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Korea's Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention

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Executive Summary

This paper outlines how Korea is giving concrete effect to Article 30 of the WCPFC Convention by supporting Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Participating Territories (PTs) through oceans- and fisheries-related ODA. Korea is implementing or preparing ten bilateral projects totaling about KRW 65.2 billion (USD 44 million) and five multi-bilateral/multilateral initiatives totaling about KRW 25.0 billion (USD 17 million). These activities support human resource development, community and coastal fisheries, aquaculture and climate resilience, marine environmental monitoring, implementation of key international instruments (including PSMA and IMO conventions), MCS and IUU response capacity, and marine plastic reduction.

Korea intends to continue and, where possible, expand this cooperation, with particular emphasis on practical MCS and compliance capacity, data and science for WCPFC measures, and climate- and ocean-health considerations. The paper invites the Commission to note Korea's support, encourage other Members to share information on their own Article 30-related efforts, and consider options for compiling a consolidated overview of such assistance.

Korea's Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention

1. Purpose

This paper provides information on Korea's recent and planned cooperation with Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Participating Territories (PTs) in the field of oceans and fisheries, as part of Korea's implementation of Article 30 of the Convention on the special requirements of developing States.

2. Background

Article 30 of the Convention recognizes that SIDS and PTs have particular vulnerabilities and dependence on oceanic fisheries resources, and that conservation and management measures should not result in a disproportionate burden on them.

The Convention also encourages Members to cooperate in providing financial, scientific and technical assistance, capacity building, and technology transfer to SIDS and PTs to support their effective participation in the work of the Commission and implementation of its conservation and management measures.

3. Korea's cooperation with Pacific SIDS and PTs

3.1 Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) programs

Korea is implementing, or preparing to implement, ten bilateral ODA projects with Pacific island countries in the oceans and fisheries domain, with a total value of approximately KRW 65.2 billion (around USD 44 **million**). These cover, inter alia:

- Human resource development and training: a “Smart Integrated International On-board Training” program including Fiji; and an observer certification and training project for the African and Indo-Pacific regions, including Solomon Islands and Tuvalu;
- Sustainable fisheries and coastal community development: a community-based fisheries development project in Kiribati; coastal village special development in Tuvalu; and reconstruction of the Makogai aquaculture research station and climate-resilient aquaculture capacity in Fiji;
- Marine environment and climate change response: projects on ocean acidification observation in Samoa; seawater temperature-difference power and SDG capacity in the Marshall Islands; and a green campus pilot using seawater heat and renewable energy at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji;
- Marine and fisheries education: a project to strengthen marine and fisheries education capacity and master plans in Tuvalu, Samoa, and Tonga.
- In addition, Korea has completed a number of earlier projects in Micronesia, Samoa, Palau, and Kiribati, including coral reef and ornamental fish resource development, ocean acidification observation networks, and seawater-based drinking water and food production systems, which have contributed to building long-term scientific and technical capacity.

3.2 Multi-bilateral and multilateral ODA

Korea is also supporting five multi-bilateral ODA initiatives with a total value of approximately KRW 25.0 billion (around USD 17 million), implemented in cooperation with international organizations such as IMO, FAO, the World Maritime University (WMU), and IUCN. These include:

- IMO convention implementation and maritime leadership training for Tonga and Vanuatu;
- Women's capacity building in green and digital maritime sectors in Tonga and other Pacific island countries;
- Global training on implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) for Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and other States;
- IUU fishing response capacity building for 11 Pacific SIDS through WMU; and
- Marine plastic reduction projects in Samoa, Vanuatu, and Tonga.

These projects are intended to strengthen SIDS' and PTs' capacity to implement international fisheries and oceans instruments, to meet monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) obligations, and to participate effectively in WCPFC processes, in line with Article 30.

4. Future directions

Korea intends to continue and, where possible, expand its cooperation with Pacific SIDS and PTs, in close consultation with partner countries and relevant regional and international organizations, with particular attention to:

- supporting practical MCS and compliance capacity (including observers, ER/EM, and port State measures);
- enhancing scientific and data collection capacity relevant to WCPFC conservation and management measures; and
- integrating climate change and ocean health considerations into fisheries and coastal community projects.

Korea also remains open to exploring complementary forms of support, including triangular cooperation and joint projects with other Members and agencies, where such arrangements can further the objectives of Article 30 and respond to priorities identified by SIDS and PTs themselves.

Korea submits this paper in a spirit of partnership and stands ready to work with all Members, SIDS and PTs, the Secretariat, and relevant organizations to further operationalize Article 30 and ensure that conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO proceed in a manner that is fair, effective, and supportive of the sustainable development aspirations of Pacific island countries.