

INTERVENTION/STATEMENT

BY TÜRKİYE

ON COFI 35. SESSION AGENDA ITEM 4

Distinguished delegates;

I would like to thank FAO Secretariat for organizing this meeting on behalf of General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Türkiye.

I would like to start by; we welcome the efforts made by FAO for this Document, for reporting the state of world fisheries and aquaculture and their efforts to follow implementation of FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the progress.

We also welcome member countries' contributions, their efforts on implementation and developments under FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries and to achieve sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

Türkiye is aware of its responsibility to maintain sustainable fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture in accordance with FAO Code of Conduct For Responsible Fisheries.

For more than 50 years, we implement conservation based management regime in all seas and in its inland waters.

Türkiye, taking into consideration FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, is a successful Country on establishing fisheries management rules approved by international fisheries organizations.

As an update, I would like to note that existing fisheries Law which entered into force in 1971 was revised and amended LAW entered into force in 2021 to meet the needs of the sector.

The New Law is prepared in accordance with the decisions of regional and international fisheries organizations.

With this Law, we have taken important steps for the improvement of data collection and scientific assessments, establishing an ecosystem-based fisheries management framework.

Besides, it ensures us to combat more effectively against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and supporting small-scale coastal fisheries while improving aquaculture.

With this Law, we strengthened the legal, technical and infrastructure aspects needed for data collection, protection and control measures.

With this fact in mind, we focused our policies on the provision of production from aquaculture and set forth new goals in order to achieve the protection of the environment and ecological balance in a sustainable manner.

In Türkiye, innovative practices and the use of high technology are encouraged in the aquaculture sector. New developments, methodologies and technologies provided in the aquaculture in the entire world are being followed and applied accordingly.

Türkiye also is in a good cooperation with international organizations to reduce the impact of climate change on aquaculture,

The whole production process of fish culture is monitored, tested in terms of food safety and delivered to consumers in the domestic and foreign markets.

Algae production is also one of the priority area for the Turkish aquaculture sector which has a considerable potential for sustainable development as long as the acknowledged economic, social and environmental challenges are addressed and also used in so many field.

To support small-scale fisheries, we have been encouraging and providing financial support to small-scale coastal fishermen to maintain their traditional structure, since 2017.

Besides all these issues; I also would like to highlight that we know it is important to monitor the non-indigenous species pressure and the changing Mediterranean ecosystem as a result of global warming. It is considered that this will be important not only for the Eastern Mediterranean, but also for the Central and even the Western Mediterranean, which will inevitably be affected by the same problem in the near future.

Finally;

I would like to state that Türkiye will continue to contribute to the technical, administrative and scientific cooperation studies.

We are always willing to cooperate in order to reach the desired goals and leave sustainable marine resources to the future generations.

In conclusion; I would like to express that Türkiye shall continue to spend utmost efforts in enhancing a closer and fruitful cooperation for sustainable management of fisheries, for aquaculture and to combat with IUU Fisheries.