
Intro

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, esteemed guests,

It is a great honor for me to serve as a Co-Chair of the Action Panel 9 on promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty and food security. I am truly delighted to join you for this important session.

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the United Nations and the co-hosting organizations for their excellent preparations. I would also like to warmly welcome my fellow Co-Chair, moderator, all panelists, and participants gathered here today.

The theme of today's session—"Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean"—goes far beyond the simple value of food from the ocean.

In the face of multiple global challenges such as the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and marine pollution, aquatic food systems are affected by the challenges, and sustainable aquatic systems are a key solution that contributes to sustainable development goal in general, resilience, and human well-being.

Aquatic foods provide essential proteins and nutrients to hundreds of millions around the globe and serve as the economic backbone of countless coastal communities.

With a growing global population and constraints on terrestrial food production, their role will only become more vital in the years to come.

To maintain current per capita consumption levels by 2050, it is projected that global aquatic food supply must increase by over 22%. However, our current systems are not yet prepared to meet this demand in a sustainable way.

According to a recent FAO report, only 62.3% of marine fish stocks were biologically sustainable, with the rest either overexploited or at their limit. 23.8 million tons of aquatic foods were lost or wasted in the supply chain—representing 14.8% of total production.

These figures point to inefficiencies and structural vulnerabilities in our aquatic food systems, underscoring the urgent need to redesign resource management and value chains around the principle of sustainability.

This session aims to go beyond information-sharing; it must be a launching point for concrete policy recommendations and meaningful action plans, including stronger international and regional cooperation

We will begin by examining the current state of sustainable aquatic food systems and the pressing challenges they face.

From there, we aim to highlight effective approaches—such as responsible fisheries management, sustainable aquaculture, greater value chain transparency, food loss reduction, and strengthened social protection.

Ultimately, we hope to advance meaningful policy dialogue and foster deeper international cooperation to drive collective progress.

Governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector—all of you here today—can play vital roles in strengthening the resilience and equity of aquatic food systems.

We are not merely discussing fisheries or marine products—we are shaping a sustainable development model of aquatic food value chain for future generations.

I look forward to the exchange of ideas today as we work together to unlock the full potential of this critical sector.

Thank you.

Now, I hand over to co-chair(탄자니아) / moderator to proceed.

Closing

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the speakers and participants who contributed to today's discussion.

Our conversation today reaffirmed that sustainable aquatic food systems are not just about nutrition—they are essential to strengthening livelihoods, ensuring food security, and building a more equitable and resilient global economy.

Now is the time for action, not words. We must work together—through bold policies and effective cooperation—to ensure that food from the ocean reaches more people equitably, sustainably, and safely.

I hope today's session will serve as a meaningful step

toward real and lasting progress.

Thank you.