



CCAMLR

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

COMM CIRC 21/12

SC CIRC 21/08

Objectives of the Convention e-group - letter from Chile

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Please see attached a letter received from Chile.

In accordance with the request from Chile the e-group **Objectives of the Convention** has now been created.

Sincerely,

Dr David Agnew
Executive Secretary

Attch.

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Santiago, 15 January 2021.

Subject: Objectives of the Convention e-group

Dear Colleagues,

This year CCAMLR will hold its 40th Commission meeting, thus achieving four decades dedicated to the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources. Much has been accomplished since its inception and yet this is a task that continues to face new and ever-growing challenges. Chile has for many years invited Commission members to reflect on these challenges through an inclusive strategic dialogue that seeks to ascertain if we, as a collective entity, are fulfilling to the best of our capabilities the objectives of the Convention and strengthen its role within the Antarctic Treaty System.

We have engaged in these discussions at various moments. The Valdivia Symposium in 2005, organised by Australia and Chile, was the first of such discussions, followed by a second symposium, in Santiago in 2015, this time co-chaired by Australia, Chile and the United States. Two performance reviews have also dealt with various strategic issues and the yearly discussions under the agenda item *Implementation of Convention Objectives* have given us much food for thought.

In particular, the 2015 CCAMLR Symposium Co-Chairs' Summary presents a list of key recommendations to enhance the efficiency of the Commission and the Secretariat. We believe that many of those ideas remain valid and still deserve careful consideration.

During CCAMLR 39 we received some very strong signals that now, more than ever, we need to work with a constructive and cooperative approach so as not undermine the objectives of the Convention.

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Undoubtedly, there are currently serious challenges to the protection of Antarctica and its oceans, including threats we cannot ignore. The fast evolution of climate change is only one example. It is this context that Chile is formally requesting that, as decided during the last Commission meeting, the Secretariat open the *Objectives of the Convention e-group*, in order to continue our discussions with a view to identifying strategic priorities for the Commission. Once the e-group is open, Chile will submit its terms of reference and preliminary reflections.

I would like to encourage members of the Commission to reflect on the evolution and the future of the organisation and to participate actively in this dialogue on CCAMLR strategic priorities.

Kind regards,



RODRIGO WAGHORN
Chilean Commissioner to CCAMLR