

THE STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS OUTSTANDING

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT

PURPOSE

To inform the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) about the level of outstanding contributions to the Commission. This paper:

- indicates the status of contributions outstanding as of 31 December 2024.
- lists those members that have arrears equal to or exceeding the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years.
- following a recommendation from SCAF18, lists separately the outstanding contributions of ex-Members

STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Typically, the 'Call for Funds' letters for the annual contributions are sent to members within two months of the Commission meeting, and a reminder is sent out by the Secretariat around the end of the year and/or in the first quarter of the following year. The 'Call for Funds' letters for the 2024 budget contributions were sent to members by FAO in August 2024, immediately after the Commission meeting report had been adopted.
2. The status of contributions as of 31 December 2024, as reported to the IOTC Secretariat by FAO Administration and Finance, in United States Dollars (\$) is provided in Table 1.
3. The total of contributions due for the 2024 budget was \$4,401,862. As of 31 December 2024, a total of \$4,034,630 had been received (Table 1). This represents a shortfall in contributions due and contributions received of \$367,232. Note, the total of contributions received in any year may also include contributions due from years prior. However, contributions received early for the subsequent year are not included in the total; therefore, the difference between the amount of the contributions due for the budget year and the contributions received does not necessarily reflect the diligence of members paying their contributions in a timely fashion.

As of 31 December 2024, nine Members had outstanding contributions to a total value of \$2,499,551 (excluding ex-Members)

4. No contributions were received from six Member countries in 2024, namely Comoros, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Yemen.
5. The other Members with outstanding contributions as of 31 December 2024 were Bangladesh, Mozambique and Pakistan, (only partial payments were received from these Members).
6. The cumulative total of outstanding contribution payments has increased by around 13% from \$2,765,321 as of 31 December 2023 to \$3,119,984 as of 31 December 2024. Following a recommendation from SCAF18, the total outstanding contributions of members and ex-members will now be reported separately. The total outstanding contributions of members is \$2,499,551 and the total outstanding contributions of ex-members is \$620,433 (now includes Eritrea).
7. Two Members (Sudan and Yemen) have a history of non-payment and no payments were received from them in 2024. In January 2023, Eritrea requested to leave IOTC and in accordance with the IOTC Agreement (Art XXI.1), Eritrea was moved to the ex-members table starting 2024.
8. As of 31 December 2024, the total of outstanding contributions for Sudan and Yemen were \$1,244,833, equivalent to almost 40% of the total outstanding contributions. If the history of non-payment of contributions from Sudan and Yemen continues into the future, it means that every year, the annual budget could effectively be reduced by around \$74,000.

It is important to pay contributions on time

9. The budget of IOTC is entirely autonomous, and paid for exclusively by its Members, with no financial

contributions derived from the FAO Regular Programme. Therefore, when contributions are not paid on time, IOTC can face the risk of having to shut down its operations. The FAO's project cycle financial rules, which govern the administrative and financial processes of the IOTC, do not permit over-expenditure against contributions received within a given project. FAO has indicated that the future IOTC staff extensions and operating costs can only be accepted with sufficient funding available.

10. If a Member is in arrears of their contributions, there may be restrictions on its eligibility for the meeting participation fund and voting.
11. According to Article XIII.8 of the IOTC Agreement, *a Member of the Commission which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Commission shall have no vote in the Commission if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. The Commission may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay was due to conditions beyond the control of the Member.*
12. Similarly, according to Appendix VIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, *delegates from Contracting Parties (Members) of the Commission which are in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Commission are not eligible to benefit from the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years.*
13. The IOTC Financial Regulations were revised in 2019 and the dates for arrears were agreed at S25. Annex, Reg 5 of the Financial Regulations now states: *Contributions shall be due and payable in full as soon as possible and not later than 30 June of the calendar year to which they relate. As of 1 July in the calendar year to which the contributions relate, the unpaid balance of such contributions shall be considered to be one year in arrears.*

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

That the SCAF:

- a) **NOTE** the information presented in IOTC-2025-SCAF22-04 on outstanding contributions.

Table 1. Status of Member contributions to the IOTC autonomous budget (in US\$) as of 31 December 2024

	1	2	3	4
Member	Outstanding Contribution 1 January 2024 (all years prior to 2024)	Contribution due for 2024	Received Contributions in 2024	Total Outstanding Contributions
AUSTRALIA	0	194,014	194,014	0
BANGLADESH	50,309	74,642	50,309	74,642
CHINA	0	108,674	108,674	0
COMOROS	218,872	78,431		297,303
EUROPEAN UNION	0	889,123	889,123	0
FRANCE	0	161,908	161,908	0
INDIA	0	161,390	161,390	0
INDONESIA	0	323,001	323,001	0
IRAN	410,225	223,224		633,449
JAPAN	0	214,592	214,592	0
KENYA	0	72,241	72,241	0
KOREA, Rep. of	0	242,677	242,677	0
MADAGASCAR	31,496	38,573	70,069	0
MALAYSIA	0	83,471	83,471	0
MALDIVES	0	154,276	154,276	0
MAURITIUS	0	84,966	84,966	0
MOZAMBIQUE	137,062	37,333	35,093	139,301
OMAN	0	241,418	241,418	0
PAKISTAN	106,596	95,763	187,663	14,696
PHILIPPINES	0	51,861	51,861	0
SEYCHELLES	0	259,708	259,708	0
SOMALIA	250	15,179		15,429
SOUTH AFRICA	0	70,693	70,693	0
SRI LANKA	0	131,285	131,285	0
SUDAN	387,909	15,280		403,189
TANZANIA	0	79,898		79,898
THAILAND	0	83,656	83,656	0
UNITED KINGDOM	0	162,542	162,542	0
YEMEN	789,597	52,047		841,643
Total	2,132,318	4,401,862	4,034,630	2,499,551

Member	Total Outstanding Contributions
BELIZE	47,092
ERITREA	337,698
GUINEA	143,295
SIERRA LEONE	66,097
VANUATU	26,251
Total	620,433

Members	2,499,551
Ex-Members	620,433
Total	3,119,984