



Statement by the Republic of South Africa

***Agenda Item 7. Combatting IUU in fishing
35th Session of the Commission on Fisheries
5-9 September 2022***

Chairperson, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen, the South African Government would like to thank the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the opportunity to participate in the 35th session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI). South Africa is looking forward to working with all delegates during the upcoming sessions and to contribute towards improved sustainable management of the world's fish stocks and thus securing the well-being of oceans ecosystems.

The South African government has developed and is continuing with the revision and implementation of the strategies to unlock the Oceans economy in a sustainable manner. These strategies are aligned to the South African National Development Plan and through an innovative approach, concrete results are delivered through dedicated delivery and collaboration. These strategies specifically address the sustainable utilization of Marine Living Resources through what is referred to as initiative 5, the Enhanced and Coordinated Enforcement Programme and all South African Government Departments cooperates in a coordinated and integrated enforcement manner towards addressing all marine and environmental related crime. This initiative is aimed at improving monitoring, control and surveillance, through Initiative 6, the National Ocean and Coastal Information System. The upgrading and acquisition IT infrastructure, the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and the Oceans and Coast Information Management Systems (OCIMS) are continuously evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness. South Africa pledge its commitment in terms of monitoring,

control surveillance through continued inspections, verifications, investigations and pursuing of contraventions and any Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing (IUU).

A multi enforcement institutional platform is currently implementing the Port State Measures in South Africa. Together with our international partners we have successfully completed training workshops on the Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).

On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, I thank you!