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pour  
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Продовольственная и  
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Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
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Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

### Third meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Doha, Qatar, 20-22 October 2009

### PROPOSAL BY THE SULTANATE OF OMAN IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RECOFI RECORD OF IUU FISHING VIOLATIONS

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of considerable concerns of global community. It undermines the rational and legitimate objectives of fisheries management as it imposes serious threats to the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and the socio-economic welfare of coastal fishing communities. Within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) a coastal State has sovereign rights to the fisheries resources and it is responsible for the conservation and management of fisheries resources. However, to ensure effective management of shared resources and effective control of IUU fishing activities within EEZs including incursions by foreign vessels in to EEZs, a co-operative approach is essential.

#### RATIONALE FOR THE RECORD OF VIOLATIONS

2. The Regional Commission on Fisheries (RECOFI, "the Commission" hereafter), as a regional fisheries body, has a strong role in regional fisheries management. In line with international agreements and initiatives with regard to IUU fishing the Commission could initiate the development of a regional database that keeps full record of all types of fishing violations by traditional vessels and other key information in relation to vessel operators, vessel characteristics, details of fishing operations, and catch compositions and amounts. This type of information could be shared among Member States and could be used as a part of early alert system to reduce risk and improve efficiency of management measures.

#### HOW THE RECORD WOULD BE OPERATED AND MANAGED

3. We would like to propose that the Commission would be responsible for the overall management of the recommended database with the help of Member States. In this context, the Commission should, amongst others:

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- request each Member State to provide necessary information on traditional fishing vessels fishing in its water;
- negotiate regulatory arrangements with the Member States in relation to the effective implementation of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) as appropriate;
- strengthen provisions for sharing information among Member States;
- develop mechanisms to improve monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures and establish a regional MCS network; and
- adopt appropriate trade related measures and promote exchange of fishery specific management related information among Member States to improve traceability of all fishery products traded with the regional countries.

#### **BENEFITS OF THE RECORD TO RECOFI MEMBERS**

4. A cooperative and regional approach would enhance resource and technical capacity to address IUU fishing in a cost-effective and efficient manner. This will also establish transparency in effective decision-making regarding IUU fishing in the region and ensure sustainability of shared fisheries resources.

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP**

5. The Working Group is invited to:
- review the proposal along with the actions stated above and provide recommendations to the Commission for appropriate actions, measures and procedures to combat IUU fishing in the region; and
  - provide guidance for the effective implementation of decisions and measures regarding IUU fishing.