

Opening statement to Monaco at the IWC69 meeting

I am very pleased to take part, for the first time since my appointment as Whaling Commissioner for the Principality of Monaco, in this 69th meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

I would like to express the sincere thanks of Monaco's Government to the national and local authorities of Peru for organizing and hosting this meeting. I would also like to thank the entire team of the IWC Secretariat, as well as the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the various bodies and working groups of our Commission, for their work and commitment in preparing the many documents before us today.

As you know, the Principality is strongly committed to the protection of the oceans and marine biodiversity, particularly cetaceans.

Therefore, Monaco is proud to have been a member of the IWC since 1946, where we support the implementation of strong and effective measures and decisions, based on solid scientific data, to ensure the conservation of cetacean populations.

In line with my predecessors, I would like to ensure the full participation of my delegation in the work and discussions during this week of meetings, which promises to be intense given the number of important decisions we must agree upon by Friday, some of which have been awaiting our consensus for far too long.

As a Mediterranean country, host country of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS and the Pelagos Agreement establishing the sanctuary for the protection of marine mammals in the Mediterranean, Monaco welcomes and supports collaborative projects with these two regional Agreements.

Monaco hopes that the decisions made this week will ensure the smooth functioning of the IWC, both financially, scientifically, and in terms of its governance.

Thank you.