



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

Joakim Reiter

DSG, UNCTAD

Talking points for UNCTAD XIV Press Conference on the occasion of UNCTAD/FAO statement on fish subsidies

Wednesday 20 July, 19:00 to 20:00 (Venue: Tsavo room 3)

Mr. Kosta Stamoulis, Assistant, Director General of the FAO, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Accredited Journalists, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- SDG 14 of the 2030 agenda on life below water has several targets whose achievements are directly related to trade and trade policy. Perhaps the most evident is target 14.6, which seeks to prohibit by 2020 certain fisheries subsidies that lead to overcapacity and overfishing. SDG target 14.6 pledges to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and to refrain from adopting such subsidies.
- Living marine resources are under severe threat to illegal and unsustainable fishing practices. According to recent FAO data, the share of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels continues decline, falling from 90 % under sustainable levels in 1974 to 69 % in 2013. Key factors for this decline include negative economic incentives, such as harmful subsidies and IUU fishing.
- Fisheries subsidies are estimated to be as high as \$30 to 35 billion worldwide, \$20 billion of which directly contribute to overfishing. We urgently need more accurate data to have a better grasp of the size of problem. And we need new impetus and fresh approaches to fishing issues.
- To mobilize international action on the SDG 14 targets, UNCTAD and FAO are today joining forces in proposing a four set of actions. These actions are:
 1. Setting a transparent, additional and effective notification scheme;
 2. Listing a clear set of prohibitions that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity, including subsidies linked to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,
 3. Introducing adequate and appropriate instruments and tools to deter the introduction of new harmful subsidies; and
 4. Giving special attention and treatment to developing countries.
- If these actions are taken up by Member States, options for a more effective delivery on fisheries subsidies negotiations by WTO Members could be attained by the time of 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2017.
- These actions will also need to be complemented by implementing relevant UN and FAO instruments designed to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This includes the recently entered into force FAO Port State Measures Agreement, which give States additional tools to deter and fight overfishing, including inspections, denial of port entry and refueling for ships suspected of being engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- These instruments will not be enough by themselves. Developing country fishing nations also need strengthened capacities of their national authorities to introduce and implement effective fish management.

- Several Member States such as the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP), Argentina, Ecuador, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Peru and Uruguay have expressed their support the UNCTAD and FAO statement.
- This statement has also enjoyed the support of relevant international and regional governmental organizations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, as well as active civil society organizations such as WWF, IOI, Oceana, CUTS International, IISD and the University of British Columbia.
- Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UNEP, in also welcoming this statement and has expressed that the achievement of target 14.6 would have significant positive impact over multilateral and regional conservation policies.
- UNCTAD and FAO thank all the supporters of this statement. We stand ready to work with the international community to implement this set of actions in line with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.