Thank you Mr. Chairman, Seychelles would like to join the other members in congratulating and thanking FAO for the presentation of the State of World Fisheries in the 2022 report including showcasing the contribution and importance of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and job creation.

Seychelles command the FAO for providing this overview including trends and threats, of which these information are useful for policy decisions both nationally and regionally.

As a Small Island State, Seychelles has experienced at firsthand the importance of fisheries to food security, especially from our small-scale artisanal fisheries, during the height of the pandemic, and also of its economic contribution which kept our small economy alive during the height of the pandemic, when we were physically cut off from the rest of the world and our tourism industry on its knee.

Thus, Seychelles fully support the FAO in the implementation of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fishing and on sustainable fisheries.

However, Seychelles remain concern of the state of stock of some species, especially in our region and call on members of the Committee to Cooperation especially in Regional Fisheries Bodies and to strengthen the governance of such bodies to ensure sustainability of the common resources. We are also concern on the impact of climate change on these fisheries resources.

Seychelles also commends the FAO on the effort being done to fight against IUU fishing, and recognise the important work it continue to undertake in this domain through the various initiative.

Seychelles is a member of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and has produced two FiTI transparency reports in line with the transparency standards, and is aiming to be the champion of transparency in fisheries, and as such invite members to also consider this initiative which can be complimentary to the SIOFA reporting.

Seychelles will continue to fully support the FAO with the provision of accurate and timely provision of information for the future compilation of the SIOFA reports.

Thank you Mr. Chair.