

Annex D

Interventions by Ministers

MR GREG HUNT

The Minister for Environment of the Government of Australia, Mr Greg Hunt, thanked the Government of Slovenia for its hospitality. He noted that this IWC meeting provides the first opportunity to consider the ruling of International Court of Justice on whaling in the Antarctic which concluded that JARPA II was not for purposes of scientific research, an outcome that Australia welcomed. He drew attention to the positive relationship between Australia and Japan, noting their differing opinions on this issue. He commended the Resolution on Whaling under Special Permit as proposed by New Zealand, fully supported the proposal of a Sanctuary in the South Atlantic, and reflected on the threats posed by ships strikes and bycatch. He drew attention to the third International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas that will be held in Adelaide in November 2014 and welcomed countries to attend. He concluded by noting his strong support for a global moratorium on commercial whaling and the need to make every effort to protect whales.

MR GEORGE EUSTICE

The Minister for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment of the Government of the United Kingdom, Mr George Eustice reiterated the UK's strong support for the moratorium. He

stated that better and more sustainable methods than hunting exist for utilising whale resources and that these can support development of local communities socially, economically and environmentally. He noted that sanctuaries are integral to this and besides providing ecological benefits can be a stimulus for research and contribute to whalewatching, hence the UK is fully in support of the proposal to establish a South Atlantic Sanctuary. He said the UK supported the efforts of the IWC towards healthy whale populations, which are worth more to us when alive. He noted that the IWC has the world's best knowledge on cetaceans and hoped that despite some differences, work on marine debris, ship strikes and small cetaceans would continue.

M. LOUSENY CAMARA

The Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Guinea, M. Louseny Camara thanked the Slovenian Government for hosting the meeting and noted that the Republic of Guinea has been a member of the IWC since 2000. He highlighted the issues facing the planet, including an increasing population and suffering as a result of hunger. He urged the IWC to take appropriate measures to address these concerns, giving special attention to the requirement for food security.
