



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.326

**Call for Applications to the IWC's Voluntary Assistance Fund for the Biennial Commission
Meeting and Other Events in 2018**

At its 2016 meeting, the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-6 and thereby established a Voluntary Assistance Fund. The purpose of this 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.

Resolution 2016-6 defines 'full participation' as:

- Taking forward the work of the Commission as an officer of the IWC or its subsidiary bodies; as a member of the Bureau; as a member of an IWC Working Group or subsidiary body; by making a presentation; or by reporting back from one of these bodies; or
- Attending an IWC activity for the purposes of training and capacity building for the benefit of the Contracting Government.

This Circular Communication calls for applications to the fund from eligible Contracting Governments for the Commission meeting in September 2018.

Deadlines for Application

Resolution 2016-6 states that applications for funding must be received 90 days before the date on which the activities to be funded are expected to occur.

Applications with respect to other meetings in 2018 can be submitted at any time but must be received 90 days before the start of the meeting in question. The deadline for applications to attend the Commission meeting is **12 June 2018**. Successful applicants will be notified one month later, by 12 July 2018.

Prioritisation


In the event of a shortfall in funding required to fund all applications received, the prioritisation process outlined in Annex 2 to Resolution 2016-6 will be followed.

How to apply

Applications for funding should be submitted on the attached form. The fields in the form reflect the application criteria stated in Resolution 2016-6 which include the following:

- Eligible countries are IWC Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2; and
- Countries must not be in arrears with contributions to the IWC; and
- Countries must not be European Union member states, or members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The full text of Resolution 2016-6 is also attached to this Circular Communication. Any questions or enquiries regarding the application process should be directed to secretariat@iwc.int.



Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC