

INTERVENTION OF PERU

Item 12: Enhancing COFI discussions on fisheries management: Proposal for a new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

(DPO participation)

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Peru would like to thank, first, to the work of the joint action of the Group, in particular to State Members that comprise it, which has carried out the consultation process on the creation of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. Likewise, we recognize the role of the FAO Committee and its Sub-Committees, as a global forum where the main international matters and problems of fisheries and aquaculture are discussed.

Our country considers necessary the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management that tackles, among others, management focused on small-scale and artisanal fisheries, mainly in developing countries. For Peru, in the Presidency of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, which will be celebrated in 2022, it is particularly important.

Cases as the artisanal fishing boats that incidentally can operate in international water for environmental causes, and for short periods, can be discussed in this Sub-Committee, which can contribute to the protection of the right to work and food for a large number of fishermen. In this regard, the proposal to strengthen the relationship with regional fisheries management organisations on capture fisheries acquires special relevance and deserves to be examined with particular care.

The creation of this new Sub-Committee could give a wider approach for technical assistance to countries in the development on artisanal fisheries; it is necessary, in order to not duplicate efforts with the existing sub-committees, to precisely delimitate the issues that need to be addressed. In this case, we would like to suggest the need to tackle the formalization process of artisanal fisheries and the necessary conditions for the development of their activities in international waters with equity, security and environmental sustainability.

For this reason, our country has evaluated the proposed option for this Joint Action Group, accepting the proposal C to create a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, agreeing with the need to undertake a deeper analysis of the actual process of the Committee on Fisheries in order to be reviewed at COFI 35, with a more inclusive participation of Member States.

Finally, we would like to add that, aware of the challenges triggered by the global COVID-19 pandemic, innovative mechanisms of voluntary contributions should be considered until a long-term financing formula is found, as well as the use of tools that today technology offers us to continue having this meetings.

Thank you.