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Para: Sánchez Serrano, José Juan <josej.sanchez@ciencia.gob.es>

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Asunto: Spanish comment to the Updated Table of Financial Contributions

Dear Prof. Sanchez Serrano,

Thank you for the message with feedback on the updated table of contributions. The global pandemic adds a complicated layer over GBIF planning and we appreciate your input.

I attach a draft cover letter that will go with the Updated Table of Financial Contribution document to the GB28 attendees. It gives more context. A clear message is that the core work of the Secretariat has greatly increased and expectations have also increased.

The Executive Committee does not want to open a discussion on the Financial Model or any elements of the MOU at this time, especially not during a virtual meeting. A discussion of the five-year limit as an Associate Participant would fall under the second category as it is specified in the MOU. The CODATA 20-year review does recommend looking at participation arrangements as a longer-term strategy, and the draft 2022 Work Programme includes a work item (under Activity 1e) to review the current status and models of participation in GBIF both at national and organization level, with a view to developing recommendations for the new implementation period at GB29.

The financial model works well, and with it the GBIF Voting Participants have delivered stable core funding over the past 5-year period – an improvement on the previous planning period. Updating the table (every 5 years) is an integral part of the model. Enlarging the budget is the advice of the review; that must be agreed upon in the GB.

GBIF is growing. We now have 41 Voting Participants, four more than in 2013. We very much would like to bring Italy and Greece in as active GBIF participants and have had extensive discussions with relevant officials and partners in both countries, including through LifeWatch affiliates. We would appreciate any assistance in this matter and we will speak to LifeWatch ERIC as you suggest.

I look forward to seeing you at virtual GB28 in October.

Sincerely,
Joe

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