



30 January 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR
2026-08

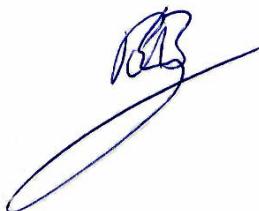
Dear Madam / Sir

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM INTERPOL

Please find attached a request letter from INTERPOL to participate as an Observer to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission processes.

In accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Contracting Parties of the Commission may wish to allow INTERPOL to participate as an Observer given their interest in the IOTC as stipulated in the attached letter. Thus, unless any objections are received within 30 days of the date of this Circular, the IOTC Secretariat will consider that approval has been granted for the Executive Secretary to issue an invitation to the potential Observer to attend IOTC meetings accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

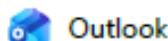
Attachments:

- Letter from the INTERPOL

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Panama. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



Request For Observer Status

From BUCKLEY Cindy <C.BUCKLEY@interpol.int>

Date Thu 2026-01-29 17:02

To IOTC-Secretariat <IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org>

Cc ALVES Paulo <P.ALVES@interpol.int>; KOTSOVOU Maria <M.KOTSOVOU@INTERPOLINT>; HONEIN Ghiwa <G.HONEIN@interpol.int>

Dear Chairperson of the Commission,

On behalf of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and in particular the INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Unit, I am writing to respectfully request that INTERPOL be granted observer status to attend meetings of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) as an intergovernmental organization with special competence relevant to the work of the Commission.

INTERPOL is the world's largest intergovernmental police organization, with 196 member countries, and has a mandate to support law enforcement cooperation across borders in addressing transnational crime. The INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Unit works specifically with national authorities, regional fisheries bodies, and international partners to combat fisheries-related crimes, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, associated fraud, document falsification, and related financial and environmental crimes.

INTERPOL's interest in attending IOTC meetings is to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement and fisheries management authorities, and to better understand regulatory developments, compliance challenges, and emerging risks in the Indian Ocean region. Participation as an observer would enable INTERPOL to align its operational support more closely with the objectives and measures adopted by the Commission, and to facilitate information-sharing and capacity-building initiatives that contribute to improved compliance and enforcement.

INTERPOL's attendance at IOTC meetings would therefore support the Commission's work by:

- Enhancing links between fisheries management and law enforcement communities;
- Supporting the detection and investigation of fisheries-related crimes that undermine conservation and management measures;
- Promoting international cooperation against IUU fishing and associated criminal activities;
- Contributing to broader efforts to ensure sustainable and lawful use of marine resources in the IOTC area of competence.

INTERPOL stands ready to engage constructively with the Commission and its Secretariat, in full respect of IOTC rules and procedures, and solely in an observer capacity. We would be grateful if the Commission could consider this request, and we remain at the Secretariat's disposal to provide any additional information that may be required.

Sincerely,

Cindy Buckley



Cindy BUCKLEY
Criminal Intelligence Officer