

OIGs in the NWWAC

General Assembly
24 September 2020



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
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Timeline

■ 2019

- April 2019 - NGO letter to Director-General
- June 2019 - NGO meeting with Director-General Machado
- November 2019 – NGO presentation at the Inter-AC meeting in Brussels

■ 2020

- March 2020 – meeting NWWAC Secretariat, ExCom Chair and Vice-Chair and several NGOs in Madrid
- July 2020 – NGO letter to Director-General
- July/August – 5 NGOs give notice of termination of NWWAC membership
- NWWAC ExCom Chair writes to resigning members
- NWWAC Secretariat invites resigning NGOs to upcoming ExCom meeting for wider discussion
- 11 September – Discussion at meeting of Executive Committee
- 16 September – NGO meeting held with Director-General Vitcheva

Letter by ExCom Chair to Resigning Members

- ❑ Asking a more ample explanation about decision to give notice of termination of membership
- ❑ NWWAC Secretariat has made great efforts to address issues reported at inter-AC meeting in November 2019 and to increase the involvement of all members in the ongoing work of the NWWAC.
- ❑ Meeting in Madrid, March 2020, addressing the request to improve communications and discussing the ongoing issues as perceived by several Other Interest Group members.
- ❑ Basis for cooperation within the NWWAC structure confirmed at this meeting just prior to the full outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❑ Consequences for work program took precedence over elaborating.
- ❑ Regretting that the development of solutions appears to have been cut short now by the resignations.
- ❑ Constructive attempt to join forces again in the NWWAC in the near future,

Issues reported by NGOs

Letter to Director General July 2020

- ❑ Structure of ACs and implementation of the advisory process
- ❑ Impartiality of chair persons
- ❑ Inappropriate or hostile language from some AC members
- ❑ Not applicable to all ACs
- ❑ Need to re-evaluate the resources put into ACs
- ❑ Organisations that are leaving remain open to returning on a case-by-case basis if the situation improves sufficiently.

Issues reported by NGOs

Individual resignation letters and feedback at ExCom

- ❑ Choice of use of available time
- ❑ Disappointment on progress made on own priorities
- ❑ Imbalance between input and outcome
- ❑ No urgency in NWWAC to reach CFP objectives
- ❑ Most E-NGO work is to avoid deviation from CFP objectives whilst AC should facilitate implementation
- ❑ CFP implementation is failure
- ❑ Not clear why in some other ACs it works better than in NWWAC
- ❑ General Assembly members effectively relegated to the role of observers in many AC processes if they are not ExCom members
- ❑ Inherent imbalance in structure of ACs in favor of the industry
- ❑ NWWAC often failed to achieve its function of providing balanced, consensual advice

Conclusions / Actions

- ❑ E-NGOs consider this was amply discussed in NWWAC, other ExCom members felt only first discussion on 11 Sep => Issues not sufficiently addressed at right forum
- ❑ Forum for discussion and improvement is limited within the NWWAC as 5 NGOs are leaving and thus unclear how to participate in further discussions
- ❑ Find forum and include NWWAC secretariat overview of OIG involvement in the work.
- ❑ ExCom members and departing OIGs have been requested to send suggestions to the NWWAC Secretariat => same request to GA and WG chairs
- ❑ AC request to Commission for a joint meeting with AC Secretariats, ExCom Chairs/Vice-Chairs and E-NGOs to identify a way forward.

Questions / Comments?



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