

Statement by Uganda Under Agenda Item 9: Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

34th Session (1-5 February 2021)

Agenda Item 9: COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (COFI/2020/7)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Uganda is party to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and remains committed to the measures to deter, prevent IUU fishing and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing. And through FAO-Uganda office, Uganda has continued to receive capacity development support for implementation of the PSMA and these measures are geared towards enhancing monitoring, control MCS and surveillance, supported by SMART-FISH project.

Uganda has used and implemented International instruments, facilitated by FAO, to combat IUU fishing. FAO has supported the development of a number national legal instruments to combat IUU fishing including: the National Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy 2018-policy document that guides the sector; Reformulation of National Fisheries & Aquaculture Bill, 2020 that is now under legal drafting; Reviewed Fish (Fishing) Rules, 2010; and Fish (Stocking & Restocking) Rules 2020 under formulation. Uganda, however, still needs capacity building in addressing IUU.

Uganda appreciates FAOs effort in providing voluntary guidelines (2017) for catch documentation schemes which have contributed to addressing issues of IUU particularly in respect to improving traceability of fisheries products. In relation Uganda in its “The Fish (Fishery & Aquaculture) (Quality Assurance) Rules 2017” emphasize all fish actors to create a traceability system for fish destined for national, regional and international markets. Only industrial level certified fish processing establishments with a traceability plan are allowed to export and Fisheries Inspectors are placed at gazzetted points to check compliance of the fish and fishery products exiting the country.

LVFO as an RFMO has continued to have a crucial role in combating IUU fishing on Lake Victoria. Uganda appreciates the collaboration between FAO and LVFO and calls for further support in development of standardized vessel tracking technologies on East African transboundary fisheries.

With the foregoing, Uganda notes the status of the international negotiations on elimination of subsidies that contribute to IUU and fully supports it. Uganda further commends FAO efforts on development of technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing and fully recommends the use of these guidelines.

Thank you