

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REMARKS  
PRESENTATION OF THE MARGARITA LIZÁRRAGA MEDAL  
33<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At its Twenty-Ninth Session in November 1997, the FAO Conference instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to be awarded every two years, upon the proposal of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conducts for Responsible Fisheries. The Medal pays tribute to Dr. Margarita Lizárraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost forty years, especially in developing countries.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) was selected as the recipient of the Award for the biennium 2004-2005. The AIDCP is an international agreement whose objective is to reduce dolphin mortality in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and to ensure the sustainability of tuna stocks and associated species in the ecosystem. The AIDCP has been an unqualified success and has diligently applied the relevant principles set forth in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in particular those aspects relating to the precautionary approach and the utilization of fishing gear and techniques which minimize the catch of non-target species and allowed for the enormous reduction in dolphin mortality that was achieved. AIDCP was also commended for its active involvement with the fishing industry and environmental non-governmental organizations, which constituted a successful and exemplary interaction among the various stakeholders.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now call on the Representatives of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program, Dr Robin Allen, Dr Guillermo Compeán and Dr Carlos Giménez, and the Representatives of the Government of Mexico to receive the Award.