

2 February 2021

**Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative Statement related to Agenda item 8 of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries**

Thank you Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates.

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative would like to commend FAO on their achievements to date to support sustainable marine and inland small-scale and artisanal fisheries governance and development. We acknowledge the opportunities and challenges for small-scale fisheries presented by domestic, regional and global markets, as well as the contribution small-scale and artisanal fisheries make to sustainable development and the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As a global initiative, we have strengthened our collaboration with the FAO to explore how our multi-stakeholder partnership and value chain approach can support the implementation of FAO Instruments that are particularly relevant to Small Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture. This has resulted in the design of a new GSSI program called Seafood MAP (Measuring and Accelerating the Performance of global seafood supply). Seafood MAP aims to provide a simple framework, based on FAO instruments such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, to promote the visibility of seafood producers, and of sustainability initiatives in those markets and for those species that are currently not reached by seafood certification. Seafood MAP is designed to be accessible to small-scale operators and developing countries and will make visible as well as accelerate the numerous efforts, initiated both by public and by private institutions, to achieve the United Nations SDGs and resilient seafood production systems globally.

Through its partnership, which represents the full seafood value chain with more than 90 stakeholders from across the world, GSSI is now ready to build Seafood MAP and leverage the seafood industry influence to operationalize international guidelines in this space, as has already been successfully done with the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool.

We welcome further collaboration with FAO and its Member States to promote the visibility of small scale and artisanal fisheries in the future, and we applaud the preparations for the 2022 International year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture to strengthen the support to small scale and artisanal fisheries.

Thank you mr. Chair.