



Remarks by the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

Agenda item 2: Current fisheries management practices with special consideration for small scale Fisheries

[Second Intervention]

Thank you chair,

First of all, Indonesia would like to appreciate and thank you for providing us a second opportunity to convey our initiatives to maximize the potential of marine resources while ensuring a healthy ocean environment.

Second, we would also like to congratulate you on your election as chairperson of the 1st Session of the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.

We believe that your expertise will guide us into more productive meetings.

Chair,
Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The Government of Indonesia, along with relevant stakeholders, has launched an important and strategic initiative, the Blue Economy Policy. This policy combines a balanced approach towards the biological, ecological, social, and economic aspects of national marine and fisheries governance, which I will further elaborate into 5 (five) main programs.

First, expanding conservation areas with a target of 30% by 2045, where the areas will be designated as closed conservation areas which produce oxygen, maintain carbon absorption functions, and turn the conservation area into fish spawning grounds.

Second, implementing a measured fishing policy based on quotas in 6 (six) designated fishing zones. The main principle of the regulation is to provide maximum protection for

small-scale fishers. This policy also supports local economic development that is evenly distributed throughout all the zones as part of an integrated zone of economic development and sustainable ecosystem management.

Third, developing eco-friendly marine, coastal, and inland aquaculture areas. In facing the challenges of population growth and world's demand for protein, the development of the aquaculture sector has become more important. Aquaculture activities mainly focused on competitive products, such as shrimp, crab, lobster, and seaweed, as well as other traditional and local-based fish from aquaculture villages that are economically important to reduce poverty.

Fourth, protecting coastal areas and small islands from potential damages due to uncontrolled economic activities.

Fifth, implementing the "*Bulan Cinta Laut*" or ocean conservation month program, which is Indonesia's commitment in keeping the ocean clean and free from plastic waste. Through this program, local fishers and industrial fishers are encouraged to clean and collect plastic waste from the sea and refrain from fishing activities for one month of each fishing year.

These five blue economy strategies will support the growth of the marine and fisheries sector to become an engine of the national economy along with the health of the ocean and the improved sustainability of marine and fisheries resources.

Finally, it is crucial for all of us to embody our commitment into concrete actions to ensure a sustainable future for our ocean, as well as to benefit the coastal communities as the backbone of the fishery sector.

I thank you, Chair.