

Agenda Item 4: Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries management in the context of the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Thank you Chair. Malaysia takes note of the progress made by FAO to mainstream biodiversity across the agriculture sector including fisheries. During the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO's important role in mainstreaming biodiversity into the fisheries sector, in particular the work done to facilitate the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable fisheries was highlighted. Such achievements did not go unnoticed. FAO was invited to continue its excellent work in facilitating countries and to advocate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with respect to fisheries among its member countries.

FAO's role in closing the implementation gap among member countries is very crucial especially for developing and least developed countries. This is because these countries, including Malaysia, are still lacking in terms of capacity to achieve the tall order from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). While it is important to have ambitious goals and targets outlined under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, it is equally important to acknowledge that not all countries have the same priorities, circumstances and capacities.

Therefore, Malaysia hopes that FAO will continue developing suitable programs of work, materials and provide technical support to countries. The dateline until 2030 is not too far away. Countries who are members of CBD are expected to provide an assessment of our progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in our seventh and eighth national reports. Malaysia welcomes FAO's planned activities on mainstreaming biodiversity across fisheries outlined in Section IV and Annex I. We would like to suggest that the Secretariat to tag the activities to specific targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on top of tagging them to SDG Goals. This will help in monitoring and identifying program gaps.

Thank you, Chair.