

### **Norway's statement on Agenda Item 3; Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the context of effective fisheries management**

Norway is as always committed to end IUU fishing.

The term IUU Fishing has served us well. It has been a success, setting the challenges captured by the term on the agenda, leading to progress towards the objective of long-term sustainability and responsible management.

However, the ambiguity of the term has not always been helpful in achieving these objectives.

The term has also possibly made it easier for governments to focus more on the illegal side of it, rather than turning the mirror on how we are managing our common marine resources and fisheries activities.

Because we need to remember that the first steps towards achieving long-term sustainability, are to manage and regulate the fisheries 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.

Therefore, it is time to develop the terminology further, to improve the understanding of the challenges we are facing and to identify the most effective measures within a comprehensive fisheries management regime.

We believe that it would be beneficial to split the term at least in two, focusing on one side on the responsibilities of the governments and on the other side on compliance of the established regulations.

Norway supports continued discussions in this direction.

During the interventions yesterday, we noted many calls for more data and improved knowledge, a key action would be to look at vessel tracking, a core management and control measure.

At the last COFI meeting Norway initiated a process to investigate relevant issues on vessel tracking, with a possibility to establish a binding global agreement that requires use of vessel tracking systems on board fishing vessels, and a requirement to share position data between relevant governments and possibly achieving transparency on activity on the high seas.

A first step in this process should be to conduct a global study to identify current technologies and the status on this issue. The study should have a specific focus on the situation and challenges for countries in the Global South.

We are currently considering how we can support this process further.

The work against IUU is crucial, and should combine local and global efforts, incorporating capacity-building, awareness campaigns, technology investments, and collaborative approaches in shared waters.

International aid is essential for developing countries striving to address illegal fishing and foster sustainable fisheries.

Furthermore, structural changes are needed, as investing in IUU combat not only increases the sustainable use of natural resources, but also contributes to socioeconomic development.

Learning from the PSMA-experience, implementing mechanisms should complement capacity-building. We support capacity building that incorporates these elements, and in particular support the implementation of binding instruments, such as the PSMA.