

Mr Ambassador, Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues and friends.

Good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome you to this jointly organized Oceans Forum on Trade related aspects of SDG14.

Working together gives more visibility to our collective efforts towards the common goal of more sustainable fisheries and livelihoods in a healthy ocean.

Why are we concerned about the trade aspects?

Because the fisheries sector is truly globalized with close to \$ 150 billion of exports every year of which more than half come from developing countries. And more than 1/3 of all fish produced, caught or farmed are now enters into international trade and markets.

The sector provides livelihoods, food security and healthy products to billions of people and consumers all over the world. In particular, targets 14.4, 14.6 and 14.b are of relevance to us and these are the focus of this Oceans Forum here in Geneva.

We will address each of these individually, highlighting positive country experiences and regional lessons that will help us understand the challenges ahead but also point to solutions in designing sustainable frameworks and for effective implementation.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is fully engaged and committed in this process. We participate in all 7 stakeholder dialogues and are co-host with UNCTAD of Informal Preparatory Working Group number 4 responsible for the issues we address in today's Forum.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments, guidelines, plans of action and agreements set principles that can guide the discussions, providing a framework for more sustainable fisheries including reduced and eradicated IUU fishing, a reduction in fisheries subsidies and improved access to markets and to resources for small island developing states and for developing country operations in general.

I wish you all a productive Oceans Forum.

Thank you very much.

**Audun Lem,**  
Deputy-Director,  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO