

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

21.1 The Report of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Commission was adopted.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

22.1 ASOC made the following statement:

‘In closing, ASOC would like to first congratulate you, Mr Chair, on a successful meeting and, on behalf of all the member groups, extend our warm appreciation and thanks to you, Denzil, for all you have done for CCAMLR and the conservation of toothfish, seabirds, krill and all the other important animals in the Southern Ocean. We will miss your dedication, knowledge, humour and passion. Lastly, we appreciate your sensitivity to future generations. We do not say goodbye, we say good luck and that we are eager to see you take up your next endeavour to continue conservation of the Southern Ocean and all its creatures.’

22.2 The European Community thanked the Chair for his leadership and effectiveness in the conduct of the meeting and for concluding the meeting in a timely fashion. The European Community also thanked all delegations for moving forward with the Performance Review Panel’s recommendations despite some criticism over the past two years. As a result of the delegations’ mutual understanding and cooperation, important decisions had been made during this meeting. The European Community thanked the Chairs of the Scientific Committee, SCAF, SCIC and the Conservation Measures Drafting Group who contributed exceptionally to the work achieved.

22.3 On behalf of the European Community, Mr R. Cesari thanked the outgoing Executive Secretary, Dr Denzil Miller, for his outstanding service and contribution to Antarctic issues, from which he had personally learned a great deal.

22.4 Mr Cesari also extended the European Community’s appreciation to the Secretariat which it deemed as one of the best and which had contributed largely to the success of the meeting.

22.5 New Zealand joined the appreciation expressed by the European Community for the important results achieved in this meeting.

22.6 Mr T. Hughes, on behalf of New Zealand, said that for many, Dr Miller was the embodiment of CCAMLR and that he would be missed very much. Mr Hughes said that Dr Miller had been an asset to the Antarctic Treaty System and hoped that he would stay engaged within it in another capacity.

22.7 The Chair said that these sentiments were shared by all. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Dr Miller with a standing ovation for his leadership of the Secretariat over the last eight years.

22.8 In appreciation, the Chair presented Dr Miller with a personalised CCAMLR banner which had been signed by many present at CCAMLR-XXVIII.

22.9 An emotional Dr Miller thanked all in attendance and said that ‘this was consensus at work’. He asked Dr Mayekiso, Representative of the South African Delegation, to read the following words from Johan Jamneck who was a South African expeditioner who lost his life in the Antarctic on 4 October 2009:

‘I have always been under the impression that the bulk of life is to be found in the tropics and that there is an indirect proportionality in the number of species at higher latitudes. However, the Antarctic is the exception to this rule in so far that what we find there confirms. It could just be that the ecology at the bottom of the world is more complex than we previously thought and that the heartbeat of life here, in its full splendour, is just as vivid and amazing as that in the Amazon.

This moves me to ask what wonders remain in this frigid world waiting to be discovered.

Only time will tell!

But I know that what I have found here in this land of ice and snow has led to a broadening of my own personal knowledge and the upliftment of my spirit.’

22.10 Dr Miller concluded by thanking his staff.

22.11 The Chair, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Dr Miller for all he had done for CCAMLR and for the Antarctic over such a long period of time in an extremely distinguished career. The Chair had first met Dr Miller in CCAMLR’s early days. During the time he had been privileged to Chair the meeting, he had been struck by the extent to which CCAMLR had moved on. Reports of early meetings reflect what a thin organisation it was and the thin discussions that took place, compared now to the wealth of the work that comes from the Scientific Committee and the wealth of the measures that are adopted these days. The Chair reflected that one of the things that has characterised CCAMLR is that one starts with small steps and then takes bigger and bigger steps. There could be no doubt of the commitment of the Member representatives present to the objectives in Article II of the CAMLR Convention. The Chair said this shared commitment by everyone had made it a pleasure for him to chair the meeting and he thanked Members for giving New Zealand the opportunity to do so.

22.12 The Chair said that it had been an immense privilege to work with all colleagues present. He particularly thanked the Chair of the Scientific Committee (Mr Iversen), the Chair of SCIC (Ms Dawson-Guynn), the Chair of SCAF (Mr Pandian) and its Vice-Chair (Mr Mayekiso) who presented SCAF’s report to plenary, and the Chair of the Conservation Measures Drafting Group (Ms Slocum) for their excellent contributions to their respective committees and the Commission. The Chair said it was a tightly knit web of people who make an extraordinary contribution to the Antarctic and Antarctic marine living resources. He thanked all involved for the huge amount of work which had gone into CCAMLR-XXVIII.

22.13 The Chair again expressed his appreciation to Dr Miller for his support throughout the meeting and to all of the Secretariat staff for doing a superb job. He also thanked the interpreters and all who had attended for their contribution to the meeting.

22.14 The Chair closed the Twenty-eighth Meeting of CCAMLR.