

43rd Session of the Conference

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 12.3 – Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (5-9 September 2022)

Member Name	Comments
Colombia (Saturday, 10 June 2023 — 12.18)	<p>We appreciate the presentation of the Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and take note of its main conclusions.</p> <p>We appreciate the work of FAO and COFI in their strategies on biodiversity, climate change and science and innovation, as well as, in particular, the publication of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) report for 2022. This report, in addition to presenting a comprehensive overview of global trends in fisheries and aquaculture, is particularly focused on the relationship between these activities and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, Colombia appreciates the publication of the report and reiterates that this type of publication is very useful.</p> <p>Finally, Colombia would like to emphasize the importance noted in the report on the new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies of the World Trade Organization (WTO). In this regard, Colombia, in its commitment to promote the sustainability of fisheries, as a World Power of Life, reiterates its willingness to ratify and promptly implement the agreement. It expresses its interest in continuing to work together to advance in the negotiation of pending issues and to continue contributing, so that everyone, at present and especially in the future, can access marine resources sustainably and on an equal footing.</p>
United States of America (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 10.10)	<p>The United States of America fully endorses the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Report and welcomes its focus on the vital importance of both fisheries and aquaculture, and particularly the small-scale sector, for global food and nutrition security.</p> <p>The United States of America welcomes the establishment of a COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, which will help ensure that COFI remains the leading global forum for advancing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and looks forward to its endorsement at the 43rd Session of the Conference.</p> <p>We also welcome the Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment as an essential new tool in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.</p>

<p>Argentina (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 13.07)</p>	<p>Under the Written Correspondence Procedure established to address specific items on the Agenda of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference, the Permanent Representation of the Argentine Republic would like to share the following comments.</p> <p>We would like to start by highlighting FAO’s role in and its contributions to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, as this is a sector that contributes enormously to global food security and nutrition and has huge potential for achieving the goal of Zero Hunger.</p> <p>As we stated in the previous Committee on Fisheries (COFI) plenary session, Argentina supports and welcomes the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. We hope its structure will be inclusive and ensure the participation of developing countries.</p> <p>We would also like to reiterate our intention to update the SDG 14 indicators under FAO’s custodianship, as well as their methodologies, in order to more reliably record and assess the true situation in countries in terms of their sustainable approaches to fisheries and aquaculture.</p> <p>As ratified by the 172nd Session of the FAO Council, the importance of Blue Transformation is highlighted as a Programme Priority Area (PPA) and plan that expresses FAO’s view of its work to achieve sustainable aquatic systems. Finally, we welcome the work done during the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFa) 2022 when numerous events were held to support fishers and fish farmers, making their work more visible and fostering more dynamic integration in global value chains.</p>
<p>The Russian Federation (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 17.17)</p>	<p>The Russian Federation takes a positive view of FAO’s work to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Our country works systematically to bring national legislation in line with the requirements of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA), which was ratified by Russia in December 2020.</p> <p>Since 21 May 2023, the Federal Agency for Fisheries has been designated as the body acting as the Russian Federation’s coordination centre for exchanging information as part of the PSMA’s implementation.</p> <p>We support the decision to establish a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM). We are confident that the SCFM will alleviate the work of future sessions of COFI, which for objective reasons are unable to give the appropriate attention to current problems pertaining to fisheries.</p>
<p>Mexico (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 17.49)</p>	<p>Mexico welcomes this opportunity to reiterate its commitment to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and to stress the importance of FAO's technical support in ensuring these sectors contribute to progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thus, while it is essential to pursue more sustainable fisheries that respond to the challenge of reducing poverty and eliminating hunger and malnutrition in the world through better management and technological innovation, it is also important to continue to learn more about aquaculture and progress in exploiting the enormous potential it offers.</p> <p>In this vein, the <i>Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</i> (Code) continues to provide the necessary framework for national and international initiatives to ensure the sustainable use of living aquatic resources in harmony with the environment. Mexico therefore joins the call for FAO to continue supporting Members in the implementation of the</p>

Code and related instruments and in the identification of strategic directions, including through the development of additional technical guidelines that back the principles of the Code of Conduct.

It is important for Members to continue supporting the implementation of the Code by responding to the monitoring questionnaire, and recognizing individuals and institutions whose work has contributed significantly to its implementation. The Margarita Lizárraga Medal therefore offers an ideal means of inspiring further tangible actions and commitment to the Code of Conduct.

The entry into force and implementation of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* has also been a benchmark for the development of guidelines to support the sustainable development of aquaculture to meet present and future food demands. In this context, Mexico acknowledges the process and the work of Members that allowed the approval of the *FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture* in the framework of the 12th Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, which was held in Hermosillo, Mexico, this May.

The Guidelines, which will be submitted to the next session of the Committee on Fisheries, provide a clear way forward for developing sustainable aquaculture and for identifying concrete actions that need to be implemented for aquaculture to better contribute to food security, poverty alleviation, the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity and the broader Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mexico's commitment to the development of sustainable aquaculture is also reflected in cooperative actions, one example being the “Resilient Caribbean Initiative”. One of the four components of this initiative aims to drive resilient aquaculture to contribute to food security and wellbeing in the Caribbean, with specific projects in Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago. Mexico will continue to work hand in hand with FAO in promoting this activity.

We must also continue to work towards full acceptance of all aquaculture products among consumers and in markets, based on their sustainability and their benefits for the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Mexico has voiced its commitment on various occasions to combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. It is therefore an honour to inform the Conference that Mexico concluded its internal process, which meant the Senate was able to approve the “Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing” on 1 March 2023. Mexico's instrument of accession to the PSMA was deposited with the Director-General of FAO on 23 May 2023. It will enter into force in Mexico on 22 June 2023.

Mexico is grateful for FAO's support in this process and requests its technical assistance as we enter this new stage, as a Party to the PSMA, in order to further efforts against the scourge of IUU fishing, hand in hand with the international community.

Finally, Mexico encourages FAO to increase knowledge and awareness of the impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture and to provide Members with guidance on adaptation and mitigation, highlighting the need for guidance on climate resilient fisheries management, and calls on it to continue providing technical support that contributes to biodiversity conservation in fisheries and aquaculture practices.

Mexico hereby endorses the Report of the 35th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries.

<p>Australia (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 18.02)</p>	<p>Australia remains strongly supportive of the work of COFI as it provides a unique opportunity to advance truly global initiatives to improve the sustainability of the world’s fisheries. We sincerely appreciate the Secretariat’s efforts in organizing the 35th Session and endorse the findings and recommendations of the Report in full.</p> <p>We would like to highlight a few of the key achievements of COFI, brought about through the cooperation of Members. These include the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), which recently held its Fourth Meeting of the Parties; the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.</p> <p>In addition, Australia continues to see Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing as a significant maritime challenge facing our region. We acknowledge FAO’s continued efforts and encourage collaboration among Members to enhance their domestic and regional efforts to combat IUU fishing. Australia continues to take an active and collaborative role in regional and international fora to develop and implement conservation and management measures to combat IUU fishing. Australia understands the difficulty in quantifying the amount of IUU fishing, supports the precautionary approach, and calls for all FAO Members to generate political will to combat the problem.</p> <p>Australia supports endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, noting that while transshipping is effectively regulated in Australian waters, we support improved monitoring of high seas transshipping.</p> <p>We would also like to take the opportunity to thank Members for their efforts to establish the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM), and particularly for ensuring developing states have a mechanism to attend the SCFM. Australia can support the establishment of the SCFM on a trial basis and welcomes the review process to take place by the 38th Session of COFI.</p> <p>Australia welcomes the many FAO climate change adaptation field projects that have supported countries and communities to better understand, respond to and cope with climate change impacts. The Australian Government is increasingly looking to further develop its domestic policy, science and fisheries management frameworks through research that helps to assess the impacts of climate threats on fisheries and aquaculture to ensure a sustainable industry. Australia is pleased to see work on the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity in cross-sectoral policies, where appropriate to national circumstances and other international obligations (particularly relating to trade). We reiterate the importance of international cooperation in this area and draw attention to efforts to align FAO strategies with other international agreements, particularly with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as a means to reduce duplication of efforts.</p>
<p>United Kingdom (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 18.11)</p>	<p>The United Kingdom welcomes the Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the significant outcomes as highlighted in the introduction, including the endorsement of the new FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment. The guidelines need to be reflected within international and domestic frameworks and we urge Members to work together in their implementation.</p> <p>The UK welcomes the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) Report. We believe that FAO can amplify the key messages from the SOFIA Report to ensure they reach a wider audience, including parties to key conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>

	<p>We also strongly encourage Members to actively engage with regional fisheries bodies. We would like to see all parties coming to the table with ideas and solutions, engaging effectively in these vital forums.</p> <p>The UK agrees that the new World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on fisheries subsidies is a critical step towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 14.6. By the next ministerial Conference, we hope that more Member States can ratify the agreement so that the agreed disciplines can be entered into force.</p> <p>The UK was pleased to endorse the proposal for the new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management of COFI and to announce UK funding to support the Sub-Committee’s work. We agree on the recommendations in the paper. The new Sub-Committee will be an important forum to discuss and identify solutions to fisheries management challenges of relevance to both small and large-scale fisheries. It will also provide an opportunity to share best practices and learn from experiences at national, regional and global levels to address current and future challenges.</p> <p>On mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture, we would be interested in hearing from FAO the timing for receiving FAO’s policy guidance on mainstreaming climate change and developing climate-smart management plans.</p> <p>The UK endorses the findings and recommendations of the Committee, underscoring the particular importance of progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments; and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.</p> <p>Finally, the UK supports the FAO’s Blue Transformation Initiative as a means towards ensuring the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and their contribution to fighting hunger and poverty. We look forward to receiving FAO’s progress updates.</p>
<p>Canada (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 10.21)</p>	<p>Canada welcomes the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Report, as well as the decisions of the 171st Session of the Council.</p> <p>Canada recognizes the critical importance of sustainable and responsible fisheries management and aquaculture across the world’s oceans in order to ensure global food security, to support the livelihoods of fishers and coastal communities, and to advance sustainable development.</p> <p>Canada commends the significant steps taken to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and welcomes the endorsement to establish a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, allowing Members to discuss the wide range of complex issues that arise in fisheries management.</p> <p>In line with the broadening global ocean conservation agenda, Canada would also like to stress the importance of marine ecosystems and biodiversity to fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the need to take into account climate change in order to build climate-resilient fisheries, aquaculture and communities.</p>
<p>New Zealand (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 11.00)</p>	<p>New Zealand is an active member of the COFI Bureau. We wish to fully support the establishment of the new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. This is a significant decision and an initiative we fully support.</p> <p>We also support the endorsement of the Report and recommendations of COFI.</p>

<p>European Union (Thursday, 15 June 2023 — 19.35)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.</p> <p>We welcome the Report of the 35th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), in which the EU and its Member States actively participated. We particularly welcome the endorsement of the new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment. Furthermore, we acknowledge the significant attention given to small-scale fisheries on the occasion of the International Year for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 and beyond, and the strong support for ambitious Voluntary Guidelines on Aquaculture, which have now been finalized by the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.</p> <p>Fisheries provide a vital source of food, employment, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world. However, efforts by the international community to ensure the sustainability of fisheries are being seriously compromised by the scourge of IUU fishing activities.</p> <p>We welcome that COFI 35 acknowledged the progress achieved on IUU fishing, in the context of the implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), stressing the importance of this agreement and urging FAO to continue and strengthen its vital technical and capacity building work related to IUU fishing and to properly resource this work.</p> <p>The FAO PSMA is the only global binding international agreement to fight IUU fishing. Since its entry into force in 2016, the number of parties has steadily increased, with over 100 countries currently bound by its provisions. Consequently, the frequency of required meetings has also risen accordingly. Moreover, important tools are being developed to ensure its effective implementation. As a result, the demands on the Secretariat by the Parties to assist them in the implementation of the Agreement have considerably increased. In that respect there is an urgent need to allocate additional adequate human and financial resources for the implementation as well as the sustainable functioning of the Agreement.</p> <p>In this respect, the EU and its Member States note the letter addressed to the Director-General of FAO by the Parties to the PSMA after their fourth meeting held in Bali recently, requesting increased financial and administrative support for the Secretariat to continue the successful operation of the Agreement.</p> <p>We fully support this request and invite the Conference and FAO Members to consider it positively, as an imperative step towards the eradication of IUU fishing, the effective fight against hunger, the sustainability and resilience of food systems and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>With these comments, we endorse the report.</p>
<p>Chile (Friday, 16 June 2023 — 11.09)</p>	<p>Chile, as a Member of the FAO Council, has endorsed the reports of the Committees submitted for this Conference. In this regard, it wishes to make a few comments.</p> <p>The Conference is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Fisheries, and attention is drawn to global policy and regulatory matters, in particular to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments:

paragraphs 11 (j)-(m);

Chile would like to thank FAO for holding the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and we would also like to recognize again the contribution of the SOFIA 2022 report, highlighting the importance of this document, particularly in matters of fisheries management.

In addition, Chile endorses and recognizes the importance of fisheries and aquaculture as a major source of food and nutrition and we express our concern about the current state of fishery resources, also agreeing on the need to disseminate and promote the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, for the management of fisheries and aquaculture resources.

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: paragraphs 12 (a)-(j);

Chile would like to highlight the work of FAO, in everything it says related to fisheries and aquaculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We value its key role in the monitoring of indicators within the framework of SDG 14 and in the valuable contribution of data for publication in international fora, such as the global progress report on the SDGs. FAO's contribution goes beyond SDG 14, contributing to progress on a wide range of Goals, and here we would like to highlight the great contribution to the advancement of SDG 2, "Zero Hunger".

We particularly want to highlight and encourage further work toward the goal of prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminating subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing.

- Supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries, including in the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA): paragraphs 13 (a)-(h);

Artisanal fishing and aquaculture are of the greatest social, economic and cultural importance for our country, and to help their development, regulatory changes have been promoted that relate to: a) the regularization and comprehensive development of the existing fishing landing spaces in the country "coves", giving a leading role to the same fishers' organizations in their administration. This is called the "Cove Act"; b) the development of a regulation that recognizes visibility and supports small-scale aquaculture and the people who carry out this activity; c) the approval of a gender equity law to explicitly recognize the contribution of women to the artisanal fisheries and aquaculture sector, which was promoted from the outset by the women who work in the sector.

We would also like to state our appreciation for the work done by FAO, Members and organizations for endorsing the effort to enhance visibility of and support artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, mainly during 2022, when we all celebrated the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

- Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing: paragraphs 14 (a)-(r);

Chile welcomes the continued global commitment to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through more efficient and coordinated implementation of international instruments such as the Agreement on Port State Measures, the FAO Compliance Agreement and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, among others.

With regard to the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) and the Global Information Exchange System, we agree on the importance of having and exchanging information on compliance with and application of instruments to combat IUU fishing at the global level. In terms of transshipment, Chile supports the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment as a relevant tool to expand PSMA control measures to transshipment of fish on the high seas and calls for progress toward their incorporation into binding conservation and management measures under the umbrella of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

Chile highlights the need to improve monitoring, control and surveillance procedures for international vessels that support the fishing fleet (e.g., cargo transport vessels, reefers and tankers), as many of these vessels fall outside the scope of national fishing regulations and conservation measures.

We wish to acknowledge the need for instruments to combat IUU fishing, through the development of indicators, so as to employ a continuous evaluation of measures to mitigate IUU fishing.

- Enhancing COFI discussion, including recommendations of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, including modalities of operations and the offer of funding: paragraphs 15 (a)-(g);

Chile commends the important work carried out by the ad hoc Group established by COFI, in which it expressed interest in discussing the creation of a Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. In this regard, Chile stresses the importance of devoting more time to policy issues, including those related to fisheries management, through the creation of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.

We emphasize the need for the new sub-committee to remain at the same level as the pre-existing ones, given the importance of the topics to be addressed.

- Addressing climate change in fisheries and aquaculture: reporting on progress and Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031: paragraphs 16 (a)-(h);

Climate change and its effects on coastal communities is an issue that cannot be ignored, which is causing a significant alteration in the abundance and distribution of species. However, it should be noted that countries can obtain important benefits if they apply adaptation measures to climate change, especially by forming cooperative alliances in this area.

We hope that FAO will strengthen its work in Latin America and the Caribbean in this sphere and will also be able to provide input in terms of adaptation to the processes underway. In addition, Chile would like to state its appreciation for FAO's efforts in the inter-sessional period aimed at strengthening the knowledge base on the effects of climate change, the risks involved and vulnerability in relation to fisheries and in providing guidance on mitigation and adaptation options, particularly on disaster risk management at the global, regional and national levels.

Finally, we believe that the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 provides a new opportunity to address climate change, both globally and locally, which must be in tune with the actions promoted by the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

- Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture: paragraphs 17 a)-j);

Chile has marine protected areas, which are geographically delimited and defined areas whose administration and regulation allow specific conservation and/or preservation objectives to be achieved. In our country, there are four types of Marine Protected Areas: marine parks and marine reserves, which are essentially aquatic; and nature sanctuaries and multi-use marine and coastal protected areas, which may contain portions of land. All are decreed by the Ministry of the Environment, but in the case of the first two, it is the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture that is responsible for providing the background for their designation, leaving their custody in the hands of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service. Together they cover more than 40 percent of the surface of the Exclusive Economic Zone. These areas are declared for the conservation and sustainable management of marine biodiversity, for which management and regulation measures are established for access to fishing activities and others to prevent negative impacts on this biodiversity and the ecosystem, in accordance with the corresponding General Administration Plan and the general framework established in the General Law of Fisheries and Aquaculture. During 2023, the law establishing the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service is in progress in Congress.

- Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture: paragraphs 18 (a)-(l).

Chile values all the work, dedication and emphasis that FAO has given to issues related to fisheries, aquaculture and the ocean in general. This is why our country attaches special importance to these matters, since it has one of the largest exclusive economic zones in the world, and in turn, it actively participates in the different regional and global processes. We are also part of the pertinent and relevant instruments for the governance of fisheries and aquaculture within the framework of the Law of the Sea.

With regard to the role that RFMOs and regional fisheries advisory bodies play in fisheries governance and aquaculture development, Chile expresses its support for the role of RFMOs for fisheries management on the high seas in the management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, and we believe it is essential to make the necessary efforts to strengthen these organizations. For this reason, Chile views very positively the support that FAO has given to the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network, and we consider that it is an area that shows great potential for collaboration and technical assistance.

Other:

- Decisions and recommendations made by the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture at its 11th Session (24-27 May 2022)

Chile appreciates the holding of the 11th meeting of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. The agenda presented was of great relevance and interest for our country, especially with regard to the initiatives within the framework of the IYAFSA, to promote the resilience of aquaculture to ensure food security, nutrition and livelihoods, and combat climate change, aquatic diseases, harmful algal blooms, COVID-19 and disruptions to value chains, among others.

Chile requested that FAO: a) create an extension programme for Latin America and the Caribbean aimed at the artisanal aquaculture sector and focused on productive and subsistence diversification in favour of its resilience; b) continue its

	<p>work to prepare the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture, so that they constitute a clear vision of global aquaculture development and clearly and concisely describe the ways to make this vision a reality; (c) implement measures to improve compliance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; (d) within the framework of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance for 2021-2025, raise awareness, strengthen surveillance and support Members in promoting the responsible use of antimicrobials in aquatic animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions and recommendations made by the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade at its 18th meeting (8 April to 8 May and 7-9 and 20 June 2022) <p>Chile wishes to emphasize, in terms of small-scale fisheries and international trade, the importance of promoting and disseminating international trade measures and tariffs applied to small-scale fisheries, in order to support organizations and producers in this sector, with respect to trade and market access, focusing on women and youth. This also includes support for the creation of legal frameworks and collaboration to promote access for small-scale fisheries to markets, advancing traceability and certification systems.</p> <p>With regard to trade agreements and market access for fishery and aquaculture products, Chile supports the proposal that FAO should develop a database in this regard, to which end it recommended that a document be submitted describing in detail the rationale for the database. We also support progress toward a transparent, robust, harmonized and non-discriminatory trading system, without creating unnecessary barriers to trade.</p> <p>Finally, we call for continued actions to promote social responsibility and decent working conditions in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and its value chains in accordance with voluntary and non-binding FAO guidance, with a practical and complementary approach and simple language, such as convention-based support, existing international agreements and standards.</p>
<p>Japan (Friday, 16 June 2023 — 13.02)</p>	<p>We express our sincere gratitude to FAO Secretariat and Members for their invaluable assistance to Mr. OTA Shingo from Japan, the Chairperson of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 35) in facilitating its operation. Japan welcomes and approves the proposal of the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM) with a view to achieving sustainable fisheries and improving the efficiency of discussions in COFI, and we appreciate the strenuous and utmost efforts undertaken by the Working Group for the proposal. We hope that the Sub-Committee will promote the sustainability of fisheries as well as enhance the role of fisheries in advancing food security and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>We also welcome the approval of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment reflecting Members' views. We believe this will contribute to the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. FAO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations with rich and deep technical expertise in fisheries, is expected to further contribute to the global frameworks including the Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</p>