

21st MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
28-30 April 2026, Virtual Meeting Format

**MODUS OPERANDI OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE AGREEMENT ON
THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS¹**

General functions

Rule 1

The Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as Committee), established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement provides scientific and technical advice and information, to the Meeting of the Parties and, through the Agreement Secretariat, to the Parties; it makes recommendations to the Meetings of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out; it prepares for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties a report on its activities, which shall be submitted to the Agreement secretariat not less than one hundred and twenty days before the session of the Meeting of the Parties; it carries out any other tasks referred to it by the Meeting of the Parties. The Technical Committee works closely with the Standing Committee to ensure consistency across the Agreement's work.

Representation and attendance

Rule 2

1. In accordance with Article VII paragraph 1, the Committee membership shall comprise:
 - (a) nine experts representing the different regions of the Agreement Area (Northern & Southwestern Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Southwestern Asia, Northern Africa, Central Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa) elected among all the Parties on the recommendation of the Parties of the region in question;
 - (b) one representative appointed by each of the following organisations: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wetlands International, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC); and
 - (c) one thematic expert from each of the following fields: rural economics, game management, and environmental law; elected by the Parties.
2. With the exception of the experts in the field of rural economics, game management and environmental law, all the above-mentioned representatives shall name an Alternate Member for each position to be approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 3

Except as provided for in Rule 6, attendance at meetings of the Technical Committee shall be limited to members of the Technical Committee or their Alternates and observers of the Parties.

¹Adopted by the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7), 4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa with pertinent updates of Annexes 2 and 3.

Rule 4

Only members of the Committee (hereinafter the members) shall exercise the voting rights. In his/her absence, the Alternate shall act in his or her place.

Rule 5

1. The term of office of the regional representatives and the thematic experts shall expire at the close of the second ordinary Meeting of the Parties following that at which they were elected, unless extended by agreement of the Meeting of the Parties. At each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, elections shall be held only for those regional members whose term of office will have expired at the close of the meeting and for any regional member who indicates a desire to step down without completing a full term of office. The same provisions shall apply with respect to the alternate/ members approved in accordance with Rule 2.

2. In the instance of a regional representative and his/her alternate or a thematic expert standing down simultaneously without completing a full term of office, the Chairperson of the Committee, in close cooperation with the region/organisation involved and in consultation with the Agreement Secretariat, is permitted to appoint an expert of the region or a thematic expert to replace the member and an alternate intersessionally with full voting rights. The term of office of the replacement member/alternate shall expire at the close of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties with the possibility that the Meeting appoints him/ her as a representative or alternate.

3. The representatives of organisations, as per Rule 2, paragraph 1(b), and their alternates are not limited by a term of office. They can be replaced at any time by their organisations.

Rule 6

1. The Chairperson may invite observers of non-contracting Parties and the Chairperson of the AEWA Standing Committee.

2. Furthermore, the Chairperson may invite or admit a maximum of four observers from specialised international inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations.

3. In addition, at each meeting of the Committee, the Chairperson may invite guests to contribute to specific agenda items.

Nomination and election of members

Rule 7

Candidates proposed for nomination as regional representatives or thematic experts in the Committee must have the following:

1. Recognised experience and expertise in one or more aspects of waterbird science or conservation;
2. Demonstrated capacity for networking with waterbird science or conservation experts at local, national or international levels;
3. Full access to e-mail and internet communication systems on which the intersessional Committee work depends;
4. Commitment to undertake the work required of the Committee and actively participate in the delivery of the Committee working groups' tasks.

Rule 8

The new regional representatives, their alternates and experts to the Committee will be elected by the Meeting of the Parties at the recommendation of the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group shall comprise the current Chair and Vice-chair of the Standing Committee, the current Chair and Vice-chair of the Technical Committee, the Executive Secretary and the Technical Officer. The Advisory Group will be chaired by the Technical Committee Chair.

Rule 9

1. Nominations of candidates for regional representatives to the Committee can be submitted by:
 - 2.1 the National AEWA Administrative and Implementation Authorities of the Parties in the respective region²;
 - 2.2 the National AEWA Technical Committee Focal Points (in consultation with the National AEWA Administrative and Implementation Authority) of the Parties in the respective region;
 - 2.3 the current Technical Committee Chair and Vice-chair; and
 - 2.4 the current Technical Committee members and observers.
2. Nominations of candidates for thematic experts to the Committee can be submitted by:
 - 3.1 the National AEWA Administrative and Implementation Authorities of the Parties regardless of the region;
 - 3.2 the National AEWA Technical Committee Focal Points (in consultation with the National AEWA Administrative and Implementation Authority) of the Parties regardless of the region;
 - 3.3 the current Technical Committee Chair and Vice-chair; and
 - 3.4 the current Technical Committee members and observers.
3. Nominations for thematic experts are not limited to persons of the same country of origin as the nominator, since it is the relevant expertise and/or the networking capacity that is being sought, regardless of the nationality or country of current domicile of the expert. Thematic experts can be nominated from any of the AEWA Range States. For regional representatives, however, only persons from AEWA Contracting Parties may be nominated.

Rule 10

1. The nominator of each candidate will provide the Advisory Group with a short summary of the relevant expertise and experience of the candidate in the form of a recommendation letter not later than 180 days before the date of the next session of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. Candidates being nominated will provide a declaration³ that they are willing to be considered for appointment to the Committee, that they have the full support of their organisation or institution to deliver the work expected of the Committee members, including time, availability and funds (if applicable) for attending meetings⁴, and that they have the necessary language skills (English, French or both) to engage fully in the work of the Committee; they will provide a brief summary of how they see their skills and expertise contributing to the Committee's work, along with a *curriculum vitae* (CV).

Rule 11

On the basis of the nominations received within the deadline, the Secretariat shall prepare an assessment and submit it to the Advisory Group for consideration. The Advisory Group will then submit a list of recommended

² For the AEWA Technical Committee regionalisation please refer to Annex 1 appended to this document.

³ Sample declaration is appended in Annex 3.

⁴ Financial support for attending Technical Committee meetings will be available only to members from the eligible AEWA Parties (please refer to Annex 2).

candidates, together with summaries of their expertise, to the Meeting of the Parties for the election of new regional representatives, their alternates and thematic experts.

Rule 12

If no candidates were elected by the Meeting of the Parties for either of the vacant positions, the Chairperson may appoint members or alternates through a procedure as described in Rule 5.

Officers

Rule 13

The members shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from their regional representatives of the Parties, for terms corresponding to those of the Meetings of the Parties. This election will normally take place as soon as possible after the Meeting of the Parties, and the newly elected officers shall assume their functions upon election.

Rule 14

The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat for circulation, and liaise with the members between meetings of the Committee. The Chairperson may represent the Committee as required within the limits of the Committee mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee.

Rule 15

The Vice-Chairperson shall assist in the execution of the Chairperson's duties, and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Rule 16

The Agreement Secretariat shall serve the meetings of the Committee.

Elections of officers

Rule 17

If in an election to fill one place no candidate obtains an overall majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If the votes are equally divided in the second ballot, the presiding officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

Rule 18

If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two.

Rule 19

In the case of a tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the presiding officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with Rule 17.

Meetings

Rule 20

Unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise, meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Agreement Secretariat at least twice between ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 21

Where in the opinion of the Committee an emergency has arisen that requires the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more migratory waterbird species, the Chairperson may request the Agreement Secretariat to urgently convene a meeting of the Parties concerned.

Rule 22

Notice of meetings, including date and venue, shall be sent to all Parties by the Secretariat at least 60 days in advance and, in the case of extraordinary meetings, at least 14 days in advance.

Rule 23

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of half of the members of the Committee. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.

Rule 24

Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairperson or by three members.

Rule 25

Decisions of the Committee by voting (pursuant to Rule 24) shall be passed by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting. In the case of a tie, the motion shall be considered rejected.

Rule 26

A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all members of the Technical Committee.

Rule 26 bis

The documents for each meeting of the Committee shall be distributed to its members by the Secretariat at least 30 days before the opening of the Meeting. At the discretion of the Chair, in exceptional circumstances documents may be accepted after these deadlines, but not later than two weeks before the Meeting. Typically, documents will be distributed electronically.

Working groups

Rule 27

The Committee may establish such ad hoc working groups as may be necessary to deal with specific tasks. It shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group.

Rule 28

In so far as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of working groups.

Rule 29

The Committee shall receive reports from other committees and working groups established under the Agreement as necessary.

Communication procedure

Rule 30

Any member of the Committee, or the Secretariat, may submit a proposal to the Chairperson of the Technical Committee for a decision by correspondence. Upon request by the Chairperson, the Secretariat shall communicate the proposal to the members for comments within 60 days of the date of communication. Any comments received within these limits shall also be thus communicated. In case of emergency the proposal shall be communicated to the members for comment within 30 days.

Rule 31

If, by the date on which comments on a proposal were due to be communicated, the Secretariat has not received any objection from a member, the proposal shall be adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.

Rule 32

If any member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Rule 33

The Secretariat shall inform the Contracting Parties on the date and venue of the next meeting of the Committee. For each Meeting of the Committee the Contracting Parties will receive at least the provisional agenda and draft minutes of the previous meeting. All other documents to be discussed will be made available through the Agreement's website. Any Contracting Party may propose an issue to be considered by the Technical Committee in which case the proposal will be communicated, together with any relevant documents, to the Secretariat not later than 45 days before the date of the next meeting of the Committee.

Rule 34

The regional representatives shall act as a coordinator for Range States and Contracting Parties in their region, submit a report to the Committee on AEWA implementation in their regions and disseminate to the technical focal points of Contracting Parties the outcomes of Committee meetings.

Other functions

Rule 35

In accordance with Art. VII 3(c) of the Agreement, the Chairperson shall submit a written report on the Committee's activities to the Agreement Secretariat not less than one hundred and twenty days before the session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Final provisions

Rule 36

This Modus Operandi shall be applied at the first meeting of the Committee following its approval by the Meeting of the Parties, and may be amended by the Meeting of the Parties, as required, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and its decisions.

Annex 1 to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee

Division of the Agreement area into nine regions, for the purpose of appointment of regional representatives to the Technical Committee as described in document AEWA/MOP 1.11/Rev 1.

Region	Names of the Range States and regional economic organisations <i>(current AEWA Parties are in bold)</i> ⁵
NORTH- AND SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE	Andorra, Belgium , Canada, Denmark (incl. Greenland), European Union , Finland , France , Germany , Iceland , Ireland , Liechtenstein, Luxembourg , Monaco , the Netherlands , Norway , Portugal , Spain , Sweden , Switzerland , United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
CENTRAL EUROPE	Albania , Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria , Croatia , Czech Republic , European Union , Greece , Italy , Hungary , Malta, Montenegro , North Macedonia , Poland, Romania , San Marino, Serbia , Slovakia , Slovenia
EASTERN EUROPE	Armenia , Azerbaijan, Belarus , Estonia , European Union , Georgia , Latvia , Lithuania , Republic of Moldova , Russian Federation (European part), Ukraine
SOUTHWESTERN ASIA	Bahrain, Cyprus , European Union , Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel , Jordan , Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon , Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation (Asian part), Saudi Arabia , Syrian Arab Republic , Türkiye, Turkmenistan , United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan , Yemen
NORTHERN AFRICA	Algeria , Canary Islands (Spain) , Egypt , Libya , Madeira (Portugal) , Morocco , Tunisia
CENTRAL AFRICA	Cameroon , Central African Republic , Chad , Congo , Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea , Gabon , Sao Tome und Príncipe
WESTERN AFRICA	Benin , Burkina Faso , Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire , Gambia , Ghana , Guinea , Guinea-Bissau , Liberia, Mali , Mauritania , Niger , Nigeria , Senegal , Sierra Leone, Togo
EASTERN AFRICA	Burundi , Djibouti , Eritrea, Ethiopia , Kenya , Mayotte (France) , Réunion (France) , Rwanda , Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan , Uganda , United Republic of Tanzania
SOUTHERN AFRICA	Angola, Ascension Island (United Kingdom) , Botswana , Comoros, Eswatini , Lesotho, Madagascar , Malawi , Mauritius , Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa , St. Helena (United Kingdom) , Zambia, Zimbabwe

⁵ Status of accession as at February 2026.

Annex 2 to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee

List of the AEWA Contracting Parties (as at February 2026) eligible to receive financial support for attending AEWA meetings:

Albania	Georgia	Senegal
Algeria	Ghana	Serbia
Armenia	Guinea	Sudan
Belarus	Guinea-Bissau	Syrian Arab Republic
Benin	Jordan	Togo
Botswana	Kenya	Tunisia
Burkina Faso	Lebanon	Turkmenistan
Burundi	Libya	Uganda
Cameroon	Madagascar	Ukraine
Central African Republic	Malawi	United Republic of Tanzania
Chad	Mali	Uzbekistan
Congo	Mauritania	Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritius	
Djibouti	Montenegro	
Egypt	Morocco	
Equatorial Guinea	Niger	
Eswatini	Nigeria	
Ethiopia	North Macedonia	
Gabon	Republic of Moldova	
Gambia	Rwanda	

Annex 3 to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee

**Declaration
of candidate nominated as regional representative or thematic expert to
the AEWA Technical Committee**

I, [*fill in name and post*] would like to inform you that I am willing to be considered as [*fill the relevant position*⁶] to the AEWA Technical Committee and that I have the full support of my [*organisation or institution, please fill the name*] to deliver the work expected of the Technical Committee members⁷, including time, availability and funds (if applicable) for attending Technical Committee meetings⁸.

I have the necessary [*English or French or both, please fill as appropriate*] language skills to engage fully in the work of the Technical Committee.

[*Please provide a brief summary of how you see your skills and expertise contributing to the work of the Technical Committee.*]

I am providing my *curriculum vitae* (CV) as an attachment. [*please attach*]

Signature:

[*please sign*]

Date:

[*please fill*]

⁶ Regional representative of [state the relevant region, refer to Annex 1]; or expert in one of the following three fields: game management, environmental law or rural economics.

⁷ As required by the Modus Operandi and Resolution 3.13 (for the latter see Annex 4).

⁸ Please note that only certain AEWA Parties are eligible to receive financial support for attending AEWA meetings (please refer to Annex 2).

Annex 4 to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee

Further obligations of the members of the Technical Committee as decided by the Meeting of the Parties in Resolution 3.13, operative paragraph 4:

“Further decides that each Regional Representative shall:

- a) serve as the Technical Committee’s contact point for the Range States and, in particular, Contracting Parties of that geographical region, and as such maintain contact with the Contracting Parties’ technical focal points in order to synchronise regional activities for the implementation of AEWA;
- b) prepare, submit and present to the Technical Committee at each of its meetings a report on the implementation of AEWA in that geographical region represented by him/her;
- c) provide information on activities undertaken by the Range States, Contracting Parties and others in the region on implementation of AEWA;
- d) disseminate to the Contracting Parties' technical focal points information on the outcomes of discussions at the meetings of the Technical Committee.”