



SFS/DM/SWIOFC/19/4 E

SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Tenth Session

Maldives, 1 to 3 October 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE WPCCTF ON THE SETTING UP OF A POSSIBLE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (SWIO FFA)

The SWIOFC Secretariat presented to the Working Party on Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries (WPCCTF) the document SWIOFC/WPCCTF/19/4 on the possible establishment of a Southwest Indian Ocean Framework Agreement (SWIO FFA).

This process had initiated in 2015 and three preparatory studies were carried out on various aspects of the establishment of the SWIO FFA, i.e. the legal, policy, and budgetary aspects; institutional framework of the agreement; and cost-benefit analysis, as well as discussions at previous SWIOFC meetings.

Following a recommendation by the 8th WPCCTF, the 9th SWIOFC Session had requested Members to submit inputs for the preparation of a Policy Brief within a timeline of 5 months. Only a Member Country submitted its input. A consultant was requested to prepare the Policy Brief that was summarized by the Secretariat into the SWIOFC/WPCCTF/19/4 document, which was made available to 9th WPCCTF participants in advance of the meeting. Following request from a delegation, all the five documents mentioned above were circulated among WPCCTF once again.

Some Members highlighted that more time is needed to carry out internal consultations at the national level, considering that this issue requires political decision. The Working Party requested the Commission to recommend that a period of four months is given to Members to carry out the internal consultations and that in March 2020 a Ministerial Meeting would be held to take a final decision about the possible establishment of the SWIO FFA, provided that funds to organize the meeting will be available.