

Guidelines for the Election of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

(submitted by the Commission Chair in coordination with STACFAD Chair)

Principles:

- a) The election of ICCAT Officers (i.e. the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Commission, ICCAT Panels, Committees, and Working Groups) should be done through a transparent and inclusive process and decisions taken by consensus; voting should only be considered as a last resort.
- b) [Election of Officers should be on an individual basis (*intuitu personae*), rather than on the basis of CPC.] While personal merit remains decisive, to the extent possible, there should be a fair and balanced representation of all interests: [large and small delegations,] developed and developing States, geographical balance and gender balance. [Ideally,] no CPC should be represented in more than one [Chair][Officer] position at any given time.

Comment: one delegation prefers that positions be elected according to CPC, who are responsible for selecting the individual to serve. Delegations disagree about whether there should be a strict prohibition on any CPC serving in more than one Chair position, or that should be established as a principle not a rule. One delegation notes that the limitation on one position per CPC should not apply to Vice Chairs.

- c) In order to assist the Chairs when necessary, the subsidiary bodies, at their discretion, may each elect a vice-chair, [unless the Commission decides otherwise].

Comment: some delegations disagree about whether this final phrase is appropriate. They note that the Commission cannot overrule the election made in a subsidiary body.

- d) The Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Commission may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms in the same position. The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the subsidiary bodies may be eligible to be re-elected for multiple terms, unless the Commission establishes term limits for these positions in the Rules of Procedure.

Additional elements raised by CPCs in this section:

- Clarify that these guidelines are to be applied consistent with the Rules of Procedure, which charge each ICCAT body with electing its own chair and establish term limits for the Chair of the Commission (Rule 6.2)
- Reference the Commission's agreement in 2013 that in general, the position of Commission Chair should alternate between individuals from developing and developed CPCs
- Address the process if a Chair or Vice Chair is unable to serve a full elected term
- More explicitly mandating a geographic distribution for positions

Process and procedures:

- a) The Commission Chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will circulate a request for nominations from Contracting Parties at least six months in advance of the annual meeting where an election will take place. When requesting nominations, the Secretariat will advise the Commission on which current ICCAT Officers are eligible for re-appointment, and, of those, which would be available to serve if re-elected. The circular should request Contracting Parties to submit any nominations at least two months before the annual meeting.
- b) Contracting Parties nominating first-time candidates should include a brief CV or other summary of qualifications to assess their suitability for the position. The initial list of candidates will be circulated to the Commission for information at least three months before the annual meeting.

Comment: the timing for the CPCs to submit nominations in (a) is two months before the annual meeting. The proposal for the circulation of the list of candidates is three months before the annual meeting. These timelines will need to be reconciled.

- c) [If the initial list of candidates does not provide the balance as stated in the principles above, the ICCAT Chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will seek additional suitable candidates from the under-represented groups. Any changes to the initial list of candidates resulting from this part of the process will be circulated to the Commission for information at least forty days before the annual meeting.]

Comment: one delegation prefers that this paragraph be deleted as a chair position requires availability, competency, and willingness, and forcing the hand of CPCs to nominate candidates might be counter-productive.

- d) On the basis of the list developed pursuant to the above process, the Commission Chair and Vice Chairs will work with the Contracting Parties in advance of the annual meeting, including to resolve situations where more than one nomination is received for a position, with a view to developing an equitable and balanced proposed list of Officers that can be agreed at the annual ICCAT meeting. Contracting Parties should also consult with one another as needed during this period to try to resolve any differences of view.
- e) In light of these consultations, the Chair will circulate a proposed list of Officers to the Contracting Parties as soon as possible and at least two weeks before the annual meeting for consideration.
- f) No new nominations for Officer positions should be made during the ICCAT annual meeting itself unless exceptional circumstances exist, such as a lack of nominees for a particular position.
- g) Taking into account the results of the process set out above, each ICCAT subsidiary body and the Commission will, consistent with ICCAT's Rules of Procedure, go through the process of formally electing their Chairs, and Vice Chair(s) as applicable, during their respective sessions at the annual Commission meetings.