

Thank you Chair,

I am making this intervention on behalf of the Iruka and Kujira Action Network.

The 1982 commercial whaling moratorium is one of the most successful decisions made to protect whale populations. While there are different opinions about the value of the moratorium within the IWC, this draft resolution is a step backwards in time.

We appreciate Japan's interest in having this resolution adopted by consensus but -- as already indicated by many contracting governments -- this is not possible. As this document is merely an extension of Japan's past arguments, there are no new ideas or concepts in the proposal that could allow consensus.

We also oppose this document because:

The proposed sustainable whaling committee will not permit contracting governments or observers who oppose commercial whaling to participate in its discussions. This undermines any chance of obtaining consensus within the IWC and it is inconsistent with conservation that not only contributes to whale protection but also is the basis of responsible marine resource management.

Changing voting rules so that schedule amendments can be passed with a simple majority will not address the deadlock on commercial whaling within the IWC. It will not lead to more comprehensive discussions but it could cause a rush to secure enough votes to ensure that one side wins and the other loses.

This resolution, if passed, will repeal the commercial whaling moratorium. The moratorium was originally developed because commercial whaling was mismanaged and whale populations were driven close to extinction due to overhunting and malicious violation of regulations. Repealing the moratorium is a mistake that could reverse decades of whale population recovery.

While we appreciate the professional tone of the discussions on this issue and would support further discussion among governments and observers, we strongly oppose this draft resolution and encourage its rejection.

Thank you.