

Agreement of the Senate of Chile on the Question of Whaling and the International Whaling Commission

Considering that:

1. The continuing and increase expansion of whaling operations with alleged scientific objectives, constitutes a threat to the conservation of whale populations;
2. Chile has the obligation to defend the conservation of living marine resources, particularly endangered species, such as whales;
3. The IWC confronts its most critical moment since its creation, due to the efforts of some whaling countries to alter the purposes and objectives of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, through pressures on members of the Commission and other measures;

Resolve:

1. To support the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in searching for new and constructive approaches to resolve the existing differences in the IWC, through the strengthening of non lethal use of whales; whale watching; enlargement of the current sanctuaries and marine protected areas, and creating new ones; and promoting an increase participation of the developing countries in the IWC.
2. To promote contacts with the Parliaments of countries currently unable to fully participate in the IWC, to adopt the necessary measures in order to do so.
3. Undertake specific actions before the Parliaments of the countries in the region not members of the IWC, with the goal of encouraging accession to the ICRW, and thus to be able to participate in the Commission.
4. Request to the Executive Branch to give the issue of conservation of whales the highest priority as an outstanding aspect of the Foreign Policy of Chile, through the appropriate mechanisms to include Congress, Universities, Research Centers and other stakeholders of the Chilean Civil Society.