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My Ref. No: FD/PA0/2/SF:2/V.6/143

Your Ref. No:.....

27TH JANUARY, 2020

A WRITTEN STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSSHIPMENT GUIDELINES BY MR. MICHAEL ARTHUR-DADZIE, ESQ. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FISHERIES COMMISSION GHANA AT THE 34TH VIRTUAL SESSION OF COFI/FAO 1-5 FEBRUARY, 2020

Recognizing the inadequacies in the current oversight, monitoring and regulatory controls of at-sea transshipment and the high probability that it could lead to and possibly leading to misreporting, under reporting and non-reporting, it is crucial that prompt measures are put in place to streamline it.

A clear and unambiguous monitoring and reporting guidelines will greatly help provide a roadmap to effective oversight and increased information sharing amongst relevant Authorities, States, and RFMOs.

It is in line with the above that Ghana regards the proposal to develop transshipment guidelines for relevant authorities, States and RFMOs a timely intervention and an appropriate one. Sustainable fisheries management is not an issue that only concerns the fisheries sector. The current state of world fisheries and the serious signals we are receiving by way of dwindling stocks, climate change effects and habit degradation, to mention just a few, are indicative of how serious the challenges are and the urgent need for all actors to act without further hesitation and unnecessary delays to curb the canker.

Fisheries globally continue to play a pivotal role in the economies of many nations by providing employment, revenues and socio-cultural relevance. It must be realized that increasing human population, effect of climate change and continuous habit degradation all point to an obvious outcome as far as sustainable fisheries management is concerned; that is the collapse of fisheries globally.

The fisheries sector is plagued with a lot of challenges but with our collective effort and resolve, we can mitigate and eliminate these challenges. All of us herein gathered are aiming at a day and time when challenges confronting fisheries shall be seen to have reduced to the barest minimum or possibly eradicated.

Global fisheries need FAO to lead the charge, as they have continuously done through the years, to help manage fisheries sustainably. Naturally, close co-operation with FAO by authorities, member States, and RFMOs is more needed than ever. Transshipment at sea as it is now, needs to be streamlined to ensure all possible avenues of illegal activities are eliminated. Ghana is in full

support and agreement of the proposal to develop such guidelines to help facilitate at sea transshipment. Ghana is therefore respectfully calling on all authorities, States and RFMOs to see the significance of such guidelines and lend their full support and also fully participate in the 34th COFI discussions.

Finding solutions to the challenges confronting global fisheries, though seem challenging we can count ourselves as part of those who participated in the discourse to finding solutions to global fisheries challenges. The time to act is now.

I thank you sincerely for your kind attention.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the printed name.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHAEL ARTHUR-DADZIE (ESQ)