



FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

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SENEGAL'S DECLARATION ABOUT IUU VESSELS

WCPFC4-2007/OP13

5 December 2007

Chairman,

Senegalese fishing vessels operating in the international waters hold fishing authorisations which indicated the conditions of their activities. Contrary to what has been said, the Senegalese vessels that fish in international waters are given fishing licences by Senegalese authorities.

In the case of the Pacific, our vessels are affiliated to FFA that place plays a regulating role in the absence of the WCPFC. This approach proves the transparency in the procedures used by Senegalese fleet. The affiliation to FFA bears obligations which Senegal has subscribed to. In certain cases, vessels have taken the fishing licence from coastal states such as Vanuatu and landing are effected in Papeete in the strict respect of the local obligations.

Senegal has submitted in September 2006, to the WCPFC, a request in accordance with the convention to become cooperating member. This demand has been completed by giving all the statistical information to the WCPFC and in accordance with the requirements of 5 by 5 degrees stratification data. The said request was examined during the Commission's meeting held in Samoa in which, Senegal was invited to participate. The examination of that request did allow to accept Senegal as cooperating member due to that required conditions have not been satisfied according to the WCPFC. Regarding this information, what is the responsibility for Senegal? We have asked to become a cooperating non member and have taken the appropriate measures in that regard. And that is why we demand the reasons this Commission is not granting access to our petition.

By letter from WCPFC, dated 13th February 2007, Senegalese vessels were invited to leave the zone of covered by the convention, if Senegal wants to preserve its chances to become cooperating member during the commission's meeting to be held in december 2007. Taking note of this declaration, Senegal adopted a withdrawal plan of its vessels avoiding in the meantime to compromise the vessels financials equilibriums. To that effect, the first vessel 'Robaleira' left the zone in march 2007 and the second vessels 'Viera Cinco' in September 2007.

By a letter dated 13th June 2007, the WCPFC, communicated to Senegal, the provisional list of vessels including Senegalese vessels, supposed to having undertaken illegal activities in the zone covered by the WCPFC, according to informations from members parties.

During our activities in international Pacific waters there has not been any infringements nor any communication in that respect. According to the recommendation by the Commission, Senegal took the decision to retire all their vessels from the area based on the compromise expressed by the WCPFC Commission of reconsidering the application for cooperating non member to Senegal if only the vessels leave the area.

Senegal has a wide experience in RFMOs and does not understand the attitude of certain members that are stating non founded accusations. In consequence and regarding the information given, Senegal would wish to see its two vessels retired from the IUU list

Thank you.