

JOINT STATEMENT

ON EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FISHING CAPACITY MANAGEMENT ON THE GLOBAL SCALE

We, Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, on behalf of the European Union; Emerson U. Palad, Undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines; Gellwyn Jusuf, Director General of Capture Fisheries of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, on behalf of the Republic of Indonesia; Russell Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce, on behalf of the United States of America; Masanori Miyahara, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, on behalf of Japan; and, Juan Carlos Sarmiento Umbarila, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Colombia to the Italian Republic, recognise the significance of the role that overcapacity can play in undermining the conservation and sustainability of the world's fisheries resources.

We note that when overcapacity contributes to overfishing, it constitutes a serious threat to the conservation and sustainable exploitation of living marine resources in the world's oceans. It can have serious negative environmental and socio-economic consequences, particularly for coastal communities in developing countries that rely on fisheries for their living and for nutrition. Fishing vessel overcapacity may also contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities (IUU). Fishing overcapacity, as described above, is a global problem that must be addressed at the international level.

We acknowledge the need for national and regional action to implement the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA) as well as other instruments adopted at the global level to address overcapacity, in particular the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. We also recognise efforts made by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other international organisations to adopt binding measures designed to manage fishing capacity in a sustainable way. We realise, however, that more action is required to tackle the threat posed by overcapacity.

We reconfirm the importance of the recommendations on capacity management stemming from the Kobe process.

We fully recognise the special requirements of developing States, in particular small islands developing States, as well as their legitimate rights under international law to participate in and to benefit from fisheries, while not compromising sustainability objectives.

We further acknowledge that as flag, port, coastal and market States, we play a key role in the commercial exploitation of fisheries resources globally, and we bear responsibility for the conservation of living marine resources and thus for addressing overcapacity when it undermines conservation and sustainability objectives.

We also recognise the responsibility of all States to manage fleet capacity and effort, including through proper assessment and monitoring of fisheries, stocks, and fishing capacity and fishing effort in order to ensure that fleet capacity and fishing effort do not contribute to overfishing and undermine the long term sustainability of the stocks. The examples of tools and policies in this regard include limiting the number of licenses and vessel tonnage, identifying vessels that have the authorisation to fish, and eliminating fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. We are committed to cooperating within RFMOs and elsewhere to achieve these objectives. In this respect, the responsible action and cooperation of fishing States, Entities, and Coastal States will continue to be crucial.

We additionally recognise that voluntary cooperation among all States and Entities is needed to maximise the effectiveness of these and other approaches to the management of fishing capacity.

Accordingly, we intend to cooperate to:

Stress the importance of international cooperation to manage fishing capacity at the regional and global scale in an effective way;

Support effective tools and measures in regional and international organisations which will help address fishing overcapacity, where such overcapacity is undermining conservation objectives, for instance the development of international records of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels, including at the global level;

Encourage the implementation of the IPOA at the level of States, Entities and RFMOs;

Foster the development and use of appropriate methodologies and collection of necessary data, for the regular assessment of fishing capacity and to establish and improve the capability of tools for monitoring fishing capacity within RFMOs;

Work together towards measures necessary to manage fishing capacity in a manner that ensures the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources under the purview of RFMOs, based on the precautionary approach;

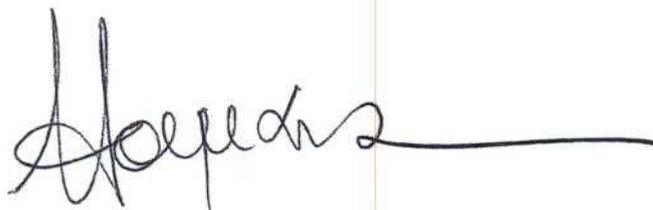
Promote the implementation of the recommendations stemming from the Kobe process related to capacity management, and consider reanimating the Kobe process for that purpose;

Explore possible voluntary joint initiatives for managing capacity;

Work with other major fishing States, Entities and developing States to further strengthen the efforts described in this Joint Statement.

Done in Thessaloniki on 14 March 2014 in six originals, five in the English and one in the Spanish language.

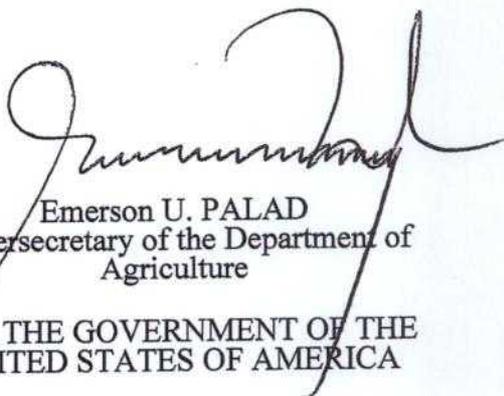
FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION



Maria DAMANAKI
European Commissioner for Maritime
Affairs and Fisheries

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



Emerson U. PALAD
Undersecretary of the Department of
Agriculture

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

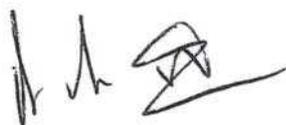


Gellwyn JUSUF
Director General of Capture Fisheries,
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN



Masanori MIYAHARA
Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries



Russell SMITH
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
International Fisheries, National Oceanic
and Atmospheric Administration,
Department of Commerce

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA



Juan Carlos SARMIENTO UMBARILA
Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the
Republic of Colombia to the Italian
Republic