

## **STATEMENT BY THE RUSSIAN DELEGATION AT THE PLENARY MEETING 22 MAY 2009**

The Russian delegation would like to thank the government of Peru for hosting this meeting and providing excellent facilities and all possible support for our event. Besides, we thank all the delegations for their effective work and cooperation that allowed us to achieve, probably, the best results since a long while.

Before leaving this beautiful city of Lima, my delegation would like to take this final opportunity for the floor and drive everyone's attention to the key issues which are of particular importance for us.

Firstly, Russia is aimed to conclude the South Pacific fisheries agreement and open it for signature before the end of 2009. We are ready to provide our full cooperation to all delegations concerned to reach this goal. In this regard we think that we should try to simplify the text and make it shorter, wherever possible and practical, so that it would be the task and responsibility of the future Commission, within its broad functions, to develop exact rules, procedures and measures to manage the fisheries in the Area.

Secondly, we would like to stress one more time that, in our opinion, the main management issues, such as TAC, TAFE, and quota allocation, have to be solved by implementing the consensus principle. In this context Russia wishes to make a specific point that, since our Convention will be open for signature, joining or adherence by any country, we should probably think about criteria for participation in this Convention to avoid situation when countries from all over the world, being just a 'market state' or even not being that, may easily join the Convention that could potentially undermine the effectiveness of its implementation and decision-making. Besides, we should not forget about so-called 'flags of convenience' that can be offered by some countries which don't have real interests in our Area for the sake of their national fishing industry or community.

Thirdly, our delegation has made its proposals on Article 20 specifying the criteria for quota allocation. We consider this article as one of the important ones and believe that, given the uncertainty of the timeframe of the entry into force of this convention, the counting of gross tonnage as a criterion would provide an appropriate link with the interim period when the participants have voluntarily committed themselves to this temporary fisheries management alternative.

Fourthly, Russia shares an opinion of many delegations that the objection procedure is of outmost importance for the decision-making process applied in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. That is why we should seek for a transparent and workable objection procedure without financial implications for an objecting party.

Fifthly, the future conservation and management measures, likewise interim arrangements, shall exclusively apply to the high seas beyond areas of national jurisdiction. Any coordination of national and international measures has to be done on the basis of compatibility and apply to straddling fish stocks only.

Sixthly, at the time when almost every country around the world is facing the consequences of global economic crisis, Russia stands for creating the most favorable conditions for the industries and business community. We think that today the governments should be very careful in developing management measures, procedures for verification and enforcement that could be excessive and might weaken the fisheries by creating artificial obstacles for fishing companies in their hard business or making them spending too much money for compliance purposes. Russia would like to urge the participating countries, which are not involved in active fisheries in the Area and would likely not fish in the future, to demonstrate a more modest or restraint approach in proposing and insisting on adoption of some management and compliance procedures that would have a direct impact on catching activities of actively fishing countries.

Seventhly, Russia suggests that the participants start thinking about a place for headquarters of our future organization and financial implications of this decision. In general we will be supporting the concept of a small and cost-effective secretariat in a place where the basic and administration costs for its work as well as meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies could be provided at a minimum budget.

Finally, we would like to thank once more all delegations for their very good work done, especially those with which we have worked bilaterally, the Chair of our consultations, the Executive Secretary, his excellent staff, the Chairs of working groups and wish a safe trip home to all. Thank you for your attention.