



Tentative Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Introduction of participants
3. Review of the terms of reference for the Performance Review on the functioning of ICCAT
4. Discussion of options to decrease cost of meeting organisation
 - Cocktails at intersessional meetings
 - Room layout
 - Fees for accredited Observers
5. Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)
6. Other matters
7. Conclusions and closure



Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honour for me to serve as Chairperson of Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and I would like to thank all of you for your support and trust.

I would like to share with you my priorities and intended workplan for the coming two years.

The work of STACFAD plays a central role in ensuring that our Organisation remains effective, transparent, and fit for purpose in delivering its mandate while embracing the evolution of the modern world and the opportunities offered by digital tools.

In this regard, I intend to focus our efforts over the next two years on four key priority areas.

1. Performance Review Process

The Commission agreed to launch a third performance review focused on streamlining, efficiencies and the issues of allocations.

The STACFAD was entrusted to initiate the process, and in particular to draft and agree on terms of reference for the conduct of the performance review; with the aim to finalise them to be approved by the Commission in November 2026.

2. Sustainable Financial Position of ICCAT

Ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of ICCAT remains a critical priority. Building on the work already undertaken, including discussions within the VWG-SF in 2025, we will continue to examine options to structurally decrease the cost of the intersessional and annual meetings, as well as ensuring that balanced budgets are adopted.

3. Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

The functioning of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) was an important area of discussion during the STACFAD in November 2025 and there was an agreement to further discuss it during the intersessional period. It is my intention to reach a stable solution to support the full and effective participation of CPCs in ICCAT's work while preserving the sustainable financial position of the Organisation.

4. Staff Pension arrangements

The issue of staff pensions is of significant importance for the ICCAT Secretariat. During the coming period, STACFAD will work to clarify the available options and support the Commission in determining an appropriate and responsible course of action.

The First meeting of the Virtual Working Group on a Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF) (31 March 2026) will be the occasion to touch upon the three first priorities.

As regard the performance review, a first draft version of the terms of reference will be circulated AT THE beginning of March 2026 and presented and discussed at the Working Group. it will be the occasion to have a first exchange on the concrete objective and process for this important exercise, while several rounds of comments will be accommodated during the year.



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As regards the financial situation of the Organisation, I would like to have a conclusive discussion on concrete options to reduce the cost of meetings during the first VWG-SF. As discussed last year, the room layout as a U-shape with two delegates per CPCs is driving very high the cost of the annual meeting and is a constant obstacle to find meeting venues. As status quo might not be tenable, I would like to discuss four options for a new room layout:

- U-shape with one delegate per CPC and all other delegates seated at tables behind;
- U-shape with one delegate per CPC, extra delegates seated at tables behind, and a separate listening room for overflow;
- UN-style with several delegates per CPC and all other delegates seated at tables behind;
- UN-style with several delegates per CPC, extra delegates seated at tables behind, and a separate listening room for overflow.

In addition, it would be timely to discuss the fees requested to accredited Observers noting that the fees have not been updated with inflation since 2006.

Finally, while hosting a cocktail reception during the Annual meeting has been considered both useful and necessary as an opportunity for socialisation among CPCs, we should nevertheless discuss the need for such receptions during intersessional Panel meetings, particularly given that their costs are often borne by the Organisation.

As regards the MPF, further to the agreement to try, as a pilot initiative, the possibility of funding two delegates per CPC, and in light of STACFAD's commitment to identify stable and sustainable financing of the MPF, this issue should constitute a main subject of discussion at this first VWG-SF meeting.

I encourage all CPCs to engage actively in these discussions and to share proposals and ideas both in advance of and during our meeting. Your participation and input will be essential to achieving meaningful outcomes.

I look forward to working closely with all of you over the next two years and to advancing the important work of STACFAD in support of the Commission.

With best regards,

Laura Marot
Chair of STACFAD