



**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC8) and 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MoP11)**

*Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26–28 June 2024 and 01-05 July 2024*

**MoP-11-INFO-01**

# Invitation to Participate in CC8 and MOP11 Meetings

SIOFA Secretariat

<b>Meeting</b>	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Document type</b>	working paper <input type="checkbox"/> information paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Distribution</b>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Abstract</b>	In accordance with Rule 18, section 1(a) of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties, the Secretariat has extended invitations to several countries to join CC8 and MOP11.

<sup>1</sup> Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

<sup>2</sup> Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

# Invitation to Participate in CC8 and MOP11 Meetings

According to Rule 18, section 1(a) concerning Observers in the SIOFA Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties, and in accordance with Article 14 of the Agreement and these Rules of Procedure, the following entities may participate as observers in Meetings of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies: Coastal States with waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area that are not Contracting Parties.

Therefore, the SIOFA Secretariat has extended invitations to the following specific countries:

Federal Republic of Somalia

Republic of Kenya

Republic of Madagascar

Republic of Maldives

Republic of Mozambique

Republic of South Africa

Republic of Yemen

The United Republic of Tanzania

Please refer to the response from the Republic of Maldives below:



## Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources, and Agriculture

Male', Republic of Maldives

Ref. No.: 30-D/PRIV/2023/202

12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Mr Thierry Clot,  
Executive Secretary,  
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA/APSOD).

Dear Sir,

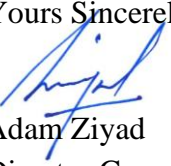
Thank you for your letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023, inviting Maldives to become a Party or an Observer of SIOFA.

Maldives is extremely dependent on fisheries and specifically tuna fisheries for foreign income, food security and employment. It is by far the most important economic activity that is conducted in many island communities. Fishing activities in the Maldives are carried out solely within the national jurisdiction, and fishing beyond the maritime zones of the Maldives is prohibited by law. Tuna constitutes the majority of our catch, which is caught one-by-one with pole and line and handline gears. Given the highly migratory nature of tuna, our management efforts are directed towards coordination and cooperation within the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). We are actively engaged in the work done by the organisation to ensure the conservation, management, and optimum utilisation of tuna and tuna-like stocks in the IOTC area of competence.

Given that fisheries governed by SIOFA largely covers the high seas area, deep water gears, and demersal stocks, we believe that a large component of its agenda is beyond the scope of Maldives fisheries. Therefore, we believe that there is little that may be applicable to the Maldives, and that our contributions towards your efforts or achieving your objectives will be minimal. Hence, regretfully, we are currently not in a position to become a Party or an Observer of the organisation.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge SIOFA's commitment and contribution towards ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the region, and we wish you continued success in your endeavours.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Adam Ziyad  
Director General