

6TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC)

The Hague, The Netherlands, 23 to 27 January 2019

COMM7 – Prop 18.1 Explanatory Note to Proposal 18 Guidelines and Criteria for the Administration of the Developing States (DS) Fund – Travel Support Policy *Secretariat*

1. Status of the Developing States Fund:

- a. In accordance with Convention Article 19, paragraph 5, the “Developing States Fund” has been a budgeted item since Financial Year 2013-2014, the Commission’s allocations to this Fund over the years are:

SPRFMO Budget Development – Developing States Fund (2014/2015 – 2018/2019) NZ\$						
Financial Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Developing States Fund	10 000	15 000	18 000	20 000	15 000	20 000

- b. This Fund has been used to support Developing States Members to participate in the Commission’s annual meetings and Scientific Committee’s meetings/workshops.
- c. At the 3rd FAC Meeting in Valdivia-Chile, January 2016, the Secretariat proposed that unspent appropriations under the budget category for Developing States to be rolled over to the following financial year until reaching a limit defined by the Commission, and the same approach for the Scientific Committee (SC) fund. The Commission adopted the proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations, with a cap of NZ\$ 30,000 for the DS Fund, and NZ\$ 50,000 for the SC Fund. (See Financial Regulation 2.4).
- d. The Secretariat established a separate account for the DS Fund (the same for the SC fund) addressing this amendment to the Financial Regulation.
- e. During Financial Year 2018-2019, the level of the support requested (6 December 2018) have exceeded by almost NZ\$ 20,000 the amount available in the DS Fund.
- f. The table below shows the year-to-date beneficial developing States Members vs. their membership contributions, the travel support granted and status of the DS Fund:



Financial Year	Budget Allocation NZ\$	Meeting/Workshop	Beneficial Developing States Members	Travel Support Amount NZ\$	Membership Contribution Amount NZ\$	Remaining NZ\$
2013-2014	10 000	The 2 nd Commission Meeting Manta, Ecuador, January 2014	Vanuatu	7 016	26 315	
			Cook Islands	4 190	11 733	
			Subtotal expense for FY2013-2014	11 206		-
2014-2015	15 000	The 3 rd Commission Meeting Auckland, New Zealand, January 2015	Cook Islands	1 100	11 078	
			Vanuatu	2 522	57 434	
			Subtotal expense for FY2014-2015	3 622		-
2015-2016 <i>(Amendment to Financial Regulation 2.4 came into effect in January 2016)</i>	18 000	The 4 th Commission Meeting Valdivia, Chile, January 2016	Cook Islands	6 130	8 879	
			Cuba	2 173	6 168	
			Subtotal expense for FY2015-2016	8 303		9 697
2016-2017	20 000	The 5 th Commission Meeting Adelaide, Australia, January 2017	Cuba	1 555	7 528	
			Peru	6 000	26 020	
			Vanuatu	3 722	58 698	
			Subtotal expense for FY2016-2017	11 277		18 420
2017-2018	15 000	The 6 th Commission Meeting Lima, Peru, January 2018	Cuba	1 430	8 657	
			Vanuatu	10 458	46 333	
		The 5 th SC Workshop, Valparaiso, Chile, May 2018	Ecuador	3 117	8 356	
			Subtotal expense for FY2017-2018	15 005		18 415
2018-2019	20 000	The 6 th SC Meeting Puerto Varas, Chile, September 2018	Cook Islands	7 040	12 584	
			Ecuador	3 540	9 116	
			Peru	7 510	34 411	
			Year-to-date subtotal for FY2018-2019	18 090		20 325