

STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS

REGIONAL WEBINAR ON THE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT FOR AFRICA (23 to 24 February 2021)

THE PARTICIPANTS,

RECALLING the International Conference on the Safety of Fishing Vessels ("the International Conference") held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 11 October 2012, which adopted 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 Agreement"),

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

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

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 "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 continuing and alarmingly high number of fishing vessel personnel fatalities and of fishing vessels reported lost every year could be reduced by global, uniform and effective implementation of the Agreement,

BEING CONCERNED about the hazardous working conditions fishing vessel personnel encounter at sea, 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 the necessity to eliminate such activities 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, which are important elements for building and strengthening capacity for the implementation of international instruments,

GREATLY APPRECIATING the efforts and contributions made by the Governments of Ghana, Liberia, Namibia, South Africa and Spain, FAO, ILO, IMO and the Pew Charitable Trusts for organizing and coordinating the Regional Webinar,

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

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

3 ENCOURAGE States to take actions 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 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 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:

BENIN
BURKINA FASO
CABO VERDE
CAMEROON
COMOROS
CONGO
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
ETHIOPIA
GABON
GAMBIA
GHANA
GUINEA
KENYA
LIBERIA
MADAGASCAR

MAURITANIA
MAURITIUS
MOZAMBIQUE
MYANMAR
NAMIBIA
NIGER
NIGERIA
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
SENEGAL
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALIA
SOUTH AFRICA
TOGO
UGANDA
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES:

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

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Commission de l'Océan Indien (COI)
Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)
Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (IOMOU)
Marine Stewardship Council
Oceans 5
Stella Maris
Stop Illegal Fishing
The PEW Charitable Trusts
Trygg Mat Tracking
West and Central Africa Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (ABUJA MOU)