

16 February 2022

IOTC CIRCULAR 2022–11

Dear Madam / Sir

INVITATION TO THE 26TH SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS (COC19, SCAF19, TCMP05)

I have the honour to extend to you an invitation to participate in the 26th Session of the Commission, which will be held from 16 to 20 May 2022.

The 19th Session of the Compliance Committee, the 19th Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance and the 5th Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures will also be held in conjunction with the Commission meeting. Session dates are given below.

The meeting will be face to face for CPCs only

The Commission has expressed a strong desire to resume face-to-face meetings, to the extent the COVID-19 pandemic will allow. To this end, S26 and its associated meetings will be held in Seychelles from 8 to 20 May, but physical participation has to be restricted.

All meetings will be held at the [Eden Bleu Hotel](#) on Eden Island.

Given Government social distancing requirements and hotel limitations, only CPCs will be permitted to participate from inside the meeting room, and there will be only one Head of Delegation and one Alternate in the meeting room at any one time.

All other members of a delegation and observers will be required to participate by videoconference (Zoom).

Meeting Participation fund (for developing IOTC Contracting Party Members only)

The participation of up to two representatives from developing Members of the IOTC may be supported through the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). The applications for the MPF, must be received by the IOTC Secretariat (iotc-secretariat@fao.org) no later than 60 days before the start of the meeting (the dates are indicated below). NOTE – this 60-day deadline will be strictly enforced.

Applications must include:

- i) an official nomination letter
- ii) the contact details of the nominee (with a copy of his/her passport).

The rules of procedure for the administration of the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund as well as guidelines for applying to the MPF can be found in Appendix VIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (click [here](#)). Please be reminded that there is no provision in the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014) for the IOTC Secretariat to consider late applications.

Credentials

In accordance with Rule III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), official credentials are required to participate in the meetings. For your convenience, a draft letter of credentials (from Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, 2014) is available [here](#).

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, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only

Contracting Parties & Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CPCs)

Rule III.1 of the IOTC Rules of Procedure states: "Such Letter of Credentials shall conform to the standard set out in Appendix I." Please also refer to [IOTC Circular 2021-49](#) on the content of Credentials.

The Credentials are requested to be sent no later than 15 days before each meeting to iotc-secretariat@fao.org. Only credentialed individuals will receive a Zoom link to join the meetings.

Invited Experts and Observers

IOTC Observers and Invited Experts are also requested to submit a similar Letter of Credentials indicating who will receive the Zoom link. The credentials should also include the email address and contact phone number for each recipient. Credentials are requested no later than 15 days before each meeting to iotc-secretariat@fao.org.

Proposals for Conservation and Management Measures:

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the Commission in 2011, only those proposals for new or revised Conservation or Management Measures received thirty (30) days before the Session, at the latest, will be considered by the Commission. Thus, all proposals must be received by the IOTC Secretariat before midnight on 16 April, Seychelles time.

However, in accordance with Resolution 16/10, Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit a provisional title, Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point for each proposal (including the email address of the focal point), a minimum of 60 days prior to each annual Session (i.e. 17 March in 2022) so that all Contracting Parties are provided with an opportunity to identify proposals being developed by other CPCs, and as appropriate, cooperate in the development of proposals prior to the Session in which they are to be discussed.

Proposals to amend the IOTC Rules of Procedure:

In accordance with Rule XVII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, any proposals to amend the ROP must be distributed at least 60 days before the session of the commission i.e. 17 March.

Calendar of important dates

Dates	Commission S26 (16-20 May)	Who	Notes
17 March	Deadline for receiving proposals to amend the IOTC Rules of Procedure (ROP XVIII.1)	CPs	It is preferable to receive any proposals before the 60 days distribution deadline (17 March) to allow for translation.
17 March	Provisional agenda posted on the S26 meeting page (ROP IV.4)	Secretariat	60 days before the meeting
	Deadline for receiving applications from bodies seeking observer status (ROP XIV)	New observers	60 days before the meeting
16 April	Provisional agenda with comments posted on the S26 meeting page (ROP IV.4)	Secretariat	30 days before the meeting
	Deadline for receiving proposals for conservation and management measures (IOTC Agreement IV.4)	Members	30 days before the meeting. It is advisable that Members submit proposals that have been subject to advanced consultation (especially if the meeting is in a reduced format).
	Meeting documents posted on the S26 meeting page	Secretariat	ASAP but at least 30 days before the meeting

8-10 May	Compliance Committee		Deadline for credentials is 23 April Deadline for MPF is 9 March
11 May	Standing Committee on Administration & Finance		Deadline for credentials is 26 April Deadline for MPF is 12 March
12 May	Report adoption: COC19 & SCAF19		
13-14 May	Technical Committee on Management Procedures		Deadline for credentials is 28 April Deadline for MPF is 14 March
16-20 May	Commission (S26)		Deadline for credentials is 1 May Deadline for MPF is 17 March

Further information

Information concerning the Sessions, including the agendas and other meeting documents will be communicated by the IOTC Secretariat in the coming weeks via Circulars and the IOTC website meeting pages [\[click here\]](#).

Yours sincerely



Ms Jung-re Riley Kim
IOTC Chairperson