Thank you Chair,

We welcome that more efforts will be made to better connect fisheries and aquaculture to other relevant SDGs. The aim of fisheries and aquaculture is to produce food.

We find it especially important to ensure that aquatic foods are a visible part of the work to achieve the SDG2: food security, better nutrition and sustainable food production and SDG 12.3: reducing food loss and waste.

We also welcome that the FAO will continue to be engaged with partners from various action tracks of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), as well as the upcoming session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture are well-represented in the food systems dialogues.

We support that the development of the new FAO Strategic Framework emphasizes the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and commend the breakdown into the four aspirations: Better production, Better nutrition, a Better environment and a Better life. Future reporting of FAO’s achievements in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the context of FAO’s Strategic Framework broken down in the same aspirations will be favourable.

We welcome the evolution of the Blue Growth Initiative into the Blue Transformation Program and that this program will be anchored in the four objectives as described in point 53.

We do, however, find it difficult to recognize implications for the aquaculture sector in the reporting of global development and trends. It should among other things, reflect the work that has been done in fighting AMR, especially the Tripartite work (FAO, OIE and WHO); as well as how sustainable aquaculture development will be essential for food security in the future.

Thank you.