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Thank you Chair.

As we know, fishing continues to have a greater impact on fish populations than any other human activity, but climate change is catching up. As such, effective fisheries management is an important adaptation tool and is the foundation of climate-resilient fisheries, and ineffective management systems are a barrier to building resilience.

In this context, the Pew Charitable Trusts would like to make some recommendations on areas of work that would benefit from further attention:

1. At a regional level, we recommend that workshops and discussions consider the integration of climate change projections into fisheries management, in particular via harvest strategies. When designed properly, harvest strategies can directly account for the effects of a changing climate and, therefore, we recommend that the FAO continue to invest in harvest strategies, generally, and specifically those that are developed to explicitly account for the effects of climate change, including on population size, location, and catchability of fished species. Each of these factors – and more – will increasingly impact the sustainability and profitability of fisheries. We also encourage RFMOs to continue the relevant work on climate change and harvest strategies that was started in 2023.

2. Beyond this general point, we encourage further work in addressing the threat that climate change poses to fisher safety and the potential influence it will have on IUU fishing activity.

3. We support continued development of adaptation and resilience-building measures that feature ecosystem-based management as a central theme and we urge the FAO to use the impetus provided by GBF targets discussed under our previous agenda point, particularly targets 5 and 10, to broaden the application of ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Finally, we would like to highlight the current limitations in management systems, modelling, and context-specific information on adaptation and support increased investment in research that will improve modelling of ocean conditions, ecosystem impacts, and socioeconomic implications, and thereby inform practical adaptation tools for fisheries managers.