



**COMMISSION  
Twentieth Regular Session  
4-8 December 2023  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)**

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**Ecuador Statement Supporting their Request for CNM Status in 2024**

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**WCPFC20-2023-OP19  
7 December 2023**

Submitted by Ecuador

ECUADOR'S STATEMENT  
WCPFC20  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands  
December 4, 2023

Madame Chair and delegates.

First, I want to thank the government and people of the Cook Islands for the hospitality and warm welcome we have received since the very first moment we have arrived to this wonderful country.

Secondly I want to thank the Parties in this meeting for considering once more Ecuador's renewal of the Cooperating Non Party (NPC) status. It is a pleasure and responsible obligation for us to keep our cooperation, especially considering tuna and other migratory species shared areas among the vast Western, Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

However, Ecuador has shown its interest since a few years ago to become a full member of this RFMO.

Why does Ecuador want to become a Member?

Because we want to share the experience that we have acquired in the last 60 years as Member of other RFMOs like the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) or the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) since 2010 or the CCMLR since 2022. Ecuador is chairing this year IATTC and is also proudly chairing the Agreement of Port State Measures, which demonstrate how serious Ecuador is taking its fight against Illegal Unreported and Undeclared Fisheries.

Ecuador has no interest on flagging longline tuna vessels in the area, or flagging carrier vessels.

Ecuador has 7 tuna purse seine vessels registered, 5 out of those actually fishing in the last 5 years, thanks to fishing days regularly negotiated with PNA countries.

Ecuador has zero days in the high seas and has no intention to change that status.

Ecuador has a good compliance performance in the last years;

Ecuador has regularly honoured its annual financial obligations to WCPFC as a CNM,

We do not see any reason or concern to keep Ecuador out from being a full Member of WCPFC, established under international legal framework of UNCLOS, which most of the Countries attending this meeting have adhered to.

Delegates, Ecuador assures you all that our Membership will do nothing but improve cooperation and strengthening WCPFC and sustainability of tuna and other migratory species.

If any Member has a concern, a way to move forward we suggest, might be that the Commission develops a procedure that CNM countries could comply in a transparent manner.