

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 14-14 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEETING
PARTICIPATION FUND FOR DEVELOPING ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES**
(new proposal)

RECOGNISING that the ICCAT Meeting Participation Fund established by Recommendation 11-26 has contributed to improving the participation of representatives from developing States at meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies;

RECALLING that concerns on the lack of participation from developing States had been echoed by the ICCAT Performance Review Panel in 2008;

NOTING 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) identifies, *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;

FURTHER NOTING that the first meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) recommended that in future meetings of the SWGSM the Commission consider providing funds for two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) for those CPCs needing assistance;

RECOGNISING that implementing the recommendation of the SWGSM to allow for a sufficient and balanced participation of representatives from developing States at its meetings requires amending Recommendation 11-26;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to take immediate action to optimize the use of the MPF in favour of a broader participation of representatives from developing States with a particular focus on those most in need and to avoid any future precarious situations that may restrict and prevent a wider participation by the developing States due to limited resources;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. A special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) be established for the purposes of supporting representatives from those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States to attend and/or contribute to the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).
2. The MPF shall be financed from an initial allocation of €60,000 from ICCAT's accumulated Working Capital Fund, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and such other sources as the Commission may identify. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) are urged to make voluntary contributions to the MPF so that developing countries are well represented during the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
3. The MPF shall be administered by the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the same financial controls as regular budget appropriations. Voluntary contributions to the MPF may include specific directions on their use.

4. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties 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, as well as the details of the assistance to be made available. To qualify to receive assistance through the MPF, the following minimum criteria should be met to the greatest extent possible to control costs and minimize administrative burdens, while taking into account Commission needs and interests with respect to the participation of the applicant;
 - a. A developing Contracting Party that sends more than four official delegates to a meeting of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies through utilization of its own means or financial sources (not including the MPF) is not eligible to receive travel funding support from the MPF for that meeting, except for the annual meetings of the Commission, which may be attended by up to six official delegates.
 - b. Applicants should:
 - i) travel using only the most cost-effective economy class fare unless another fare class is available at a lower cost; and
 - ii) make their flight itinerary definite no less than 30 days prior to commencement of the meeting.
5. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the Fund, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the Fund;
6. For participation in ICCAT scientific meetings, including SCRS Species Group and other inter-sessional meetings, those eligible scientists may submit an application for assistance from the MPF or, if appropriate, other existing funds supported by CPC voluntary contributions. Applicants will be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the SCRS (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).
7. For participation in non-scientific meetings, funds will be allocated in order of application. Only one participant per Contracting Party will be funded for any one meeting, with the exception of the SWGSM, for which two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) are eligible to receive assistance. All applications shall be subject to the approval of the Chair of the Commission, the Chair of STACFAD, and the Executive Secretary and, in the case of subsidiary bodies, the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought.
8. The funds in the MPF shall be disbursed in a manner that ensures a balanced distribution between non-scientific and scientific meetings.
9. All potential eligible applicants are encouraged to explore the alternative avenues of funding available to developing State Contracting Parties prior to applying for support under the MPF or other relevant ICCAT voluntary funds.
10. This recommendation replaces and repeals Recommendation 14-14 in its entirety.