

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr Chairman, distinguished Commissioners, delegates, and observers from IGOs and NGOs, The Korean delegation had intended to submit a resolution under this agenda item, but in the interests of saving time, and not wanting to add to the burden on our hard-working Chairman, we have decided simply to make this short statement instead.

As agreed at the meeting in March 2010 of the Small Working Group in Florida, Korea submitted written comments on the draft Chair's proposal for the Future of the IWC to the Secretariat by the agreed deadline of April 1. Korea was disappointed to see that the Chair's proposal, tabled as document IWC/62/7rev, did not address the concerns submitted by Korea. Therefore, we re-iterated our concerns in document IWC/62/18rev2 to this meeting.

In Korea's view, the proposal in document IWC/62/7rev unduly penalises those countries which do not currently conduct whaling.

Following the Commission's adoption in 1982 of the commercial whaling moratorium, the Republic of Korea, along with several other member nations of the IWC, phased out the commercial whaling operations. However, the consumption of meats and other products from incidentally caught whales continues to be part of the cultural and nutritional tradition in some localities.

Korea considers that the RMP, as developed by the Scientific Committee, represents the best currently available scientific approach to determining safe and sustainable levels of total removals from baleen whale populations. We look forward to the completion by the Scientific Committee of the RMP Implementation for minke whales in the western North Pacific completed by 2013 at the latest, as already agreed.

The Korean delegation would like the Commission to note that Korea has raised a legitimate concern that should be properly addressed in any further negotiations over the Future of the IWC.

We also request that this statement be included in the record of this annual meeting.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.