



ASSEMBLY
14th extraordinary session
Agenda item 5

92FUND/A/ES.14/5
22 May 2009
Original: ENGLISH

SUBMISSION OF OIL REPORTS

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTRONIC OIL REPORTING SYSTEM

Note by the Director

Summary:	Information is provided and a presentation will be given on the development of an electronic reporting system for the submission of reports on contributing oil.
Action to be taken:	The Assembly is invited to endorse the Secretariat's plan for the development of the system, as set out in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 of the document, and/or to provide any feedback it deems appropriate.

1 Introduction

At their October 2005 sessions, the governing bodies instructed the Director to proceed with a number of measures to assist States to submit oil reports, one of which was the establishment of an electronic reporting system for the submission of reports on contributing oil. A presentation on this subject will be given during the Assembly's 14th extraordinary session and further information about the development of the system is set out below.

2 Development of an Electronic Oil Reporting System

- 2.1 At their October 2005 sessions, the governing bodies instructed the Director to proceed with a number of measures to assist States to submit oil reports. One of these measures was the establishment of an electronic reporting system for the submission of reports on contributing oil, similar to the one which had been developed in respect of the HNS Convention (documents 92FUND/A.10/37, paragraphs 15.6-15.13, SUPPFUND/A/ES.1/21, paragraphs 9.2-9.10, and 71FUND/AC.17/20, paragraphs 11.5-11.12).
- 2.2 At their October 2008 sessions, the governing bodies noted that, whilst the Secretariat had hoped that a trial version of such a system would be available for demonstration to the governing bodies at the latest at those sessions, this had not been possible due to staff shortages in the External Relations and Conference Department but that it was intended that the project would be a priority during 2009 (documents 92FUND/A.13/25, paragraph 15.6, SUPPFUND/A.4/21, paragraph 15.7, and 71FUND/AC.23/18, paragraph 12.6).
- 2.3 The Secretariat has now commenced work on the development of this system and a presentation on the subject will be given at the 14th extraordinary session of the Assembly, where delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions and make observations.

- 2.4 The Secretariat hopes to complete the development of a trial version of the system, which will initially be available in English only, by the end of 2009. The Secretariat is keen to ensure that the new system is user-friendly and reflects the needs of both Member States and contributors. Any suggestions which delegates may have in respect of features that would be useful would therefore be much appreciated. In addition, if any delegates would like to be closely involved in the development of the trial system during the next few months, either by attending meetings in London or by email, they are invited to contact the Secretariat. Once the initial development has been completed, it is hoped that a small number of representative States (perhaps three to five States, including some with a number of contributors as well as those with fewer or none) would be willing to volunteer to trial the system during 2010. The trial will run in parallel with the existing paper-based system, with the aim of ensuring that the electronic system works correctly and is easy to use. Any necessary changes to the Internal and Financial Regulations would be proposed, probably during 2010. The system would then be made available for use by all States in all official languages, ie English, French and Spanish.
- 2.5 It is hoped that the electronic reporting system will have advantages for all States, not just those which have had problems in fulfilling their obligations to submit oil reports. In addition to reducing the administrative burden on States, it is intended that the system will provide States with up-to-date summaries in respect of the submission of oil reports and the issuing of invoices/payment of contributions. However, use of the system is not intended to be compulsory: States may continue to use the existing paper-based system if they prefer.

3 Action to be taken by the Assembly

The Assembly is invited:

- (a) to take note of the information contained in this document, as well as of the presentation on the development of the system; and
 - (b) to endorse the plan for the development of the system as set out in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 and/or to provide any feedback it deems appropriate.
-