

3 October 2020

IOTC CIRCULAR 2020–45

Dear Madam / Sir

COMMENCEMENT OF PRE-MEETING DISCUSSIONS ON S24 AGENDA ITEMS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 24th Session of the Indian Ocean Commission will be held by video-conference, from 2 to 6 November 2020.

The execution of all agenda items will be greatly assisted if CPCs consider the documents well before the meeting and, if necessary, reach out (in advance of the meeting) to myself, the Secretariat, the Chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies, or other delegations regarding any matters they might want to raise and or discuss. This pre-meeting consideration of agenda items is expected to reduce meeting time, and moreover, help me identify important matters ahead of time and plan for those items of greater substance or complexity.

The pre-meeting discussion phase will conclude on Friday 23 October

The pre-meeting discussion phase will involve the following documents:

- (1) the normal S24 documents
- (2) an agenda IOTC-2020-S24-01b
- (3) a pre-meeting discussion document (IOTC-2020-S24-01c).

Normal S24 documents

As posted on the IOTC website [[click here](#)].

Agenda

The S24 agenda is available to all stakeholders [[click here](#)].

Pre meeting discussion document

A PDF of this document is available on the meeting webpage [[click here](#)]

This document is organised according to the S24 agenda. Under each agenda item there are:

- links to relevant documents
- the IOTC Chair's (dot point) comments on how the agenda item might proceed and/or comments on the documents to assist your consideration of the item at hand
- recommended actions
- a comments section: after each agenda item Heads of Delegations are invited to make comments or ask questions. The comments section will be shared by all credentialled participants. Please insert country name/ organisation name at the start of your intervention. Delegations may ask questions of the Chairs and Secretariat (which will be answered in real time (or ASAP). All participants will be able to see the interventions and any responses as they appear.

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom ("BIOT"), Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Senegal.
Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to: FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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The shared, interactive Pre- meeting discussion document will be located on the IOTC's SharePoint platform. **NOTE, only the Heads of Delegations that have submitted their credentials will receive a link that will allow access to the interactive pre-meeting discussion document.**

This approach mimics the in-person meeting process where only the HOD speaks in plenary; and it also reduces the likelihood of receiving unofficial interventions (comments).

The proposed role of delegation members in this approach is for them to read and consider the meeting documents and for HODs to collate and distil the inputs from their delegations before entering them officially into the document. While, the Secretariat wants to avoid overcrowding the meeting platform, limited additional links for other essential individuals in credentialled delegations will be made available. HOD's please contact the Executive Secretary (chris.obrien@fao.org) regarding additional links and any technical issues.

The S24 pre-meeting discussion will conclude at 4 pm Seychelles time on Friday 23 October.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Susan Imende', written in a cursive style.

Ms Susan Imende
IOTC Chairperson