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

Fourth session
Nadi, Fiji Islands
5 – 9 May, 2003

WCPFC/PrepCon/DP.10
9 May 2003

**PROPOSAL FROM FFA MEMBERS ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL
REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES**

1. FFA Members have drawn attention throughout the MHLC and Preparatory Conference processes to the importance for the successful operation of the Commission of addressing the special requirements of developing States Parties, in particular Small Island Developing States, and Territories. The importance of this issue is reflected in the Convention, particularly in Article 30.

2. A key instrument in the implementation of measures to address these special requirements is the establishment of a Special Requirements Fund, as required in Article 30 (3). Article 30 (3) requires that guidelines for the administration of the Fund and criteria for eligibility for assistance be included in the Financial Regulations.

3. FFA Members propose the following guidelines for the establishment of the Fund:

- (a) The Financial Regulations will establish a “Special Requirements Fund”.
- (b) The Special Requirements Fund will be funded from assessed contributions.
- (c) The Fund will finance:
 - (i) meeting costs: each Small Island Developing State and Participating Territory will be eligible for funding of travel and subsistence for one participant to all meetings of the Commission and subsidiary bodies, including Working Groups; and
 - (ii) other activities directly related to facilitating the effective participation of Developing States Parties and Participating Territories in the work of the Commission. These activities will be focused on enhancing the capacity of technical personnel. All Developing States Parties, and Participating Territories will be eligible for assistance from this funding.
- (d) The budget for the Special Requirements Fund is estimated as follows:
 - (i) meeting costs: the cost is estimated as US\$150,000 annually, based on one participant from each of 14 Small Island Developing States and 7 Territories attending two sessions of meetings of two weeks duration – i.e. approximately \$75,000 per 2 week session. The budget will be higher if there are additional meetings or the meetings are longer. It will be lower if there are less than 14 Small Island Developing States Parties or 7 Participating Territories.

(ii) other activities: the budget requires further consideration, but is anticipated to be in the range of US\$150,000.

4. The recommendation of the Preparatory Conference on the budget of the Commission will include a budget for the Special Requirements Fund of at least US\$300,000.

AMENDMENTS TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS SUGGESTED BY FFA MEMBERS TO
ESTABLISH THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND

Regulation 3: The Budget

Include a new section as follows:

The draft budget shall include estimates of income and expenditure for the General Fund, the Special Requirements Fund and Trust Funds.

Regulation 6: Funds

Include new sections as follows:

There shall be established a Special Requirements Fund for the purposes of funding:

- (i) meeting costs: the costs of travel and subsistence of one participant from each Small Island Developing State Party and Participating Territory to all meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including working groups; and*
- (ii) other specific activities related to facilitating the effective participation of Developing States Parties and Participating Territories in the work of the Commission, including activities which enhance the capacity of technical personnel to participate effectively in the work of the Commission.*

The source of monies of the Special Requirements Fund shall be contributions paid under Regulation 5.2, transferred from the General Fund.

- - -