

FAO COFI 2022
Statement of Iceland under agenda item 4

Mr Chair

Iceland welcomes the publication of the new SOFIA report, as the central information source of fisheries on a global scale.

FAO has a unique role when it comes to fisheries and aquaculture, as the only global body with technical capacity in this field. Therefore, the FAO Secretariat must ensure that the organisation maintains top level technical expertise regarding fisheries.

Iceland has had good interaction with the Director General of FAO, Dr Qu, and trust that he ensures that the Fisheries Division gets the prominence it needs to have within the organisation. Our good cooperation with the Director of the Fisheries Division, Manuel Barange, gives us confidence that resources given to the Fisheries Division continue to be well placed.

The UN Food Systems Summit last year leaves COFI members with the task to follow up on the pledges made there, including relating to the FAO-based Coordination Hub, national convenors with national pathways and not least mobilising the Coalitions that emerged at the summit. Only one of these Coalitions specifically addresses nutrition from inland waters and the ocean, the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition. COFI should recognise the work of the national convenors, the Coordination Hub and the Coalition for Aquatic and Blue food as highly relevant for the FAO Fisheries Division. We should also continue to recognise the importance the Global Action Network for Nutrition, as it and the Coalition compliment and amplify each other's mission.

Thank you, Mr. Chair