

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

Circular No.: 2017/39

Date: 5 June 2017

No. pages: 2

**Regarding Draft Guidelines to Govern the Participation of Observers in CMS Working
Group Sessions**

Dear All,

The Secretariat received the enclosed communication in response to Circular 2017/24 on draft guidelines to govern the participation of observers in CMS working group sessions.

A copy of this communication has been provided to the United States who is presently leading the development of the guidelines. As requested, the letter is circulated for general information.

Yours sincerely,



Feleti Penitala Teo, **OBE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Government of Kiribati

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development

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File Ref:

30th May, 2017

Feleti Teo
Executive Director
Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
Phonpei, FSM

Dear Feleti,

Re: Guidelines to Govern the Participation of Observers in CMS Working Group Sessions

In reference to your Circular No 201/24 dated 3 April, 2017 on the draft guideline developed. The Government of the Kiribati acknowledges the efforts by United States in formulating this document to govern the observer participation at CMS working group sessions.

We have reviewed this draft guideline and note that there are missing elements in the draft guideline to safeguard Small Island Developing States like Kiribati who continue to struggle with their limited resources and small administration to implement the decisions agreed by the Commission. Kiribati therefore supports the proposal by the Republic of Marshall Islands to await outcome of the audit report which may provide members with comprehensive information to assist with the decision making on this matter.

Kindly request that this be circulated to all members for their consideration

Yours respectively,

Naomi Biribo

Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development

Tarawa

Kiribati