



International Whaling Commission

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IWC Membership Contribution Calculation

It has just come to light that the copy of document IWC/51/28 attached to the Circular Communication dated 1 November 1999 (ref: RG/JAC/27616, IWC.CCG.79) was produced from a defective original with the result that page 2 of the text was omitted. The full version of the paper is enclosed with the postal version of this circular.

Dr. R. Gambell
Secretary to the Commission

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Proposal for the Reassessment of Membership Contribution

Submitted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda

The importance of the sea and its marine resources to the sustainable development of coastal states, provides a significant basis for coastal states and indeed the entire international community to participate and cooperate in the management of these shared resources.

At the 23rd Meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries, thereafter, the issue of predation by whales on other marine fisheries resources has become a serious concern for global fisheries management. Worldwide cooperation is now considered to be essential and indispensable to address the management considerations that will be necessary to tackle this problem. The FAO Committee on Fisheries agreed that all of its member states concerned should give high priority to the development of more appropriate ecosystems approaches to fisheries development.

Developing countries that are dependent on their fisheries resources should therefore be allowed to participate in international organizations as the IWC where management regimes for the world's ocean living resources are developed and implemented. This is important in order to develop better fisheries management schemes taking into account the relationship between whales and other marine living resources. In this connection the membership of the IWC should be extended to include more developing coastal states and indeed other members of the international community.

Special consideration for membership must be given to small island states whose economies, cultural and environmental vulnerability is greater owing to their geographic location and the size and the scale of their economies.

Like many other hemispheric partners, Antigua and Barbuda as well as other Caribbean States recognize the importance of sustainable use of their natural resources and the right to the use of these resources by peoples of the Americas. At the Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in 1996, Heads of Government, in the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, stated:

We recognize that the needs and responsibilities facing the countries of the hemisphere today are diverse. Sustainable development does not assume that all countries are at the same level of development or can necessarily use the same model to attain it. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, states have common but differential responsibilities in the global quest for sustainable development. Efforts must be made to ensure that the benefits of sustainable development reach all countries in the hemisphere; in particular those that are relatively less developed, and all segments of our populations.

Current membership of the IWC does not include all countries that hunt whales. In part, their reluctance to join may be due to the heavy financial burden of the current system of assessing member's contributions, a system that places a disproportionate cost on poor nations. The membership cost of one developing country such as St. Vincent and the Grenadines is more than the cost of one G7 nation.

In the Finance and Administration Sub-Committee, Antigua and Barbuda stated its intention to place a proposal before the Commission concerning the calculation of contributions to the IWC. This proposal is to re-examine the way contributions are assessed, and to consider the adoption of a system more in line with that used by the

United Nations and similar international organizations. Such system would result in a fairer division of costs amongst the wealthier and poorer nations, and might both encourage additional whaling nations to regularize their activities by joining the Commission, and ease the financial burden on the less wealthy nations that are currently members of the IWC.

The accompanying annex illustrates how such a system might affect the present contribution of the members. The right hand column lists current assessments, the column immediately to its left lists the contributions under the UN system, and taking into account the current additional assessments for size of delegations and shares for whaling activities.

In order to regularize this anomaly the following is proposed;

1. A committee be established by the Commission to make recommendations towards implementation of the proposed contribution system presented in the accompanying annex;
2. Prior to the convening of this committee, members of the Commission should provide written comments to the Secretariat for consideration by the said committee.

Consideration on the New Calculation System for the IWC Contribution

	Share point by the existing IWC system				responsibility (10% *1)	UN rate (90% *2)	contribution (UN rate *3)	Total contribut -ion *4	Current contribution
	Membership	Whaling	Attendance	Total share					
Antigua & Barbuda	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.002	20	2,068	21,336
Argentina	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.768	7,838	9,886	21,336
Australia	2	0	2	4	2,729	1.471	15,013	17,743	28,448
Austria	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.935	9,543	11,590	21,336
Brazil	2	0	1	3	2,047	1.514	15,452	17,499	21,336
Chile	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.113	1,153	3,200	21,336
China	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.901	9,196	11,243	21,336
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.017	174	1,538	14,224
Denmark	2	2	3	7	4,777	0.687	7,012	11,788	42,672
Dominica	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
Finland	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.538	5,491	7,538	21,336
France	2	0	1	3	2,047	6.494	66,280	68,327	21,336
Germany	2	0	2	4	2,729	9.63	98,287	101,016	28,448
Grenada	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
India	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.305	3,113	5,160	21,336
Ireland	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.223	2,276	4,323	21,336
Italy	2	0	1	3	2,047	5.394	55,053	57,100	21,336
Japan	2	4	5	11	7,506	17.981	183,520	191,026	78,232
Kenya	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.007	71	1,436	14,224
Korea	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.955	9,747	11,794	21,336
Mexico	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.941	9,604	11,651	21,336
Monaco	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.003	31	2,078	21,336
Netherland	2	0	2	4	2,729	1.619	16,524	19,254	21,336
NZ	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.221	2,256	4,303	21,336
Norway	2	3	3	8	5,459	0.605	6,175	11,634	56,896
Oman	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.05	510	2,557	21,336
Peru	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.085	868	2,232	14,224
Russian Federation	2	4	1	7	4,777	2.873	29,323	34,099	35,560
St Kitts & Nevis	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
St Lucia	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
St Vincerrt	2	2	1	5	3,412	0.001	10	3,422	21,336
Senegal	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.006	61	1,426	14,224
Solomon	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
outh Africa	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.365	3,725	5,772	21,336
Spain	2	0	1	3	2,047	2.571	26,240	28,288	21,336
Sweden	2	0	1	3	2,047	1.099	11,217	13,264	21,336
Switzerland	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.364	3,715	5,762	21,336
UK	2	0	2	4	2,729	5.076	51,807	54,537	28,448
USA	2	4	3	9	6,141	25	255,158	261,299	50,784
Venezuela	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.235	2,398	3,763	14,224
	80	19	49	148	100,990	89.054	908,914	1,009,904	1,009,904

*1 : 10% of the total contribution should be met by all the member states as members' responsibility.

*2 : UN contribution rate

*3 : The rest of 90 % of the total contribution is shared by the members in accordance with UN contribution rate

*4 : Total contribution = 10% share of members' responsibility + 90% share according to UN contribution rate.