



**Remarks of the Head of Delegates of the Republic of Indonesia
for the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries
1-5 February 2021**

Distinguished Chair and delegates,

At the outset, I would like to thank FAO Secretariat for good preparatory work leading to today's important event.

As an archipelagic country with rich marine biodiversity and high number of coastal communities, Indonesia believes on the importance of transforming challenges in the fisheries sector into opportunities and works hard to ensure that our actions are balanced with the needs and prosperity of the people, while ensuring healthy ocean environment.

Against this background, there are some pertinent points that my delegation would like to highlight as follows:

FIRST, in many countries, including in Indonesia, small-scale fisheries sector plays important role in supporting economic and social growth, particularly among the coastal communities. Therefore, it is vital to provide necessary supports that will enable small-scale fishers to work in a sustainable manner.

Furthermore, many small-scale fishers are facing challenges in marketing their products due to market access issues and trade technical barriers. In this regard, Indonesia would like to emphasize the importance of ensuring trade in fisheries as a win-win mechanism, and not a zero-sum game.

Indonesia would like to encourage the FAO and its members to work together in further improving fisheries sector, including within the framework of facilitating the integration of small-scale fishers to higher value chains. We also call upon the international markets to provide enough space for flexibility products from small scale fisheries.

SECOND, as stated in the report State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020 (SOFIA 2020), Indonesia notes that aquaculture is expected to overtake total capture fisheries production by 2022.

Taking into consideration the strategic importance of the aquaculture sector, Indonesia reiterates the importance of FAO to provide support for developing countries and small-scale operators to develop the aquaculture sector, and therefore enable them to participate more effectively in the aquaculture trade-related activities.

THIRD, taking into consideration the growing challenges brought by impacts of Covid-19 pandemic to the fisheries sector, Indonesia views that it is important to share best practices and implement breakthrough and innovative solutions.

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Toward this objective, the Indonesian Government has undertaken concrete measures at the domestic level, such as providing economic stimulus and social care programs for fisherfolks, and strengthening fish trading and logistic. Another concrete measure is by facilitating access of the Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the fisheries sector to online market platform that could support fish trading activities.

In this vein, it is also important to avoid creating unnecessary trade barriers in the fisheries sector, particularly amidst the uncertainty brought by the Covid-19 pandemics. In this regard, we would like to encourage FAO and its members to increase international cooperation aimed at promoting data and import requirements transparency in international trade.

On this note, we would like to call on FAO and its Members in supporting the development of small-scale fisheries including through the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines).

Lastly, it is vital for all of us to translate our commitment into concrete actions that could bring real impacts toward the coastal communities and ensure sustainable future of our ocean. It is, therefore, Indonesia takes note with appreciation of the adoption of the 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, later today, that we believe should highlight the importance of both fisheries and aquaculture in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 1, 2, 3 and 14. Taking into account the elaboration of the Declaration, we highlight the importance of having an open and inclusive process on the discussion of future multilateral documents.

Indeed, we have only one ocean, and thus we need to do our best in working together to protect our ocean and build a sustainable ocean economy for our common prosperity.

Thank you very much.