

Original: English

**PAYMENT OF ARREARS LETTER TEMPLATE**

Madrid – XX September 2020

The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs  
XXX

Hon. Minister,

I have the honour to inform you that during the 26th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 18 to 25 November 2019, the Commission reviewed its financial situation. It noted that the total debt of the Contracting Parties amounted to €2,189,185.06. This is a significant amount, roughly equivalent to 50% of the 2019 ICCAT budget.

The Commission expressed concern about the high level of outstanding contributions, which hamper its work and the effective functioning of its Secretariat. Indeed, the Commission relies heavily on voluntary contributions to cover the budgetary shortfall created by Contracting Parties' arrears. Without voluntary contributions, it would not be possible to support crucial ICCAT activities, such as the organisation of meetings and the work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. This is not a sustainable situation. Further, consistent lack of payment of contributions by some Contracting Parties is unfair to those who do meet their responsibilities in a timely way.

In view of the importance of ensuring that ICCAT has the financial means necessary to carry out its work and achieve its objectives, Article X.8 of the ICCAT Convention provides that the Commission may suspend the voting rights of any Contracting Party when its arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it for the two preceding years. In order to avoid having to resort to this possibility, the Commission decided to give those Contracting Parties that have incurred such arrears a final opportunity to regularize their situation.

I would like to remind you that XXX's total arrears amount to €XXX, corresponding to the contributions of the following fiscal years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pending amount (€)</i>
XX	XXX
XX	XXX
XX	XXX
<b>Total pending amount</b>	<b>XXX</b>

I would kindly invite you to undertake the necessary action to pay these outstanding contributions as soon as possible

However, if it is not possible for your government to pay your accumulated debt in one lump sum, a payment plan must be presented to the Commission for its consideration. In that event, I would kindly ask you to submit such a plan to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2020. The payment plan will be reviewed and, as appropriate, approved by the Commission at that meeting. Please note that failure to submit or adhere to your payment plan would be considered a very serious matter by the Commission and could result in additional actions, possibly including a suspension of voting rights as mentioned above, the loss of fishing opportunities, or other actions, until the situation is rectified.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Commission Chair*  
Raul Delgado

cc: The Ambassador of XX  
XX – Head Delegate of XX to ICCAT  
Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon – Chair of ICCAT Standing Committee on Finance & Administration (STACFAD)