

Statement Switzerland agenda item 7

We very much welcome the different tools and initiatives the FAO is working on in the framework of the PSMA, such as the launch and testing of the pilot **Global Information Exchange System (GIES)** and the updated version of the **Global Record**.

All of us in our roles as flag, coastal, port and market States depend on timely and reliable information to fulfil our responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner to combat IUU fishing. Switzerland is not a party to the PSMA, however, the information that will be shared through the **GIES** may also be useful for border inspections (for instance to inform risk analysis). We would therefore welcome that the extent of access to the GIES for non-Parties will be discussed at the next PSMA Meeting in May 2023.

To support IUU border controls of seafood imports, in the framework of our Catch Documentation Scheme, Switzerland has developed a new IT application, which allows importers to submit their import declaration online. The new system has been well received by the industry, it is easy to use and has an interface to the TRACES IT system for sanitary inspections, which means that the data that is shared between the two purposes does not have to be inserted twice. We are happy to share our experience with anyone who is interested.

We welcome FAO's technical guidance document "Understanding and implementing catch documentation schemes - a guide for national authorities." The guidance is a useful resource for countries to evaluate their validation and verification processes and thereby increase the effectiveness of existing and future Catch Documentation Schemes.

Finally, Switzerland endorses the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment and encourages members and associated organizations to integrate and implement these guidelines for sustainable fisheries management practices

Thank you and best wishes