



Update on actions arising from the 95th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC096)

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PURPOSE

To provide the FAC with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period in relation to the direct requests for action by the FAC during the 95th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC095, January 2019).

BACKGROUND

At the 95th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC095), Contracting Parties agreed on a series of actions to be taken as detailed in [Appendix A](#). As the FAC has not developed a report in the past, the recommendations and requests were incorporated into the report of the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095).

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned to the IPHC Secretariat by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations for action are carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific Contracting Party, the IPHC Secretariat staff, a subsidiary body of the Commission, or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next session of a subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items (see [Appendix A](#)) from the Commission, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

Performance review and improvements

The 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02) was carried out over the course of 2019 and a final report provided to the Commission ([IPHC-2019-PRIPHC02-R](#)).

The PRIPHC02 provided a total of 26 recommendations to the Commission for its consideration, including a number relevant to the Finance and Administration Committee as listed below:

REF#	RECOMMENDATION
PRIPHC02 –Rec.01 (para. 32)	<i>Legal analysis of the IPHC Convention</i> The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that consideration be given to updating the Convention at the next opportunity, to become consistent with newer international legal instruments, and specifically consider including the following elements: a) – z)

REF#	RECOMMENDATION
PRIPHC02 –Rec.02 (para. 33)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED to update the Convention, while in the interim period seek alternate mechanisms to implement international best practices and legal principles.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.18 (para. 124)	Governance: Decision-making The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Rules of Procedure be modified to include a clear category and recognition for observer organisations, which would be in addition to the general public.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.19 (para. 128)	Governance: Dispute settlement The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED updating the rules of procedure to reflect intersessional decision making approaches.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.20 (para. 137)	Governance: Transparency The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the significant level of transparency achieved across Commission business continue to be improved.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.23 (para. 156)	Efficiency and transparency of financial and administrative management: Availability of resources for IPHC activities The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED the continued establishment of a Business Continuity Plan (BCP), which will serve to strengthen the long-term viability of IPHC Secretariat functioning and accountability, in line with best practices of an organisation of its size and breadth. Prioritising a financial and administrative BCP, with the ultimate goal of establishing a comprehensive BCP for the IPHC Secretariat as a whole.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.24 (para. 162)	Efficiency and transparency of financial and administrative management: Efficiency and cost-effectiveness The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED the FAC produce a report detailing the actual FAC meeting and that the presentation of the report be incorporated into the Annual Meeting agenda and report, along with the final decisions of the Commission.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.25 (para. 165)	Efficiency and transparency of financial and administrative management: Advisory structure The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that when revisiting PRIPHC01 Recommendation 3.1 on unifying subsidiary bodies, treat the CB and PAB as non-science process and maintain separated RAB and MSAB at least until the 2021 adoption and implementation of a new management strategy.

It is not the intention to discuss these in detail during the FAC, but rather to defer discussion to the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) to permit greater stakeholder observation of the discussions.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the FAC:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2020-FAC096-03, which provided the FAC with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the FAC during the 95th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC095, January 2019).

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Update on actions arising from the 95th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC095: January 2019).

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 95th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC095)

95 th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC095) (via AM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
	Nil	
REQUESTS		
AM095– Req.05 (para. 117)	Budget estimates for FY2020 (for approval), and tentatively for FY2021 The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat continue to develop a proposal for a potential Life History Modeller to join the IPHC Secretariat and for this to be provided to the Commission for consideration inter-sessionally.	Lead: Josep Planas Status/Plan: Completed. The position description was provided to the Commissioners inter-sessionally via IPHC Circular 2019-022 and will be discussed informally prior to the AM096 in February 2020 where the Commission may choose to appropriate funds for the position. See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-INF04
AM095– Req.06 (para. 120)	IPHC Financial Regulations (2019) The Commission ADOPTED the revised IPHC Financial Regulations (2019) by consensus, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed. IPHC Financial Regulations 2019 were published to the IPHC website on 4 February 2019.
AM095– Req.07 (para. 124)	IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019) The Commission ADOPTED the revised IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019) by consensus, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed. IPHC Rules of Procedure 2019 were published to the IPHC website on 4 February 2019.