

27 April 2010

To: ICPRA Executive Committee and Members

From: Greg O'Connor, Chairman

ICPRA Secretariat and Chair

Background

The biennial meeting of ICPRA in Copenhagen must, as part of its business, decide which organisations will hold the ICPRA Chair and Secretariat, and who will host the next meeting.

Hosting of 2012 meeting

The Fraternal Order of Police has indicated that they are likely to formally offer, at the Copenhagen meeting, to host the 2012 meeting. The 2010 meeting will need to decide whether or not to accept the offer. Other offers may also be made for 2012, or broad indications given as to intentions for meetings in 2014 or further out.

From a strategic point of view, there may be advantages in holding the 2012 meeting in the eastern United States. Relative proximity to Geneva has likely been a significant factor in encouraging the UNDP to attend the 2010 meeting. Proximity to New York in 2012 can only improve the chances of securing UNDPKO Police Division (UNPOL) attendance (as well as, potentially, high level UNDP representation).

Chair

When ICPRA was first established, the main role of the Chair was to chair the biennial meeting. As such, it was logical for the Chair to pass at the end of a meeting to the host of the next conference.

The nature of the Chair's role has changed in recent years. In accordance with the strategic priorities established at the Wellington meeting in 2008, there is now a greater focus on between-meeting activity in pursuit of the organisation's goals: in particular, the development of relationships with the UN. Moving forward, we would expect an increasing role for the Chair as a spokesperson for ICPRA in a range of communications activity.

The changing nature of the role was reflected in the decision by the 2008 meeting, on a motion from the Danish delegate, Mr Ibsen, that the Chair should remain with the New Zealand Police Association, despite Denmark being hosts of the 2010 meeting. The key reason for this decision was the desire to maintain continuity in the emerging engagement with the United Nations, as well as potential complications to that process of language considerations.

Placement of the Chair for the next two years is a matter for ICPRA to decide at the conference. Options include leaving it with the New Zealand Police Association, which would provide continuity in relationship building; transferring it the host of the next meeting, which might confer advantages of proximity if these are able to be capitalised

upon; or transferring it to another member organisation, for example where a particular member believes they may be able to bring additional focus or resource to the role.

Ultimately, the Chair should be held where it is most able to advance ICPRA's interests. Neither incumbency nor hosting should be overriding considerations. At the Copenhagen meeting, ICPRA delegates will need to discuss the pros and cons of the various options.

The Board of the New Zealand Police Association has indicated a willingness to continue to support my chairing of ICPRA, if that is the conference's decision.

Secretariat

The ICPRA Secretariat was, until mid-2009, based in Canada. The Canadian Police Association, as originators of ICPRA through its forerunner ILEC, provided vital and longstanding support and continuity for the organisation during its formative period.

Changing circumstances at the Canadian Police Association necessitated the relinquishing of the formal Secretariat in mid-2009. The function was picked up by the Police Union in Denmark, with the ongoing transitional assistance of the CPA.

The placement of the Secretariat in Denmark was always intended to be a temporary arrangement. The Police Union in Denmark kindly offered to take on secretariat duties through to the Copenhagen conference, in part because their hosting of the conference meant there would be practical advantages in doing so, compared to locating the secretariat elsewhere on a short-term basis.

The Copenhagen meeting needs to determine who will host the Secretariat going forward. While the practice to date has seen the Secretariat maintain continuity of location (Canada), a long-term commitment is not necessarily required: though decisions will need to be made about long-term stewardship of the organisation's bank accounts, and country of domicile for the purposes of legal recognition.

Representative considerations

While there is no formal requirement for considerations of geographical representation to play a part in decisions about the Chair and Secretariat, members should bear in mind that ICPRA seeks to present itself as an organisation with genuine global coverage. To some extent this is reflected in decisions taken at the 2008 meeting regarding composition of the Executive Committee. There may also be advantages in ensuring the formal office holders are not concentrated in one part of the world, and thus able to be marginalised as representing a narrower viewpoint than is actually the case.