



FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

8-12 December 2008

Busan, Korea

EL SALVADOR - STATEMENT

WCPFC5-2008/OP04

8 December 2008

Thank you Chairman.

I have left a copy of the video that we showed you on Saturday for every delegation on the table in case you wish to see it again.

For those that don't know me yet, my name is Sonia Salaverria and I work for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the governmental institution in charge of fisheries in El Salvador.

In the name of the government of El Salvador, I would like to thank the government of Korea for the hospitality they have given us since we arrived. I would also like to thank all the commission members for the openness they have shown to consider El Salvador's request to become a Cooperating Non Member of WCPFC.

We have felt very welcome.

As you could see from the video, El Salvador's difficulties resemble many of your countries in as much as the need to develop our fisheries as a way of addressing food security and to be able to offer desired employment for a poverty, overpopulated land.

As a small developing coastal state to the Pacific Ocean whose fisheries are predominately artisanal, developing El Salvador's high sea fisheries has been a challenge, it is an ongoing experience. It is our view that the right to fish must only be done in complete

compliance with all international laws. In that sense, for the last year we have worked hard to try to fulfill all of WCPFC's dispositions, in order to demonstrate to the member countries El Salvador's willingness and continued desire to cooperate in this organization, providing as much information as possible to demonstrate our compliance.

We emphasize that our request is based on historical fishing we have in the WCPFC since the start of this fishery in El Salvador in 2001. We underscore that our total fishing capacity consists of four purse seiners of which only two have fished in the Western Central Pacific area during 2008, within the Kiribati EEZ and not in the high seas in accordance to last year's disposition. In addition, our small longline vessels do not have the ability to be able to come to the WCPF. We do not foresee expansion of our capacity in the near future.

El Salvador has also submitted all Scientific Data to the WCPFC:

1. Set by set operational level data,
2. Aggregated data and
3. Annual catch estimates from 2001-2008.

We were assisted in preparing this data by the scientific staff of the IATTC to which El Salvador is a high contracting Party. This is possible as the IATTC has all the data of all our purse seine vessels which carry 100% observers on all the trips. These vessels are also monitored by VMS Systems by both El Salvador and the FFA.

Finally, we stress that El Salvador's level of effort in the WCPFC will only be two vessels, the same ones which are currently fishing within Kiribati and maybe any other opportunity that we could have through the vessel day scheme of the Parties of the Nauru Agreement, fishing in observance of all WCPFC Conservation Management Measures in effect of which we submitted a complete report of for 2007.

I would appreciate if any member still has any concerns in relation to El Salvador's participation and full compliance within the WCPFC to please approach me and I will gladly try to respond to these.

I can assure the members that if accepted as a Cooperating Non member, EL SALVADOR will cooperate to sustainably manage highly migratory resources of the Pacific Ocean.

Thank You.

Busan, Korea, 8 December 2008