



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.296

Venue, financial and security arrangements for 2018 Meeting of the Scientific Committee

This Circular updates the Commission and members of the Scientific Committee on preparations for the 2018 meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC67B).

At IWC66, the Commission was pleased to receive an offer to host SC67B from the Government of Kenya in May/June 2018. At its recent meeting on 22 May 2017, the IWC Bureau received an update on the preparatory work undertaken by the Secretariat. Following its discussions, the Bureau has referred the following financial and security considerations to the Commission for approval.

1. Financial Considerations

Whilst the Secretariat will continue to explore all possible savings measures, the total cost of the meeting is projected to be approximately £300,000. This will exceed the allocated Commission budget of £120,000 for a Scientific Committee meeting by approximately £180,000.

- Two venues have been identified as potentially suitable for the meeting. These are the Intercontinental and Radisson Blu Hotels, both in Nairobi. If cost were the sole consideration, the Secretariat would recommend the Radisson Blu as the more economic venue. As always, the financial recommendation runs in conjunction with countries' individual assessment of venue suitability, including security (see below).

Noting the Commission's commitment to support increased and active participation by developing countries, the Bureau propose that the following measures are taken to meet the financial shortfall and enable SC67B to take place in Kenya:

- The Secretariat continue to work with the Government of Kenya to explore all possible ways of reducing the cost of the meeting;
- Financial contributions are urgently sought from IWC Contracting Governments;
- The surplus funds which have accumulated in the IWC's Meeting Fund are used to meet the shortfall. These funds have accumulated through the progressive introduction of cost savings measures during recent meetings in Slovenia, and they are additional to the allocated budget. The maximum amount available in the Meeting Fund is £120,000. This means that a total of £120,000 is available from the Commission's budget, and an additional £120,000 in accumulated savings from previous meetings. However, this will still leave an estimated shortfall of £60,000.

- Some longer-term work is instigated to consider future management and replenishment of the Meeting Fund alongside additional measures to insulate the IWC from changes in its economic environment.

It is hoped that these combined measures will meet the £60,000 shortfall. If this is not the case, the Bureau proposes to:

- Draw the additional funds from the IWC General Fund as an agreed, one-off overspend. This would be to an estimated maximum of £60,000 – subject to the success of the other measures listed.

Separately, the Government of Brazil has confirmed that it will meet any costs in excess of the Commission's budget for the Commission meeting (IWC 67) in 2018. This means that the above measures will allow both the Scientific Committee and Commission meetings in 2018 to take place as planned.

2. Security Considerations

Several delegations have expressed their requirement to obtain permission to travel to Nairobi through internal processes. In order to assist this process this circular indicates: (a) which venues are under consideration; and (b) what timescales are available to delegations to obtain the necessary advance security permissions.

Venues

The two venues under consideration are:

(1) the Intercontinental Nairobi: <https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/gb/en/nairobi/nboha/hoteldetail>

(2) Radisson Blu: <https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-nairobi>

The Secretariat's site visit indicated that both of these hotels would support the requirements of the Scientific Committee equally well although the Radisson Blu is the economic option.


Timescales

This Circular Communication requests all delegations wishing to attend the 2018 Scientific Committee to commence procedures immediately to ascertain whether meeting at either of these venues would be acceptable. If delegations do expect problems, they should contact the Secretariat at secretariat@iwc.int no later than 31 July 2017 (i.e. two months from now).

3. Conclusion

This Circular Communication requests Commission approval to proceed with the arrangement of the 67B Scientific Committee meeting in Nairobi at the invitation of the Government of Kenya.

A silence procedure is proposed to obtain approval. If any Contracting Government wishes to raise concern with either the proposed financial arrangements as outlined above, or expects difficulties with obtaining travel permissions, they must contact the Secretariat as soon as possible and at the latest by 31 July 2017. In the absence of any contact, the silence will be taken as approval to move ahead with the financial measures as proposed in order to arrange a meeting at the Radisson Blue in Nairobi as the cheaper of the two venues.



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c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC