

Statement of the Republic of the Philippines
1 st Session of the FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES SUB-COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (COFI-SCFM1)
16 January 2024

Agenda Item 3. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the context of effective fisheries management

Firstly, The Philippines would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Stefan Asmundsson, Special Advisor on Ocean Affairs and Fisheries at the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for being elected as the Chair of the Inaugural Session of this Sub-Committee.

We also thank you Chair for giving us the opportunity to speak regarding our efforts in addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the context of effective fisheries management.

The Philippines is continuously strengthening its domestic policy and legal framework, and engaging in various capacity-building activities, developing both internal capacity and international collaboration to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing for the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic resources and ecosystems.

In ensuring effective Control, the country's fisheries regulations are subjected to necessary review; institutionalizing Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and science/evidence-based regulatory framework.

The Philippines ratified the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement in 2015 and the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in 2018, as well as enacted the Fisheries Administrative Order 267 in 2021, entitled "Rules and Regulations Governing the Landing and Transshipping of Fish and Fishery Products that have not been Previously Landed, and other Port Services in the Philippines by Foreign-Flagged Fishing Vessels".

The country is constantly reporting progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, submitting updates to FAO on the implementation of the Code and Conduct

for Responsible Fisheries, the International Plans of Action, and strategies to improve information on the status and trends of capture fisheries and aquaculture, and providing data updates in the FAO.

Further, the Philippines as an active member of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), and International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), continue to adhere to all the conservation and management measures and adopt suitable measures for fisheries management set by these RFMOs.

Our delegation would like to thank the FAO for its continued support to our efforts towards elimination of IUU Fishing.

Thank you.