

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2023

REPORT OF THE APPU/UPU REFORM WORKING GROUP

(Document prepared by the APPU/UPU Reform Working Group)

1. Subject	References/paragraphs
<p>Informing the EC on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the re-establishment of the Reform WG by the 2022 Congress - WG activity since re-establishment - the framework for WG activity - the status of WG activity (as presented through various documents for the 2023 EC) - financial position of funds allocated to support the Reform WG through the Reform Consultant. 	<p>§ 2.1 § 3.1 § 3.3, EC 2023 Doc 13.4 §§ 4.1 – 4.3 § 5, EC 2023 Doc 13.6</p>
<p>2. Decisions expected</p> <p>The EC is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - note the activity of the Reform WG to date - note the detail of the WG activity is presented in a range of documents to be dealt with separately at the 2023 EC - note the financial position of funds allocated to support the Reform WG through the Reform Consultant 	<p>§§ 2 – 3, EC 2023 Doc 13.4 § 4 § 5, EC 2023 Doc 13.6</p>

1. Introduction

1.1 EC 2023 Doc 13 sets out the report of the 2022-2026 Reform WG to the 2023 EC.

2. Background

2.1 The Reform WG was re-established at the 2022 APPU Bangkok Congress. Membership comprises Australia (Chair), China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Bureau is an observer to the WG. The Reform Consultant (Mr Mark Lawley) assists the WG in its work.

3. WG Activity

3.1 The WG has met (virtually) on four occasions since the 2022 Congress. These meetings took place as follows.

- Constituent meeting: 22 February 2023
- Meeting 1: 3 April 2023
- Meeting 2: 23 May 2023
- Meeting 3: 28 June 2023

3.2 A joint meeting with the Finance Committee was also held on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 to discuss and agree the approach to the Review of Financial Contributions (see EC 2023 Doc 18).

- 3.3 The main points and outcomes from each of the meetings can be found on the APPU website.
- 3.4 The WG decided to maintain the framework for activities based on five axes:
- directional
 - legal
 - organisational
 - financial
 - capacity and capability

Under each axis there are proposed areas of focus. Appendix 1 of EC 2023 Doc 13.4 (Bangkok Cycle workplan of the Reform WG) sets out the detail of what the WG's activity covers.

4. Status of WG activity

- 4.1 The WG is reporting on a number of matters to the 2023 EC. These are as set out below and in appendix 1.
- (i) EC 2023 Doc 4: Harmonisation of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council with recent changes made to the Rules of Procedure of Congresses
 - (ii) EC 2023 Doc 13.1: APPU vision to guide treaty development
 - (iii) EC 2023 Doc 13.2: Finalise outstanding matters from the Tehran Cycle
 - (iv) EC 2023 Doc 13.3: Review of governing documentation and archiving project
 - (v) EC 2023 Doc 13.4: Bangkok Cycle workplan
 - (vi) EC 2023 Doc 13.5: Review of governing documentation implementation plan
 - (vii) EC 2023 Doc 13.6: Budget of the Reform Consultant
 - (viii) EC 2023 Doc 13.7: A legal framework to support the Asia Pacific Cooperative
 - (ix) EC 2023 Doc 19: Online participation in 2023 EC meeting
- 4.2 In addition, the Reform WG is a co-contributor to EC 2023 Doc 18 (Creation of a sub-committee for the Finance Committee and the Reform WG).
- 4.3 The documents listed in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 contain the background to the respective issues, work undertaken to date, and recommendations for EC consideration where appropriate. As such, these documents represent a full summary of the current status of WG activity.

5. Financial

- 5.1 The Reform WG has the services of a Reform Consultant. The 2022 Bangkok Congress approved a budget for reform consulting activities of US \$45,000. The estimated outturn expenditure for 2023 is as follows.

January to June 2023 (invoiced):	US \$11,385.00
July to December 2023 (estimated):	US \$26,565.00
Estimated end-of-2023 position:	US \$7,050.00 underspent

- 5.2 For 2024, the Reform WG has prepared a draft budget for consulting services. This has been included in the Administrative Section's draft budget for consideration firstly by the Finance Committee and then by the 2023 EC (EC 2023 Doc 6, Annex 2 refers). Further details are included in EC 2023 Doc 13.6.

Document	Purpose	Output
EC 2023 Doc 4: Harmonisation of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council with recent changes made to the Rules of Procedure of Congresses	The Reform WG studied the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council in light of the changes made to the Rules of Procedure of Congresses at the 2022 Bangkok Congress.	The document outlines the process, explains the proposed changes and <u>seeks a number of Articles be amended.</u>
EC 2023 Doc 13.1: APPU vision to guide treaty development	The Reform WG is required to carry out the Review of Governing Documentation. The Reform WG sought guidance on principles which should underpin future proposals to amend the APPU treaties by developing a vision for the Union.	This document outlines the approach and seeks the EC to <u>endorse the vision.</u>
EC 2023 Doc 13.2: Finalise outstanding matters from the Tehran Cycle	A number of work items were unable to be finalised prior to the 2022 Bangkok Congress.	This document reports on these items and <u>seeks EC endorsement</u> to how the Reform WG will deliver on a number of items over the cycle.
EC 2023 Doc 13.3: Review of governing documentation and archiving project	The Review of Governing Documentation commenced prior to the 2022 Bangkok Congress and will be continued through the current cycle.	This document reports on the initial activities that commenced before the 2022 Bangkok Congress, particularly the archiving project, and <u>outlines how this work will be finalised.</u>
EC 2023 Doc 13.4: Bangkok Cycle workplan	The Reform WG has created a high-level workplan addressing the organisation of the WG and its work items to outline its approach to the Bangkok cycle.	This document outlines <u>for EC endorsement</u> the workplan for the reform WG for the rest of the Bangkok cycle.
EC 2023 Doc 13.5: Review of governing documentation implementation plan	The Reform WG is required to carry out the Review of Governing Documentation.	This document outlines the approach of the Reform WG over the Bangkok cycle to undertake the review, including proposed milestones and timeframes, to arrive at new Acts in 2026, and <u>seeks EC endorsement to the process.</u>
EC 2023 Doc 13.6: Budget of the Reform Consultant	The Reform WG is supported by the Reform Consultant.	The budget for 2024 is included in this document, based on the forward workplans, <u>to be approved by the EC.</u>
EC 2023 Doc 13.7: A legal framework to support the Asia Pacific Cooperative	The APP and Singapore Post advised that the current arrangements for the APP are not sustainable. The Reform WG identified that changes to the Governing Documentation of the APPU are required and have recommended a solution: to amend the APPU General Regulations to give the Executive Council the ability to create user-funded subsidiary bodies.	This document outlines <u>for EC endorsement</u> how the proposed solution will be developed, a draft treaty change for initial comment, and a recommended timeline for making this change, which includes potentially holding an Extraordinary Congress alongside the EC in 2024.
EC 2023 Doc 19: Online participation in 2023 EC meeting	Considering the decision of the 2022 Bangkok Congress to facilitate online participation, the Reform WG considered how this could be applied to the Executive Council. The Reform WG worked with the Bureau and Nauru (as the then host of the 2023 EC meeting) to develop an approach under the Treaty arrangement to maximise participation while acknowledging current treaty limitations.	This document outlines <u>for EC approval</u> the proposed approach to online participation for the 2023 Executive Council – i.e. online watching and speaking, but not online voting – based on the APPU treaty framework.