

Non-governmental organisation accreditation and participation in IWC Annual Meetings: a recommended approach

(Submitted by Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States)

At IWC58 the Finance and Administration Committee established a small working group to develop a specific proposal toward a revised Rules of Procedure for the accreditation and participation of non-governmental organisations in IWC Annual Meetings. However, due to time considerations and the need for at least a 60-day notice period for changes to the Rules of Procedure, the Commission agreed at IWC58 that the paper (Document IWC/58/24) be addressed by the F&A Committee at IWC59.

At IWC59 the F&A Committee subsequently established a further small working group to finalise the wording of the revised Rules of Procedure, provided as Attachment A, with amendments to the current agreed Rules of Procedure shown in italics.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

It is recommended that the Commission:

- endorse the revised Rules of Procedure as they relate to non-governmental organisation observers as outlined in Attachment A; and
- agree that a fee per individual observer should apply to non-governmental organisations, and that this fee is income neutral to the IWC.
- request the Secretariat to inform all currently accredited non-governmental organisations of this decision within ninety days of this meeting, including a request to submit the standard Observer Application Form prior to the start of the next Annual Meeting of the IWC (Attachment B).
- decide that pursuant to Rule C.1.b of the Rules of Procedure, that currently accredited non-governmental organisations that do not provide the standard Observer Application Form (Attachment B) to the Secretariat before the start of the next Annual Meeting, shall be removed from the list of accredited observers. Such removal is without prejudice to such non-governmental organisations receiving accreditation in future years.
- review the effectiveness of the new Rules of Procedure after a 2 year operating trial (ie at IWC62).

Revised Rules of Procedure relating to observers

C. Observers

1. (a) Any Government not a party to the Convention or any intergovernmental organisation may be represented at meetings of the Commission by an observer or observers, if such non-party government or intergovernmental organisation has previously attended any meeting of the Commission, or if it submits its request in writing to the Commission 60 days prior to the start of the meeting, or if the Commission issues an invitation to attend.

(b) Any non-governmental organisation which expresses an interest in matters covered by the Convention, may be accredited as an observer. Requests for accreditation must be submitted in writing to the Commission 60 days prior to the start of the meeting and the Commission issues an invitation with respect to such request. Such submissions shall include the standard application form for non-governmental organisations which will be provided by the Secretariat. These applications shall remain available for review by Contracting Governments.

Once a non-governmental organisation has been accredited through the application process above, it will remain accredited until the Commission decides otherwise.

Observers from each non-governmental organisation will be allowed seating in the meeting. However, seating limitations may require that the number of observers from each non-governmental organisation be limited. The Secretariat will notify accredited non-governmental organisations of any seating limitations in advance of the meeting.

(c) The Commission shall levy a registration fee and determine rules of conduct, and may define other conditions for the attendance of observers accredited in accordance with Rule C.1.(a) and (b). The registration fee will be treated as an annual fee covering attendance at the Annual Meeting to which it relates and any other meeting of the Commission or its subsidiary groups as provided in Rule C.2 in the interval before the next Annual Meeting.

2. Observers accredited in accordance with Rule C.1.(a) and (b) are admitted to all meetings of the Commission and the Technical Committee, and to any meetings of subsidiary groups of the Commission and the Technical Committee, except the Commissioners-only meetings and the meetings of the Finance and Administration Committee.

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION OBSERVER APPLICATION FORM

Name of Organisation:

Address:

Telephone Number :

Fax Number:

Email:

Primary Contact:

Website Address

Statement of Interest:

Mission Statement or Charter: Attached