60th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

FOLLOW UP TO INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF IWC

Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 (morning only) and Sunday 22 June

(NOTE: the sessions on 19 and 20 June will be open to observers, while that on 22 June will be a closed session)

DRAFT AGENDA
and annotations

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1.1 Introductory remarks

The Chair will make some introductory remarks. In particular he will remind participants of the decision at IWC/59 in Anchorage last year to hold an intersessional meeting prior to the 2008 Annual Meeting to provide an opportunity for Contracting Governments to discuss the future of the organisation. He will recall that the intersessional meeting, held in London Heathrow from 6-8 March 2008, focused on matters of process rather than on matters of substance and will draw attention to the outcome and recommendations arising from that meeting. He will note that this meeting and the discussions to take place in plenary, will not only deal with matters of process and procedure, but will also begin to address substantive issues.

The Chair will report that following the request of the March intersessional meeting, the three outside experts (Professor Calestous Juma and Ambassadors de Soto and Estrada-Oyuela) have been invited to take part in discussions in Santiago.

1.2 Management of the meeting

The Chair will outline how he intends to manage the meeting. He will note that the sessions to be held on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June will be open to observers, but that the session on Sunday 22 June will be a closed session for Commissioners and one Alternate only.

He will note that the role of the outside experts will be to provide advice and/or observations during the sessions (in a similar manner to that followed at the meeting in March) and that they will therefore have speaking rights similar to those accorded to the Chair of the Scientific Committee during plenary sessions.

1.3 Reporting

The Chair will outline his proposals for handling the report of the meeting, including its format and content. He will also suggest that consideration be given to holding a press conference sometime on Sunday 22 June following the private meeting of Commissioners to report on the status of discussions regarding the future of the organisation.

Nicky Grandy and Greg Donovan (Secretariat) are proposed as rapporteurs.

1.4 Review of documents

The Chair will draw attention to the documents submitted that are to be considered during discussions on the future of the organisation. He will note that in addition to his report and recommendations from the March intersessional meeting, a Secretariat document prepared at his request on possible improvements to procedural issues identified at the March meeting, and Professor Juma's document (The Future of the International Whaling Commission: Strengthening Ocean Diplomacy), a number of Contracting Governments have also submitted documents for consideration. He will suggest that perhaps the best way to handle these latter documents is for the governments concerned to draw attention to them and introduce them at an appropriate point during discussions either during the 19, 20 and 22 June sessions and/or during the Commission plenary.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair will outline briefly the draft agenda.

3. POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO PROCEDURAL ISSUES

The Chair will draw attention to document IWC/60/18: 'Possible improvements to procedural issues identified at the March 2008 Intersessional Meeting on the Future of IWC'. He will note that this document was prepared by the Secretariat at his request and that it provides ideas for improvements based on recommendations made in his report of the March meeting (IWC/60/7) together with suggestions made in Professor Juma's document (IWC/60/12). He will propose that the best way to handle this document will be to go through each of the possible actions identified in turn, deciding on any action or follow-up as appropriate. He will note that while taking decisions on some of the possible actions identified may be rather straightforward, others may require more time. In these cases he will note that it may be appropriate to postpone further discussion and/or to establish small groups (with specific terms of reference agreed by the meeting) to further develop ideas outside of the main meeting and to report back at a later time (including to the plenary).

4. APPROACH TO DISCUSSIONS/NEGOTIATIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AT IWC/60 AND BEYOND

The Chair will introduce his proposal contained in document IWC/60/10 for an 8-step process to enable discussions and negotiations on substantive issues to be undertaken. He will note that the process involves both open and closed sessions and will explain that he would like to accomplish steps 1 to 4, and to initiate step 5 during IWC/60. He will invite discussion and comment on his proposal with a view to agreeing, at IWC/60, an overall process together with a common understanding of the time-frame over which discussions should take place.

Regardless of the approach agreed, the Chair believes it will be important to identify elements/issues that member governments believe should be included in any negotiations. To facilitate discussions, a list of elements/issues that have already been identified as being of importance in previous discussions on the future of the organisation will have been compiled and made available.

It is under this item that the Chair anticipates addressing the various documents submitted by Contracting Governments.

5. OTHER MATTERS

6. SUMMARY AND PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSIONS IN PLENARY

The Chair will summarise progress with discussions during the sessions on 19, 20 and 22 June, including that made by any small working groups that may have been established under item 3 to work on procedural matters. Based on this he will propose how the continuing discussions during the Commission plenary (under item 18) could be handled.