INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal August 31 - September 4, 2026

PROPOSAL IATTC-104 L-1

SUBMITTED BY BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA

AMENDMENT TO PARAGRAPH 5C OF RESOLUTION C-11-11 ON THE CREATION OF THE SPECIAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR FISHERIES FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES TO STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The exercise of the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Facilitator, or Coordinator of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies involves an essential function in the processes of building consensus, adopting resolutions and recommendations, and making decisions of the Commission. Pursuant to the principles of effective, equitable, and inclusive participation that guide the Antigua Convention, the difficulties faced by Members that are developing countries for fully exercising their rights and responsibilities should be addressed through measures that contribute to reducing inequalities, particularly those of an economic nature. The Fund, regulated by Resolution C-14-03, was established precisely for building institutional capacities and facilitate the effective participation of developing countries and territories.

Considering that a significant portion of the Members are developing countries and territories, and that in recent years the Commission has benefited from greater participation of Chairpersons from these States, a particular difficulty has been identified in ensuring such participation due to the financial constraints of these Members, which could discourage this trend, with negative effects. Therefore, a practical approach to effectiveness is necessary, one that allows, with due caution and proportionality, for Chairpersons to attend meetings in person if this format is permitted, and to exercise their duties with the appropriate objectivity, enabling them to perform their functions as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson with independence, impartiality, and full accountability. Consequently, this proposal aims to facilitate the Director's ability to authorize, from the Capacity Development Fund, the expenses of these individuals to attend meetings in the exercise of their functions as Chairs and Coordinators, equating them to the same status as representatives of the members who are beneficiaries of this financial support.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in ~~Panama City~~ Lisbon, Portugal on the occasion of its 10~~3~~4~~rd~~th Meeting:

Taking into account the provisions of Article XXIII of the Antigua Convention ~~that~~ according to which the Commission shall seek to adopt measures relating to technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other forms of cooperation, to assist developing countries that are members of the Commission to fulfill their obligations under the Convention, as well as to enhance their ability to develop fisheries under their respective national jurisdictions and to sustainably participate in high seas fisheries on a sustainable basis;

Recalling that the Antigua Convention, in its Article XXIII, likewise establishes that the members of the Commission shall facilitate and promote such cooperation, especially financial and technical, and the transfer of technology, as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the previous paragraph;

Considering that it is essential to ensure broad, dynamic, and substantive participation of the Delegates of

the Members of the Commission, which means, among other things, the opportunity to be elected as Chairs of the bodies that are part of the structure of the Commission,

Recognizing that the Fund originally established by Resolution C-11-11, and subsequently amended and comprehensively regulated by Resolution C-14-03, was established to facilitate and ensure the broad and effective participation of developing countries and territories in the tasks of the Commission, with greater involvement of these countries and territories being significant in all regulated decision-making fields.

Recognizing also the need to preserve the financial sustainability of the Fund and to ensure that the expansion of its beneficiaries does not affect resources for training, technical assistance, data collection and participation of representatives of developing countries and territories;

Agrees to:

To amend subsection "c" of paragraph 5 of Resolution C-14-03, so that henceforth it reads as follows:

c. The in-person participation of up to two representatives of developing countries in the ~~annual~~ meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, as well as of scientific experts in the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee and, additionally, of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as appropriate, of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, who are citizens of developing countries, for the exercise of that status during the corresponding meetings. The Director will plan on using the funds in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner. Coverage of the participation costs of a second representative may only be authorized from the fund if the participation of one representative and of the Chair(s) or Vice-Chair(s) benefiting from this provision has been guaranteed."

This will enter into force upon approval by the Commission.