



FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

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SENEGAL - STATEMENT

WCPFC5-2008/OP07

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I wish to thank WCPFC to allow me once again, to take part in its fifth meeting in Korea. It is also an opportunity for me to thank the authorities of Korea and all the honourable delegates. This fifth annual meeting of the WCPFC gives us the opportunity to defend our request for the cooperating membership status. Of course, we have always expressed ourselves in the past on this issue. This present participation being the third one of its kind.

Senegal is a small coastal country. It is a maritime country, highly concerned with sustainable exploitation of resources backed by the respect of international law. As such, Senegal is working actively with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Commission of the Indian Ocean Tuna (IOTC) of which it is a member and which pursue the same objectives as the WCPFC.

Senegal was operating in Pacific international waters since 2005, in accordance with the principle of freedom of fishing on the high seas. In 2007, Senegal has withdrawn all his vessels out of WCPFC areas, on behalf recommendation of WCPFC at the third meeting of the Commission in Samoa. I won't come back on the details of his event because it has been solved. Our presence in the Pacific was done in full transparency because Senegalese vessels were registered in the records of the FFA which is a regulatory body prior to the establishment of the WCPFC and vessels involved had a legal and economic link with some coastal Pacific States. All statistical information on fishing operations, catches and fishing efforts have been communicated to the FFA.

After TCC4 data information were communicated in the good template.

Senegalese vessels have also complied with the obligation of monitoring system called "**Caisse bleue**" in addition to the surveillance system by Argos beacon (VMS) mandated by the Senegalese legislation since 2003.

Senegal recognizes the primacy of coastal States in their EEZs, areas of geographical and fishing competence as defined in the international regulation which emphasizes the centrality of the coastal state over ocean space adjacent to it and all the fishermen are subject to this recognition of the prerogatives of coastal States. For this reason, Senegal attempts, since 2006, to become a cooperating party to the WCPFC to contribute, by virtue of cooperation, both for conservation and for management of fisheries resources.

1-Senegal believes that access to living resources of the high seas is governed by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 Agreement relating to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

Senegal has implemented all the necessary mechanisms to observe the national and international instruments on the conservation of stocks and the fight against illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

All the conventions, declarations and international agreements relating to the regulation and management of fish stocks among which: the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of FAO relationship with the Cancun Declaration, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, led the State of Senegal, to vote in 1998 at the National Assembly, the Law on new Code of fishing.

With the laws and conventions voted and / or adopted by Senegal and on the oceans, sustainable development, integrated management and the precautionary approach, all decisions on fisheries management, fall within the strict observance of these, standards.

Senegal has signed and ratified all international conventions related to global environmental protection and natural resources (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna CITES), Bonn Convention relative to the Protection of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biodiversity.

Considering this, the approach of Senegal, regarding the management of fisheries resources and marine migratory species, is a concern of WCPFC. Indeed, in its motives and particularly in Article 2, the WCPFC Convention indicates that "for effective conservation, the administrative measures in

terms of migratory fish stocks management should be enforced through an international cooperation between coastal States and states fishing in the region.

Senegal has incorporated into its law the principles and conservation measures, the prevention approach and the adequacy between conservation and exploitation of resources (Article 5, 6, 7, 8 of WCPFC). In this context, the laws in force in the management of fishery resources and regulation of fisheries activities in Senegal are adequacy with the management and conservation in force in the WCPFC Convention.

2-Research programs are conducted by the Center for Oceanographic Research Dakar Thiaroye (CRODT) and help to direct the policy of the State of Senegal and its implementation through fisheries administration.

Senegalese membership at the ICCAT of which it is a founding member, allows CRODT to develop several research activities on tuna and tuna-like species in particular. The CRODT also works with several research institutes, and as such, capitalizes a huge worldwide known experience-scientific work on the high seas pelagic resources are predominantly conducted in the framework of the ICCAT. In addition, CRODT is involved in collecting and analyzing statistical and biological data of tuna resources in the West African region.

3-Senegal participates in the activities of cooperation in the structures and organizations working in fisheries. This participation aims, among others, measures on the following issues:

- cooperation in fisheries, mostly joint management of stocks;
- harmonization and coordination of systems management and resource management
- determining conditions of access to fishery resources
- the adoption of coordinated measures for monitoring and controlling the activities of fishing vessels.

Senegal has adopted the VMS and all industrial fishing vessels are equipped with this monitoring system. Different types of authorization are implemented according to fishing types, and allowing a zoning of fishing maritime space.

The wcpfc should continue to be a normative framework of the basis needs of the sustainable exploitation resources and Senegal hopes that at the end of this meeting, will be accepted in wcpfc as a cooperating member while wishing to be in a very short time a contracting party.