



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1252

Status of the IWC's Voluntary Assistance Fund to support Governments of Limited Means and Request for Contributions

At IWC66 in 2016 the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-6 which created a Voluntary Assistance Fund to facilitate eligible Group 1 and 2 Contracting Governments to participate fully in the work of the Commission.

Inter alia, Resolution 2016-6:

- Decided that the initial balance 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; and
- Requested the Secretary to provide timely estimates to the Commission of the funding required to facilitate the full participation of eligible Groups 1 and 2 Governments in the work of the Commission, as well as the balance available in the Fund and to indicate any shortfall.

Following from these Resolution paragraphs, this Circular Communication confirms that the present balance in the fund is £23,288 GBP. These are the funds remaining unspent after the 'Future of the IWC' process.

Contracting Governments may wish to apply to the fund for attendance at the SC67a Scientific Committee and any other IWC meetings or activities in 2017. In the near future, the Secretariat will circulate a call for applications to the fund for all relevant meetings in 2017. The call for applications will be based on the process outlined in the Annex to Resolution 2016-6.

Estimates from the working group that developed Resolution 2016-6 suggest that funding all Group 1 countries to attend a ten-day meeting (similar in duration to the Scientific Committee) would be in the region of £74,620 GBP. Once applications are received for meetings in 2017, the Secretariat will provide an update on any shortfall in funding required.

Resolution 2016-6 **ENCOURAGED** Contracting Governments and **INVITED** others in a position to do so, to make contributions to the fund.

Accordingly, this Communications requests contributions to this fund to support participation in IWC meetings and events in 2017. Donors are invited to contact secretariat@iwc.int to discuss arrangements for making contributions.

Resolution 2016-6 is attached to this Communication.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC