

**French as Working Language of the Commission**

**This resolution is submitted by Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Guinea, Senegal and Togo**

AWARE of the internationally accepted difference between “official languages” and “working languages” in the operations of international conventions;

FURTHER AWARE of the necessity for international organizations to protect the Sovereign Rights and the cultural values of their members;

WELCOMING the increasing number of French speaking countries becoming members of the Commission;

CONSCIOUS of the difficulties inherent to the implementation of new working languages within the Commission, but wishing to make concrete progress in this direction;

RECALLING the several discussions that took place since IWC56 regarding the introduction of French as working language of the Commission, as reported mainly in reports submitted to the Commission by the Finances and Administration Committee;

NOTING with gratitude and appreciation the special contribution made by the Governments of France and Monaco towards an experimental implementation of the French language as a working language of the Commission;

FURTHER NOTING with gratitude and appreciation efforts and contributions made by other members of the Commission to assist with the implementation of French as a working language; and

RECOGNISING the excellent work performed by the Finances and Administration Committee and the Secretariat

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

DECIDES full interpretation services into French and English for the plenary session of the Commission and for the private Commissioners meetings as of IWC59

INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to provide translation into French of the annotated agenda and draft resolutions;

FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to arrange for the translation into French of important portions of the report of the Scientific Committee;

REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop a time frame for full implementation of French as working language of the Commission; and

FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of recognizing French and Spanish as working languages of the Commission at the 2007 Annual Meeting.