



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.315

Call for Contributions to IWC's Voluntary Assistance Fund for Events in 2018

At IWC66 in 2016, the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-6 and thereby established a Voluntary Assistance Fund. This Circular Communication calls on IWC Contracting Governments to consider providing voluntary contributions to this fund.

The purpose of the Voluntary Assistance Fund is to 'facilitate Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2 that are not EU member states or members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to participate fully in the work of the Commission.' Contracting Governments may request funds relating to travel and subsistence for full participation in IWC meetings and activities including capacity building exercises, scientific research, and conservation and welfare activities. A call for applications will be issued in the near future.

Resolution 2016-6 requires the Secretariat to provide estimates 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 of the balance available in the Fund, and to indicate any shortfall. Given that this is a Commission year, the IWC Secretariat expects the demand for funding to exceed the available funds unless it is possible to collect substantial contributions. The estimated cost of funding one representative from each eligible Groups 1 and 2 Governments is given in the attached Table.

The current level of funds available is £33,619, of which £8,596 is designated by the donor Contracting Government to be spent on costs for attending Commission meetings only. Assuming all Group 1 and Group 2 countries participate in both meetings in their entirety, the estimated gap in funding is approximately £326,000.

This Circular Communication therefore encourages IWC Contracting Governments, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute to the Voluntary Assistance Fund. Kindly contact the Secretariat should you have further questions regarding the Voluntary Assistance Fund.

I would like to thank the Governments of France and the USA for their contributions to this Fund.

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC