

13TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Panama City, Panama, 26 to 27 February 2026

FAC 13 – Doc 15 rev1 (11 Feb2026)

PR2 Recommendations Allocation to FAC – Implementation Plan

Chairperson of the PR2IWG

The Second Performance Review (PR2) of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation was undertaken in 2024, which resulted in a set of 24 recommendations aimed at enhancing the functioning of the Organisation and improving its overall effectiveness.

At its 13th Annual Meeting, the Commission agreed to establish an Intersessional Working Group (PR2 IWG) tasked with drafting an Implementation Plan to ensure the effective follow-up of the relevant PR2 recommendations.

This document focuses specifically on the nine recommendations identified as relevant to the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC).

The FAC is therefore asked to:

- ***consider*** the comments provided by the PR2 Intersessional Working Group in relation to each of the nine FAC-relevant recommendation, and
- ***provide practical and viable options*** for addressing each recommendation.

Rev1 notes:

- Added a high-level title for each recommendation so it is clear what the recommendation is trying to achieve.
- Removed 'PR2 IWG summary' column to simplify the table, noting this information can also be found in COMM14-Doc09.1 – Attachment A – SPRFMO PR2 Implementation Plan.
- Added bracketed text in the 'FAC Recommendation' column based on the information received from intersessional working group meetings. This text will be used as a starting point for the FAC to consider, amend as necessary and agree to forward to COMM14.



SPRFMO Performance Review Recommendations (on screen for comment)

No	Recommendations	PR2 IWG Comments to FAC	FAC Recommendation (provide viable options for responding to each recommendation)
2	<p><u>Three-year Business Plan; Review of Headquarters Agreement</u></p> <p>The Review Panel recommends the development of a Business Plan with a three-year planning horizon and an associated budget. The first Business Plan should include a review and enhancement of the Headquarters Agreement with the New Zealand Government.</p>	<p>As per the comments from Meeting 1, CTC need direction from the Commission.</p> <p>However, FAC may want to identify the finance and administrative elements that would need to be addressed by the Business Plan within a three year period, noting the larger workplan will include FAC priority areas.</p> <p>The IWG recommended FAC to review the Financial Regulations and Staff Regulations and all other relevant FAC key docs, with a view to enhancing the implementation of these key documents and capturing these in the three-year horizon plan.</p> <p>The IWG noted that preliminary discussions are already underway.</p>	<p>To be completed during FAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>[Business Plan covered in recommendation 6]</u>• <u>[HQA covered in recommendation 5]</u>
3	<p><u>Separate Workplans & Secretariat Operational Plan</u></p> <p>The Review Panel recommends that the Commission improve its direction to subsidiary bodies, the Data Working Group, and the Secretariat by approving their work plans/programmes through the proposed integrated business plan, with a three-year planning horizon and associated budget/funding model.</p>	<p>As per the comments from Meeting 1, no further action needed by FAC until Commission have provided guidance. However, FAC may want to identify what key pieces of work are needed if a workplan was agreed, aimed at addressing any finance and administration gaps.</p>	<p>To be completed during FAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>[FAC will consider and develop its workplan. FAC will focus on addressing key finance and administration deficiencies aimed at improving operational efficiencies and alignment with the budget.]</u>• <u>[FAC noted that it would also review a Secretariat Operational Plan.]</u>



	<p>Commission oversight can be strengthened by assessing the performance of the subsidiary bodies and Secretariat against their components of the proposed Business Plan. This would involve developing a Workplan for the CTC and FAC, improving the approach to the SC Multiannual Work Plan, and developing an Operational Plan for the Secretariat, as well as an Information Management Strategy and associated Data Management Plan.</p>		
5	<p><u>Independent Review of the Headquarters Agreement</u></p> <p>Carry out an independent review of the Headquarters Agreement to ensure it is fit for purpose.</p>	<p>The IWG noted that commissioning an independent review of the HQA would require significant budget that FAC would need to factor into the operational budget, and could take a few years for a review, agree HQA changes and implementation.</p> <p>Outside of an independent review, is there anything FAC/COMM can do to resolve any current issues that need urgent attention, and can this be done through the staff regulations or financial regulations?</p> <p>The IWG noted that it would be good to understand the benefits of a review before commissioning one, noting the costs and resources involved. The IWG also noted the need to reduce the operational burden of the Commission.</p> <p>The IWG noted the importance of having a discussion at FAC on what FAC would like to see in an independent review, and whether there are any potential other alternatives to a formal review.</p> <p>The IWG noted there are two elements for review: the HQA itself and its implementation/eff.</p> <p>The IWG reaffirmed that commissioning this work would be a large undertaking and would involve consultation with the host country.</p>	<p><i>To be completed during FAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>[FAC notes that commissioning an independent review of the Headquarters Agreement would have significant cost and resource implications and would likely be a multi-year process.]</u>• <u>[FAC noted it could scope costs/benefits of a review, but also noted that the Commission could consider alternative approaches, such as targeted fixes through amendments to the Staff/Financial Regulations.]</u>



6	<p><u>Secretariat Business Plan (3-Year Horizon)</u></p> <p>Develop a Secretariat Business Plan with a three-year planning horizon and an associated budget. The first Business Plan, with specific and measurable KPIs, should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A staffing plan and associated organisational arrangements• Cultural improvement plan• The development of systems and processes to implement the staffing and financial regulations to meet international best practice and in a fair and consistent manner.• Support for the Information Management Strategy and Data Plan• Support for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and the Data Working Group.• Support for the independent review of the Headquarters Agreement with the New Zealand Government	<p>The IWG noted that FAC need to wait for the Commission to agree to this recommendation and review aspects of the Plan that need feedback from subsidiaries. However, FAC may wish to start thinking about the anticipated impact of this work on the budget, and if there are any other elements missing from this recommendation that would be useful to include in the Business Plan.</p>	<p>To be completed during FAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>[FAC recommends that any Business Plan be developed with a clear phasing of activities over the three-year period, including identification of budget impacts, resourcing needs, and potential trade-offs with existing priorities. FAC will consider the financial implications once Commission guidance is provided.]</u>
7	<p><u>Information Management Strategy and Data Management Plan (IMS/DMP)</u></p>	<p>The IWG noted that the FAC may wish to think about implications to budget and workplan as a result of commissioning the development of an IMS and DMP, in view of other recommendations and priorities.</p>	<p>To be completed during FAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>[FAC will consider the SC endorsed Data Management Strategy noting any actions to come of the Strategy may have implications for the budget and workplan. It will consider anticipated costs, resourcing requirements, and</u>



	<p>The Commission should develop an Information Management Strategy and Data Management Plan, placing a high priority on improving its overall approach to information management. This could draw on the SC's existing progress through SC12-Doc12.</p>		<p><u>ongoing maintenance of data management systems in view of other priorities within the budget.]</u></p>
12	<p><u>Squid MSE, HCR and Alternative Management Approaches</u></p> <p>Squid - To ensure effective and timely management of the squid fishery, it is essential to execute all tasks related to squid as outlined in the SC's Multiannual Workplan, which should be integrated into the broader Business Plan. This includes prioritising the development of management strategy evaluations (MSE) and harvest control rules (HCR), ensuring that work is directed and resourced in a more thoughtful and strategic manner, as part of an overall effort to achieve SPRFMO's long-term objectives.</p> <p>The Commission shall also consider alternative options if the stock assessment cannot be completed or if it is not suitable for management purposes.</p>	<p>Although this work is dependent on the Commission mandating the work to SC, the IWG noted that FAC may wish to estimate approximate budgetary costs for each squid-related task (MSEs, HCRs, alternative options to stock assessments), in consultation with SC.</p>	<p><u>To be completed during FAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>[FAC notes that progression of squid-related work is subject to Commission direction.]</u>• <u>[Subject to this direction, the FAC could consider the impact to budget for key squid-related activities (including MSEs, HCR development, and alternative management options) to support forward budget planning.]</u>



16	<p><u>Funding for External Scientific Expertise (Squid)</u></p> <p>Squid - The Commission should ensure adequate funding and resources, including financial support, to involve scientists from academic institutions with relevant expertise. Additionally, Members and Observers should be encouraged to maintain their cooperation through both in-kind and financial contributions.</p>	<p>The IWG noted that FAC could make room in the budget for additional expertise on a case-by-case basis, making sure that it aligns with the SC workplan and the implications to financial contributions are understood. The IWG also noted that FAC, in consultation with SC would need to play a proactive role here and could anticipate when and where expertise/additional funding is needed (i.e. for an upcoming workshop, allocation reviews).</p>	<p><i>To be completed during FAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>[FAC recommends flexible budget provisions for additional expertise where clearly justified, with transparency regarding costs, funding sources, and potential implications for Member contributions. Any such arrangements should be considered against other priorities and brought to the Commission for decision as appropriate.]</u>
23	<p><u>Elevation of Spanish as a Working Language</u></p> <p>The Commission should prioritise addressing barriers to participation by considering elevating Spanish to the status of at least a Working Language. This implementation can be scalable in both time and scope. The Commission could explore various options to fund interpretation and translation, such as partnerships with other institutions, formalising interpretation as a condition of hosting meetings, utilising the Developing States fund, and identifying additional options through the FAC workplan.</p>	<p>The IWG noted the discussions at COMM13 and the support for the elevation of Spanish as a working language in SPRFMO. The IWG also noted the revision of SPRFMO's Financial Regulations (Regulation 5a) which adopted a fund for Spanish interpretation.</p> <p>The IWG noted that the FAC would be responsible for including contributions into the budget.</p> <p>The IWG noted that this is an ongoing discussion and next steps on scaling and implementation is something that can be discussed at the next FAC.</p>	<p><i>To be completed during FAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>[FAC will consider options for scaling and implementation, including incorporation into the budget and use of existing funding mechanisms, with a view to ensuring sustainability and cost-effectiveness. The FAC will report back to the Commission with recommendations on next steps.]</u>



24	<p><u>Article 19 (Developing States) Implementation Plan</u></p> <p>The Commission should maintain a continuous and diligent focus on fulfilling Article 19 of the Convention. This includes ensuring that the Developing States Fund is appropriately utilised, and that CMMs consider the special requirements of Developing States. To ensure full implementation of Article 19, the Commission should develop a comprehensive plan for Article 19 and ensure it is discussed annually. The first iteration of this plan could be informed by bilateral consultations led by the new Executive Secretary in 2025.</p>	<p>The IWG noted there are two tiers/elements of the fund. Technical assistance and capacity building and travel assistance. Travel assistance is currently being utilised. The technical capacity building element has not been utilised.</p> <p>The IWG noted it is the role of the FAC to ensure that the fund remains at a sufficient level to be accessed. However, the IWG noted that primary responsibility for the implementation of this recommendation lies with the Commission.</p> <p>The Commission are responsible for considering whether there is benefit in developing a comprehensive plan, and how Developing States can better access the capacity building element of the fund.</p> <p>The IWG noted that not all Members were present in the IWG and noted there is real benefit in having a broader discussion on the two issues above at Comm</p> <p>The IWG noted that the FAC also plays an important role in promoting the DSF.</p> <p>The IWG noted that as of 30 June 2025, the fund balance was NZD \$196,327 which is considered a healthy number for Developing States to access travel costs to meetings. So while there is a ongoing role here for FAC to ensure the fund remains at a healthy level, the Commission play an important role in understand the issues of accessing the technical capacity element, and how the Commission can assist.</p>	<p><i>To be completed during FAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>[FAC notes its ongoing role in ensuring that the Developing States Fund remains at a sufficient and sustainable level, including both the travel assistance component and technical capacity-building component.]</u>• <u>[FAC will continue to monitor the financial status of the Fund and promote awareness of its availability, while recognising that primary responsibility for developing a comprehensive Article 19 plan rests with the Commission. The FAC will support Commission discussions by providing relevant financial information and advice as required.]</u>
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