



## **FIFTH REGULAR SESSION**

8-12 December 2008

Busan, Korea

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### **CHINESE TAIPEI – OPENING STATEMENT**

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**WCPFC5-2008/DP16**

**9 December 2008**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my appreciation to the government of Korea for hosting this meeting, the Secretariat and Mr. Glenn Hurry, our chair for their hard work and diligence in preparing the meeting.

There are many outstanding issues to be addressed in the meeting, such as Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) application, the bigeye and yellowfin tuna conservation and management measures, Regional Observer Program, IUU fishing vessels list, Transshipment monitoring, and Commission VMS. I hope that we could fully discuss these issues and reach consensuses.

For those MCS measures adopted and to be adopted, we believe that they should be reviewed on a periodical basis to ensure their effectiveness and practicability. Chinese Taipei is willing to work with other members to contribute our efforts on these issues. Chinese Taipei is also willing to cooperate with other members to facilitate the enforcement of the current conservation and management measures and to combat IUU fishing, in achieving the goal of conservation of the fish stocks of concern. Such MCS mechanism involves the enforcement agencies of all members of the Commission and maritime zones. Chinese Taipei would like to stress that the states in the Convention area shall claim the rights, jurisdiction, and duties in the manner consistent with international law and the UN Law of the Sea Convention.

Over the past years, Chinese Taipei has done a lot for improving its fisheries management. Among the work we have done, the one worth highlighting this year is that a bill drafted to require our nationals who intend to operate foreign flag fishing vessels on the high seas to acquire prior approval from the fisheries authorities, has just been adopted by our Parliament. The bill also requires nationals who operate foreign flag vessels to observe the relevant international conservation and management measures in force, violations of which may be liable to criminal prosecution. We believe, with these new regulations, the Fisheries Agency is equipped with an effective tool to ensure the compliance of our nationals with the conservation and management measures adopted by our government and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

The issues of fishing capacity and aspiration of developing island nations in the development of their fisheries are matters of great concern to us. We have been criticized of indulging our people in expanding fishing capacity in the region. To prevent expansion of fishing capacity, we have established the Regulation on Permission for the Export of Fishing Vessels, to regulate building of foreign flag fishing vessels in our shipyards. We must emphasize that this regulation is in no way intended to discourage the aspiration of developing island nations in the development of their fisheries. With some of the stocks not in good shape, we hope the Commission can have guideline to the extent of the fisheries developments of developing island nations in order that both their aspirations and fishing capacity can be adequately addressed.

Finally, I wish this session of WCPFC a fruitful result.