

Statement by Uganda Under Agenda Item 12: Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

Thirty-fourth Session 1-5 February 2021

Agenda item 12: PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SUB-COMMITTEE OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COFI/2020/10

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Uganda welcomes the proposal to create a new sub-committee of fisheries management and is committed to contributing constructively to all discussions regarding to this proposal.

i. Concerns on roles of COFI

- ❖ During COFI meetings majorly trade and aquaculture issues are discussed since they are explored in depth at sub-committee levels.
- ❖ COFI due to lack of a fisheries management technical sub -committee does not sufficiently discuss fisheries management issues or capture fisheries technical issues.
- ❖ Considering the COFI agenda for meetings, the current focus other than trade and aquaculture is mostly on cross cutting issues and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. This implies the meeting gives little or no attention to fisheries management issues. Therefore, the two sub committees currently can't sufficiently discuss capture fisheries management issues i.e. IUU fishing, CCRF and related instruments in relation to regional processes in fisheries management as well as Co-management in fisheries.

ii. Terms of Reference for existing COFI sub committees

- ❖ There is need to provide an elaborate TORs for the capture fisheries /fisheries management sub-committee.
- ❖ The fisheries management aspects (Capture fisheries management context) i.e. effort management regulations, transboundary fisheries management, inland small - scale fisheries, co-management in fisheries among others which are not covered under any of the existing sub-committees will essentially come under this sub-committee.
- ❖ Other issues that can come under the new sub-committee include; Research, Control of invasive aquatic weed, MCS activities.

Uganda supports the proposal to set up a new Sub-Committee of Fisheries Management COFI/2020/10.