

## **Resolution on the Creation of a Fund to Strengthen the Capacity of Governments of Limited Means to Participate in the Work of the IWC**

**Submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Kiribati, Mongolia, Nauru, Republic of Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Tuvalu**

*Recognising* the large number of developing countries who are members of the IWC and have financial difficulties that limit their full participation in the work of the IWC;

*Recognising* that financial assistance to strengthen the scientific and technical capacity of member governments to participate fully in the work of other intergovernmental organizations is provided by those intergovernmental organizations, most notably by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission), IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) and WCPFC (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission);

*Recalling* the voluntary financial support provided to Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2 during the special meetings of the Small Working Group tasked with advancing the 'Future of the IWC' process;

*Desiring* to ensure the fullest possible participation in the work of the Commission by all Contracting Governments.

**NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:**

*Agrees* to create a 'Voluntary Assistance Fund' so as to strengthen the capacity of Governments of limited means to participate in the work of the Commission;

*Agrees* that the sources of the Fund shall be voluntary contributions obtained from Contracting Governments or from national or international bodies or entities interested in strengthening the capacity of Governments of limited means to participate fully in the work of the Commission;

*Agrees* that the initial capital of the fund shall be the amount of voluntary contributions provided for support of developing countries during the 'Future of the IWC' process that remain unspent;

*Requests* the Secretary with advice from the Bureau to administer the Fund subject to the financial regulations and audit rules of the Commission, giving the priority to Group 1 countries;

*Agrees* that disbursements from the fund shall be for the purpose of the development of technical and scientific capacity, that will allow the Governments of limited means to strengthen their capacity to participate fully in the work of the Commission, particularly:

- Development of policy and management frameworks and the facilitation of partnerships;
- Increase in information sharing;
- Facilitation of participation in research activities and training activities;
- Participation in projects related to whale conservation and management;
- Participation of representatives of Governments of limited means in the meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, as well as of scientific experts in the meetings of Scientific Committee;

*Agrees* further that the donors of the voluntary contributions may choose the usage of their respective contributions from among the five above-mentioned purposes.