

# Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Standing Committee on Administration & Finance

Maldives, 7-8 May 2026

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## ACRONYMS

CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CNCP	Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties
CoC	Compliance Committee, of the IOTC
CPCs	Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
MPF	Meeting Participation Fund
SC	Scientific Committee of the IOTC
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance, of the IOTC

## HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

The following report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

**Level 1:** *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:*

**RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION:** Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

**Level 2:** *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:*

**REQUESTED:** This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

**Level 3:** *General terms to be used for consistency:*

**AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

**NOTED/NOTING:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

**Any other term:** Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of and IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

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### Executive summary

The meeting was opened and chaired by the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) Vice-Chairperson, Mr Muhammad Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury (Bangladesh).

The 23rd Session of the SCAF was held in a hybrid format, with delegations present physically in the meeting room, and other participants attending by videoconference.

Letters of Credentials were received from 27 Contracting Parties and 10 observer organisations, including the invited experts.

#### **The following requests were made by the SCAF.**

(Para 9.) The SCAF **NOTED** the concern expressed by several members regarding the vacancies at the IOTC Secretariat and the potential impacts this has on the Secretariat's activities. The SCAF therefore **REQUESTED** that the SCAF IOTC Chair write a letter to FAO requesting that these positions be filled as quickly as possible.

(Para 11.) The SCAF **NOTED** the progress made on the development of the DFAD Register. The SCAF **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to ensure adequate guidance and support are provided to all CPCs, particularly developing States, to facilitate timely compliance with the requirements under Resolution 24/02.

(Para 45.) The SCAF **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to provide a paper on the potential cost recovery mechanisms to guide discussions at the 24th session of SCAF.

(Para 46.) The SCAF also **REQUESTED** the Secretariat address, in the same paper, the impacts of the temporally revised ratio between scientific and non scientific meetings.

(Para 54.) The SCAF **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat provide a document for the next meeting, reviewing the estimated fees required for the ROP in the following year.

(Para 55.) The SCAF **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat provide additional details regarding the expenditures for consultants/service providers in future iterations of this document.

(Para 70.) The SCAF **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat prepare a table comparing the actual contributions paid by each member over the past five years with the contributions that members should have paid taking into account revisions to their historical catch data.

#### **The SCAF made the following recommendations to the Commission.**

(Para 15.) The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the SCAF and Commission chairs continue to communicate with FAO and express concern about the annual fees and continue to request a reduction, given that FAO fees represent a substantial proportion of the overall IOTC budget.

(Para 65.) The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that any additional funds required for the Secretariat to host meetings be first taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, on an exceptional basis, from the Working Capital Fund.

(Para 66.) The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that if funds are required for work to migrate IOTC's systems and website to the FAO infrastructure in 2026, they will first be taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, on an exceptional basis, from the Working Capital Fund.

(Para 72.) The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt the Programme of Work and Budget and the scheme of contributions for 2027 and 2028 (indicative) as outlined in [Appendix 5](#) and [Appendix 6](#), respectively, while NOTING that the Programme of Work for the IOTC Secretariat is based on the assumption that the nature and extent of the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat will remain within the current scope. Any new activities agreed to during the 30th Session of the Commission (S30) that have budgetary consequences, will require an amendment of the figures.

## Opening of the Session

1. The meeting was opened and chaired by the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) Vice-Chairperson, Mr Muhammad Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury (Bangladesh).
2. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the SCAF was held in a hybrid format, with delegations present physically in the meeting room, and other participants attending by videoconference.

## 1. Credentials and Admission of observers

3. Letters of Credentials were received from 27 Contracting Parties.
4. Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement establishing the IOTC and Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, the Commission admitted the following observers:

*Members and Associate Members of the FAO that are not Members of the Commission.*

- None

*Non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission.*

- BLOOM
- Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Association
- Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (DSM)
- Global Fishing Watch (GBW)
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)
- Maldives Seafood Processors & Exporters Association (MSPEA)
- Sustainable Fisheries and Communities Trust (SFACT)
- The PEW Charitable Trusts (PEW)

*Invited Experts*

- Taiwan, Province of China

5. The list of participants, as listed in the letters of credentials, is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

6. The SCAF **ADOPTED** the Agenda provided in [Appendix 2](#). The documents presented to the SCAF are listed in [Appendix 3](#).

## 3. Report of the IOTC Secretariat

### 3.1 Report of the Secretariat on 2025

7. The SCAF **NOTED** document IOTC–2026–SCAF23–02 which outlined the activities of the Secretariat in 2025 that covered its support to meetings; support to scientific and compliance activities; communications; information technology; and administration.
8. The SCAF **THANKED** the Secretariat for providing capacity building support and workshops for member countries and in particular The SCAF **NOTED** the importance of continuing these capacity building initiatives.
9. The SCAF **NOTED** the concern expressed by several members regarding the vacancies at the IOTC Secretariat and the potential impacts this has on the Secretariat's activities. The SCAF therefore **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Chair write a letter to FAO requesting that these positions be filled as quickly as possible.
10. The SCAF **NOTED** the offer by PEW to provide partial funding to facilitate the continuation of the ALB MSE process and thanked them for their offer.

11. The SCAF **NOTED** the progress made on the development of the DFAD Register. The SCAF **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to ensure adequate guidance and support are provided to all CPCs, particularly developing States, to facilitate timely compliance with the requirements under Resolution 24/02.

### **3.2 Update on requests made by the SCAF in 2025**

12. The SCAF **NOTED** paper IOTC–2026–SCAF23–03 which provided the SCAF with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period, on the requests for action made at its 22<sup>nd</sup> Session in 2025.
13. The SCAF **NOTED** the document prepared by the Secretariat summarising the approach to meeting participation fees of observers and CNCs implemented by other RFMOs.
14. The SCAF **NOTED** the ongoing work being carried out to update the IOTC website and requested that the Secretariat provide a circular outlining the updated timeline for this activity, indicative costs and to incorporate an opportunity for members to provide feedback on the new website before final deployment.
15. The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the SCAF and Commission chairs continue to communicate with FAO and express concern about the annual fees and continue to request a reduction, given that FAO fees represent a substantial proportion of the overall IOTC budget.
16. The SCAF **NOTED** paper IOTC–2026–SCAF23–09 which provided the SCAF with information on the approach for observer fees implemented in other RFMOs.
17. The SCAF **NOTED** that several RFMOs charge observers a fee for participating in their meetings. The SCAF also **NOTED** that this is not a practice observed by FAO.
18. The SCAF **NOTED** that some members expressed their support for charging observer fees to offset the administrative costs of the meetings and as a matter of principle in alignment with other RFMOs, and also to improve the financial status of IOTC. Other members were opposed to charging fees as they expressed their opinion that this could discourage observer participation, reduce transparency, and would have a likely minimum positive impact on the meeting costs.
19. The SCAF **NOTED** that no consensus could be reached on this issue during the current meeting and suggested that this discussion continue at the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the SCAF.

## **4. Financial Statements**

### **4.1 Contributions Outstanding**

20. The SCAF **NOTED** the information presented in document IOTC–2026–SCAF23–04 on the contributions outstanding as of 31 December 2025.
21. The SCAF **NOTED** the cumulative total of outstanding contribution payments has increased by around 23%, from \$3,119,984 as of 31 December 2024 to \$3,827,706 as of 31 December 2025.
22. The SCAF **NOTED** that as of 31 December 2025, 12 Members had outstanding contributions to a total value of \$3,207,273; and the total outstanding contributions of ex-members was \$620,433.
23. The SCAF **NOTED** that no contributions were received from eight Members in 2025, namely Iran, Korea, Madagascar, Maldives, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. The SCAF also **NOTED** that contributions were received from Bangladesh, Comoros, Pakistan and Tanzania, but these did not cover the full amount due.
24. Korea informed the SCAF that payment of their contributions will be made in full by the end of June 2026.
25. Maldives informed the SCAF that they had paid their outstanding contributions in April 2026.
26. Yemen informed the SCAF of the political and social challenges they are currently experiencing but expressed their commitment to adhere with their IOTC obligations.
27. Tanzania informed the SCAF that the small remaining balance of their contribution, due to transactional issues, will be provided together with their next payment.
28. Mozambique informed the SCAF that despite sustained internal efforts that they have not yet been able to meet their commitments but have a plan in place to pay their outstanding contributions.

29. Bangladesh informed the SCAF that the remaining balance of their contribution will be provided together with their next payment.
30. Pakistan informed the SCAF that the process for payment has been initiated and should be completed by the end of June.
31. Madagascar informed the SCAF that they had paid their 2025 contribution in 2026 and expressed their intention to pay their 2026 contribution in the last quarter of the year.
32. Shortly after the conclusion of the session, the Secretariat received correspondence from Iran ([Appendix 7](#)) stating that Iran will make every effort, in cooperation with the IOTC and FAO, to fulfil its obligations, but this had been complicated by the ongoing international sanctions. Iran is committed to seeking a solution for the payment.
33. The SCAF **NOTED** that as of 31 December 2024, the total of outstanding contributions for Sudan and Yemen was \$1,312,058, equivalent to almost 34% of the total outstanding contributions. If the history of non-payment of contributions from Sudan and Yemen continues into the future (Eritrea has withdrawn from the Commission in 2024), it means that every year, the annual budget could effectively be reduced by around \$74,000.
34. The SCAF **RECOGNISED** the difficulties faced by some Members to pay their annual contributions. The SCAF **THANKED** those Members who provided explanations for their non-payment and reiterated the need for all Members to participate in the SCAF.
35. The SCAF **NOTED** that the Secretariat continues to reach out to Members and ex-Members that have outstanding contributions in an attempt to recover these funds.
36. The SCAF **NOTED** the suggestion by FAO to cancel the outstanding contributions from ex-members. The SCAF further **NOTED** that these ex-Members are still members of FAO and that cancelling their arrears would set an undesirable precedent. Therefore, the SCAF **AGREED** that ex-members should continue to be requested to pay their outstanding contributions on an annual basis and that the Secretariat should communicate this to FAO.

#### **4.2 IOTC Meeting Participation Fund**

37. The SCAF **NOTED** document IOTC–2026–SCAF23–05 which provides past and present details of the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF).
38. The SCAF **ACKNOWLEDGED** the extra contribution to the MPF received from China (\$9,000) in 2025 and **THANKED** China for the commitment to providing these funds in recent years.
39. The SCAF **ACKNOWLEDGED** the extra contribution to the MPF received from Australia (\$19,474) in 2025 and **THANKED** Australia for providing these funds.
40. The SCAF **NOTED** that the total amount available in the MPF in 2025 was \$439,368 (including interests) and that the total expenditures for the MPF in 2025 amounted to \$272,526, leaving a balance of \$166,842. This covered the costs of 117 participants.
41. The SCAF **NOTED** that the 2027 MPF budget should be sufficient to meet the demand for the MPF, although concern was expressed regarding the increase in travel costs due to the ongoing global situation and **NOTED** there is always a risk that demand may exceed the funds available.
42. The SCAF **NOTED** the previous recommendations of the Small Working Group that was set up to review the current Rules of Procedure for the administration of the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (Appendix VIII of the IOTC RoP) and that the science to other meeting ratio will be revisited, reported and reassessed in 2027.
43. The SCAF **AGREED** that, on an exceptional basis and as a last resort, should there not be sufficient funds available in the MPF to cover attendance at the scientific meetings at the end of the year, the Secretariat may use the WCF.
44. The SCAF **NOTED** with concern that in certain circumstances MPF funding had been provided to participants who had not been able to attend the meetings for which they were funded.
45. The SCAF **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to provide a paper on the potential cost recovery mechanisms to guide discussions at the 24th session of SCAF.

46. The SCAF also **REQUESTED** the Secretariat address, in the same paper, the impacts of the temporarily revised ratio between scientific and non scientific meetings.

#### **4.3 Financial statement: Fiscal year 2025**

47. The SCAF **NOTED** paper IOTC–2026–SCAF23–06 which provided the Financial Statement for the Commission for the period 1 January to 31 December 2025.
48. The SCAF **NOTED** the total of contributions due in 2025 for the 2024 budget was (US)\$4,401,862, and as of 31 December 2025, a total of \$3,694,139 had been received. This amounted to a deficit of \$707,723.
49. The SCAF **NOTED** that out of the total budget of \$4,401,862 the Commission spent \$3,747,359. The level of under expenditure from the budget amounted to a total of \$654,503.
50. The SCAF **NOTED** that the unspent budget from 2025 was allocated to the Working Capital Fund and the balance of the fund as of 31 December 2025 was \$7,657,854. The SCAF also **NOTED** that no expenditures were charged to the WCF in 2025.
51. The SCAF **NOTED** that extra-budgetary funds continue to be an important part of the overall budget and **THANKED** Australia, China and the EU for providing extra-budgetary funds in 2025. The SCAF further **NOTED** with appreciation that members hosting meetings make extra-budgetary contributions and encouraged all members to consider hosting future meetings accordingly.
52. The SCAF **NOTED** Table (5) of the document which provided the details and expenditures of the extrabudgetary funds provided by CPCs, as requested at the previous SCAF.
53. The SCAF **NOTED** that \$750,313 were received in contributions for the Regional Observer Programme and that the ROP had a negative balance of \$72,418, as of 31 December 2025. Therefore, a new call for ROP funds was sent out early in 2026.
54. The SCAF **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat provide a document for the next meeting, reviewing the estimated fees required for the ROP in the following year.
55. The SCAF **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat provide additional details regarding the expenditures for consultants/service providers in future iterations of this document

#### **4.4 Mid-term financial report 2026**

56. The SCAF **NOTED** the mid-term financial report 2026 provided in document IOTC-2026-SCAF23-07 which informed the SCAF that the operations-related budgets were generally on track while the staff-related budgets were expected to be underspent due to some staff positions remaining vacant pending the finalisation of recruitment processes.
57. The SCAF **NOTED** that no mid-term transfers were proposed for 2026.
58. The SCAF **NOTED** that additional funds may be required for a consultancy to fully review the IOTC IT infrastructure. Funding for this will be first taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required and as a last resort, from the Working Capital Fund.
59. The SCAF **NOTED** the statements from several members regarding the payment of their 2026 contributions, acknowledging that the deadline for payment of 2026 contributions has not yet been reached.

### **5. Programme of Work and Budget Estimates for 2027 and tentatively for 2028**

60. The SCAF **NOTED** document IOTC–2026–SCAF23–08 which outlined the budget estimates for the IOTC Secretariat’s Program of Work for the financial period 1 January to 31 December 2027, together with indicative figures for the 2028 financial period.
61. The SCAF **NOTED** that the overall budget amount proposed for the Administrative Budget for 2027 was based on IOTC’s normal operations without any additional instructions from the forthcoming Commission meeting.
62. The SCAF **NOTED** the proposed 2027 budget represented a 1% increase from the corresponding 2026 budget.

63. The SCAF **AGREED** to keep the MPF funding at \$300,000 with a temporary 60/40 ratio of scientific to other meetings. The revised operational budget for 2027 is provided in [Appendix 4](#).
64. The SCAF **NOTED** Indonesia's concern regarding the significant increase of 12% in its budgetary contribution, despite the overall IOTC budget for 2027 increasing by only 1%, and was informed that this increase was attributable to a corresponding rise in catches reported by Indonesian vessels. Furthermore, Indonesia requested that its overall contribution be reduced by using the working capital fund. However, according to the applicable rules and procedures, the working capital fund cannot be used to lower a Member's contribution.
65. The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that any additional funds required for the Secretariat to host meetings be first taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, on an exceptional basis, from the Working Capital Fund.
66. The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that if funds are required for work to migrate IOTC's systems and website to the FAO infrastructure in 2026, they will first be taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, on an exceptional basis, from the Working Capital Fund.
67. The SCAF **REITERATED** that the WCF should only be used as a last resort and that it acts as an important financial safety net to protect IOTC's operation.
68. The SCAF **NOTED** the proposal by a member that IOTC financial accounts should be audited annually by an external auditor, in accordance with general administrative practices agreed by other RFMOs, and regardless of the fact that IOTC has no legal personality separate from FAO.
69. The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission **APPROVE** the use of savings from the 2026 budget to support the launch of a voluntary VMS Pilot project, or use any extrabudgetary funding available, such as through the SWIOP. The SCAF **ALSO NOTED** Australia's offer to work with the Secretariat and interested CPCs to advance the development and launch of the pilot project.
70. The SCAF **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat prepare a table comparing the actual contributions paid by each member over the past five years with the contributions that members should have paid taking into account revisions to their historical catch data.
71. The SCAF **RECALLED** the decision taken in the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission that members catching less than 400t will be considered as not having fishing operations in the IOTC area for the purpose of the contribution estimations.
72. The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt the Programme of Work and Budget and the scheme of contributions for 2027 and 2028 (indicative) as outlined in [Appendix 5](#) and [Appendix 6](#), respectively, while **NOTING** that the Programme of Work for the IOTC Secretariat is based on the assumption that the nature and extent of the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat will remain within the current scope. Any new activities agreed to during the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (S30) that have budgetary consequences, will require an amendment of the figures.

## 6. Any Other Business

73. There was no other business.

## 7. Adoption of the report

74. The report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IOTC Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (IOTC–2026–SCAF23–R) was **ADOPTED** on 8 May 2026.

## APPENDIX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**APPENDIX 2****AGENDA FOR 23RD SESSION STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE****OPENING OF THE MEETING**

- 1. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS & ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT: 2025**
  - 3.1 Report of the Secretariat on 2025 (IOTC-2026-SCAF23-02)
  - 3.2 Update on the requests made by the SCAF in 2025 (IOTC-2026-SCAF23-03 and IOTC-2026-SCAF23-09)
- 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
  - 4.1 Contributions Outstanding (IOTC-2026-SCAF23-04)
  - 4.2 IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (IOTC-2026-SCAF23-05)
  - 4.3 Financial Statement: Fiscal Year 2025 (IOTC-2026-SCAF23-06)
  - 4.4 Mid-term financial report 2026 (IOTC-2026-SCAF23-07)
- 5. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2027 AND TENTATIVELY FOR 2028 (IOTC-2026-SCAF23-08)**
  - 5.1 Potential budget for VMS Pilot Project
- 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF SCAF23 (8 May)**

**APPENDIX 3**  
**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Documents are available on the IOTC SCAF23 meeting page [[click here](#)]

Document	Title
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-01	Draft agenda for SCAF23
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-02	Report of the IOTC Secretariat on the year 2025
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-03	Progress on requests for action made by the SCAF in 2025
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-04	Contributions Outstanding
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-05	IOTC Meeting Participation Fund
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-06	Financial Statement for 2025
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-07	Mid-Term Financial report 2026
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-08	Provisional Program of work and budget for 2027 (and Indicative Budget for 2028)
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-09	RFMO Approaches to Meeting Participation Fees for Observers and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs)

**APPENDIX 4**  
**REVISED OPERATIONAL BUDGET**

Item Description	2027 (US\$)
<b><i>Capacity Building</i></b>	
Data compliance and science support missions based on priority actions	75,000
Compliance Capacity Building activities based on priority actions/decisions of the Commission on CPC's Compliance Reports	65,000
<b>Sub-Total US\$</b>	<b>140,000</b>
<b><i>Consultants/Service Providers</i></b>	
Information technology consultant (NPP) - \$1 820 / month	21,840
TCAC Consultants (Chair)	50,000
Consultants – maintenance of compliance utilities and platforms (e-PSM, e-MARIS and e-RAV)	49,220
Compliance consultant - data inputting (NPP) - \$450 / month	5,700
Prioritised activities supporting the work of the Scientific Committee: See Table 3 of the SC report - IOTC-2024-SC27-R	300,000
Consultants new IT system and website	50,000
<b>Sub-Total US\$</b>	<b>476,760</b>
<b><i>Duty Travel (Staff and Non-Staff)</i></b>	
IOTC Staff Travel 2025 (Meetings and field activities, excluding logistics support)	150,000
External Experts (Science) 2025	30,000
<b>Sub-Total US\$</b>	<b>180,000</b>
<b><i>Meetings</i></b>	

Contingency extras for Commission, CoC, SCAF, TCMP	WCF
Contingency for TCAC if hosted by IOTC (or travel for logistics support)	WCF
Contingency Scientific Committee and Working Parties if hosted directly by IOTC	WCF
Logistics support for meetings (travel and other related expenses)	85,782
<b>Sub-Total US\$</b>	<b>85,782</b>
<b>Interpretation</b>	
CoC, SCAF, TCMP, S30	64,000
TCAC (TBD) - 1 session WCF to cover any extra sessions	33,000
SC	33,000
<b>Sub-Total US\$</b>	<b>130,000</b>
<b>Translation</b>	
Translation - IOTC Consultants	120,000
Travel for consultants	15,000
<b>Sub-Total US\$</b>	<b>135,000</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	
IT equipment (network, hardware and accessories as needed)	10,000
Office furniture and facilities	3,000
<b>Sub-Total US\$</b>	<b>13,000</b>
<b>General Operating Expenses</b>	
Web Hosting, Email hosting, website admin, software and licenses	8,000
Cloud hosting eMaris and ePSM	17,000
Subscriptions (eg. journals and newspapers)	1,200
Office Tel and mobile phones - \$3,500 / yr; Data Lines (internet x2) - \$35,000 / yr	38,500
Postal & Pouch - \$300 /yr + distribution of printed materials \$1000 /yr	1,300

Vehicle Insurance and Vehicle Maintenance (Maint \$500 / yr; Vehicle Petrol/Diesel - \$800 / yr; Vehicle Cleaning - \$200 / yr)-	1,500
Cleaning of Premises	0
Maintenance of photocopiers and printers, including toners	1,500
Office Supplies and miscellaneous (Stationery; Kitchen; Bathroom; Water etc.)	4,500
<b>Sub-Total US\$</b>	<b>73,500</b>
<b>Contingencies</b>	
As required by the Financial Regulations	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Operating Expenditures Total US\$</b>	<b>1,244,042</b>

## APPENDIX 5

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2027 AND INDICATIVE BUDGET FOR 2028 (IN US\$)

		Actuals 2025*	2026	2027	2028
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff costs</b>				
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Professional</b>				
	Executive Secretary (D1)	168,667	171,287	175,828	179,344
	<i>Science</i>				
	Science Manager (P5)	145,828	146,966	153,627	156,700
	Stock Assessment Expert (P4)	103,523	122,547	123,461	125,930
	Fishery Officer (Science P3)	110,363	111,494	114,807	117,103
	<i>Compliance</i>				
	Compliance Manager (P5)	155,936	158,018	161,971	165,211
	Compliance Coordinator (P4)	142,948	146,550	147,633	150,586
	Compliance Officer (P3)	54,762	109,022	109,022	111,202
	<i>Data</i>				
	Data Coordinator (P4)	119,982	122,547	126,146	128,669
	Statistician (P3)	-	109,022	109,022	111,202
	Fishery Officer (P2) Data	80,396	82,045	84,877	86,575
	Fishery Officer (P1/NPO) Data	25,460	31,542	32,963	33,623
	<i>Admin.</i>				
	Administrative Officer (P3/P4)	126,218	128,777	132,215	134,859
<b>1.2</b>	<b>General Service</b>				
	Administrative Assistant	23,640	23,709	25,264	25,770
	Office Associate	22,765	22,302	24,514	25,005
	Database Assistant	3,583	23,709	18,710	19,084
	Office Assistant	16,917	16,375	18,710	19,084
	Driver	-	0	0	0
	Overtime	755	5,100	3,000	3,000
	<b>Total Salary Costs</b>	<b>1,301,744</b>	<b>1,531,011</b>	<b>1,561,770</b>	<b>1,592,945</b>
1.3	Employer Pension and Health	413,553	481,644	492,125	501,967
1.4	Employer FAO Entitlement Fund	518,174	595,502	602,038	614,079
1.5	Adjustment Entitlement Fund	(69,850)			
1.6	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift	60,560	73,028	74,366	75,853
	<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>2,224,181</b>	<b>2,681,185</b>	<b>2,730,299</b>	<b>2,784,845</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Operating Expenditures</b>				
2.1	Capacity Building	53,524	130,000	140,000	140,000
2.2	Consultants/Service Providers	392,787	460,652	476,760	476,760
2.3	Duty travel	166,738	180,000	180,000	180,000
2.4	Meetings	215,698	122,000	85,782	85,782
2.5	Interpretation	122,767	130,000	130,000	130,000
2.6	Translation	110,512	128,000	135,000	135,000
2.7	Equipment	10,099	10,000	13,000	13,000
2.8	General Operating Expenses	58,014	73,390	73,500	73,500
2.9	Contingencies	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
	<b>Total OE</b>	<b>1,130,138</b>	<b>1,244,042</b>	<b>1,244,042</b>	<b>1,244,042</b>
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>3,354,319</b>	<b>3,925,227</b>	<b>3,974,341</b>	<b>4,028,887</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Additional Contributions Seychelles</b>	-29,120	0	0	0
<b>4</b>	<b>FAO Servicing Costs</b>	149,634	176,635	178,845	181,300
<b>5</b>	<b>Meeting Participation Fund</b>	272,526	300,000	300,000	300,000
				-	-
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,747,359</b>	<b>4,401,862</b>	<b>4,453,186</b>	<b>4,510,187</b>

\*Reported by FAO system

1%

**APPENDIX 6**  
**SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2027 (IN US\$)**

Country	World Bank Classification in 2024	OECD Member	Average catch for 2022-2024 (in metric tonnes)	Base Contribution	Operations Contribution	GNI Contribution	Catch Contribution	Total Contribution (in USD)
Australia	High	Yes	5,041	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$15,195	\$196,803
Bangladesh	Middle	No	14,037	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$8,462	\$78,741
China	Middle	No	66,092	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$39,843	\$110,121
Comoros	Middle	No	11,814	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$7,122	\$77,400
European Union	High	Yes	212,307	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$639,936	\$821,544
France(Terr)	High	Yes	0	\$15,356	\$0	\$148,440	\$0	\$163,795
India	Middle	No	188,217	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$113,464	\$183,743
Indonesia	Middle	No	454,656	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$274,084	\$344,363
Iran, I.R.	Middle	No	282,856	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$170,517	\$240,795
Japan	High	Yes	9,785	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$29,494	\$211,102
Kenya	Middle	No	5,297	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$3,193	\$73,472
Korea, Rep of	High	Yes	14,639	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$44,125	\$225,733
Madagascar	Low	No	6,984	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$0	\$4,210	\$37,379
Malaysia	Middle	No	23,459	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$14,142	\$84,421
Maldives	Middle	No	140,794	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$84,876	\$155,155
Mauritius	Middle	No	30,702	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$18,509	\$88,787
Mozambique	Low	No	15,224	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$0	\$9,177	\$42,346
Oman	High	No	136,077	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$82,032	\$263,640
Pakistan	Middle	No	43,199	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$26,042	\$96,321
Philippines	Middle	No	0	\$15,356	\$0	\$37,110	\$0	\$52,466
Seychelles	High	No	130,551	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$78,701	\$260,309
Somalia	Low	No	9,042	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$0	\$5,451	\$38,620
South Africa	Middle	No	1,311	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$790	\$71,069
Sri Lanka	Middle	No	97,940	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$59,042	\$129,320
Sudan	Low	No	175	\$15,356	\$0	\$0	\$105	\$15,461
Tanzania	Middle	No	17,870	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$10,773	\$81,051
Thailand	Middle	No	27,338	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$16,480	\$86,759
United Kingdom	High	Yes	2	\$15,356	\$0	\$148,440	\$5	\$163,800
Yemen	Low	No	42,301	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$0	\$25,501	\$58,669
			<b>Total</b>	<b>445,319</b>	<b>445,319</b>	<b>1,781,275</b>	<b>1,781,275</b>	<b>4,453,186</b>

The World Bank has replaced GNP with gross national income (GNI per capita). GNI more fairly compares nations with widely different populations and standards of living.

## APPENDIX 7

### COMMUNICATION FROM IRAN

Dear Dr. Tanvir,  
Distinguished Chair,  
Honourable Members of the IOTC SCAF,

The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently among the Members with outstanding contributions to the IOTC budget. We wish to underline that the challenges faced by the Iran Fisheries Organization in meeting its financial obligations are neither technical, administrative, nor managerial in nature. Nor do they reflect any lack of commitment or willingness to fulfill our financial responsibilities toward the Commission.

The allocation of budget and payment of Iran's assessed contributions have consistently remained a priority and have been actively pursued by the financial and administrative departments of the Iran Fisheries Organization. However, severe constraints arising from international sanctions imposed on Iran have significantly restricted our ability to carry out international financial transactions. In particular, limitations affecting banking channels and financial transfers have seriously impeded routine financial operations, including the transfer of funds abroad. As a result, a considerable portion of Iran's financial resources remains blocked or inaccessible in foreign jurisdictions.

It is important to emphasize that these restrictive measures have not only affected fisheries-related activities, but have also caused broader disruptions to trade and operational processes, including the import and export of fishery products. Furthermore, the scope of these sanctions has effectively extended to essential administrative and financial functions required for the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international organizations, including voluntary membership-based bodies such as the IOTC.

Accordingly, it should not be construed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is in any way indifferent to the objectives, mandate, or programme of work of the IOTC.

These constraints, alongside their impact on other sectors, have also affected the fisheries sector and have resulted in unintended limitations in the full implementation of our obligations. We consider this situation to be an inequitable consequence of the prevailing financial restrictions.

It is evident that all countries seek to participate actively and on an equal footing within the framework of regional and international cooperation. The Iran Fisheries Organization regrets that, due to sanctions and the associated financial constraints, it has not been able to fulfill its financial obligations, including current and outstanding contributions, in a timely manner.

In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran will make every effort, in cooperation with the IOTC and FAO, to fulfill its obligations.

In closing, we express our sincere appreciation to all distinguished representatives of the Commission's Members, the representatives of FAO, the IOTC Secretariat, and the esteemed observers.

Respectfully yours,

Fariborz Rajaei  
Head of the Iranian Delegation  
Director General for Fisheries Affairs  
Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO)