



## Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments

IWC.CCG.1611

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*

### **Call For Hosts: Invitation to Host IWC70 Biennial Commission Meeting in 2026**

This Circular notifies IWC member governments of the opportunity to host the IWC70 Commission meeting in 2026 and the Secretariat is now seeking expressions of interest for hosting this event.

The role of the host government is to provide an appropriate venue and backdrop for the biennial meeting. The IWC Secretariat manages a set meeting budget for this event to cover the staff, technical and venue costs. This budget will be agreed by the Commission at IWC69 in September and the arrangements (including administration, logistics, audio/visual, IT and communications) will be made by the Secretariat in tandem with the Host Government. Further information on Host financial and administrative commitments are detailed in the attached guidance document along with the Secretariat responsibilities to support arrangements and a suggested timeline for planning.

Up to 500 participants are expected to participate in IWC70, including contracting governments, non-member governments and representatives of the IGO and NGO community. In addition, IWC meetings attract media attention around the world and are routinely attended by a wide range of broadcast, print and digital media. Consequently, potential venues will require sufficient hotel rooms and facilities to accommodate these numbers.

A [list of recent venues](#) is available on the IWC website and it shows a wide variety of countries have hosted previous IWC meetings, and that venues have ranged throughout Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and North, Central and South America.

There is some flexibility around dates, however the meeting is scheduled to be held in September/October 2026, to allow the required separation of 100 days from the meeting of the Scientific Committee to be held earlier in the year (likely April/May), as agreed at IWC63.

If you would like to know more about what hosting would involve or would like to explore this opportunity informally, please contact the [IWC Secretariat](#). All communication will be treated in confidence.

Any Contracting Government interested in hosting IWC70 should contact the Secretariat by the end of July so that a provisional estimate of the budget required can be made and presented to the Budgetary Sub-Committee for discussion at IWC69 in September should the hosting application go ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Tandy', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Mark Tandy  
Head of External Affairs