

STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS

REGIONAL WEBINAR ON THE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND MEDITERRANEAN (13 to 14 April 2021)

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 sustainable 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"),

RECOGNIZING the importance of global cooperation and partnerships to promote the Cape Town Agreement 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,

AGREEING on the necessity 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 ALSO the importance of technical cooperation and technical assistance, including the participation of countries in the same region, as important elements for building and strengthening capacity for the implementation of international instruments,

GREATLY APPRECIATING the efforts and contributions made by the Governments of Morocco and Spain, FAO, ILO, IMO and the Pew Charitable Trusts 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 States to consider taking action to become Parties to the Cape Town Agreement preferably 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 technical assistance;

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 and elimination of IUU fishing, and combatting forced labour in fishing and related industries.



REGIONAL WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS

IMO MEMBER STATES:

CYPRUS
DJIBOUTI
EGYPT
JORDAN
LEBANON
MAURITANIA
MOROCCO

PANAMA
SAUDI ARABIA
SPAIN
SUDAN
TURKEY
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
YEMEN

UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

The Pew Charitable Trusts

