

STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS

REGIONAL WEBINAR ON THE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT FOR EUROPE (27 January 2022)

THE PARTICIPANTS,

RECALLING the adoption of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 ("the Cape Town Agreement") on 11 October 2012 by the International Conference on the Safety of Fishing Vessels ("the International Conference") held in Cape Town, South Africa,

RECALLING ALSO the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular SDG 8 on productive employment and decent work for all and SDG 14 on conservation and use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

RECALLING FURTHER the adoption of the Torremolinos Statement on the Cape Town Agreement of 2012, relating to fishing vessel safety and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, by the Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and IUU Fishing held in Torremolinos, Spain, from 21 to 23 October 2019,

ENCOURAGED BY the determination of the 51 signatory States of the Torremolinos Declaration on the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the implementation of the provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 ("the Torremolinos Declaration"),

NOTING the European Council Directive 97/70/EC of 11 December 1997, setting up a harmonized safety regime for fishing vessels of 24 meters in length and over, based on the Torremolinos Protocol and that the European States already implement more stringent safety requirements than those of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement,

NOTING ALSO the European Council Decision of 17 February 2014, authorizing Member States to sign, ratify or accede to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977,

RECOGNIZING the importance of global cooperation and partnerships to promote the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 and that the ultimate effectiveness of the instrument depends upon the widespread support of States, in their capacities as flag, port and coastal States,

REMAINING CONVINCED that the unacceptably high number of occupational fatalities of fishing vessel personnel and of fishing vessels reported lost every year could be reduced by global, uniform and effective implementation of the Cape Town Agreement,

BEING CONCERNED about the hazardous working conditions on board fishing vessels, and the fact that unsafe working conditions are exacerbated when fishing vessels are poorly designed, constructed and maintained,

NOTING WITH CONCERN the proliferation of IUU fishing practices and recognizing the need to eliminate such practices from the world's seas and oceans in order to help ensure biologically sustainable levels of fish stocks for future generations,

NOTING WITH CONCERN the environmental (including biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation), social, cultural, economic, human health, and human right impacts of plastics pollution that is caused due to unlawful fishing practices in our region,

NOTING ALSO the importance of the technical assistance provided in accordance with Article 2(e) of the IMO Convention, as an important element for building and strengthening capacity for the ratification and implementation of international instruments,

NOTING FURTHER Assembly resolution A.1161(32) on the *Entry into force and implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement*, urging Governments that have not yet become parties to the Agreement to consider doing so by 11 October 2022,

GREATLY APPRECIATING the efforts and contributions made by the Governments of Croatia, France (co-host), Iceland and Spain towards organizing and coordinating this Regional Webinar,

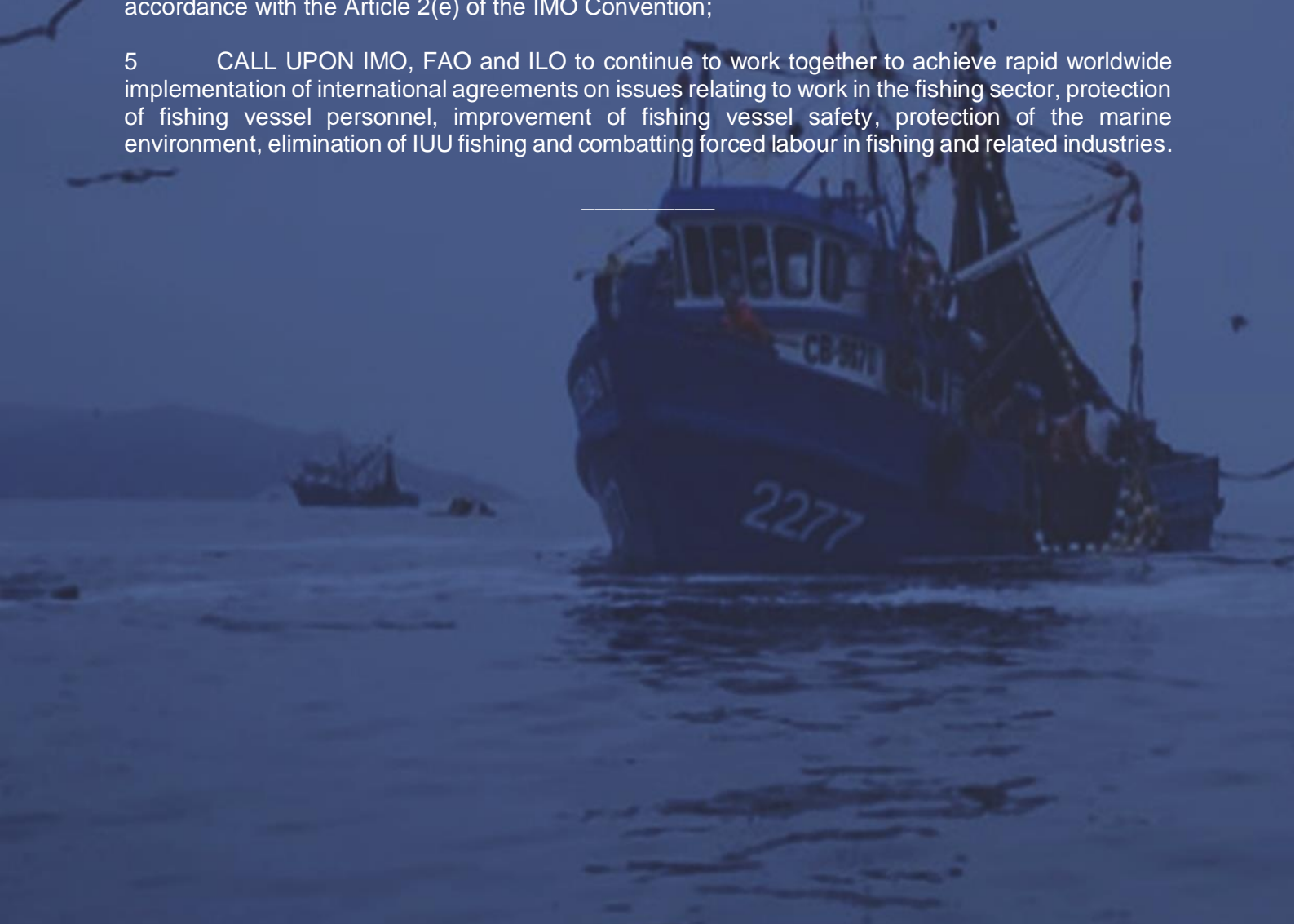
1 EXPRESS their appreciation to the moderators, speakers and participants for the information and expert advice they provided on the latest activities being undertaken by Administrations, international regulators and the fishing sector to enhance fishing vessel safety;

2 URGE interested States to consider taking action to become Parties to the Cape Town Agreement by the tenth anniversary of its adoption (11 October 2022);

3 ENCOURAGE States to take action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, consistent with their respective obligations under international law, and to recognize that the entry into force of the Cape Town Agreement will empower Parties to carry out inspections of foreign flag fishing vessels, thereby enhancing the transparency of fishing activities;

4 INVITE States that experience difficulties in the process of becoming Parties to the Cape Town Agreement to inform IMO of the circumstances thereof, so that consideration can be given to taking appropriate action in this respect, including providing necessary legal/technical assistance in accordance with the Article 2(e) of the IMO Convention;

5 CALL UPON IMO, FAO and ILO to continue to work together to achieve rapid worldwide implementation of international agreements on issues relating to work in the fishing sector, protection of fishing vessel personnel, improvement of fishing vessel safety, protection of the marine environment, elimination of IUU fishing and combatting forced labour in fishing and related industries.



REGIONAL WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS

IMO MEMBER STATES:

BELGIUM
BULGARIA
CROATIA
CYPRUS
DENMARK
ESTONIA
FAROEES
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
GREECE
ICELAND

IRELAND
ITALY
LATVIA
MALTA
NETHERLANDS (THE)
NORWAY
POLAND
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA
SLOVENIA
SPAIN
SWEDEN

UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES:

FAO

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

European Commission
European Parliament
Europêche
ITF

