

**STATEMENTS ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED VAQUITA (IWC/66/20Rev)**

STATEMENT FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

With regard to the Resolution IWC/66/20, the Russian Federation does not recognize the jurisdiction of IWC over all small cetaceans but will not block the consensus. In the case of voting, the Russian Federation will not participate.

STATEMENT FROM ANTIGUA & BARBUDA, BENIN, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, COTE D'IVOIRE, ERITREA, GHANA, GRENADA, GUINEA, ICELAND, JAPAN, KENYA, KIRIBATI, LAO PDR, MAURITANIA, MONGOLIA, MOROCCO, NAURU, ST KITTS & NEVIS, ST LUCIA, ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES, SURINAME, TANZANIA, TOGO, TUVALU:

The above members make the following statement on Resolution IWC/66/20 submitted by the USA concerning the vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*), which is critically endangered with an estimated population of 59 animals. All countries putting their names to this statement are deeply concerned about the status of the vaquita, associate themselves with the many expressions of concern from other member states and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and share the hope that this species will recover.

The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling specifies that the IWC has responsibility for regulating thirteen species of cetaceans. The IWC has no legal authority over the vaquita or other small cetaceans and has no substantive means to influence its status, including managing fisheries that catch small cetaceans incidentally. Resolution IWC/66/20 is therefore only of limited and symbolic importance to the vaquita, whose precarious situation will in no way be improved by the passing of this Resolution or otherwise.

While acknowledging the significant steps that Mexico has taken to conserve the vaquita, it should be apparent that another resolution at the IWC provides no further protection measures.