



International
Whaling
Commission

The Red House
135 Station Road
Impington, Cambridge
CB24 9NP, UK

tel: +44 (0) 1223 233971 | fax: +44 (0) 1223 232876
email: secretariat@iwcoffice.org | web: iwcoffice.org

SB/JAC/31458
19 December 2011

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.977

Financial Assistance for Developing Countries: Second Call for Membership of Intersessional Group

Commission Resolution 2011-1 requested the Secretary to report 100 days before the IWC's 64th Annual Meeting on potential options for providing assistance to member governments with limited means to participate actively in the Commission's work, while retaining consistency with the Convention.

During the discussion of this item at IWC/63 several Contracting Governments expressed interest in developing the options requested through Resolution 2011-1. Accordingly, the Secretary proposes to convene a working group (hereafter WG-AGLM) for this purpose.

An initial call for membership of the group (the WG-AGLM) was distributed through Communication IWC.CCG.970 of 4 November 2011. This second call for membership is made in recognition of the importance of this work area and the relatively low response to the first membership call.

Any Contracting Government wishing to take part in the group's work should notify the Secretariat at secretariat@iwcoffice.org by **Friday 20 January 2012**.

Objective

The objective of the WG-AGLM will be as stated in Resolution 2011-1: *'to report on potential options for providing assistance to member governments with limited means to participate actively in the Commission's work, while retaining consistency with the Convention.'*

As requested at IWC/63, the group will include consideration of support for both developing and transitional economies.

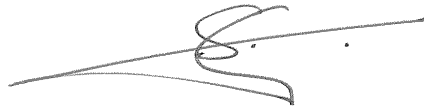
In addition to developing options to provide assistance, the group will also propose any necessary changes to the Commission's Rules or Procedures so as to allow the Commission to take action at IWC/64 if it so desires.

Proposed method of working

- 1) November 2011: The Secretary makes an initial call for membership of the WG-AGLM.
- 2) January 2012: The Secretary will produce an initial review of options for providing assistance to countries with limited means to participate. The review will build on: (1) The relevant F&A Committee and BSC Subcommittee discussions at IWC/61 in 2009; (2) The 'interim measure' developed to provide assistance to developing countries during the SWG meetings associated with the Future of the IWC process; (3) The Secretary's review of the Commission's rules and procedures as presented to IWC/63 in 2011, focussing particularly on the actions being taken by other intergovernmental organisations in this regard; and (4) comments raised during debate at IWC/63.

Secretary: Dr. Simon Brockington

- 3) As an integral part of this review, the Secretary will propose options for providing assistance and also note the relative advantages and disadvantages of each option. The options are likely to include:
- Further modification of the contributions scheme so as to lower payments for group 1 and 2 nations and proportionally increase contributions to group 3 and 4 nations;
 - Use of central budget funds to support attendance at Commission meetings;
 - Use of voluntary funds to support attendance at Commission meetings;
 - Use of voluntary or central funds to support attendance at 'special' (i.e. non-routine) events established through the Commission's work (e.g. intersessional workshops);
 - Increased use of the research fund and/or small cetaceans fund to promote attendance of scientists from developing countries.
- 4) End of January 2012. The Secretary will circulate the review to the members of the working group for comment by end of February 2012.
- 5) March 2012. Any comments received will be included into the review and a series of proposed rules changes to implement each option will be developed. These will be circulated to the group for further comment by the middle of March 2012.
- 6) Once the group have agreed upon the review and the proposed rule changes they will be circulated to the Commission to coincide with the 100 day deadline in advance of IWC/64. The group's report will be considered by the F&A Committee at IWC/64 before being discussed at the plenary session as part of the Agenda Item on Finance and Administration.



Simon Brockington
Secretary to the Commission

c.c. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC