

**Meeting of the Revised Management Scheme Working Group
University Arms Hotel, Cambridge, Tuesday 28 February to Thursday 2 March 2006**

DRAFT AGENDA
and annotations

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1.1 Appointment of Chair

Mike Tillman (USA) is proposed.

1.2 Introductory remarks and objectives of the meeting

The Chair will make some introductory remarks and outline his objectives for the meeting.

Via Resolution 2005-4 to 'advance the RMS process', the Commission agreed to: (1) hold an intersessional meeting to advance the work of the RMS Working Group and that of the Small Drafting Group (as established by Resolution 2004-6), with particular emphasis on any outstanding issues and taking as a starting point the Group's report to the Commission (i.e. IWC/57/RMS 3); (2) hold a meeting of the RMS Working Group in connection with IWC/58 to discuss the remaining issues that must be resolved before adoption of the RMS can be considered; and (3) consider, if appropriate, ministerial, diplomatic, or other high-level possibilities to resolve these issues among the Contracting Governments to the Convention.

1.3 Reporting

The Chair will outline his proposal for handling the report of the meeting, including its format and content.

Nicky Grandy and Greg Donovan (Secretariat) are proposed as rapporteurs.

1.4 Review of documents

The Chair will note briefly the documents prepared and distributed for the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. BACKGROUND: HOW WE GOT WHERE WE ARE TODAY

The Chair believes that before entering into any substantive discussions, and in view of the large number of new Contracting Governments, it would be useful for the Secretariat to provide some background on the work that has been done in the last several years leading up to this meeting.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Summary of IWC/57/Rep 6 and IWC/57

The Chair will indicate briefly the status of discussions on the possible RMS elements/issues as of IWC/57 using the Working Group's Report to the Commission as a basis (i.e. IWC/57/Rep 6). He will go through each element in turn asking if any delegation has anything they wish to report or address. Note that compliance will be dealt with under item 4.2.

4.2 Report of the Compliance Working Group

The Compliance Working Group was established at IWC/57 to: *'(1) explore ways to strengthen compliance by analysing the range of possible legal, technical and administrative measures available to the Commission which are consistent with the ICRW; and (2) to explore possible mechanisms to monitor and possibly address non-compliance of Contracting Governments consistent with the ICRW and international law'*. The Working Group will be invited to report back on its activities.

5. EXPLORATION OF HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN RMS

Over the years, and particularly recently, a huge amount of effort has been spent by Contracting Governments, the Chair of the Commission and the Secretariat on attempts to develop an RMS. Although significant progress has been made on a range of technical matters and draft Schedule language has been prepared, major policy issues remain and reaching agreement on what an RMS 'package' should comprise continues to be elusive. Consequently, before entering into discussions on any of the potential RMS elements it would be useful to give consideration to: (1) whether it is likely that progress on a single RMS package can be made, and if so how this might be done, including consideration of some form of 'high level' meeting; or (2) whether the impasse is such that further collective work should be postponed for the time-being but with individual governments or groups of governments free to work together if they so choose. Written views on (1) and (2) would be most welcome in advance of the meeting as these would help the Chair to structure discussions. Given that there was little time in Ulsan to discuss the intentions of Resolution 2005-4 in detail, submissions from Contracting Governments on their understanding of what is meant by a 'high level' meeting and how such a meeting would help resolve issues are particularly encouraged.

Clearly it is for the Commission to decide on the direction of any further work, but the RMS Working Group may wish to develop guidance/recommendations for review by the Commission at IWC/58. The Chair will therefore seek the views of Working Group members on this matter. Consideration might also be given to the wider implications for the Commission if no progress on the RMS is made.

6. OTHER MATTERS

7. NEXT STEPS

The Working Group will be invited to decide on appropriate next steps, including what should it should address when it meets prior to the Commission at IWC/58.