

Statement on Sustainable Fisheries and Trade

We, participants in the International Symposium on Sustainable Fisheries and Trade held at the InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong on 14 December 2005 on the occasion of the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference;

Recognizing that, in both developing and developed countries, fisheries provide employment to people and help sustain their livelihoods and support local communities;

Recognizing also that it is highly important to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and their resources when a shortage of food is predicted for the future;

Recalling that the Doha Ministerial Declaration emphasizes the special needs and interests of developing and least-developed countries, in particular, on products of export interest to those countries and that, in this context, the issue of “preference erosions” is to be properly taken into account;

While acknowledging that according to the FAO, the percentage of world fishery resources, fully or overly exploited, has increased steadily by 25 percentage points over the past three decades, reaching 76 % in 2004, presumably due to such factors as over-capacity and IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fisheries;

Recognizing that, at the same time, the value of world fishery products which are subject to international trade has been significantly expanded over the past two decades from US\$ 15.9 billion in 1983 to US\$ 63.5 billion in 2003, and that currently 38 % of the world’s fish production is exported;

Adopt this Statement as our collective will as follows:

- 1. WTO members are urged to acknowledge that the basis of the fisheries is the sustainability of their resources, and, therefore, with respect to the trade liberalization rules on fish and fishery products, currently being negotiated at the WTO, should pay due respect to the conservation and management of fish stocks;**
- 2. In order to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources, the WTO should review the impacts on fishery resources caused by trade in fish and fish species and, if appropriate, establish a mechanism for conducting environmental impact assessments before taking measures to liberalize trade in fish and fishery products; and**
- 3. WTO members are requested to ensure that excessive liberalization of trade should not pose any threat to the culture and traditional value of fisheries and fishing communities, and in particular, special consideration should be given to the vulnerability of small-scale fisheries.**

Iceland

National Association of Small Boat Owners (NASBO)

Japan

National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations (JF ZENGYOREN)

Hokkaido Prefecture Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations (JF HOKKAIDO GYOREN)

Miyagi Prefecture Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations (JF MIYAGI GYOREN)

YUTAIKYO (The All Japan Seafood Import Consultative Group)

Japan Fisheries Association

Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association

Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association

Japan Stick-held Dip Net Saury Fishery Cooperative Association

Korea

National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives

Korea Fisheries Association

Korea Fishery Trade Association

Philippines

Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP)

Tambuyog Development Center

Thailand

The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT)

Vietnam

Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)

International Non-Governmental Organizations

The International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO)

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)

Global Guardian Trust (GGT)

Southeast Asia Fish for Justice Network (SEAFISH)