



**EMBARGOED - UNTIL 17 JUNE AT 1:30PM E.A.T.**

# **Advancing Fisheries Transparency to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the undersigned, recognize the world's ocean as a shared and irreplaceable source of life, culture, food security, and economic opportunity. We reaffirm our collective responsibility to steward marine ecosystems sustainably and equitably for present and future generations.

We welcome the convening of the Our Ocean Conference in the Republic of Kenya, the first African nation to host this important gathering, as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among States, international organizations, civil society, and local communities, and to accelerate the implementation of global commitments, including the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement.

We acknowledge the essential role of small-scale fishers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, the fishing industry, regional fisheries management organizations and coastal communities in sustaining marine resources and contributing to ocean governance. Their knowledge and rights must be central to building a resilient and inclusive blue economy.

We celebrate growing global momentum toward achieving sustainable ocean management by 2030. Yet we remain deeply concerned about the threats of overfishing, ecosystem degradation, declining biodiversity, and maritime insecurity. We recognize that these issues are enabled by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated human rights abuses. We highlight that opacity in parts of the global seafood sector undermines efforts to combat IUU fishing and associated abuses, and therefore regard increased fisheries transparency as a critical response. Transparency in ownership structures is especially important to ensure that the ultimate beneficial owners responsible for IUU fishing activities are identified and held accountable.

We recognize that fisheries transparency should apply to and benefit both small-scale and industrial fisheries, and that it also supports broader ocean management efforts, including marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Timely access to reliable information allows States, communities, and industry to make informed decisions, strengthens trust among stakeholders, and contributes to the sustainable and equitable management of ocean resources.

In this spirit, we welcome and support the principles set forth in the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency, recognizing transparency as a cornerstone for legal, sustainable and ethical fisheries management worldwide. The Charter provides an internationally accepted framework to guide States in improving the accessibility, reliability, and timeliness of fisheries information.

This Declaration seeks to build on the momentum generated by existing international efforts and initiatives, including the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) Standard, to strengthen coherence, cooperation and political commitment to the implementation of fisheries transparency reforms.

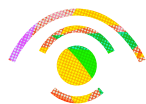
## COMMITMENTS



### Transparency and Good Governance

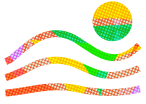
In supporting the Charter for Fisheries Transparency, we commit to advancing transparency and accountability policies across fisheries sectors, including:

- + Establishing or modernizing digital vessel registries and sharing data with the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels.
- + Publishing fishing licenses, authorizations, access agreements and quota allocations, as recommended by the FiTI Standard.
- + Ensuring that all industrial fishing vessels have unique vessel identifiers (UVIs), such as IMO numbers, and progressively implement UVIs for small-scale vessels.
- + Collecting information on the ultimate beneficial owners of vessels and fishing companies to effectively target and hold accountable those behind the violations.



### Strengthening Monitoring and Enforcement Cooperation

We commit to enhancing monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS), including via vessel tracking and more efficient information-sharing efforts, to more effectively prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. This includes improving flag State responsibility by tackling the use of flags of convenience. Further, States should fully implement port State measures, including data sharing via the system of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), and collaborate with regional and international partners to close governance and enforcement gaps.



## **Capacity Building and Support for Implementation**

We call for strengthened capacity building, technical and other assistance to enable States to implement transparency reforms. This includes support for digitizing registries, enhancing data management systems, improving MCS capabilities, and expanding professional development within fisheries authorities.



## **Ocean Observation and Open Data**

We commit to strengthening ocean observation systems and promoting open-access data to inform not only efforts to combat IUU fishing, but also broader fisheries management, marine spatial planning, climate adaptation and maritime security.

## **CONCLUSION**

We invite the United Nations system, with a particular view to the 2028 UN Ocean Conference co-hosted by Chile and the Republic of Korea, international organizations, development partners, academia, and civil society to support the realization of these priorities. We encourage collaborative mechanisms to monitor progress, share experiences, and identify opportunities for technical assistance and capacity development.

**Together, we affirm our shared vision of transparency helping realize sustainable ocean management by 2030.**

