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DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ASPIRATIONS OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND TERRITORIES (Final Adopted Version as at 12 December 2008)

WCPFC5-2008/DP05 (Rev.8)

12 December 2008

Proposal submitted by Republic of Marshall Islands

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stock in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

Recognizing the sovereign rights of coastal States, in particular Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Territories in the Convention Area, aspirations to develop and manage their domestic fisheries,

Acknowledging that nothing in the Convention or in measures adopted by the Commission shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under the 1982 Convention and the Agreement,

Further recognizing that the Commission shall function without prejudice to the sovereign rights of the coastal States, in particular SIDS and Territories in the Convention Area, for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas of national jurisdiction,

Conscious of the vulnerability of developing States, in particular SIDS and Territories, which are dependent on the exploitation of marine living resources, including for meeting the nutritional requirements of their populations or parts thereof,

Recognizing that the Commission shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States, in particular SIDS and Territories, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries for such stocks,

Further recognizing that smaller Island Developing States and Territories in the Convention Area have unique needs which require special attention and consideration in the provision of financial, scientific and technological assistance,

Mindful that fifteen of twenty five members of the WCPFC are SIDS and Territories, and are members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fishery Agency (FFA members), in whose waters, a significant proportion of the catch of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area is taken.,

Noting that these coastal States in the exercise of their sovereign rights have taken measures for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area, including the monitoring and control of fishing activities in the Convention Area,

Urging the Commission, in accordance with Article 8 of the Convention, to develop compatible measures for areas beyond national jurisdiction, including measures that effectively monitor and control fishing activities on the high seas.

Resolves in accordance to articles 4, 8, 10 and 30 of the Convention that:

1. CCMs will develop, interpret and apply conservation and management measures in the context of and in a manner consistent with the 1982 Convention and the Agreement. To this end, CCMs shall cooperate, either directly or through the Commission, to enhance the ability of developing States, particularly the least developed among them and SIDS and Territories in the Convention Area, to develop their own fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, including but not limited to the high seas within the Convention Area.
2. To implement this resolution, developed CCMs shall make concerted efforts and consider innovative options to reduce and or restructure their fleet so as to accommodate aspirations of SIDS and Territories in the Convention Area to develop their own fisheries.
3. Developed CCM's shall cooperate in investments in fishing vessels or other fishing related activities and facilities in SIDS and Territories, provided that such investments are directly linked to the onshore development of domestic fishing industries established in SIDS and Territories in accordance with their legislation.
4. CCM's commit to achieve the goal of ensuring that by 2018, the domestic fishing and related industries of developing States, in particular, the least developed SIDS and Territories, accounts for a greater share of the benefit than what is currently realized of the total catch and value of highly migratory fish stocks harvested in the Convention Area.
5. When adopting Commission conservation and management measures the following principles should be taken into account:
 - a) CCMs shall ensure that measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto SIDS and Territories.

b) CCMs shall implement measures, including through direct cooperation with SIDS and Territories that enhances the ability of developing States, particularly the least developed SIDS, to develop their own fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, including but not limited to the high seas within the Convention Area.

6. Developed CCMs shall ensure that conservation and management measures will not be implemented to constrain coastal processing and transshipment facilities and associated vessels of SIDS and Territories, nor shall it be implemented to undermine legitimate investment that has occurred legally in FFA member countries.