

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

Lisbon (Portugal)

August 31 to September 4, 2026

PROPOSAL IATTC-104 R-1

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

**RULES FOR THE DETERMINATION AND COLLECTION OF
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING AS
OBSERVERS IN THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS
SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

RATIONALE

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article XVI of the Antigua Convention, relating to the principle of transparency, it is within the power of the Commission to adopt the rules of participation of non-governmental organizations within the framework provided for in Annex 2 of the Antigua Convention. Paragraph 10 of the Annex states that the Director may require Observers to pay reasonable fees and to cover expenses attributable to their attendance at meetings.

The Commission has traditionally required non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to contribute USD\$500.00 for their participation in each Commission meeting. However, the diversity of formats, duration, number of attendees, and logistics costs make it necessary to establish clear, objective, and proportionate criteria, linked to the expenses effectively attributable to the participation of observers.

This proposal does not intend to discourage the participation of NGOs, but to regulate their contributions to prevent them from being denied the necessary presence due to financial reasons. Therefore, it establishes a predictable system of quotas, reductions, and exemptions that allows for the development of an appropriate adjustment method when necessary.

That non-governmental organizations accredited as observers have access to the meetings of the Commission and subsidiary groups, as well as participation in all events within the framework of the organization of the meeting, which implies for the Commission and the host country, the provision of more logistical, operational and administrative resources

**PROPOSAL FROM BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,
HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, on its 104th meeting:

Considering as indicated in paragraph 2 of Article XVI of the Antigua Convention regarding the fact that the Commission shall promote transparency in decision-making, which means, among other things, ensuring spaces for interaction with non-governmental civil society organizations;

Recognizing that at the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary groups, documents are reviewed and relevant topics of interest are discussed to adopt decisions based on the best available scientific information and the recognition of all relevant interests;

Bearing in mind that paragraph 10 of Annex 2 of the Antigua Convention empowers the Director to require observers from non-Party States and NGOs to pay reasonable fees and to cover expenses attributable to their attendance;

Aware of the various formats in which the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary groups have been taking place, with different and variable costs and logistics, depending on the requirements of the place, time, and space where they are held;

Striving to facilitate mechanisms that provide a dynamic calculation criterion regarding the reasonableness of the fees that should be required from observers,

Bearing in mind that the currently established fee has not been modified for more than ten years, while the costs of preparing and developing meetings have increased considerably, and that these must be transparent, predictable, non-discriminatory, and proportionate;

Recognizing the value of the effective participation of some NGOs in the processes developed by the Commission, linked to improvements in the management of species under the Commission's mandate, as well as their financial contributions to said processes.

It was agreed,

1. To define the base amount to be required from non-governmental organizations as a contribution payable for in-person participation as observers in each joint cycle of meetings of the Commission or of the Scientific Advisory Committee, in the sum of USD\$1,000.00 (one thousand US dollars) when up to three representatives attend. For each two additional representatives, the fee will increase by seven hundred and fifty US dollars. The contribution will be USD\$500.00 (five hundred dollars) when up to 3 representatives of the NGO participate in person in individual meetings of subsidiary bodies and in extraordinary meetings of the Commission or the Scientific Advisory Committee held individually. Participation in meetings in a strictly virtual format will not generate a cost for observers, and in the case of hybrid meetings, only those who participate in person shall pay.
2. The fee will be USD\$600.00 (six hundred dollars) for the first three representatives and USD\$200.00 (two hundred dollars) for each additional representative, when it comes to fishers' organizations from developing coastal states that are Members to the IATTC, which they will prove by means of a declaration in the application and a copy of their statutes.
3. Upon a reasoned request, the Director may exempt the organizations referred to in the previous paragraph from full or partial payment if they represent coastal or small-scale fishers who prove this status and demonstrate that they develop responsible fisheries management projects among

their members, aligned with the knowledge and implementation of the IATTC management measures. The decision will be recorded in writing, and the Director will include the exemptions granted in his annual report to the Administration and Finance Committee.

4. NGOs that make voluntary cash contributions to the Commission of no less than [USD\$40,000.00 (forty thousand dollars)] [USD\$XX,000.00 (xxxxxxx thousand dollars)] for projects selected by the Commission, will be exempt from paying for attending as observers during the fiscal year in which they developed the voluntary contribution. Voluntary contributions do not grant additional rights or preferential treatment during meetings.

5. The Commission shall establish subsequent reviews every 3 (three) years in which adjustments to costs may be made, provided they are duly supported.

6. This comes into force upon approval by the Commission.