

Item 4. State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments (COFI/2022/2, COFI/2022/2.1, COFI/2022/INF/7)

Mr. Chair,

Brazil welcomes the fifteenth edition of the FAO report on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA). This publication has a long-standing record of relevant contribution as a respected reference on recent trends and prospects in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The most recent edition once again confirms the key role of aquatic foods in providing adequate nutrition and contributing to global food security.

With regard to Brazil, the FAO publication reveals the importance of aquaculture and Brazil's position among the top producers of aquatic animals (630 thousand tons 2020, 13th position), particularly finfish (552 thousand tons in 2020, 8th position), and crustaceans (63 thousand tons in 2020, 10th position). The document also shows that Brazil is among the world's top producers of inland water capture fisheries, even though our participation remains relatively low in that area (2% of the total, 2020) and we still face significant challenges on proper data collection.

Looking ahead to 2030, the FAO report forecasts a production growth in Brazil's fisheries and aquaculture sector (14.1% and 19.3%, respectively) in line with the overall world trend, but certainly below our potential.

In this regard, Brazil has recently conducted a large-scale assessment of more than 50 fish stocks. This will benefit not only the design and implementation of new sustainable management measures, in light of ecosystem approach, but also the completeness of the information and the assessment carried out in the SOFIA report.

We, therefore, stress the importance of FAO's consultation with competent governmental bodies before the publication of information attributable to specific countries.

Brazil remains committed to contributing to ensure the relevance and accuracy of the FAO SOFIA report. As part of this engagement, we also support and regularly contribute the FAO monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. We take this opportunity to call on all members and the secretariat to work together to improve these monitoring activities at the same time that we strive for more progress in implementing the Code of Conduct.

Thank you.