

Annex V

Statements on the Agenda

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF ICELAND AND NORWAY CONCERNING DNA REGISTER SYSTEMS

The IWC member Governments of Iceland and Norway have implemented national DNA register systems for effective monitoring of whale meat products in the market and for many years have provided information on those DNA register systems to the IWC-SC on a voluntary basis.

This year, the Governments of Iceland and Norway reiterate their position that the monitoring of markets is outside the jurisdiction and competence of the IWC. Therefore, we consider that the inclusion of items related to DNA identification of market products on the agenda of the IWC-SC and its Working Groups is inappropriate. As in previous years, our national delegates will not participate in any such discussions. We note that, whilst a non-IWC member, the Government of Japan shares this position.

However, again, as in previous years, our two Governments will continue to voluntarily provide additional information on their DNA register systems as they deem appropriate for achieving conservation and sustainable use of large whales, including information on technical aspects of those systems.¹

We urge that future work of the IWC-SC on matters related to the use of DNA technologies and analyses should take our position into account. In this regard, we consider that documents dealing with the marketing of whale products should not be either submitted to or discussed at the IWC-SC.

¹ Whilst a member of the IWC, Japan also provided such information voluntarily. We note that Japan has indicated that it will continue to do so as a non-member government and also that it will not participate in discussions related to the identification of market products.