



UNCTAD 14

Nairobi, 17–22 July 2016

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

World Leaders Summit, High-Level Events, Round Tables, Side Events

WIF World Investment Forum

Civil Society Forum

Global Commodities Forum

Youth Forum

UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP Joint Statement on Fisheries Subsidies

Room Tsavo 3

Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi

Wednesday, 20 July 2016

Statement

from

Pakistan

Sustainable Development Goal 14.6 commits governments, by 2020, to prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies.

The global importance of this issue is evident because over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. Subsidies for fishing are contributing to the rapid depletion of many fish species and are preventing efforts to save and restore global fisheries and related jobs, causing ocean fisheries to generate US\$ 50 billion less per year than they could.

Fisheries sector is extremely important for Pakistan because it is a source of income not only for the fishermen but also an export earning sector. Pakistan's competitiveness is affected by high level of global subsidies, therefore disciplines on subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing will directly benefit small fishermen and allied businesses. Pakistan has more than 1000 km coast line that is underdeveloped and the poorest population lives around that area. Therefore development of the coast line and improvement in the well-being of the poorest population, especially living in the least developed region of Pakistan is extremely important for the country. Fisheries sector has the potential to provide income opportunities that will lead to better health and education facilities. Large numbers of women work in the fish processing sector, subsidies to overfishing take away their livelihood. Fisher men have to face double jeopardy of climate change as well as global subsidies to the fisheries sector. Therefore Pakistan fully supports UNCTAD and FAO joint statement for disciplines on fisheries subsidies and hope that countries will agree to take some meaningful steps towards implementation of SDG14.6