

July 1, 2022

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) written stakeholder statement for the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference

Dear members and audiences of the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference,

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) would first like to thank the governments of Portugal and Kenya for hosting this important Conference. Please accept the following statement on behalf of our support for the “2022 United Nations Ocean Conference to support Scaling up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14.”

GSSI is a public-private partnership bringing together the UN FAO and over 100 Partners from across the globe, to drive forward more sustainable seafood for everyone. By operationalizing internationally negotiated instruments we strengthen alignment between businesses, NGOs, governments, and international organizations. Successful examples of this are our benchmark tools for environmental seafood certification and social compliance schemes, which create a level playing field to accelerate the implementation of the UN SDGs.

This Conference provides a critical opportunity to strengthen our collective commitments and actions to help #SaveOurOcean. GSSI is pleased to see the topic of blue foods high on the agenda, emphasizing their critical role in achieving global food security, ensuring access to healthy sources of nutrition, providing decent work, and supporting livelihoods in all communities.

Support for Dialogue 4 “Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”

In support of making fisheries more sustainable, GSSI works to align with other initiatives in the sector to further its impact reach and ensure that the seafood sector works collaboratively and efficiently on a focused sustainability agenda void of duplicative efforts. Last year GSSI, the Global Tuna Alliance, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, SeaBOS, and the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability came together and issued a joint statement. The statement calls on governments to ratify and implement the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. This call to action was backed by over 150 of the largest seafood supply chain companies globally. We continue to repeat this call to action today.

In support of providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, GSSI is co-creating Seafood MAP with more than 100 stakeholders globally - including the UN FAO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Providing pathways for continuous improvement and bridging the gap between the seafood industry and small-scale fishers - who often lack the means, resources, and incentives they need to thrive - has never been more critical than it is today. Through a powerful combination of storytelling and measuring impact against the SDGs, Seafood MAP is a digital platform that provides new ways for producers all over the world to learn, connect to markets, find technology solutions, and understand investment opportunities. Seafood MAP has the power to mobilize dynamic public-private collaboration to achieve the SDGs and transform the way the world connects and thinks about seafood sustainability.

Support for Dialogue 8 “ Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

In support of leveraging interlinkages between the SDGs towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, GSSI continues to work in close collaboration with the UN FAO. This allows GSSI to be a unique platform for the sector which works to operationalize and champion internationally negotiated and agreed codes and guidelines for the seafood sector. By developing solutions that are anchored in UN FAO Codes and Guidelines



and based on a common language anchored in the SDGs, GSSI works to to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

By working together, we aim to ultimately achieve a world in which all seafood actors are fully connected and empowered. GSSI is committed to supporting its Partners in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs so that we can all contribute to healthier oceans and a lasting seafood supply for years to come. GSSI invites seafood sustainability leaders to join and become part of the solution to save our ocean.