
REPORT OF THE 11th MEETING OF THE AEW A STANDING COMMITTEE¹
14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

Agenda item 1. Introductory Remarks

1. Opening the meeting at 15.25, the outgoing Chair of the Standing Committee, Mr Øystein Størkersen (Norway) thanked the Committee for inviting him to Chair the present meeting until the new Chair of the Standing Committee had been elected (Agenda item 3).
2. He congratulated members on their election and welcomed Georgia as a new member of the Standing Committee.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Chair recalled that a short Agenda had been posted on the AEWA website. The main purpose of the meeting was to elect Standing Committee officers for the coming triennium.

Agenda item 3. Election of Officers to Fill the Posts of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee for the Triennium 2016-2018

4. The Chair invited nominations for the position of Standing Committee Chair for the 2016 - 2018 triennium.
5. The Netherlands nominated France as Chair of the Standing Committee.
6. The Executive Secretary of AEWA, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, outlined the composition of the Standing Committee, recalling that the Netherlands was present in its capacity as Depositary for the Agreement.
7. Ghana nominated Uganda as Chair of the Standing Committee.
8. Georgia supported the nomination made by the Netherlands.
9. Libya and South Africa supported the nomination made by Ghana.
10. In response to a question from South Africa, the Executive Secretary confirmed that the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee did not make any reference to rotation of the position of Chair between the AEWA regions. Rule 20 simply read: *“The members of the Committee shall elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the first meeting after the Meeting of the Parties”*.
11. Uganda concurred that there was no written rule to provide for rotation of the position of Standing Committee Chair. Nevertheless, he recalled that at the conclusion of MOP5, Africa had stepped aside to enable a European candidate to Chair the Standing Committee, for a second consecutive term, during the 2013–2015 triennium. He hoped that a similar spirit would prevail at the current meeting, in the interests of regional balance.

¹ Report finalised after a process of consultation with the Standing Committee in December 2015.

12. Mr Størkersen noted that two proposals for the position of Chair had been received; one for France, and one for Uganda. Ideally there should be a kind of rotation, but a solution needed to be found.

13. South Africa hoped that European colleagues would honour the understanding that regional balance was desirable.

14. The Netherlands, speaking also on behalf of the European regional representatives, and referring to the need for compromise, supported the nomination of Uganda as Chair of the Standing Committee and proposed that France should become Vice-Chair.

15. The meeting elected by acclamation Uganda as Chair and France as Vice-Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee for the triennium 2016–2018.

Agenda item 4. Date and Venue of the 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee

16. Mr Trouvilliez advised members that the 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee was foreseen for October or November 2016. Offers by Parties to host meetings of the Standing Committee were always welcome, but in the absence of any such offers meetings would take place in Bonn.

17. Mr Størkersen suggested that consideration be given to holding the AEWA Standing Committee back-to-back with the CMS Standing Committee meeting that was scheduled to take place in Bonn around the same time.

Agenda item 5. Any other Business

18. France congratulated Uganda on its election as Chair of the Standing Committee.

19. Offering reciprocal congratulations to France, Uganda thanked members of the Standing Committee for their trust. Uganda was committed to serving the interests of the Standing Committee and all Contracting Parties.

20. Uganda recalled that during MOP6 apparent contradictions in the Rules of Procedure for the MOP and the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee had been identified. The Secretariat should be asked to undertake an analysis of the Rules of Procedure, so that any amendments potentially required could be worked on intersessionally and a proposal brought forward to MOP7. Uganda added that a requirement should be introduced for Standing Committee Rules of Procedure to be approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

21. The meeting signalled its support for this suggestion.

22. Mr Størkersen noted that he was stepping down from the position of Standing Committee Chair after a period of six years. He thanked the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for its very competent support during this time. There was a real need for AEWA to do more, but this was a matter of funding. He wished the new Standing Committee well in its deliberations and looked forward to participating in a future meeting as an observer.

23. On behalf of AEWA, Mr Trouvilliez thanked Mr Størkersen for his efforts throughout his time as Standing Committee Chair. He added his own personal thanks for the valuable advice and guidance he had received from Mr Størkersen since taking up the position of Executive Secretary.

Agenda item 6. Closure of the Meeting

24. The meeting was closed at 15.50