
**CHAIR'S EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR
THE 7TH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA**Prepared by: The TCAC Chairperson

Dear Heads of Delegations and Delegates,

We are scheduled to meet virtually March 22-25, 2021 to continue the work of the Committee to develop allocation criteria for the IOTC.

As suggested in our last virtual meeting in September 2020 and approved by the Commission in its November 2020 meeting, I have prepared a draft agenda for our meeting (IOTC-2021-TCAC07-01a). The bulk of our discussions will be based on the themes we discussed, provided under agenda item 6:

- Day 1** Theme 1: GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ALLOCATION REGIME (1h30)
 Theme 2: ELIGIBILITY TO ALLOCATIONS (1h)
 Theme 3: SCOPE OF ALLOCATION REGIME (1h)
- Day 2** Theme 4: ALLOCATION STRUCTURE (2h30)
 Theme 5: ALLOCATION ADJUSTMENTS (1h)
- Day 3** Theme 6: WEIGHTING OF ALLOCATION CRITERIA (1h)
 Theme 7: IMPLEMENTATION OF ALLOCATION REGIME (1h30)
 Theme 8: TRANSITION TO A NEW ALLOCATION REGIME (1h)
- Day 4** Theme 9: Final Clauses (1h)

To assist delegations in their preparations and interventions, and to help ensure we cover the full breadth of topics in a short amount of time, I have prepared a list of Chair's Questions per Theme and topics to be covered under each theme (IOTC-2021-TCAC07-03). While delegations should not feel constrained by this list when sharing their views and ideas with the Committee, I would encourage you to address the topics raised in this list, so that I may fully hear your views on them.

We will be meeting virtually for 4 hours each day for 4 days, with 5 minute breaks each hour. I have structured our agenda bearing this in mind, and to ensure every delegation has adequate time to intervene and offer brief views on each theme. The time that will be allotted to each theme will vary according to the complexity of the issue, reflected by the number of questions and topics provided in the list of questions.

I will strive to provide a minimum of one hour per theme, with some themes, such as Theme 4 Allocation Structure, to be provided a longer period of up to 2h30. Notional times have been provided for each theme as indicated above. These are not set in stone, but rather to help you and I better manage our time during our virtual meeting. Extra time has been built in the agenda, which will allow us to push agenda items, if we need to, to enable everyone to express their views. I would nevertheless, encourage delegations to plan to intervene only once under each theme, and to be concise. This will enable us to ensure that every delegation has the opportunity to speak, should they so choose.

Please keep in mind that this will not be your only opportunity to share your views on each theme and topic. We are scheduled to meet 3 times in 2021. I would also encourage you to share your written views and planned interventions with me prior to, or after the meeting, and the Secretariat will ensure to share these written submissions with all delegations.

Once I have heard all your views, on Day 4, I will propose an approach for moving forward, on which I will want to hear your views. This should include how we should proceed in our 2 other meetings scheduled in 2021, and setting a target deadline for our Committee's work.

I wish to reassure participants that I am not proposing an approach that steps away from, or ignores, all your previous work in the TCAC. I am hoping that our virtual meeting will enable all delegations to express their views and not merely state previously stated positions, and to really listen to the views of others on each theme. I believe this will help us move forward in a positive and productive way. Hearing your views and ideas will also help us to find ways to accommodate your respective interests, and build consensus towards an outcome that all delegations can support.

I look forward to continuing our work together during our virtual meeting in March.

With kind regards,
Nadia Bouffard
TCAC Chairperson