



SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Statement delivered by Asha DeSuza, Head of Delegation.

Interactive Dialogue 5:

Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

United Nations Oceans Conference 2022

29th June 2022, Lisbon.

Excellencies, Distinguished representatives, President,

1. Saint Kitts and Nevis aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of G77&China and wishes to offer these brief remarks in our national capacity.
2. Small scale artisanal fisheries have been the bedrock of the marine resource sector in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Similar to the global statistics, many households in coastal villages and communities in Saint Kitts and Nevis rely on small scale fisheries as a means of employment and poverty alleviation and embrace this livelihood as a part of their cultural identity and socio-economic categorization. Likewise, small scale fisheries play a pivotal role in our national agenda for food security and nutrition. It is for these reasons that Saint Kitts and Nevis vigorously advocates for the sustainability of fisheries.
3. Chair, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis recognized the need to invest in small-scale artisanal fisheries both in the private and public sectors and pursued this capacity development through a multistakeholder approach over the last few years.
4. With a priority on improving the institutional and administrative capacity of the fisheries department, new fisher registration procedures were introduced. This also helped to enhance overall fisheries management and data collection efforts.
5. The Government also embarked on its fish aggregating devices training, construction and deployment programme in September 2021 to minimize concentrated nearshore fishing. Training sessions were conducted in seamanship and safety at sea, in conjunction with a GPS training and distribution project.
6. Substantive investments have also been made in the development of commercial fisheries facilities in several fishing villages on Saint Kitts and Nevis, with the aim of
 - A. Providing safe and sanitary handling and processing of fish catch

- B. Improving the quality and supply of fresh fish
- C. Creating an environment for local fishers to sell their catch, participate in the formal economy, and ultimately facilitate local and regional market access.

7. We continue to empower small scale fishers and fish workers, in order to improve their organizational capacity to engage substantially in fisheries management and governance and promote their market access.
8. Chair, despite all these efforts, however, we admit that many challenges remain.
9. We reiterate the need to end overfishing and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and other destructive fishing practices. We are happy to report that just last week Friday, we validated our National Plan Strategy and Action plan to effectively implement the provisions of the Agreement on Port State measures to eliminate IUU fishing and encourages others to take similar measures in order to avoid the dangerous depletion of fish stocks and the undermining of national, regional and international efforts to make fisheries sustainable.
10. As a small island developing state with limited fiscal resources and the extreme vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change, we continue to advocate for international cooperation, technical assistance and the transfer of marine technology.
11. We remind that there are financing and technological gaps to be closed, sustainability levels to be attained and promises to be fulfilled if we are to truly achieve the targets we set out for ourselves to make fisheries sustainable and providing access for small scale artisanal fisheries.