

Thank you Mr Chairman,

We would like to second the statements by Madagascar and South Africa.

For The Gambia, the prevention and elimination of IUU fishing is vital to our economy and to our livelihoods.

Let's not forget that fishing is one of our most important industries and one that is dangerous both to our fisher people, as well as to sustainability of marine resources.

We must ensure that fish resources are well managed and controlled, which is not the case today in our part of the world - and we see the effects from this.

Our country is seeing significant exposure to risks relating to IUU fishing, climate change and other global trends that have become challenges to our fisher people and for sustainability of fish resources.

For this reason, we ask that the FAO create momentum on the issue of how IUU and related threats are challenging especially developing states that have less opportunity to manage, control and keep data on IUU fishing.

The Gambia appreciates the efforts of the Joint Working Group on IUU and Related Matters and are interested in joining efforts capacity building and training, controls and also on collecting data on fisher mortality which is so difficult for many countries with these challenges. Data is vital to make important policy changes in the right direction for both fish and for people.

The Gambia understands the importance of and tragically also the amounts of deaths related to fishing as we are faced with fisher mortality almost every day. The FAOs Executive Statement, paragraph 3 outlines this issue and we ask that we may work together to understand the real situation for the world's fisher people and also the ramification for fish stocks.

We also urge the FAO to develop a process that can ensure that the members of the FAO together can establish a data collection repository on global fisher accident and mortality data and to work to provide protection to fishers and in accordance with several decisions already taken with regards especially to the small-scale sector.

Thank you Chairman

The Gambia