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**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR  
THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY  
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND  
CENTRAL PACIFIC**

First session  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
23 – 28 April, 2001

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**WORKING GROUP I: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, BUDGET AND FINANCIAL  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Summary report by the Chair of the Working Group**

1. The Working Group recognised that it would not be feasible to attempt to address all matters within the scope of its terms of reference in the timeframe available to it in this session of the Preparatory Conference. Instead the working group sought to make a start to its work by focusing on matters associated with identification of the Commission's needs with respect to services (item (a) of the Working Group's Terms of Reference). To that end the group developed a list of the possible needs of the Commission. The list was developed on the basis that its contents are not exhaustive and that an evolutionary approach would be used whereby the list could be amended and further elaborated as the working group progressed through its work programme over the coming sessions of the Preparatory Conference. The possible needs identified by the working group were as follows:

- (a) A Secretariat (initial functions to include the following):
  - (i) Receiving and transmitting the Commission's official communications
  - (ii) Preparing administrative and other reports for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies
  - (iii) Publishing the decisions of and promoting the activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies
  - (iv) Undertaking treasury, personnel and other administrative functions
  - (v) Organizing meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including the northern committee.
- (b) Scientific advice and information on:
  - (i) data collection and dissemination;
  - (ii) research;
  - (iii) status of stocks; and
  - (iv) other relevant matters.
- (c) Compliance services including:
  - (i) catch and effort verification systems;
  - (ii) establishment, maintenance and administration of vessel registers;
  - (iii) development of boarding and inspection rules and procedures;
  - (iv) VMS;
  - (v) regulation of transshipment;
  - (vi) monitoring of infringement actions;
  - (vii) coordination of cooperative arrangements between the members; and
  - (viii) development and coordination of specific compliance measure to support conservation and management measures.

- (d) Implementation of the Convention provisions on the effective participation and special requirements of small island developing States, including:
  - (i) establishment, maintenance and administration of a special fund for effective participation; and
  - (ii) mechanisms for capacity building consistent with article 30(4) of the Convention.
- (e) Observer programme.
  - (i) coordination of a regional observer programme with other regional, sub-regional and national observer programmes; and
  - (ii) operation of a regional observer programme.
- (f) Cooperation with other organizations.
  - (i) conduct external relations of the Commission (Secretariat);
  - (ii) develop relationship agreements as appropriate (Secretariat, Commission);
  - (iii) coordination with international or regional donor or funding agencies.
- (g) External communications and publicity of Commission decisions and rulings.
- (h) Commission's participation in the dispute settlement procedures

2. To assist the working group in considering the matters associated with items (b), (c) and (d) of its Terms of Reference it was agreed that working papers should be developed, in advance of the next meeting of the working group, that would provide information on appropriate options for delivering the identified service needs of the Commission. To the extent possible, these working papers should provide options on the possible means by which the various items may be funded within a budget structure in order to assist the working group in consideration of item (b) of its Terms of Reference.

3. The working group recognised that with respect to the science needs of the Commission it would not be possible to consider this matter in detail until the working group on science had advanced its deliberations.

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