

Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.404
c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC
[French and Spanish translation attached]

**Call for Applications to the IWC's Voluntary Assistance Fund for the virtual
Special Meeting of the Commission in 2021**

Deadline 6 August 2021

At its 2016 meeting, the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-6 and thereby established a Voluntary Assistance Fund. The purpose of this fund is 'to facilitate Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2 that are not EU member states or members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to participate fully in the work of the Commission'.

Contracting Governments may request funds for full participation in IWC meetings and activities including capacity building exercises, scientific research, and conservation and welfare activities. Resolution 2016-6 defines 'full participation' as:

- Taking forward the work of the Commission as an officer of the IWC or its subsidiary bodies; as a member of the Bureau; as a member of an IWC Working Group or subsidiary body; by making a presentation; or by reporting back from one of these bodies; or
- Attending an IWC activity for the purposes of training and capacity building for the benefit of the Contracting Government.

This Circular Communication calls for applications to the fund from eligible Contracting Governments for the virtual Special Meeting of the Commission in September 2021. For the purposes of this virtual Special Meeting, funds may be used, for example, to ensure a stable internet connection for participation in the meeting, for example by paying for access to a business centre during the times of the Zoom call.

Deadlines for Application

The deadline for applications to facilitate attendance for the Special Virtual Meeting of the Commission is **6 August 2021**. Applicants will be notified on 13 August 2021 as to whether their application has been successful.

Prioritisation

In the event of a shortfall in funding required to fund all applications received, the prioritisation process outlined in Annex 4 of the Financial Regulations will be followed.

How to apply

Applications for funding should be submitted on the attached form. The fields in the form reflect the application criteria stated in Annex 4 of the Financial Regulations which include the following:

- Eligible countries are IWC Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2; and
- Countries must not be in arrears with contributions to the IWC; and
- Countries must not be European Union member states, or members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Applications should clearly indicate the proposed use of funding and how this will facilitate participation in the virtual special meeting.

Any questions or enquiries regarding the application process should be directed to secretariat@iwc.int

We welcome voluntary contributions to support the Voluntary Assistance Fund.



Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary