

A PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND MECHANISM IN CCSBT

By Indonesia

1. Background

During the Twenty Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission, Members and the ESC Chair discussed the issue of communication between the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) and Extended Commission (EC). It was noted that some scientists of developing Members are unable to attend some scientific meetings, such as the OMMP and ERSWG, which hinders their understanding of the science. It was also noted that the possibility of the CCSBT providing funding for some Member's scientists to attend meetings will be discussed in the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC).

During the FAC meeting and as noted in the report, Indonesia asked that Members consider making funding available to support the participation of developing States at technical meetings (e.g. ERSWG and OMMP) noting that other RFMOs have established such mechanisms. Members asked for greater detail around this proposal including on the potential eligibility criteria that would be applied in order to access these funds. Indonesia agreed to develop a paper ahead of the next EC to better define the proposal.

2. Proposal

Indonesia proposes to establish a meeting participant funding mechanism in CCSBT to support developing States in participating CCSBT meeting particularly related to scientific works.

3. Rationale

There are still limitations in developing countries both in terms of funding and human resource capacity to participate in CCSBT meeting related to Scientific Works, such as ERSWG and OMMP. It is necessary for scientists or related personnel to participate in the work and also to increase their capacity, so that they can contribute more to the working process. The lack of participants and limited capacity from developing States at CCSBT subsidiary bodies meeting related to scientific works will hinder the contribution of those developing States in its work.

4. Conclusion

Indonesia proposes Members to adopt the draft resolution on the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing States of CCSBT Members.

RESOLUTION

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND FOR DEVELOPING STATES OF CCSBT MEMBERS

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),

RECOGNISING that Article 25 paragraph 3 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) describes, *inter alia*, forms of cooperation with developing States and the need for assistance relating to collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information; and stock assessment and scientific research;

RECALLING that the Twenty-Eight Annual Meeting of the Commission noted that some scientists of developing Members are unable to attend some scientific meetings, which hinders their understanding of the science;

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 3(b) of Article 8 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (Convention), that:

1. A special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) be established for the purposes of supporting scientists and representatives from CCSBT Members who are developing States to attend and/or contribute to CCSBT meetings related to Scientific Works.
2. In accordance with Article 11(5) of the Convention, the MPF shall not be used to fund attendance at meetings of the Commission or the Scientific Committee.
3. The MPF shall be financed from an initial allocation of AUD 50,000 from the CCSBT's funds, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Members and such other sources as the Commission may identify. The Commission will identify, at its 29th Annual Meeting of CCSBT, a procedure for supplying funds to the MPF in the future.
4. The MPF will be administered by the CCSBT Executive Secretary, in accordance with the same financial controls as regular budget appropriations.
5. The CCSBT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Members annually of the level of available funds in the MPF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance.
6. The CCSBT Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the MPF, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the MPF;

7. The MPF would be utilised, as a first priority, to support the participation of scientists and representatives from developing States in scientific meetings of the CCSBT, including Working Groups. Support will be limited to funding of economy airfares, other transport costs, accommodation, and meals. Payments for accommodation and meals will not exceed that of the United Nations Daily Subsistence Allowance. Eligible participants may submit an application for assistance from the MPF. Applicants will be selected by a panel including the Chair of the scientific subsidiary body concerned, the CCSBT Executive Secretary and the Chair of the CCSBT Scientific Committee, in accordance with the process established in 5 above. The decision by the Panel shall also take into account the size of the MPF and the need for cost-effectiveness. Consideration of applications shall also include an assessment of whether any alternative sources of assistance are available. No more than two eligible participants from a single Member may be supported to participate in a single CCSBT scientific meeting.

8. Applicants should note that alternative avenues of funding are available to developing State Members who wish to send scientists to CCSBT scientific meetings. For example, a fund has been established under Part VII of UNFSA to assist developing States that are signatories of the UNFSA to implement its provisions, including participation in the work of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. For those eligible Members of CCSBT, this could provide for an alternative source of funding to participate in meetings of the Commission and subsidiary bodies or to fund attendance at CCSBT meetings as training and capacity building required to fulfil the obligations under the UNFSA.