

JOINT DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHING FOR AN AMBITIOUS PROTECTION OF THE OCEAN

The governments of Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay , and my own country Colombia,

RECOGNIZING that the ocean plays a vital role in the fight against climate change, harbors a great part of the planet's biodiversity, and its resources contribute to sustainable development, poverty eradication and food security.

RECOGNIZING the urgent need to act in immediate and effective ways to restore the oceans, particularly regarding the conservation and sustainable use of its living resources.

RECALLING the importance of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources" and in particular of target 14.6 that mandated to conclude a negotiation at the WTO to prohibit 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, recognizing appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries.

AWARE of the adverse impacts of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and that IUU fishing remains a threat to a sustainable development and to the marine biodiversity, especially for developing countries

WELCOMING the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted in Geneva on the 17th of June 2022 at the World Trade Organization (WTO), which prohibits subsidies to those engaged in IUU fishing, for fishing overfished stocks, and for fishing on the unregulated high seas.

NOTING the mandate given by the WTO Ministerial Conference, to continue negotiations for additional provisions that would achieve a comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies, including through further disciplines on certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.

Decide to:

1. **Continue their efforts** to deepen the dialogue in the pursue of sustainable fisheries.
2. **Commit** to promptly ratify, in a manner that is consistent with their applicable national laws and regulations, the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, with a view of an expedite entry into force of the agreement.
3. **Cooperate** for the effective implementation of the provisions under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, including in areas where implementation can be pursued before the entry into force of the agreement.
4. **Fully engage** in further negotiations, within the WTO, with a view to agree additional provisions to achieve a comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies, including through further disciplines on certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members and least developed country Members should be an integral part of these further negotiations.

Lisbon, Portugal, June 29th, 2022.