

It was clarified that media are able to move relatively freely around the room during the opening session, but will then be expected to stay in the allocated media areas.

It was agreed that the media arrangements should be explained at the Private Commissioners meeting.

NGO Participation

The Chair summarised his earlier meeting with NGO organisations. He had expressed appreciation for their contribution to the debate and stressed that it was important to enable equal participation by NGOs with different viewpoints. The Chair also said he would provide as much opportunity as possible for contributions – within the time constraints of a very crowded agenda. As far as possible, he would not limit interventions to two per agenda item.

The Code of Conduct had been discussed at the meeting and concerns raised were, as were also expressed during today's F&A meeting.

The Chair had offered another meeting with NGOs if required at any point during the meeting

Plenary Agenda: Opening Statements

The Chair clarified that new members (Liberia and Sao Tome and Principe) were invited to make Opening Statements. Two delegations had also made requests for VIPs to speak during the opening session. The Bureau

agreed that it would be helpful if these could be limited to 5 minutes and clarified that it was for the Private Commissioners Meeting to decide whether VIP statements were acceptable.

The Chair explained that he planned to stick to the timetable of 9-5.30 every day. This is to provide as much time as possible for consultation in small groups.

The Chair also explained that he would encourage delegations to bring items to the floor only after discussions have been held outside Plenary.

Plenary Agenda: Schedule Amendments and Resolutions

The Bureau discussed the best place on the agenda for Resolutions and Schedule Amendments.

It was agreed that all three Schedule Amendments had clear and logical places on the agenda but it was unclear where some Resolutions were best placed.

The introduction of Schedule Amendments and Resolutions was under items 6 and 7. It was noted that only 90 minutes was allowed for this on the agenda and therefore the proponents should be asked to limit introductory presentations to 5 minutes if possible. It was noted that the Government of Japan would combine the Schedule Amendment and Resolution on the Way Forward into a single presentation of 10 minutes.

It was also noted that the Government of the Dominican Republic would not be able to attend the plenary and had therefore withdrawn their Resolution.

It was agreed that the following should be proposed:

Resolution on Anthropogenic Noise – item 11.3

Resolution on Food Security would be handled as in 2016: kept open under introductory item 7.2.

Resolution on Ghost Gear – item 11.2

Resolution on the Sustainable Development Goals – a decision whether to place under item 18 (cooperation with other organisations) or kept open under the introductory item would be deferred until later.

Resolution on the Governance Review is item 7.7 but item 5 is a presentation by one of the Governance Review panel and therefore it might be helpful to bring forward discussion of this Resolution, immediately after the presentation. It was hoped that early consensus agreement could be reached on this Resolution.

Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning – item 10.2

Resolution on the Way Forward – item 12

Resolution on the Florianopolis Declaration – item 12

The Governments of Brazil and Japan reported that they had conducted open and constructive dialogue to explore the scope for their two proposals (the Way Forward and the Florianopolis Declaration) to move forward in parallel but ultimately, they are divergent visions and it had not been possible to agree a combined approach. As above, both will be placed under item 12.

Plenary Agenda: Discussion of Special Permits

Item 14.4 currently proposes three separate Scientific Committee presentations, three SP-SWG presentations and three discussions - one for each special permit programme. It was agreed that there was likely to be considerable overlap and therefore it would be more efficient if these were bundled into a single Scientific Committee presentation, a single SP-SWG presentation and a single discussion.

The Chair noted all the Bureau's recommendations on handling the Plenary agenda would need to be considered at the Private Commissioners meeting.

IWC Vice Chair and Bureau Membership.

There is not yet a clear candidate for IWC Vice Chair and discussions are continuing.

The Bureau membership for the 2018-20 period was clarified as Argentina, Ghana, St Lucia, UK as well as Slovenia as Chair and US as F&A Chair.

Future Meetings

The Government of Slovenia confirmed its offer to host IWC68 if not other host comes forward. It was also noted that reference venues for both Commission and Scientific Committee meetings were used as budgetary benchmarks but venue options were flexible.

Next Meeting

Meeting again at 3pm tomorrow.

Minutes of Sept 2018 Bureau Meeting (3), held at 1500 on 9th Sept in Florianopolis, Brazil

Present: Joji Morishita (Chair), Hideki Moronuki, Kazunari Tanaka, Yuki Morita, Kazufumi Aoki (**Japan**)
Andrej Bibic (Vice Chair), Katja Piskur (**Slovenia**)
Josefina Bunge, Miguel Iniguez, (**Argentina**)
Nick Gales, Mike Double, Paula Perrett, (**Australia**)
Hermano Ribeiro (IWC67 Host) (**Brazil**)
Horace Walters, (**St Lucia**)
Ryan Wulff (Chair of Finance & Administration Committee)
Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)

Rebecca Lent, Kate Wilson (**Secretariat**)

For Security agenda item Mark Tandy (**Secretariat**)

The Chair began by thanking everyone for a smooth and cooperative Private Commissioners meeting.

Security

The Secretariat updated the Bureau on discussions with local police who have advised that the area immediately outside the double doors of the meeting venue is public property. Although it's hoped that protest activity will stay outside the hotel grounds, this cannot be enforced and members of the public have right of access. The rear entrance to the venue is on private hotel property and delegates are advised to enter and leave using this doorway, whether or not they are staying in the hotel.

Credentials

At this point, there are known issues with credentials for two Contracting Governments. The Government of Grenada is currently represented by a government minister who does not have credentials at present. Under Rule of Procedure D1a he would be able to sign credentials himself, although this may not be necessary as it's understood the Commissioner for Grenada is also en route to the meeting. Credentials are not yet in place for the Government of Ghana but the Commissioner for Ghana hopes to receive them in the correct format shortly.

COMHAFAT

It was agreed that the Chair and Executive Secretary would ask COMHAFAT for an opportunity to brief their member governments who are attending IWC67 about IWC process and logistics. The Chair noted that many countries, including in west Africa, benefited when the IWC introduced French as a working language, but there is still room for improved communication and understanding, and it was an important part of capacity building measures. The Bureau agreed that a meeting during IWC67 would be helpful and appropriate, and that the Secretariat should organise the meeting.

Executive Secretary Probationary Review

The Bureau congratulated the Executive Secretary on a successful first eight months in post, and recorded that she had received full endorsement and support at the Private Commissioners meeting. It was agreed it was important to check whether the employment contract required any formal action to be taken in order to record this.

Attendance at Receptions

The Chair asked the Bureau to note that he would tonight attend a reception hosted by sustainable use countries. In order to ensure transparency and balance, the Chair proposed to attend events hosted by many different groups, regardless of their viewpoints and agendas, and had already attended an event focused on the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.

Plenary Agenda

Governance Review

No objections had been raised to the proposed Resolution so far. The Bureau agreed it would be helpful to focus Governance Review debate on the Resolution and that, following the Review Panel presentation and subject to the nature of the discussion, it may be possible to seek agreement on this tomorrow.

Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling

It was also noted that discussions on ASW were ongoing and as wide-ranging and inclusive as possible. The relevant agenda items were due to be handled in plenary on Tuesday morning and indigenous hunters, many of whom have travelled a long way, will have the opportunity to make interventions when Catch Limits are discussed. The Bureau acknowledged that it was not possible to predict when this agenda item might be concluded until these discussions have concluded.

Future of the IWC

Indications from the Governments of Brazil and Japan are that there will not be a combined Resolution on these issues, both of which address a vision of how the IWC should move forward. Discussions continue but there remains a large gap between the two approaches and so they are likely to be handled separately on the agenda, both under Item 12. It was tentatively agreed that Brazil would go first under this agenda item.

Special Permits

It was noted that discussions and drafting of the Special Permits Working Group summary text is ongoing, with a view to presenting proposed wording for the Commission report to plenary on Wednesday. The Government of Australia will share revised the text with the Government of Japan as soon as possible. It was noted that the purpose of the report is to summarise the work of the Scientific Committee Expert Panel and Scientific Committee review. It was also noted that the Government of Japan had already circulated a response to the Working Group report and would have nothing to add unless the report had changed substantially.

For Next Meeting

The Bureau agreed to meet at the end of the plenary session on Monday 10 September.

Minutes of Sept 2018 Bureau Meeting (4), held at 1730 on 10th Sept in Florianopolis, Brazil

Present: Joji Morishita (Chair), Hideki Moronuki, Kazunari Tanaka, Yuki Morita, Kazufumi Aoki (**Japan**)
Andrej Bibic (Vice Chair)
Josefina Bunge, Miguel Iniguez, (**Argentina**)
Nick Gales, Mike Double (**Australia**)
Hermano Ribeiro (IWC67 Host) (**Brazil**)
Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)
Horace Walters, (**St Lucia**)
Ryan Wulff (Chair of Finance & Administration Committee)

Rebecca Lent, Kate Wilson (**Secretariat**)

For credentials

item: Katie Penfold (**Secretariat**)

Credentials

The Bureau began by forming an ad hoc group, as set out in the Rules of Procedure (RoP), in order to discuss the credentials presented by the Sultanate of Oman, which were brought to the attention of the Bureau by the Credentials Committee.

The ad hoc group agreed that the e-mail presented to the Credentials Committee did not meet the criteria as set out in the RoP. The group also agreed that there is some flexibility in the wording of the RoP D1 on participation prior to presentation of credentials and therefore the delegate from the Sultanate of Oman could be present but would not have speaking rights until the correct credentials had been received. It was also noted that their vote is currently suspended and we should ensure that the delegate was aware of the arrears.

Plenary Agenda

It was agreed that agenda item 16.1 could be moved and would be discussed first on 11 September. It was envisaged that this would not be a long agenda item and the proponents expected a short discussion and vote.

Security

The Chair informed Bureau members that security remained a concern and delegates should be vigilant. This might be discussed by the Bureau again at a later date.

NGO Filming

It was confirmed that there are no rules on NGOs filming the meeting but the Secretariat would make clear that anyone using large cameras should stay in the designated areas, although we were exercising some flexibility as the media plinth is not big enough for the number of cameras in the room.

Minutes of Sept 2018 Bureau Meeting (5), held at 1730 on 11th Sept in Florianopolis, Brazil

Present: Joji Morishita (Chair), Hideki Moronuki, Kazunari Tanaka (**Japan**)
Andrej Bibic (Vice Chair), Katja Piskur (**Slovenia**)
Josefina Bunge, Miguel Iniguez, (**Argentina**)
Nick Gales, Mike Double (**Australia**)
Hermano Ribeiro (IWC67 Host) (**Brazil**)
Horace Walters, (**St Lucia**)
Ryan Wulff (Chair of Finance & Administration Committee)
Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)

Rebecca Lent, Kate Wilson (**Secretariat**)

Security

The Chair brought the attention of the Bureau to an incident where a number of delegates had been subjected to intimidating and racist harassment when travelling between their hotel and the meeting venue. Additional security is now in place and it's hoped that there will be no further security issues.

Bureau Membership

A query had been raised regarding the rotation and selection of Bureau members and it was agreed that work should be undertaken developed to ensure that the rotation process is clear and transparent, and that potential members understand exactly what is required in terms of participation and commitment. The Secretariat highlighted that the Governance Review would be looking at the Bureau and this work might go forward as part of this work.

Drafting Groups

The Chair clarified that NGO participation in drafting groups was at the discretion of the chair of that group, that transparency was important and he would continue to draw attention to meetings of drafting groups as far as possible.

Agenda

The Food Security Resolution drafting group is meeting now and may be ready to bring forward their Resolution on Thursday.

The handling of Japan's Way Forward package of proposals was discussed. Japan confirmed that the plan was to present the package as a whole rather than separate out the different components. It was clarified that the components were a Schedule Amendment, Resolution, instruction to the Scientific Committee to instigate the RMP, and formation of a new committee. The potential complexity of a voting process for the package was highlighted and it was agreed that the picture would be clearer after initial discussions, schedule for tomorrow.

Internet

Concerns were raised over the reliability of the internet. The Secretariat explained that it was working with the hotel IT manager to solve the problems as soon as possible and a new network had been established which may resolve the issues.

Minutes of Sept 2018 Bureau Meeting (6), held at 1830 on 1th Sept in Florianopolis, Brazil

Present: Joji Morishita (Chair), Hideki Moronuki (**Japan**)
Andrej Bibic (Vice Chair), Katja Piskur (**Slovenia**)
Josefina Bunge, Miguel Iniguez (**Argentina**)
Nick Gales, Mike Double (**Australia**)
Hermano Ribeiro (IWC67 Host) (**Brazil**)
Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)
Horace Walters, (**St Lucia**)
Ryan Wulff (Chair of Finance & Administration Committee) (**USA**)
Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)

Rebecca Lent, Kate Wilson (**Secretariat**)

Agenda

Special Permits

The Chair proposed to open the agenda item on Special Permit whaling tomorrow. The Government of Australia confirmed that summary text drawn from the report of the Working Group on Special Permits has been circulated. The Government of Japan confirmed that a position statement was under development. It was agreed that time would need to be allocated for thorough discussion of special permit whaling.

Food Security

The drafting group will meet during the coffee break tomorrow and it's believed that they are close to consensus.

The Way Forward Proposal from the Government of Japan

After some discussion on the best way to handle the various components of this proposal, the Bureau agreed that this should initially be discussed as a package as it was difficult to discuss individual aspects in isolation. If a clear structure for the debate then emerges, this will be followed. The Bureau noted that this is a complex and challenging proposal to handle, and agreed that it was important to allow time for this debate.

Resolution on the 2030 Agenda

The Government of Brazil expressed hope that this Resolution could be agreed by consensus. A revised document would be circulated tomorrow in order to reach a decision on Friday.

Bureau Membership

Following earlier discussions on this issue, the Bureau agreed that this could be included in the report of the Finance and Administration Committee to make clear that future rotations will be handled in a clear and transparent way, and this will be referred to the Operational Effectiveness Working Group as part of their work on the Governance Review.

Minutes of Sept 2018 Bureau Meeting (7), held at 1900 on 13th Sept in Florianopolis, Brazil

Present: Joji Morishita (Chair), Hideki Moronuki (**Japan**)
Andrej Bibic (Vice Chair), Katja Piskur (**Slovenia**)
Josefina Bunge, Miguel Iniguez (**Argentina**)
Mike Double, Paula Perrett (**Australia**)
Hermano Ribeiro (IWC67 Host) (**Brazil**)
Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)
Horace Walters, (**St Lucia**)
Ryan Wulff (Chair of Finance & Administration Committee) (**USA**)
Emmanuel Mantey Mensah, (**Ghana**)

Rebecca Lent, Kate Wilson (**Secretariat**)

Agenda

The Chair noted that tonight's late session had brought the meeting back on track and it was hoped we would be able to finish on time tomorrow.

The Chair confirmed that two decision items remained on the agenda – the summary text on the Standing Working Group on Special Permits from The Governments of Australia and Japan, and Japan's Way Forward package.

The Government of Japan confirmed that, subject to further consultation, they were planning to propose an amendment to the language of the Resolution that would make it conditional on the adoption of the proposed Schedule Amendment, enabling a vote on the whole package that would require a three quarters majority.

It was confirmed that the jewellery competition would be introduced under Agenda Item 24.

Vacancies

It was confirmed that there are 2 remaining vacancies on the Budgetary Sub-Committee.

The role of Vice Chair had been discussed with African colleagues and the Chair noted that this would be a good opportunity to engage more actively with Francophone members. The Commissioner for Guinea would consult on the possibility of taking this position.