

Informal note on the issue of membership of the Standing Committee on Finance

Background

1. As per decision 2/CP.17, annex VI (paragraphs 1 to 3 and 8), below are the current provisions relevant for the membership of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), as outlined in its composition and working modalities:

The Standing Committee shall be composed of the following:

(a) Ten members from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties);

(b) Ten members from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), including two members each from the African, Asia-Pacific, and the Latin America and Caribbean States, one member from a small island developing State and one member from a least developed country Party.

The Standing Committee shall be composed of members nominated by Parties for approval by the Conference of the Parties, who shall have the necessary experience and skills, notably in the areas of climate change, development and finance, taking into account the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7.

Standing Committee members shall serve for a term of two years, with the option of seeking additional terms.

The Standing Committee shall reach its conclusions by consensus.

2. As the SCF does not have separate rules of procedure, the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP) apply mutatis mutanda to the SCF. Similarly to the SCF, the rules of procedures of other constituted bodies under the Convention does not provide for alternate members. It is noted that the constituted bodies under the Kyoto Protocol provide for alternate members (e.g., the Adaptation Fund Board, the CDM Executive Board, the Compliance Committee and the JISC).¹

3. Any amendment to the composition and working modalities of the SCF, including with regard to its membership, requires a decision by the COP.

Current practice

4. Members of the SCF are nominated by the respective constituency and elected by the COP.

5. Should a member not be in a position to complete his or her term, as per current practice the vacant seat can be filled via a formal notification of the secretariat by the respective constituency, informing the secretariat of the resignation of the member and the nomination of new member to replace that member.

6. A temporary replacement of a member is not foreseen under the current composition and working modalities of the SCF.

Possible amendments to the current composition and working modalities of the SCF

7. Should the COP decide to amend the current composition and working modalities of the SCF in order to allow for alternate members, the following, inter alia, could be relevant provisions to be addressed by the COP in its decision to ensure clarity and certainty:

a. The respective constituency (annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties), when nominating members for election by the COP, would simultaneously nominate alternate members for election;

b. The members and alternate members would be elected to serve for a two year term of office, which they would serve continuously;

c. A member or alternate member is eligible for re-election as a member or alternate member on the SCF;

d. The procedures for intersessional replacement of members who resign or can no longer serve in office would apply mutatis mutandis to alternate members;

¹ See information on membership of all bodies under the climate change regime, available at: http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/election_and_membership/application/pdf/membership_rules_of_convention_and_kp_bodies.pdf.

- e. The following would apply for the participation of alternate members at meetings of the SCF:
 - i. Should a member not be in a position to attend a meeting of the SCF, he or she can be replaced for the duration of a full meeting only by an alternate member from the constituency concerned;
 - ii. The alternate member would serve in the capacity as member during the meeting, including participating in decision-making;
 - iii. The constituency concerned shall notify the secretariat of the replacement of a member(s) by an alternate member(s) to participate in a meeting. Such notification should be sent to the secretariat in a timely manner to ensure sufficient time for the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to enable the participation of the alternate member;
 - iv. Replacement of a member by an alternate member to attend a specific SCF meeting would be exclusively limited to attendance at that meeting, inter-sessional work would be conducted exclusively by the member;
 - v. All communication and documentation on matters to be addressed at the meeting would be sent by the secretariat exclusively to the member of the SCF. The member and constituency concerned would be solely responsible for communicating all relevant information and documentation to be addressed at the meeting with the alternate member in order to facilitate his or her participation at the meeting;
- f. No cost implications shall arise from the nomination of alternate members.