



CNL\_IS(25)04A

***December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council***

***NASCO HQ, Edinburgh (hybrid meeting)***

***10-11 December 2025***

***Annotated Agenda***

The purpose of this paper is to provide the background, decisions and links to papers, for each item on the Agenda for the Inter-Meeting of the Council.

Papers for the meeting are on the [NASCO website](#).

This Annotated Agenda references papers that the Secretariat is aware of at the time of writing. If additional papers are issued, they will be posted on the website and delegates will be informed by email.

**Timings of the Meeting**

The Council will meet on:

• Wednesday 10 December	11:00 – 18:00 hrs, UK time
• Thursday 11 December	11:00 – 18:00 hrs, UK time

**Order of Business**

The meeting will begin on Wednesday 10 December with the ‘Opening of the Meeting’. Delegates will be advised of the daily order of business during the Inter-Sessional Meeting.

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

The President, Seamus Connor (UK), will open the meeting on behalf of the Organization.

The Opening Session will not include verbal Opening Statements by the Parties and Observers.

- ***no decision is required.***

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda, [CNL\\_IS\(25\)01](#), was issued on 19 September 2025. No supplementary items were proposed. The Draft Agenda, [CNL\\_IS\(25\)04](#), was issued on 10 November 2025.

- *the Council may wish to adopt its Agenda.*

### 3. Annual Meeting Model

At the Annual Meeting, [CNL\(25\)80rev](#), the following decisions were made:

*‘4.17 Council agreed to:*

- *a ceiling for the 2027 Budget consisting of the 2026 Budget plus inflation;*
- *task the Secretariat to review NASCO’s meeting model for 2027 and to revert to Council with a proposal in advance of an inter-sessional meeting of the Council which may be scheduled before the end of 2025. This review should provide Council with a discussion document, outlining a limited number of meeting model options with a recommendation on the way forward based on an analysis of the options outlined; and*
- *to task the Secretary to also prepare a Forecast Budget for 2027 and a five-year Budgeting Plan for 2026 – 2030, also to be discussed at the Council inter-sessional meeting.’*

The main purpose of the Inter-Sessional Meeting is to discuss a number of alternative Annual Meeting models for 2027 onwards and to agree on one, based on which a Forecast Budget for 2027 will be based.

In preparation for the discussion on Annual Meeting models, 12 other RFMO / IGO Secretariats have been consulted with a questionnaire on the details of their annual meetings. The responses to the questionnaire have been used in the development of meeting model options which has been provided in advance of the Inter-Sessional Meeting.

The Council will discuss and review the Recommendations provided in the paper ‘NASCO’s Annual Meeting Model Analysis, Review and Recommendations’ [CNL IS\(25\)02](#).

*The Council may wish to adopt:*

- ***Recommendation 1: NASCO retain its current annual meeting frequency to ensure alignment with the obligations required under the [NASCO Convention](#) and to facilitate the timely advancement of strategic priorities;***
- ***Recommendation 2: The NASCO Annual Meeting continues to be scheduled close to the first week of June. The preferred timing for the meeting is early June, with the location determined by the willingness of a Party / jurisdiction to host. In the absence of a host, the default arrangement will be for the NASCO Secretariat to organise the meeting;***
- ***Recommendation 3: NASCO continues to convene face-to-face Annual Meetings scheduled for at least 4.5 days and the final review and approval of NASCO’s Report of the Annual Meeting at Council only considers material changes, with the Secretariat to review editorial changes. The duration includes the FAC and Board Meetings, with the NASCO Annual Meeting Report agreed upon with increased efficiency, at the final session of the Council;***
- ***Recommendation 4: Consideration should be given to the frequency, duration,***

*and timing of the HoD meetings to enhance the overall efficiency of the Annual Meeting;*

- *Recommendation 5: NASCO maintain its current model, continuing to offer Parties and jurisdictions the opportunity to host the Annual Meeting. In the absence of a host, the Secretariat will assume responsibility for organising the event. To facilitate the latter scenario, the Secretariat further recommends establishing a dedicated meeting fund. The Fund could be structured to accumulate over time and be replenished only after the Secretariat has hosted an event. In addition, a portion of the Fund could be allocated annually to assist host Parties / jurisdictions with specific costs, such as audiovisual or hybrid meeting infrastructure, thereby reducing the financial burden and potentially encouraging broader participation in hosting;*
- *Recommendation 6: To support Recommendations 1-5, NASCO adopts a baseline standard for the Annual Meeting. This standard should be minimal, designed to meet essential Annual Meeting requirements while aligning with constrained budgets. Developing and documenting a minimum standard meeting format, based on the provisions and experience of the 2026 Annual Meeting, would serve as the baseline for future Secretariat-hosted meetings and would be outlined in detail to ensure consistency and cost-efficiency; and*
- *Recommendation 7: No changes should be made to the current policy regarding delegate participation. The Secretariat recommends continued encouragement of full participation by Parties / jurisdictions, International Governmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions to enable NASCO to meet the Objectives of its Ten-Year Strategy, [CNL\(24\)71rev](#), and align with its Communications and Outreach Strategy, [CNL\(25\)54](#).*

The following paper is available:

- NASCO's Annual Meeting Model Analysis, Review and Recommendations, [CNL\\_IS\(25\)02](#).

#### **4. 2027 Forecast Budget and 2026-2030 Budget Plans**

The main purpose of the Inter-Sessional Meeting is to discuss a number of alternative Annual Meeting models for 2027 onwards and to agree on one, based on which a Forecast Budget for 2027 and a five-year budgeting plan for 2026-2030 can then be agreed.

- *approve a Forecast Budget for 2027; and*
- *approve a five-year budgeting plan for 2026-2030.*

The following paper is available:

- Draft 2027 Forecast Budget and Five-Year (2026 – 2030) Budgeting Plan, [CNL\\_IS\(25\)03](#).

#### **5. NASCO Annual Meeting Paper Numbers**

An additional item for discussion is the current practice within NASCO to allocate Council / Commission / FAC / Board numbers to all papers referenced in NASCO's Annual Meetings, including those tabled by individual Parties / jurisdictions. The item will consider whether this serves to present such papers as being produced by NASCO

rather than individual Parties / jurisdictions and if it should continue or not. Alternatives will be discussed and considered.

*The Council may wish to:*

- *agree / not agree to continue to allocate Council / Commission / FAC / Board numbers to all papers referenced in NASCO's Annual Meetings, including those tabled by individual Parties / jurisdictions; and*
- *agree an alternative numbering system for papers tabled by individual Parties / jurisdictions and other bodies external to the NASCO Secretariat.*

## **6. Other Business**

At the time of writing, the Secretariat had not been made aware of any other business.

## **7. Report of the Meeting**

Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure for Council requires that 'A draft report shall be considered by the Council before the end of the meeting.' A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review. Depending on the finish time of the Meeting, a decision to adopt the Report of the Meeting by correspondence may be required.

*The Council may wish to:*

- *adopt the Report of the Meeting by correspondence.*

## **8. Close of the Meeting**

The President will close the Inter-Sessional Meeting.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
9 December 2025

***Summary of Council Decisions***

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	<a href="#">CNL_IS(25)04</a>
3. Annual Meeting Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation 1: NASCO retain its current annual meeting frequency to ensure alignment with the obligations required under the <a href="#">NASCO Convention</a> and to facilitate the timely advancement of strategic priorities;</li> <li>• Recommendation 2: The NASCO Annual Meeting continues to be scheduled close to the first week of June. The preferred timing for the meeting is early June, with the location determined by the willingness of a Party / jurisdiction to host. In the absence of a host, the default arrangement will be for the NASCO Secretariat to organise the meeting;</li> <li>• Recommendation 3: NASCO continues to convene face-to-face Annual Meetings scheduled for at least 4.5 days and the final review and approval of NASCO's Report of the Annual Meeting at Council only considers material changes, with the Secretariat to review editorial changes. The duration includes the FAC and Board Meetings, with the NASCO Annual Meeting Report agreed upon with increased efficiency, at the final session of the Council;</li> <li>• Recommendation 4: Consideration should be given to the frequency, duration, and timing of the HoD meetings to enhance the overall efficiency of the Annual Meeting;</li> <li>• Recommendation 5: NASCO maintain its current model, continuing to offer Parties and jurisdictions the opportunity to host the Annual Meeting. In the absence of a host, the Secretariat will assume responsibility for organising the</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL_IS(25)02</a>

	<p>event. To facilitate the latter scenario, the Secretariat further recommends establishing a dedicated meeting fund. The Fund could be structured to accumulate over time and be replenished only after the Secretariat has hosted an event. In addition, a portion of the Fund could be allocated annually to assist host Parties / jurisdictions with specific costs, such as audiovisual or hybrid meeting infrastructure, thereby reducing the financial burden and potentially encouraging broader participation in hosting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation 6: To support Recommendations 1-5, NASCO adopts a baseline standard for the Annual Meeting. This standard should be minimal, designed to meet essential Annual Meeting requirements while aligning with constrained budgets. Developing and documenting a minimum standard meeting format, based on the provisions and experience of the 2026 Annual Meeting, would serve as the baseline for future Secretariat-hosted meetings and would be outlined in detail to ensure consistency and cost-efficiency;</li> <li>• Recommendation 7: No changes should be made to the current policy regarding delegate participation. The Secretariat recommends continued encouragement of full participation by Parties / jurisdictions, International Governmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions to enable NASCO to meet the Objectives of its Ten-Year Strategy, <a href="#">CNL(24)71rev</a>, and align with its Communications and Outreach Strategy, <a href="#">CNL(25)54</a>.</li> </ul>	
4. 2027 Forecast Budget and 2026-2030 Budget Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve a Forecast Budget for 2027</li> <li>• approve a five-year budgeting plan for 2026-2030</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL_IS(25)03</a>

5. NASCO Annual Meeting Paper Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agree / not agree to continue to allocate Council / Commission / FAC / Board numbers to all papers referenced in NASCO's Annual Meetings, including those tabled by individual Parties / jurisdictions;</li> <li>• agree an alternative numbering system for papers tabled by individual Parties / jurisdictions and other bodies external to the NASCO Secretariat.</li> </ul>	
7. Report of the Meeting	Agree the Report of the Meeting by correspondence	Issued following meeting