



***Statement by the Republic of South Africa***

***Agenda Item 6. Supporting Small Scale and Artisanal Fisheries  
35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Fisheries  
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On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, I thank you!

Chairperson, thank you for giving us the floor,

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

As part of providing redress due to the inequalities of the past, South Africa amended its legislation to recognize small-scale fishers, to grant small-scale fishers access to fishing, to support small-scale fishers in contributing to eradicating poverty, securing their livelihoods, participating in the value chain and in promoting sustainable fishing.

Like many other small-scale fishers in various countries, South Africa's small-scale fishers are faced with challenges ranging from limited access to fisheries resources, poor infrastructure, limited access to markets and limited participation on fisheries co-management structures.

Our South African policy on small-scale fisheries has the aim to provide mechanisms to assist small-scale fishing communities to add value to the resources that they harvest, including:

- i. support schemes for fish storage, handling to improve fish quality and access to markets through sustainability certification schemes.
- ii. skills training in processing, packaging, marketing, and basic business skills.

Since the endorsement of the SSF Guidelines in 2014, many steps have been taken by South Africa to support its implementation considering that the SSF Guidelines contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG14).

South Africa subscribes to and supports the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and the development of the Global Strategic framework for Small-Scale fisheries within the context of eradicating food insecurity, creating sustainable jobs and sustainable management of living aquatic resources. South Africa recognizes the importance of regional advisory groups towards the implementation and monitoring of the GSFSSF and these groups should be strengthened and capacitated. South Africa supports rights-based approaches towards fisheries management.

Chairperson, regarding the IYAFA South Africa recognizes the importance of this initiative and the role it will play going forward towards elevating and highlighting the importance of these sectors at national, regional, and global level. This is to recognize the need to continuously highlight the need to provide continuous support to the sectors hence necessity to organize this initiate on a more frequent basis.

I thank you