

2 February 2021

Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative Statement related to Agenda item 9 of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries

Thank you Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates.

I would like to make use of this opportunity to commend the FAO on the advancements made overall in combatting IUU fishing through the implementation of relevant international instruments, in particular the PSMA and the Global Record. However, with the 2020 deadline for SDG target 14.4 to end IUU fishing passed it is essential to continue and strengthen the efforts to combat IUU fishing.

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative, or GSSI, is working with the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship, the Global Tuna Alliance, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, and the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability to progress and accelerate our collective efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Together these groups represent over 120 retailers and seafood companies from across the globe.

To this end the groups welcome the growing global commitment towards the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), and

- urge all FAO Members to become a Party to the Agreement.
- urge all Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to adopt PSMs that are aligned with PSMA requirements
- urge that information about all internationally operating is uploaded to the FAO Global Record of fishing vessels by June 2021

The groups believe that if industry and governments act together, fishers engaged in IUU activities will have nowhere to land or sell their catch and we will support government efforts to build capacity and adopt practices consistent with PSMA standards in ports where catches are routinely landed or transshipped for company supply chains.

Together we can achieve SDG target 14.4 and end IUU fishing.

Thank you Mr. Chair