Agenda Item 3: Addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the context of effective fisheries management.

Thank you Chair. Malaysia would like to express our appreciation for the work that was presented earlier. It is also useful that the Secretariat reiterated the scope and definition of the elements that constitute IUU fishing. This will allow us to concretely identify gaps that are crucial to address the issue.

Indeed, throughout the years, Malaysia, through FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has benefited from the various capacity building programmes initiated by FAO. Malaysia has also managed to amend our Fisheries Act 1985 to include provisions to regulate our fishing vessels on the high seas. However, Malaysia also realized that addressing IUU fishing requires concerted efforts. Therefore, Malaysia is grateful that addressing IUU fishing is incorporated as one of the main programs of work under SCFM.

Malaysia also noted the various guiding documents developed by FAO on addressing IUU fishing throughout the years. However, it may be beneficial if these documents could be further adopted at national level where appropriate. This could be further explored through facilitations by FAO Regional Offices.

Malaysia is also keen on the "Developing and using indicators of performance in fighting IUU" document and hopes that there will be capacity building programmes for Member States. Malaysia believes that such indicators will be helpful in assessing the extent of IUU fishing.

Malaysia is also grateful for the effective regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing and the Regional Plan of Action to promote responsible fishing practices including combating IUU Fishing (RPOA IUU). Such collaborations have helped in building trust among neighboring countries to encourage sharing of information that leads towards curbing IUU fishing activities in the region. Malaysia hopes that FAO will continue to support regional efforts where possible.

Thank you, Chair.