

## **Norway's statement on Agenda Item 2; Current fisheries management practices with special consideration for small-scale fisheries**

Greetings to everybody, and special thanks to the Secretariat for all the work that has been put into organizing this meeting. For Norway, as the original proponent of a subcommittee for fisheries management, it is great to witness broad participation from all over the world.

When it comes to sharing experiences for effective fisheries management, there is a number of key elements, but it is quite easy to point to the most important step we have taken:

And that is to match the effort put into the fisheries to the available marine resources. This means that fishing for livelihood, small scale fisheries, industrial fisheries and fisheries by foreign fleets must add up compared to the available resources.

We have achieved this by limiting licenses, reducing the number of fishing vessels and increasing the efficiency in the fishing. This system was developed in the 1990s and introduced gradually.

Today this system covers all the offshore fleet and the coastal fleet, except from the smallest vessels smaller than 11 meters.

To explain it easy: On some conditions one vessel may increase its quota while another vessel is taken out and scrapped.

This system has worked remarkably well. It has ensured biological sustainability by aligning the number of vessels and fishermen to the available resources. It has created economic sustainability by giving large quotas to the fishermen that buys others' quotas.

However, in terms of social sustainability it has been more challenging. We have achieved biological and economic sustainability by reducing the amount of people employed in the sector.

In order to address this, we allocate part of the quotas to a group that is open for new entries from smaller vessels. This provides a pathway into the fisheries sector. But there is no question that the profitability is much higher if you have a quota in a group that is closed for new entries and with the quota-transfer system.

And if we hadn't kept the number of fishermen under control, any growth in stock size would have been caught by new entries – ensuring poor or subsidized fishers.

So, exploring how catch effort can align with available resources, while also showing due consideration for the social dimensions, is a topic this subcommittee can work on in the future. It is important to remember that this is not done overnight, nor is it advisable. It has to be a gradual process.

**Provide suggestions on how FAO should strengthen capacity development, including tools and processes, for cost-effective data and information systems to inform fisheries**

Compared to when the Code was developed, we have much more data available. Not just scientific data, but data about who fishes, how and where fisheries are carried out, vessel types, etc. We believe the FAO could strengthen capacity development by developing methods to use such data to provide tools necessary for controlling fishing efforts, such as vessel registrations and records, license systems, and so on, but also to improve monitoring and data generation so that it better fits the needs of fisheries managers than today.

Thank you very much.