

Agenda item "Current fisheries management practices with special considerations for small-scale fisheries" – Brazil statement

Thank you, Chair,

First, Brazil would like to extend congratulations on your election for leading this significant forum for discussions and express Brazil's best wishes for the success of this 1st session.

2. We would like to begin by emphasizing the significance of artisanal fisheries for Brazil. In 2023, we re-established the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, which notably included the creation of a National Secretariat of Artisanal Fisheries, acknowledging the sector's significance. Last year was marked the successful realization of the 1st National Week of Artisanal Fisheries, which was launched by President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva.

3. The event brought together over a thousand participants; constituted an opportunity to the signing of six Technical Cooperation Agreements; the announcement of the Decree of Artisanal Fisheries Peoples; the launch of the National Artisanal Fisheries Plan; and the re-establishment of the National Council of Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPE). Furthermore, the Brazilian government has reinforced social participation mechanisms in policy-making and the re-establishment of fisheries shared management with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

4. Additionally, we would like to highlight the following ongoing actions focused on the relaunch and improvement of fishery management in Brazil:

(a) The launch of the new System for General Registry of Fisheries Activities (RGP), including national re-registration campaigns for fishers, the "Legal Fisherman" campaign, and a national task force for register analysis for professional fisherman.

(b) The implementation of the "Rede Pesca Brasil" (Brazil Fishery Network), establishing 10 new Permanent Committees for Fisheries Management (CPGPs), which will serve as governance spaces for the management of marine and continental fishery resources, involving the productive sector, academia, and society.

(c) Strengthening of fishing control, monitoring and surveillance (CMS) tools such as the Satellite Vessel Tracking Program (PREPS), and the implementation of the digital logbook

(d) Encouraging fish consumption through government procurement of artisanal fishery and aquaculture products, and strengthening the inclusion of fish in school diets.

(e) Supporting various research projects, including fishery management and development, updating species' reproductive periods, reestablishment of fishery statistics, and evaluating over 60 fish stocks. Regarding this issue, we express gratitude for the FAO-sponsored workshop for Zone 41, held in Brazil with participation of representatives from Argentina and Uruguay, and encourage the FAO to continue these efforts.

5. It is important to highlight the significance to Brazil of our Fishing Closed Seasons Insurance, as briefly presented in document COFI:FM/I/2023/INF/6. This instrument is essential to ensure the livelihood of artisanal fishers during species' reproductive periods and enhance management measures compliance. However, there is a need for further studies in order to research and update these periods, which have been shifting due to human impacts and

climate change. We also congratulate the FAO-Norway cooperation project, SocPro4Fish, which focuses on social protection for fishers. Brazil proudly hosted a workshop last December, bringing together 13 countries.

Mr. Chair,

7. Our Delegation would like also to bring to the members of the Subcommittee the following important topics:

(a) Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) must balance the interests, sensitivities and characteristics of developing countries, particularly those with artisanal and small-scale based fisheries;

(b) There is a need for a general overview of artisanal or small-scale fisheries in continental/inland settings, considering each country/member's specificities. We would like to note the importance of mechanisms for exchanging experiences between countries and strengthening South-South cooperation; and

(c) The need to generate knowledge and develop tools for the management of transboundary continental fishery resources.

8. In conclusion, Brazil is fully committed to fishery management and is taking effective actions for the artisanal fishing community, strengthening fishers' participation in decision-making processes, and acknowledging FAO's role in supporting countries for better global fishery management. Brazil's firm commitment to FAO's initiatives highlights the relevance of these actions in consolidating and strengthening the participation of countries in this important international organization's activities.

Thank you