

**Item 8. Enhancing COFI discussions including recommendations of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (COFI/2022/6)**

Mr. Chair,

Brazil would like to start by recognizing your excellent work in coordinating the six meetings of the Working Group convened after COFI-34 to discuss the creation of a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.

We also want to thank all other members that have engaged in the Working Group's discussions, which led to the current proposal.

Brazil supports the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management as described in paragraph 18 of document COFI/2022/6, with the Terms of Reference in its Appendix 1.

As we are all aware, COFI's agenda has grown in intensity and complexity over the years, depriving us of the time and opportunity to properly deal with the subject of fisheries management. The very limited 2-minute interventions for this COFI is testament to that.

Brazil understands that the new Sub-Committee will be essential for holding detailed and technical discussions on fisheries management. One theme of particular importance for Brazil is SSF, which we hope to be able to discuss in a more in-depth manner in the new Sub-Committee.

As we move towards the conclusion of this debate, however, we reiterate that developing country members must be given the opportunity and means to participate in the Sub-Committee. For this reason, we attach great importance to the future creation of the multi-donor fund to provide the minimum level of funding support for developing members to participate in the meetings. We call for all developed country members and other donors, including companies, stakeholder groups, and NGOs, to contribute to the future robustness of this fund.

To conclude, hoping that the creation of the Sub-Committee can be approved, we highlight the need for a definition of the date and the agenda for its first meeting. Brazil is open to contribute to this process.

Thank you.