



**Statement by Rémi Parmentier, Senior Policy Advisor, Pew Environment Group**

(Anchorage, Alaska) For the first time this week, a new Agenda Item “The IWC in the Future” has been added to the Annual Meeting’s Agenda.

The Pew Environment Group is calling upon all IWC commissioners to seize this opportunity to bring the Commission into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, where – we believe – there is no place, no need for commercial whaling.

This discussion on the Future of the IWC will start with the consideration of two different reports:

- The report of the Japan-sponsored “IWC Normalization” meeting held in February 2007 in Tokyo, and
- The report of the Pew-sponsored Symposium on the Conservation of whales in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century held at UN Headquarter in April 2007.

The Pew-sponsored Symposium report provides a menu of options liable to help the IWC to move forward, away from its current impasse.

The choice is to continue business as usual or to modernize the 60 year old IWC.

Including:

- incorporating features of modern international environmental law such as a new dispute settlement mechanism,
- no reservations to new rules,
- no opting out of IWC rules, and
- provisions for amendments to the Convention,
- there should also be a Compliance Review Committee with new powers of enforcement, and of course
- the open-ended use of Article VIII whereby the moratorium is being circumvented through so-called “scientific” whaling needs to stop.

The Pew-sponsored symposium also suggested the involvement of a “higher” authority to help the IWC modernize and move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This could be done through the creation of

- an Independent World Commission,
- a Ministerial Summit on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IWC in 2009,
- an international Diplomatic Conference under UN auspices,
- recommendations by an Independent Group of Qualified Eminent Persons, or even
- a mutually agreed binding mediation or arbitration procedure.

It is urgent to integrate whale conservation into broader oceans biodiversity and species conservation agendas and instruments, and maybe to give again consideration to bringing the IWC under the framework of the UN.

We look forward to hearing the views of commissioners on these constructive proposals, and Pew will continue to undertake multi-stakeholder dialogues to secure whale conservation.

###