
**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR
THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND
CENTRAL PACIFIC**

Second session
Madang, Papua New Guinea
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**DECISION OF THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE RELATING TO
PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE**

*The Preparatory Conference for the Establishment of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean **decides** as follows:*

1. Consistent with Resolution I of the Multilateral High Level Conference (“MHLC”),¹ including paragraph 1 of that Resolution, States and other entities that participated as observers in MHLC and that wish to participate more actively in the work of the Preparatory Conference may apply to the Chair of the Preparatory Conference.
 - (a) The application will include a formal written statement of commitment to the Convention.
 - (b) In considering the application, the Preparatory Conference will have regard to a range of relevant factors, including the following:
 - (i) the applicant’s fishing activities in the Convention Area;
 - (ii) demonstrated and sustained contribution to domestic and regional fisheries research, management and development in the region;
 - (iii) demonstrated responsible fishing practices, including effective exercise of responsibility for its vessels and nationals and compliance with regional and national conservation and management measures.
 - (c) In considering such applications, the Preparatory Conference will arrive at its decision by consensus.
 - (d) States and other entities that participated as observers in MHLC and that are approved to participate in the work of the Preparatory Conference may be seated with other participants of the Preparatory Conference.
2. Other States and entities that did not participate as observers in MHLC may apply to the Chair of the Preparatory Conference and a decision will be taken by consensus on their attendance to observe the meeting. Such States and entities would be seated in a designated area.
3. Any decision taken by the Preparatory Conference in accordance with these processes is without prejudice to any decision on accession under article 35 of the Convention.

Madang, 25 February 2002

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¹ Resolution I establishing a preparatory conference for the establishment of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, annexed to the Final Act of the Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, done at Honolulu, 5 September 2000.