



SIXTH REGULAR SESSION

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KOREA – OPENING STATEMENT

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Submitted by Korea

Good Morning!

Mr. President of French Polynesia, Gaston Tong Sang, Mr. Adolphe Colrat, High Commissioner of the French Republic in French Polynesia, Ambassador Satya Nandan, Chairman of the Commission, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, on behalf of the Korean government, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the French Polynesian Government for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful island of Tahiti. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank those who did not spare their effort for this Commission, Mr. Glenn Hurry, the former Chairman, and Mr. Andrew Wright, the Executive Director.

Korea, as a responsible member, has committed to cooperate to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. Recognizing such duties to cooperate in managing resources, I would like to express Korea's view on the agenda of the Commission meeting.

Firstly, Korea appreciates all the CCMs' efforts to conserve and manage the tuna stocks in the Convention Area. Nevertheless, we are concerned about the report of the Scientific Committee that current measures in CMM2008-01 on bigeye and yellowfin could not achieve its own objective, minimum 30% reduction of bigeye fishing mortality within three years. Korea would like to further discuss on what kind of element has given a negative impact on stocks and what additional measures would be needed to recover the stocks to reach the target level.

Secondly, with respect to CMM2008-01, the current conservation measures on the bigeye and yellowfin which was adopted at Busan meeting should be implemented in a transparent manner. We found that there were many cases on non-compliance through the discussions at the fifth TCC meeting. Any measure would be meaningless when we fail to comply.

Thirdly, I would like to express our serious concern on the rapid increase of the purse seine fleet. We don't know exactly how many new vessels have entered into this region, and worse yet, we cannot predict how many more vessels we will have in the coming years. This increase in the number of fishing vessels should be closely monitored by the Commission. It requires us to do more work to maintain the number of purse seine vessels at a sustainable level.

I wish this meeting to provide us with a great window of opportunity to strengthen our cooperation and to promote co-prosperity of all CCMs. Korea would cooperate in further developing the conservation measures which will bring benefit for all of us here.

When we met in Busan last December it was so cold even snowing. On the contrary, this year we gather in Tahiti where it is so hot and so beautiful that it is difficult to focus on working because of the beautiful scenery.

Thank you very much.