

## Statement of Kingdom of Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, it is with great regret that I have to inform you that the Faroe Islands cannot adopt the 2011 interim measures for Pelagic Fisheries, and hence will not be among the Participants that are parties to these voluntary interim measures. While the 2011 interim measures take partly into account the advice of the Scientific Working Group, they have the effect to exclude the Faroe Islands from undertaking fisheries, with any economic justification, of the *Trachurus* species in what will be the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and fail to take into account the special situation of the Faroe Islands, as also recognized in the 2009 revised interim measures. The 2011 interim measures are based on a reference line which has the effect to favor those Participants whose vessels, despite the low catch rates of *Trachurus* species within the Convention Area in 2010 continued fisheries actively throughout the season, will be unduly favored.

The Faroe Islands have since its participation in the International Consultations, seeking to establish a regional fisheries management organization for high seas fisheries in the South Pacific Ocean been very committed to reaching the objective enshrined in the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (Convention).

The Faroe Islands is the sole delegation present here today which has finalized the internal procedures of its acceptance of the Convention following which the ratification instrument has been deposited with the Depositary of the Convention, which reflects the commitment of the Faroe Islands to reach the objective of the Convention. The Faroe Islands is a responsible fishing nation and abides by its international commitments and the compliance with the voluntary catch and effort restrictions endorsed in the 2007 interim measures, as revised in 2009, is no exception in that regard. Our genuine effort to find an equitable agreement and determine responsible and equitable voluntary management measures to confer the highest possibility for the *Trachurus* species, in what will be the Convention Area, to recover, is also enshrined in the firm fact that the Faroe Islands have, in the negotiations with regard to revising the 2009 interim measures, proposed effective solutions, one of which is a moratorium for all fisheries of the *Trachurus* species in what will be the Convention Area in 2011, in the lack of equitable catch/effort management measures.

The Faroe Islands feels great disappointment, and while continuing to be faithful to our constructive and genuine contribution to the International Consultations and the Preparatory Conferences, the Faroe Islands hereby inform all Participants that we reserve our rights, in accordance with Part VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to undertake fisheries of *Trachurus* species in what will be the Convention Area, in a transparent manner. While not being party to the 2011 interim measures, the Faroe Islands will faithfully abide by all (i) data collection and reporting, (ii) monitoring and control measures, and (iii) to the agreed total effort limitation, embraced in the 2011 interim measures.

Mr Chairman, it is with great regret that our delegation notes the inability and unwillingness of these consultations to reach a consensus that takes account of all legitimate concerns and interests in this fishery.

Mr. Chairman, I kindly request that the written version of this Statement, which is sent to the Interim Secretariat, will be disseminated to all Participants and that it shall be a formal document to the report of the Second Preparatory Conference.