

FAO COFI 2022
Statement of Iceland under agenda item 7

Mr Chair

There are thankfully many areas in the world where IUU fishing is not a significant issue. I mention this for two reasons. Firstly, to ensure that we don't over-generalise and that we recognise the varying situations when focusing our efforts. Secondly, to demonstrate that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Good results in some areas shows that success is possible, although simple copy-paste will unfortunately not work.

FAO plays a very important role in anti-IUU efforts. Both as a forum for cooperation and coordination - and in supporting efforts of states and regional organisations. Iceland welcomes the efforts of FAO in this context, including the work of Mr. Matthew Camileri and his team in capacity building and supporting members to implement international instruments. We encourage FAO to continue strengthening this important work.

Iceland welcomes the emphasis in FAO on Port State Measures and related work, including GIES, as a good and cost-effective way of fighting IUU fishing. Eliminating IUU fishing is not a simple task and calls for concerted efforts of flag states, coastal states, port states and market states. Cooperation is the key factor and unilateral measures should be avoided, particularly when it comes to trade.

To conclude,

Iceland welcomes the conclusion of the Technical Consultations on Guidelines for Transshipment and supports endorsing the Guidelines as well as their implementation by states and RFMOs.

Iceland supports Norway's intervention on bringing forward the work on vessel monitoring.