

**Media statement on the future of the IWC by the Chair of the IWC, Cristian Maquieira**

26 June 2009

Following the consensus resolution passed earlier this week by the International Whaling Commission, a meeting was convened of the support group in Madeira today.

The support group's role is to provide me with direction to the diplomatic process and to assist in the preparation of material for submission to the small working group, which will be convened in the latter part of this calendar year.

The members of the support group are Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Sweden, United States.

I wish to report that this was a very positive meeting with an excellent ambience, and the support group will meet again in Santiago, Chile in the week beginning 5 October 2009.

There is a determination to progress these issues in a timely fashion and I will report further progress after the meeting in Chile.