

INTERVENTION OF ARGENTINA ON ITEM 11.1: *“11.1. Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across fisheries and aquaculture”*

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Argentina welcomes the concept of “Other effective area-based conservation measures” emanating from Decision 14/8 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB), held in November 2018, and shares FAO’s view in relation to the fundamental role that fisheries plays in preserving ocean biodiversity and the contribution to human welfare, in a much broader manner than marine protected areas.

Indeed, Goal 5 of SDG 14 does not make a specific reference to the constitution of Marine Protected Areas, nor does clarify the areas that would apply to. Rather, it refers to the need to conserve broadly coastal and marine zones. On the other side, Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, whose Parties are currently negotiating a new Global Framework for Biological Diversity later 2020, specifically refers to “other effective area-based conservation measures”.

In this regard, it would be of the utmost importance that FAO continue reinforcing this concept and collaborate with the corresponding organizations responsible for measuring compliance with goal 14.5, demonstrating the great positive impact that the implementation of fisheries management measures has on biodiversity that determine closure areas or restricted efforts, which beyond its main objective of the protection of fisheries resources, under certain conditions, collaborate with the protection against loss of biological diversity and the destruction of habitats or the ecosystems structure and function.

The concept of “other effective area-based conservation measures”

as it has been defined at the 2018 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), represents an important opportunity for countries, such as Argentina and Uruguay, with solid fisheries management, which have established reliably and with strict control, and which have demonstrated vast fisheries closed areas in order to protect biological processes relevant to sustainability of population that constitute its main fishing resources, **can fully comply with the commitments made in relation to Aichi Target 11 and SDG 14.5.**