



COMISION PERMANENTE DEL PACÍFICO SUR

Secretaría General

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC (CPPS) AT THE FIRST COMMISSION MEETING OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (SPRFMO)

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND - JANUARY 2013

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates of States Parties, Mr. Executive Secretary of SPRFMO and Representatives of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to attend the First Commission Meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. On behalf of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific – CPPS- I wish to congratulate the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) for the Convention that recently entered into force, which is designed to promote conservation and fishing management regulations for this part of the largest ocean space of the planet.

For this reason, we wish to greet all the countries that have ratified the Convention of the SPRFMO and have enabled its entering into force. We also wish to encourage all other countries to ratify such Convention in order to ensure the long term conservation and the sustainable use of fishing resources through the cooperation of all actors involved. This, taking into consideration the application of the precautionary principle (PA) and an ecosystem approach (EA) in the fisheries management of such resources.

The CPPS as an observer has been actively involved in the negotiation process for the formation of this organization since its inception on behalf of our member countries (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru). This learning experience as well as the mandates of each of our organizations motivates us to continue working in a coordinated manner to facilitate international cooperation in the various areas where CPPS and SPRFMO are operating and must collaborate. Within this framework there are important challenges and issues of common interest to both our organizations such as the Regular Process for global reporting and Assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio economic aspects; the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, with special emphasis on marine genetic resources; the combat against the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU); the exchange of information and data; the application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries; and the need for capacity building to make the Pacific Ocean a sustainable source of proteins that are essential as a contribution to the food security of our populations.

These paradigms are supported fully in the "Commitment to Galapagos for the XXI Century", adopted at the Eighth Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the CPPS on August 17, 2012. With this important document our member countries reaffirmed their commitment to regional cooperation in order to meet the new common challenges posed by the XXI century.



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In view of this I wish to refer to some paragraphs contained in such Declaration which are relevant to this forum.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs “expressed their commitment with the new strategic orientation of the Organization, according to which CPPS, in view of the challenges of the XXI Century, will support Member Countries to achieve in an integral perspective their sustainable development. This as defined in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Agenda 21, taking into account among others, the Ecosystems Approach, the Precautionary Principle, and the international instruments designed for the protection of seas and oceans, respecting national policies and mechanisms in effect in each country. This orientation applied in the areas of sovereignty and jurisdiction of Member States of CPPS will also guide its projection beyond that zone, including the Pacific basin.”

They also committed themselves “to coordinate their efforts to face pending challenges in order to achieve sustainable development, challenges that have been identified in the final document of the Rio+20 Conference which took place in June 2012, especially those stated in the Chapter regarding “Oceans and Seas.” They also noted that some countries recognize the rights of nature within the context of the promotion of sustainable development.”

The Ministers committed themselves to promote “the coordinated action of Member States regarding their interests on living and non living resources in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction as well as the search of alliances to tackle common challenges with coastal States of the West Pacific.”

They also stated that they “will continue to coordinate their participation in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including socio-economic aspects, as well as in multilateral initiatives against the illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU). This, especially within the framework of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, with special emphasis on marine genetic resources.”

The Ministers emphasized “the value and the significant global contribution of the Pacific ocean and its living marine resources to the food supply chain for the population of the Southeast Pacific and the world in general, and they reaffirmed the commitment of their Member Countries to the responsible development of fishing and aquaculture and the sustainable use of living marine resources and the ecosystems that support them.”

As a contribution to the international efforts, they committed themselves “to identify significant ecological and biological areas such as coral reefs, creating new marine and coastal protected areas, and to contribute to the consolidation of the Regional Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Southeast Pacific as a platform to strengthen the management and sustainability of these areas.”

Finally, they also committed themselves “to implement the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and especially to attain the



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objectives regarding fishing resources, vulnerable ecosystems and marine protected areas to ensure that coastal and marine ecosystems continue to provide essential services for the welfare of the population in the region.”

Mr. Chairman and Delegates,

We are certain that all these issues can be adequately coordinated between CPPS and the SPRFMO for the benefit conservation and fisheries management in this region, and the wellbeing of our populations.

Before concluding, I wish to thank the Executive Secretariat of the SPRFMO, as well as the Government of New Zealand, for the facilities provided and their warm hospitality.

Thank you very much.