

17.1.2024

Norway

Statement on agenda item 5. Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries management

Thank you Chair

On mainstreaming of biodiversity in fisheries management, Norway appreciates the active role FAO has taken. We invite the organisation to continue its engagement. We also underline the need to represent the fisheries sector with a global perspective in relevant global multilateral environmental organisations. The Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD, is of particular importance here after the adoption of the Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (the GBF).

To engage in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework is crucial. We appreciate the way FAO has engaged in this so far and we welcome the working document on *Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries management in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*.

In para 18 of this document it is concluded that “*there is a need to “translate” the GBF into sectoral-specific guidance*”. We share this conclusion. But first of all the GBF targets needs to be interpreted in a fisheries context to produce the guidance. We struggle to see specific activities mentioned in the document that aims to do the interpretation and produce the needed guidance. The Committee should instruct the Secretariat to develop the relevant concret actions.

In respect of the guidance to be produced we note that most of FAOs previous work on fisheries management is as relevant under the GBF as it was before. Little or nothing in the GBF changes the relevance of existing FAO guidance and the work to be done now should carefully evaluate the relevance. The guidance should connect all relevant previous work to the GBF targets. New products should only be developed where the need is clearly identified.

As the final point we want to highlight the need to include target 10 among the targets that are interpreted and considered when developing guidance. Target 10 speaks about the management of areas used to produce food both on land and in the sea. It is the one, and only, target that is new to fisheries among the 23 targets in the GBF. The inclusion of fisheries places foodproduction in the sea at the same level of importance as foodproduction on land. This must have effects on how the footprint of producing food by fishing is assessed and discussed. The target gives us an opportunity to develop this global discussion to be more informed and better balanced. FAO is the body that should facilitate this development by focusing in particular on target 10 when interpreting the targets and when producing the needed guidance.

Thank you