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INDONESIA - STATEMENT

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me at the outset, on behalf of my delegation, to thank you for allowing Indonesia to participate at this organization as Cooperating Non-Member. I want to thank also the Government of the Republic of Korea for its hospitality extended to my delegation, and arrangement for the meeting. Let me assure you of my delegation's cooperation and full support for the success of the meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

Ever since the Honolulu Convention was adopted in 2000, Indonesia has been taking considerable efforts to facilitate the ratification process for the Convention. A number of studies have been conducted to meet this objective.

Likewise, various policies for the conservation and sustainable management on fisheries resources have been introduced at national level. This is to comply with the recommendations and decisions of the Commission for WCPFC Convention Area; thus demonstrating our commitment for responsible fisheries.

Together with 11 countries in the region, we also promote the adoption of this management measures in the Bali Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) in 2007.

We believe we need support from stakeholders if we want to promote the effective implementation of such measures. And for this reason, we invite the participation of the Indonesian Tuna Commission, and officials from Association of Tuna Fishing Companies to join the Indonesian delegation in this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

There shall be no doubt, therefore, on the genuine intention of Indonesia to become party to this organization. It is because of our geographical location whereby some parts of Indonesia's EEZ is situated in the Pacific Ocean, and the study indicating that spawning ground of certain species of tuna is located in the waters of this area.

Following the historical meeting in Honolulu - which paved the ways for the establishment of new RMFO to cover the vast region of Western and Central Pacific - we offered Bali as venue for the preparatory conference in 2004.

We believe that by joining this Organization, we would be able to further promote sustainable fisheries management of the highly migratory species in the region. Thus, complementing our endeavors in IOTC and CCSBT for management fisheries resources in some parts of Indonesia's waters which we are pleased to join them, in 2007 and in this year, respectively.

In light of this, we would like to inform the meeting on the problem we have constantly encountered in the ratification process of the Honolulu Convention, in particular with reference to Article 3 on the Convention Area. This is particularly relevant as the Organization has, in the promotion of sustainable fisheries management and ecosystem approaches, further introduced several measures which eventually affects Indonesia's archipelagic waters.

The introduction of area convention for statistic purpose in 2007, and the proposal for new conservation management measure in the area located between 20° North and 20° South are to name a few in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

It is indeed general understanding of the Conference that the areas application of the Convention applies only to the waters of the Pacific Ocean, and does not included waters in South China Sea and South-East Asia which are not part of the Pacific Ocean. This was emphasized by the Ambassador Satya Nandan, then the Chairman to the Seventh Session of Multilateral High Level Conference, in his closing remarks.

And this is consistent with the title of the Convention.

We are aware that Article 38 provides mechanism which allows Indonesia to submit declaration reflecting our interpretation on this matter. In this Declaration, we could make our interpretation with regard to the area of Convention.

And should we choose to this approach, Article 37 poses quandary for us, namely whether this declaration would not be interpreted to modify the legal effects of the application of the Convention as stipulated in Article 38.

For this reason, we seek the guidance of the Chairman on the legal impact of such declaration on this nature. Or alternatively, by revisiting this Article for the purpose of clarification its interpretation. Thus, responding to one of the outstanding challenges facing this Organization, namely in determining the western boundary of Convention area.

Now let me share some of the progress at our national level, with regard to the implementation of conservation and management measures of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks pursuant to the recommendations and decisions of the Commission.

Record of Vessel and Authorization to fish

Under the existing management framework, Indonesia put mandatory requirement for fishing vessels to operate in waters within national jurisdiction to register in order to get fishing permit. This licensing system is an important instrument, which together with mandatory reporting requirement, serves to monitor the sustainability management of the fisheries resources.

Such requirements apply to fishing activities in all of Indonesia's fishing zone, including in the provincial levels for fishing vessels under 30 GT. And that central authority retains its authority for vessels beyond 30 GT for activities in the EEZ. With increase coordination, we manage to collect information on the fishing activities; thus allowing the effective control.

In the area of the Conference, we need to improve our data collection in order to reflect correctly Indonesia's efforts. This is because the existing data still combines fishing vessels operated in the Indonesian EEZ in Sulawesi Sea and those in the Pacific Ocean Indonesian EEZ Fisheries Management areas. This Fisheries Management Area (FMA) number 8 has a total number of 374 vessels consisting of 94 purse seiner, 199 long liners and 81 pole and liner.

For this reason, we are now revising the regulation concerning the fisheries management areas to split this management area into two different areas.

Conservation and Management Measures for Big-eye and Yellow-fin Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Our fisheries management areas, including areas number 8 as mentioned previously, is managed through input control. We introduce also limitation based on resource capacity which is evaluated periodically. This measure is taken using precautionary approach.

Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels

While preparing to become full member of the WCPFC, Indonesia introduces new regulation which requires all fishing vessels to have marking and identification.

Currently, we – Indonesia in cooperation with IOTC – impose requirement for Indonesia's fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean to join vessels marking programs. We hope this type of cooperation could be explored in the near future with the WCPFC for vessels operating in the Pacific Ocean of Indonesian EEZ.

Resolution on the Incidental Catch of Seabirds

Indonesia has been initiating on observation of incidental catch of seabirds through the implementation of observer program in fishing operation. To promote awareness and to reduce potential incidental catch, we conduct workshop involving all stakeholders, including publications and posters.

Resolution on Non-Target Fish Species

Rich abundance of tropical waters produces numbers of species taken as incidental catch to almost all type of fishing gears. To reduce the number of incidental catch, mitigation step have been taken in form of education and training to fishery operator in collaboration with SEAFDEC Training Department in Bali on 2006.

Two methods have been introduced to fishery operator, namely circle hooks and quick sinking methods in fishing. In addition, the National Plan of Action for Shark is established to identify and collect all information for mitigation of incidental of shark species.

Resolution to mitigate the impact of fishing for Highly Migratory fish Species on Sea Turtles

Indonesia has invested amount of effort to protect sea turtles presence. This range from establishing protected nesting habitat to prohibition of trade of any part of sea turtles.

To reduce the impact of fishing on sea turtles, circle hook is been introduced.

Promotion to reduce incidental catch of sea turtles are made through seminar, publications and posters.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY

Vessel Monitoring System

We put in place the requirement for installation of VMS transmitter in fishing vessels operating in Indonesia's waters.

This is stipulated in Ministerial Decree No: KEP.29/MEN/2003 concerning Vessel Monitoring System. Initial implementation of VMS focused to cover fishing vessel greater than 100 GT operated in Indonesia EEZ.

Catch Documentation System

Indonesia log book system is part of compliance implementation system. Requirement to complete log book is stipulated in Ministerial decree No. 17/2006 which was revised by Ministerial decree No. 05/2008. Beside log book, requirements to complete catch documentation also requested under capture fisheries business regulation in forms of quarterly catch report system base on log book data.

Transshipment at sea

Based on Ministerial Decree No. 17/2006 which was revised by Ministerial decree No. 05/2008, transshipment activities are prohibited in Indonesian waters. Indonesia designated certain ports to each vessel to load and unload their caught.

In port, every vessel is compulsory reporting any catch loading or unloading activity to port authority. The two major designated ports for vessel operated in Indonesia Fisheries Management Area VIII of the IEEZ Sulawesi Sea and IEEZ Pacific Ocean are Bitung and Biak fishing ports.

SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY

Finally, on surveillance program, our office has appointed a dedicated unit responsible for conducting extensive control towards Indonesian fishing vessels. We also strengthen the implementation of surveillance program through disseminations programs, publications, posters, training, and coordinated patrol. Likewise, the government also introduces *fisheries court* to deal exclusively with problems relating to illegal fishing.

With the persistent problem of illegal fishing worldwide, we believe that the Commission should also explore alternative measures to complement the existing sustainable fisheries management approach.

With this, I conclude my statement.

I thank you.