



23rd MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
26-27 June 2023, Virtual Meeting Format

REPORT OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE AEWA STANDING COMMITTEE

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Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Standing Committee Chair, Mr Simon Mackown, opened the 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee (StC) by warmly welcoming all those present and said that it was going to be a short meeting with a short agenda.
2. Mr Mackown thanked the AEWA Secretariat for all its hard work during the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP8) and for delivering the work within only four days. He did, however, emphasise that the MOP should be moved back to a five-day schedule so the demands on the AEWA Secretariat would be less.
3. He welcomed Morocco in joining the StC and said that main item on the agenda was the election of Officers for the period until MOP9 scheduled for 2025.
4. Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, AEWA Executive Secretary, reiterated that the agenda would be a short one. He explained that two officers would need to be elected, namely the Chair and Vice-chair.
5. Mr Trouvilliez reminded those present about the role of the StC, which was making decisions on behalf of the Parties. There was one permanent member, The Netherlands (Depositary), the host country of the upcoming MOP as well as five regional representatives.
6. Mr Trouvilliez reiterated that the regional representatives were the voice of the Parties of the different regions. He said that it was important for them to work closely with their respective National Focal Points to disseminate information and share how the agreement was implemented in the region.
7. He further explained, that besides the scheduled StC meetings within the triennium, there could also be consultations through email or virtually. Finally, Mr Trouvilliez also welcomed Morocco to the StC.

Agenda item 2. Election of Officers

8. Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of the Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit at the AEWA Secretariat, reminded those present that there were two large regions within the Agreement Area, Africa, and Eurasia, and that there was a practice to alternate representatives of those regions for the Chair and Vice-chair positions. The Chair usually, if eligible for a second term on the StC, stayed in that function for two MOP inter-sessional periods. Previously, the Chair was Uganda and served for two consecutive inter-sessional periods. The United Kingdom was elected as Chair by the previous StC, and it was at the discretion of the Committee whether the United Kingdom should continue as Chair.
9. Mr Mackown confirmed that he was content to continue as Chair.
10. Ms Humbu Mafumo, representative of Eastern and Southern Africa and Vice-chair, wanted to know whether what Mr Dereliev had just explained was a procedure or rather common practice.
11. Mr Dereliev confirmed that it was an established practice and that it was at the Committee's discretion if it wanted to continue accordingly.
12. Based on that, Ms Mafumo confirmed South Africa's support for the United Kingdom to continue as Chair.

13. The other StC members, Ukraine, Morocco, Netherlands, and Cote d'Ivoire also confirmed their support. Mr Dereliev therefore concluded that there was a unanimous decision and congratulated Mr Mackown on continuing to be Chair of the Committee.

14. Moving on to the election of the Vice-chair, South Africa confirmed that they were happy to continue being Vice-chair. All other StC members agreed. Since there was a unanimous decision, Mr Dereliev congratulated Ms Mafumo on continuing to be Vice-chair of the Committee.

<i>Decision</i>	<i>The United Kingdom and South Africa will continue as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively until MOP9 scheduled for 2025.</i>
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Agenda item 3. Date and Venue of the 23rd Meeting of the Standing Committee

15. Mr Mackown suggested not to repeat the pattern of the last triennium, which was an exception due to the pandemic and proposed to have the next meeting of the StC after the first meeting of the Technical Committee in the triennium, which would be in March 2023.

16. Mr Mackown reminded everyone that all StC meetings would in future be held online and thought more regular informal meetings would be beneficial and would maintain the collaborative spirit that had been developed.

Agenda item 4. Closure of the Meeting

17. Since there were no further comments, Mr Mackown thanked all the StC members for their hard work leading up to the MOP and looked forward to seeing everyone in 2023.

18. With that the Chair declared the meeting closed.