

Statement Switzerland

Agenda item 9 - Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

We would like to offer the perspective of a market state that has no marine fishing fleet and no fishing ports. Switzerland is not part of the EU, but has implemented import controls similar to the EU Catch Certification Scheme to protect its market from illegally caught fish.

We very much welcome the different tools and initiatives the FAO is working on in the framework of the Port State Measures Agreement, and applaud all Member States that are working hard to successfully implementing the agreement.

We are especially looking forward to the **PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES)**, in the hope that the shared information **will also assist us to improve our import risk-assessment**.

Like port states, market states rely on accurate and timely information for their risk-assessment. It is important to receive information about specific seafood consignments, but also information on how well international agreements have been implemented in different countries.

Information will facilitate trade - the more information is available the fewer verifications have to be conducted and the faster seafood products can be imported. In this context, we encourage the **harmonization and information sharing among existing and future Catch Documentation Schemes**. We would like to share information on our seafood imports with other countries, but **there is a lack of a global information exchange mechanism**. We suggest that the creation of such a system should be explored and discussed; possibly as part of the new guidance document, the FAO is developing to assist States in establishing national catch documentation and seafood traceability systems.

Further, Switzerland welcomes the FAO in-depth study on transshipments and **supports the development of international transshipment guidelines** to improve oversight, monitoring and regulatory controls based on best practice.

Finally, we wish to take this opportunity to recall the importance of concluding the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies as soon as possible.