



SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
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VIETNAM – OPENING STATEMENT

WCPFC6-2009/OP06

7 December 2009

Submitted by Vietnam

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,

Allow me at the outset, on behalf of my delegation, to thank you all for allowing Vietnam to participate as an observer in this 6th Session of the Commission. I also want to thank our host - the Government of French Polynesia - for its hospitality extended to our delegation and the excellent arrangements for the meeting. Let me assure you of our delegation's cooperation and full support for the success of the meeting.

Mr Chairman,

By means of this statement, Vietnam wants to re-affirm the commitments laid down in its original request for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status as well as in Vietnamese correspondence in response to queries about Vietnam's original request. In particular, Vietnam is fully committed to work with the Commission to acquire and manage fishery information and data in accordance with the Commission's *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission*. Moreover, Vietnam accepts high seas boardings and inspections in accordance with the Commission's *High Seas Boarding and Inspection* procedures.

As regards the commitment to provide relevant scientific data, Vietnam wants to express once again its highest appreciation for being able to participate - together with the Governments of Indonesia and the Philippines - in the GEF-UNDP-WCPFC project that bears the title 'West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management'. We look forward to working closely with the WCPFC Secretariat over the next three years to gather, categorize and assess relevant data to strengthen both Vietnam's and the WCPFC's capacity in high quality science-based fisheries management.

As a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Vietnam is fully committed to comply with its obligations on the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks, the need to take account of associated species and the key-role of regional intergovernmental cooperation thereunder.

Vietnam also intends to become a party to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in the near future. We see our request for CNM status with the WCPFC as a critical step in that regard. The WCPFC is the first regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) with which Vietnam seeks to formalize cooperation. Building experience and confidence within the WCPFC will remove obstacles to participation in the Fish Stocks Agreement. Vietnam will make all necessary efforts to cooperate with the WCPFC and comply with its conservation and management measures. In return, Vietnam hopes to receive assistance and a fair and equitable allocation of fishing opportunities that takes due account of the specific characteristics of Vietnam, including its status as a developing coastal State.

Thank you very much!