

IUU Agenda intervention

Seychelles would like to thank the FAO and the Committee for the continued progress on works to deter, prevent and eliminate IUU fishing globally and on the additional tools in support of the implementation of the PSMA and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Seychelles acceded to the PSMA in 2014 and is implementing the Agreement.

Seychelles particularly welcomes the development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, and the Technical Guidelines for the implementation of the Voluntary Catch Documentation Scheme, and endorses those guidelines, and encourage its implementation to ensure traceability in the value-chain.

We are in the process of updating our fisheries legislations, taking into consideration the domestication of the provisions of those voluntary guidelines.

With regards to the implementation of relevant international instruments under SDG Indicator 14.6.1 to combat IUU fishing, Seychelles welcome the acknowledgment of FAO on the progress made by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), faced with specific challenges in fully implementing these instruments due to the large amounts of waters under their jurisdiction.

Furthermore, Seychelles also welcome the technical guides being prepared by the FAO on methodologies and indicators for estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing being prepared by FAO.

This will be a vital tool especially for us Small Island Developing States with limited capacity to estimate the amount of our resource loss through IUU fishing.

Seychelles also support the updating of the 1989 standard specification on vessel marking and identification by the FAO, and emphasize the importance of fisher and fishing vessel safety, and encourage the FAO to develop a repository of information on this important subject.

RFMOs has a key role to play in the fight against IUU fishing especially in waters beyond national jurisdiction, as such we call for increasing cooperation in RFMOs for the transposition of these guidelines in RFMO measures in order to close this gap, and recommend FAO to support this initiative.

Information exchange and transparency remains a key tool in the fight against fisheries crime and once again Seychelles urge members, including through regional fisheries management organisations, fisheries bodies and through the FAO to continue in enhancing this collaboration in information exchange.

In concluding, Seychelles endorses the revised term of reference of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing and Related Matters

Thank you chair.