



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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26th September – 1 October 2013
Pohnpei,
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Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States

**WCPFC-TCC9-2013- DP-08
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This delegation paper is put forward by FFA Members for ease of reference to the specific requirements of SIDS set out under Agenda Item 5. FFA Members will be referring to these requirements throughout the meeting.

Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States

In giving effect to the obligations in the Convention to assist SIDS, we would like to hear discussion about how the Commission will assist SIDS in a timely manner to address the specific needs that we will lay out in this statement.

The Convention specifically recognises that the Commission has a duty to give full recognition to the special requirements of small island developing States in relation to conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks and development of fisheries for such stocks.

In addition, the Convention recognises the uniqueness of SIDS in our vulnerability and high economic and social dependence on our fisheries resources. We are the most seriously affected members by any of the decisions and obligations arising from the Commission.

Therefore, in order to ensure that the duty to fully recognise the special requirements of SIDS, particularly under Article 30, is implemented, as we stated at WCPFC9, FFA Members' position is that any proposal or measure for consideration at this TCC must include an assessment of impacts on SIDS and, if required, assistance mechanisms.

FFA Members are also going to lay out again the special requirements of SIDS and these are set out to assist developed CCMs to implement and fulfil their duty under the Convention.

We have requested previously that developed CCMs, in giving effect to their obligations to assist SIDS, target their assistance in the following general areas:

- (a) increased commercialism of tuna fisheries and related industries;
- (b) enhanced capacity for conservation and management of fisheries by SIDS;
- and
- (c) broader cooperation to recognise the importance of rights-based management and facilitate development of appropriate management regimes.

More specifically, we have identified SIDS needs and priorities throughout the agenda under the following particular agenda items, some of which we have stated a number of times:

- (i) ensuring in the revision of CMM 2008-01/CMM 2012-01 that there is no disproportionate burden of bigeye conservation on SIDS;

- (ii) ensuring in the management of the fisheries for South Pacific albacore and the revision of CMM 2008-01/CMM 2011-01, that CCMs contribute to increasing the participation of SIDS in the WCPO tuna fisheries;
- (iii) ensuring SIDS are being assisted in the implementation of Commission obligations as required by the Convention and in the CMS measure, including through assistance with E-reporting efforts – funding, sharing experiences and technical expertise; assistance with implementing the longline coverage requirements; policy development (funding to get technical assistance in country) – NPOA sharks, seabirds, sea turtles – implementation of measures; funding for scientific research; and assistance to train national VMS MTU inspectors/audits;
- (iv) providing a budget for the participation of chairs of subsidiary bodies who are SIDS nationals in any of the working groups and meetings of the Commission to assist these chairs in fulfilling their roles effectively;
- (v) facilitating the use of the Regional Observer Program Support Fund to assist SIDS in developing port sampling programs related to purse seine carrier transshipments;
- (vi) ensuring that priority for ROP funding be given to the national observer programmes of SIDS which are developing means of electronic collection of data;
- (vii) building the capacity of SIDS' nationals to develop and implement the IMS at a national level;
- (viii) ensuring a rationalisation of Commission workloads, including a prioritisation of issues, and duly structuring and streamlining of agendas for all WCPFC related meetings as this would allow a proper consideration of what the realistic options for meeting structures are as well as what works best for SIDS.

These are pressing and high priorities for FFA Members and we will continue to raise these throughout the week.

Review of the effectiveness of Resolution 2008-01

FFA Members will put a proposal on this matter before TCC10. We place high priority on this task and it needs dedicated time and effort to be undertaken properly.

Ahead of this, a preliminary analysis of the effectiveness of the Resolution reveals that there have been notable investment activities for some SIDS. In addition, according to the FFA Vessel Register data, over 60 vessels have been transferred to FFA Members from DWFNs since 2008.

However, as we have underlined several times, in the purse seine fishery, SIDS have been carrying a disproportionate burden of the conservation action for bigeye tuna, which we are seeking to rectify through the revision of the tropical tuna measure.

FFA Members note that nearly a decade since the establishment of the Commission, it continues to be an ongoing challenge for SIDS to ensure that their special requirements are realised, for example, continued constraints on legitimate investments in FFA member countries. We are therefore looking to the Commission to set clear expectations and standards of development support that developed CCMs will provide to SIDS so that these constraints at the bilateral level do not continue.

FFA Members continue to seek to ensure that a greater share of benefits from our fisheries resources accrues to SIDS.

To this end, amongst other things, we are considering the strengthening of Resolution 2008-01 in two ways (i) by turning the Resolution into a binding conservation and management measure in order to have real impact and (ii) by including the positive discussions at the Tropical Tuna Working Group on capacity transfer, disproportionate burden and transfer payments, noting our preference for rights based management in the long term.

FFA members strongly support the implementation of rights based approaches to manage WCPO tuna fisheries. Formal rights held by SIDS is the best prospect to manage these resources in ways that achieve sustainability, support development, avoid disproportionate burden and remove the need for exemptions and special considerations. FFA Members recognise that it will take some time to bring in rights based management across all fisheries. In the interim, there needs to be a method of transferring the value in the fishery to SIDS, particularly where there is a risk of SIDS otherwise bearing a disproportionate conservation burden through CMMs.