

Statement

35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (5-9 September 2022)

Item 16.1: Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of COFI

Mr. Chair,

1. We would like to stress the importance of The Second United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) that was held in Lisbon between 26 June and 1 July, to “Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Conference adopted the declaration entitled “Our Ocean, our future, our responsibility”, that identify the challenges and establish an action plan with priorities for fulfilling SDG 14.
2. The event was a notable success, both at the substantive level and at level of participation. More than 6 500 people attended the Conference, notably 3950 delegates from 159 UN member countries,
3. The outcomes of the conference focus on issues related to the mandate of the Fisheries Commission to safeguard healthy oceans and contribute to the resilience of food systems.
4. Along with the call for urgent measures needed to fulfil SDG 14, the adopted Action Plan also includes relevant references to the Climate Ocean nexus, the role of science and knowledge sharing, sustainability and biodiversity, the fight against oceans’ pollution, the full water cycle approach, and the role of partnerships.
5. Almost 700 voluntary commitments were registered, announced in the plenary sessions, as well as in the eight interactive dialogues, four special events and more than 250 side events.
6. One of the side events of the Conference was an extraordinary meeting of The Ministers for Sea Affairs of the Member States of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), held on 29 June 2022, to sign the agreement establishing the "Cooperation Platform, for the Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries and prevention, combating and eliminating illegal fishing, Undeclared and Unregulated (IUU).
7. The Conference held eight Interactive Dialogues (DI), including on “making fishing more sustainable and allowing artisanal fishing segment access to marine resources and markets”. The dialogues’ outcomes are published in the Conference web page.
8. As pointed out in the working document, FAO had a prominent participation in the Conference. The launch at Conference of the 2022 edition of the State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture report was a key highlight. DGFAO headed the FAO delegation. Also, DDG Maria Helena Semedo had an active participation.
9. Finally, it should also be noted that in a particularly difficult international political context, UNOC showed the vitality of multilateralism. Portugal is proud to contribute to the international agenda on matters related to the oceans and to the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.