



For the benefit of species and people

**Global Guardian Trust**

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**IWC/66/OS GGT**

OPENING STATEMENT  
TO THE 66<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION  
PORTOROZ, SLOVENIA, OCTOBER 2016

Global Guardian Trust (GGT) is an NGO based in Japan whose mission is to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the use of the best available scientific information as the basis for conserving and ensuring the rational use of these resources.

GGT has been an observer to meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) since 1994 and has become increasingly concerned that since the adoption of the moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982, the agenda, budget and work of the Commission has continued to move away from its primary purpose as mandated by the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). As a result of this, outcomes from the IWC have become one-sided in favor of those members seeking the total protection of whales leaving those members who support the sustainable use of whales without the benefits of membership that should be due to all of the members.

GGT is of the view that the current situation that results from the fundamental and conflicting bipolar difference in the basic positions of members cannot continue and that without compromises and fair and balanced outcomes the IWC is itself at risk. GGT therefore supports the initiative by Japan to begin discussions on how we can achieve both sustainable management and conservation of whales. We believe that both objectives can be more effectively met using the best available scientific advice if mutual respect and cooperative relations among all of the Contracting Governments are established. GGT urges good faith participation of all members in this initiative.

GGT also expresses its support for the creation of a fund to strengthen the capacity of Governments of limited means to participate in the work of the IWC. The discussion paper on this matter prepared by the Secretariat clearly shows that over the period 2005 to 2014, participation by Group 1 and 2 Contracting Governments in Commission meetings, Scientific Committee meetings and intersessional workshops has been consistently lower than participation of Group 3 and 4 Contracting Governments and has decreased over the period.

## **IWC/66/OS GGT**

We are of the view that the Commission as a whole will benefit from increased participation of Governments of limited means in its work. Other intergovernmental organizations have established funds explicitly for this purpose and we urge the IWC to create such a fund without further delay.

Consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, GGT also supports the resolution on food security. This is not just an issue to be addressed by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and we should be encouraging cooperation between the FAO and the IWC.

Finally, GGT is of the view that if the IWC is to make its decisions based on the best available scientific advice, research aimed at achieving sustainable use of whale resources should be encouraged. In this regard, we support Japan's new research program in the Antarctic (NEWREP-A) and look forward to receiving the proposed new research program for the Western North Pacific (NEWREP-NP).