



**Report of the meeting of the
Working Group on the Strategic Review
of the ICO held on 10 March 2016**

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1. The Working Group on the Strategic Review of the ICO held its fifth meeting on 10 March 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the Organization's biannual meetings. As a result, a large number of Members were present including: Brazil, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Honduras, Japan, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States.

2. The meeting was chaired by Mr Aly Touré of Côte d'Ivoire.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The draft agenda contained in document WG-11/16 was adopted.

Item 2: Report of the meeting of the Working Group on the Strategic Review of the ICO held on 18 February 2016

4. The Working Group approved the report on the meeting of 18 February 2016 contained in document WG-10/16.

Item 3: Draft Terms of Reference, Timetable and Table of Contents

5. Members made comments on document WP-Council 266/16 Rev. 1 which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was a general feeling that it represented a good starting point but that further work was required before it was presented to the Council.

6. One Member requested that detail be added to the document and several points be clarified in order that the review could be as transparent, objective and robust as possible. This was particularly with regard to the activities highlighted on the timeline as well as the roles and responsibilities of those involved in each stage of the process.

7. Members pointed out that the time period proposed in the document over which the review would take place was not consistent with the Resolution approved in September 2015. Resolution 457 states that the review should be finished by September 2016 and not continue until March 2017 as proposed in the working paper. It was agreed that, although the Strategic Review was an important in-depth exercise which should not be rushed, the original timetable as approved in the Resolution should be maintained.

8. Some Members also raised concerns regarding the financial implications of the Strategic Review on the Budget for the year 2016/17 which the Finance and Administration Committee had decided to recommend for approval to the Council. The Secretariat assured Members of the Working Group that the resources required for conducting the Strategic Review, including hiring a consultant if deemed necessary, would be drawn from the Programme of Activities thereby avoiding a negative impact on the Budget for 2015/16. Any

additional funds required in order to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Review would need to be discussed in the future by the Finance and Administration Committee, once their nature was known.

9. With these comments in mind, the Secretariat agreed to produce a new draft which would then be recommended to the Council for approval.¹ Once approved, the Secretariat would set to work on the Strategic Review, one of the first steps of which would be establishing a schedule of consultations to be conducted with stakeholders.

Item 4: Other business

10. There was no other business.

¹ The revised draft was duly circulated as document [WP-Council 266/16 Rev. 2](#) and approved by the Council in its Session on Friday 11 March 2016.