Report of a small, informal working group established by FAC2 to consider the issue of a strategic plan for the Commission

Introduction

1. The FAC2 confirmed that the development of a strategic plan is desirable and needed to be progressed. It was agreed a strategic plan would be a useful document to inform future Commission decision-making and agenda setting, provide a context for difficult discussions regarding budgetary and policy priorities, provide a reference against which progress could be assessed, and ensure all CCMs have discussed and agreed the direction and priorities of the Commission. The FAC agreed that the document needed to be developed by the members and that its redrafting was not something that could be sensibly outsourced to a consultant. It was also agreed that no CCM had the capacity to lead the redrafting of the strategic plan intersessionally. Consequently, it was decided that, in the margins of the WCPFC5, an informal working group, led by Australia and assisted by the United States and New Zealand and other interested parties, would draft a simple document for initial consideration and discussion by the FAC2 during the course of WCPFC5 and propose a process and timeframes for finalizing the document prior to WCPFC6.

2. The informal working group has done some preliminary work. It suggests a new, simplified structure for the strategic plan for the commission, which draws on text in the existing draft and takes into account the comments previously made by Japan and FFA in regard to that document. Using the proposed structure, the plan could be shortened to around 6-7 pages.

Proposed structure:

1. Introduction (1-2 pages)
   1.1 Context
   1.2 Purpose

2. Strategic Objectives (3-4 pages)
   Table 1 – Planned operational activities and performance measures
   Table 2 – Associated program of work 2010-2012

3. Monitoring and Review
Table 1 – Planned operational activities and performance measures

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<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Operational activities</th>
<th>Measure (PI)</th>
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Table 2 – Associated program of work (2010-2012)

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3. Subject to the views of the FAC on the proposed structure, the informal working group could prepare a preliminary draft of a revised strategic plan in this new format. It could also propose, in that draft, a preliminary list of the commission’s priorities from 2010 to 2012 for consideration by the FAC.

4. The draft strategic plan could be considered by the CCMs, and if appropriate, further discussed and developed and then put to the Commission for consideration at WCPFC6 in December 2009.

Proposed timelines:

5. The FAC2 agreed that the following timeframes and process for finalizing the document are:

   - The WCPFC Secretariat will circulate the revised draft strategic plan to CCMs by 1 March 2009.
   - CCMs provide input and comments on the revised draft strategic plan to the WCPFC Secretariat by 1 May 2009.
   - The WCPFC Secretariat redraft the strategic plan to incorporate these comments and recirculate to CCMs by 1 July 2009.
   - If required, final comments on this version will be due from CCMs to the WCPFC Secretariat by 1 September 2009.
   - If required, the WCPFC Secretariat will further revise the draft strategic plan and circulate it by 1 November for consideration by the FAC3 with a view to recommending a final draft to the Commission for consideration at the WCPFC6 in December 2009.

Recommendations:

6. The Committee is invited to comment on the proposed new structure of the draft strategic plan.
7. If the Committee is in support of the new structure, the Committee is invited to comment on whether it would like the draft strategic plan to be redrafted in the new format.

8. The Committee is also invited to comment on whether the redrafted strategic plan should include a preliminary list of the commission’s priorities from 2010 to 2012 for consideration by the FAC.

9. The Committee is invited to agree to the proposed timeframes and process for finalizing the document for consideration by the Commission in December 2009.

10. If the Committee does not support the proposed structure or the proposed process and timeframes, the Committee is invited to propose another process by which a revised strategic plan will be ready for consideration by the Commission in December 2009.