



MINISTER OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To:
IOTC Secretariat
Att.: Mr. Alejandro Anganuzzi
Executive Secretary (Ad Interim)
Le Chantier Mall (2nd floor)
PO Box 1011
Victoria Mahé - SEYCHELLES

Date:
12th June 2017

Contact person:
Ramon Chong

E-mail address:
ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw

Your letter of:

Your reference:

Our number: Case number:

Topic:
Request for Cooperating Non-Contracting Membership

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Dear Mr. Anganuzzi,

The Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao would like to express to the distinguished members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Curaçao's interest to become a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of your Organization.

Development of international fisheries contributes to the economic development of a Small Island Development State (SIDS) like Curaçao. Until now the fisheries sector contributes to less than 1% of Curaçao's GDP. The artisanal fishery sector delivers a minor contribution to the local markets based on fish caught within its territorial and EEZ waters. The development of the high seas tuna fisheries industry is steadfastly developing into an important sector for Curaçao, not only as a food source, but also in providing employment and important socio-economic benefits for our people.

Curaçao has been a cooperating non contracting party of the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) since the year 2004. In February 2014 Curaçao has become a full member of the ICCAT. The industrial tuna fleet is the main fishery income generator, contributing to the State budget through the issuance of fishing licenses and catch certificates to companies fishing tuna in the high seas located nearby the West African coast in the Atlantic Ocean. Currently five Curaçao registered purse seiners are fishing in the ICCAT area. Five carrier vessels from the company Sea Trade are also licensed to operate in the ICCAT area. Last year, based on the catches of mentioned fleet, Curaçao exported almost 35.000 tons of tuna mainly to Europe.

For Curaçao as a SIDS, it becomes essential to continue to develop its fisheries industry, in order to mitigate its vulnerable open economy. This industry has proven to be able to provide jobs to locals and to be less susceptible for the generation of state revenues. In addition, it possesses the capacity to spurs the international generated knowledge for the benefit of the development of the local fishery sector.

We are fully committed to cooperate in the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to ensure that fishing vessels flying our flag and fishing in the Convention Area comply with the resolutions and provisions adopted by the Commission. We are explicitly committed to accept high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on high seas boarding and inspection, once they have been adopted, and to report, comply, and deliver full fisheries data relevant to the Convention Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas.



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Furthermore, we are committed to deliver all the data and information, parties of the Commission are required to submit, in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission and any further relevant information as determined by the Commission. Please be informed that Curaçao possess a full fledge Fishing and Monitoring Center which has been approved by the DG MARE of the European Union, which at this moment already comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements of ICCAT and FAO.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate, to the Commission our expressions of highest esteem and consideration, in the hope that the IOTC members will review our endeavor to fully cooperate with the Commission and for the IOTC to consider favorably our request.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Martina
Minister of Economic Development



26 June 2017

IOTC Reference: 6719

Dr Steven Martina
Minister of Economic Development
Government of Curaçao

Email: stephen.mambi@gobiernu.cw

Dear Honourable Minister,

SUBJECT: Request for Cooperating non-Contracting Party status to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission by the Government of Curaçao.

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12th June 2017, on the above subject, which shall be put before the 2018 IOTC Compliance Committee meeting for its review and for its recommendation to the 22nd Session of the Commission in 2018. The exact dates for these two meetings have not been set yet, but we expect that they will take place sometimes in the second quarter of 2018.

In addition the letter of application and the commitments stated therein, I would like to bring to the attention of your office of the requirement to fulfil the obligations set out in paragraph 2, of Appendix III of the Rules of Procedure (2014). A copy of the afore-mentioned Appendix is attached herewith, for ease of reference.

I would also like to take this opportunity inform your office of the following decision taken by the Commission at its 19th Annual Session:

The Commission **AGREED** that applications for CNCP status shall no longer be considered unless the applications are submitted on time and in accordance with Rule IX.2 Appendix III, of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), and that the concerned parties are present at the Compliance Committee and Commission meetings to present their application and respond to questions from CPCs. One of the key requirements is for applications to be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an Annual Session of the Commission, to be considered at that meeting (*Paragraph 81, IOTC-2015-S19-R[E]: 155 pp*)

I remain at your disposal for any information, clarifications or assistance that your office may require from the IOTC Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

Alejandro Anganuzzi
Executive Secretary (*a. i.*)

cc Mr Ramon Chong
Mr Stephen Mambi

IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE (2014)

APPENDIX III ON COOPERATION WITH NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

Application process to become a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party to the IOTC

1. Any non-Contracting Party requesting the status of a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party shall apply to the Executive Secretary. Requests must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an Annual Session of the Commission, to be considered at that meeting.
2. Non-Contracting Parties requesting the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party shall provide the following information in order to have this status considered by the Commission:
 - a) where available, data on its historical fisheries in the IOTC area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;
 - b) all the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to IOTC based on the Resolutions adopted by IOTC;
 - c) details on current fishing presence in the IOTC area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics and;
 - d) information on any research programmes it may have conducted in the IOTC Area and the information and the results of this research.
3. An applicant for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party shall also:
 - a) confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures and;
 - b) inform IOTC of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures
4. The Compliance Committee shall be responsible for reviewing requests for cooperating status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should receive cooperating status. In this review, the Compliance Committee shall also consider information regarding the applicant available from other RFMOs as well as data submission of the applicant. Caution shall be used so as not to introduce into the IOTC Area the excessive fishing capacity of other regions or IUU fishing activities by granting cooperating status to the applicant.
5. Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties status shall be annually reviewed and renewed unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with IOTC Conserva



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Att.: Mr. Alejandro Anganuzzi
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PO Box 1011
Victoria Mahé - SEYCHELLES

Date:
4th September 2017

Contact person:
Ramon Chong

E-mail address:
ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw

Your letter of:
26th June 2017

Your reference:
6719

Our number: Case number:
2017/029232

Topic:
Request for Cooperating Non-Contracting Membership

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Dear Mr. Anganuzzi,

The Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao would like to express its gratitude to you as you have expressed in your letter on our request for Curaçao to become a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of the IOTC.

As brought to our attention, Curaçao would like to fulfill the obligations set out in paragraph 2, of Appendix III of the Rules of Procedure (2014) of your Commission. We kindly inform you of the following:

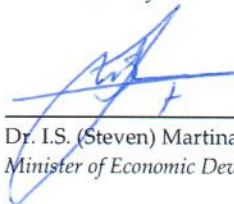
- a) Curaçao did not perform fishery activities in the IOTC area, and as such does not possess any data on its historical fisheries;
- b) Curaçao is not a Contracting Party of the IOTC, and as such does not have to submit any data to your Commission;
- c) Curaçao does not have any presence as of yet in the IOTC area, and as such does not need to present any data on its vessels (which are not) active in your area;
- d) Curaçao did not perform any research activity in the IOTC area.

Furthermore, according to Rule IX.2 Appendix III, of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), Curaçao did submit its application on time. In addition, we would like to inform you that Curaçao, represented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and more in particular its International Fisheries Commission will be present at the Compliance and Commission meetings to present its application and respond to questions from CPCs.

Finally, we look forward to receive your invitation to participate at your next Annual Meeting of the Commission in the second quarter of 2018. The representatives of Curaçao also look forward to meet you and your delegates and to present its application to become a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of the IOTC.

Rest assured that Curaçao will continue to collaborate on the conservation and management of fishery resources in all seas including the seas of the Indian Ocean.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. I.S. (Steven) Martina
Minister of Economic Development