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Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments  
**IWC.CCG.1255**

**Voluntary Assistance Fund: Call for Contributions**

Circular Communication IWC.ALL.278 of 7 February 2017 requested applications under the IWC's new Voluntary Assistance Fund. This Fund, established under Resolution 2016-6, facilitates Contracting Governments in capacity to pay Groups 1 and 2 that are not EU member states or members of the OECD to participate fully in the work of the Commission.

Following from IWC.ALL.278, I am pleased to report that applications from five IWC Contracting Governments were received by the 28 February deadline. These were for attendance at all or some of the Scientific Committee meeting in Slovenia in May 2017, the joint Scientific Committee – Conservation Committee working group on afternoon of 22 May 2017, and the Conservation Committee planning meeting on morning of 22 May 2017.

The result of these applications is that the fund's opening balance of GBP 23,000 is now significantly reduced. Any funds remaining will be required to support attendance of Group 1 and 2 members at the Bureau meeting in the fourth quarter of 2017.

As a result, this Communication calls for contributions to replenish the fund in order to support full participation in the Commission's work for future events.

Any Contracting Government wishing to contribute to the fund should contact the Secretariat at [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)

Simon Brockington  
Executive Secretary

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*

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