

International Co-operative Fisheries Organization ICFO of the International Co-operative Alliance

RESOLUTION:

ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY OF FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE WORLD

Adopted by the Yokohama International Fisheries Forum, 27 August 2000

We, participants in the “Yokohama International Fisheries Forum, having met on 27 August, 2000 in Yokohama, Japan”,

Recognizing that we have common and basic position with regard to the perception on the importance of achieving food security of fishery products in the world,

Confirmed as follows.

1. Fishery resources are renewable natural resources which can be depleted without proper management. Nearly 70% of the major fish stocks in the world are either fully exploited to their maximum limit, or overfished, and the resources are feared of decrease or depletion. In order to achieve food security of fishery products, each State is required to fulfill its responsibility and implement FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries based on the provisions of UNCLOS Agreement (the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Agreement), and ensure sustainable utilization of the resources as food.
2. Fishery has multi-functional roles, such as supply of indispensable food for living and maintenance of health of mankind, environmental conservation, and maintenance of local economy by creating income generating opportunities including those of fishery related industries, and so forth. In particular, in the face of increasing food shortage and expanding poverty caused by the population growth of the world, it is crucial for each State to strive to ensure appropriate management of fisheries within its legitimate national waters so that those multi-functional roles of fisheries could be fully implemented on the basis of full and equal participation by both men and women. Also it is important for each State to ensure maintenance and development of fisheries through international cooperation.
3. Approximately 40% of the world's fishery products are subject to international trade. Promotion of trade liberalization solely based on the principles of market economy may lead to encouraging fishing activities by flag of convenience fishing vessels, ignoring international resource management measures, and uncontrolled fishing activities, neglecting the conditions of the resources concerned, which have to be avoided, and for which full consideration must be given. International trade of fishery

products should not be ruled by economic logic and rationale alone. What is needed for us is to establish equitable trade rules, with due consideration given to geographical and cultural conditions of each State, so that fisheries can be developed in a sustainable manner while ensuring viable co-existence of the parties involved, and that any approach that neglects these and relies upon economy-rules everything idea be avoided.

4. Some countries claim that fishery subsidies will lead to over-exploitation of fishery resources and distortion of trade, and therefore should be abolished. However, it should be noted that there are positive fishery subsidies that contribute to the sustainable utilization of fishery resources, such as those for a reduction of fishing capacity by reduction of fishing fleet, the improvement of fishery management, stock rehabilitation and enhancement, and intensifying of patrol and surveillance etc. These aspects of fishery subsidies should be positively recognized. The claim of some of the fish exporting countries that fishery subsidies should be abolished is an extremity and we are concerned that their claim might hinder smooth development of fisheries.

FAO should continue to work on the fishery subsidy issue from the standpoint of ensuring development of responsible and sustainable fisheries, and the way to deal with this issue in the WTO should be considered carefully.

From the above perspectives, we, representatives of the organizations who participated in the Yokohama International Fisheries Forum resolve as follows:

That we will make efforts to implement responsible fisheries including promotion of community-based fisheries management, and to contribute to food security of fishery products in each of our States;

That we call for establishment of equitable trade rules of fish and fishery products that would ensure that fish producers do not suffer from undue disadvantages; and

That we will cooperate and take every possible opportunity to appeal our cause to international organizations such as FAO of the United Nations and World Trade Organization, regional and national organizations as well as NGOs, including FAO-NGOs/CSO5 Consultation for Asia and the Pacific.

*Resolved on this 27th day of August, 2000,
At Hotel New Grand, Yokohama, Japan*