

## **NORWAY (speaking points)**

### **Agenda item 7 - Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**

Chair,

Norway is committed to end IUU fishing.

Therefore, the Norwegian delegation is pleased to see progress on many areas since COFI 34, for example by the finalisation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies by the World Trade Organization.

However, we have not reached the target. Therefore, the Norwegian delegation encourage efficient and coordinated efforts from FAO and its members to effectively implement the PSMA (port state measures agreement) and other relevant instruments.

We also endorse the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment and encourage all members of FAO to bring the guidelines to life through the different RFMOs.

Norway is certain that there is a need to establish a binding global agreement that requires use of vessel tracking systems on board fishing vessels and a requirement to share position data between relevant governments, to further improve Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of fisheries and maximize transparency. This would also support the implementation of the Rome Declaration on IUU Fishing from 2005, the Port State Measures Agreement and the new guidelines on transshipment.

However, as a first step and to start the conversation on this subject Norway call FAO to initiate a technical workshop for FAO members to identify and investigate relevant issues on vessel tracking, including the potential of the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) to serve as an exchange hub between governments. The results from this workshop should be followed up by the new sub-committee on fisheries management for further consideration and advice to FAO and COFI.

Progress on the use of vessel tracking systems will advance information sharing to enable greater international collaboration and promote transparency and traceability throughout the seafood supply chain. To this end, the Norwegian delegation welcomes and support the new IUU coalition initiated by USA, UK and Canada.

Thank you.