



ICFA RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE & FISHERIES

December 2023

Preface

The world's policymakers are gathering at the **COP 28 UNFCCC** in Dubai (United Arab Emirates). In this framework, the **International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA)** would like to **inform the negotiators** on several issues including **(1) the impact of climate change** on marine ecosystems and fish stocks; **(2) the fisheries sector's contribution** to mitigating climate change and; **(3) the commitment of the industrial fisheries sectors to an energy transition/decarbonisation.**

Resolution

Whereas climate change impacts marine ecosystems, fish stocks, and the activities at sea and its consequences such as rise of temperature, acidification, eutrophication, sea level rise, migration of species are intensifying;

Whereas COP 28 UNFCCC creates a momentum to find solutions to mitigate climate change and to adapt to its unavoidable effects as well as to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);

Whereas the fight against climate change requires contributions from all economic sectors including the fisheries sector and therefore, the interconnection between the policymakers and the industries is key to ensure pragmatic and implementable solutions;

Whereas the fisheries sector contributes to the fight against climate change as fisheries products/blue foods have one of the lowest carbon footprints amongst animal proteins. Therefore, increasing the share of fisheries products/blue foods in the global diet will contribute significantly to lowering the carbon intensity of the global food system and facilitate achieving several SDGs such as SDG 2 "Zero hunger", SDG 3 "Good health and well-being", SDG 12 "Responsible consumption and production", SDG 13 "Climate action" and SDG 14 "Life below water";

Whereas the greatest component of the carbon footprint of wild-capture fisheries is fuel consumption, an energy transition within the fisheries sector is necessary. However, there are not yet any affordable and available fuel alternatives adapted to fishing vessels. The energy transition/decarbonisation of the fisheries sector requires important public and private investments and a scaling-up of existing innovations;

Therefore, ICFA:

- Calls on the COP 28 UNFCCC to take fully into consideration the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems, fish stocks and economic activities at seas and to ensure that an ecosystem-based management of fisheries is put into place in order to include climate change in fisheries management;
- Highlights the utmost necessity to bring together policy makers and the economic sectors, including the fisheries sector, to find pragmatic and implementable solutions to tackle climate change and to adapt to its unavoidable effects;
- Calls on the COP 28 UNFCCC to recognise the importance of fisheries products/blue foods as a low carbon footprint source of proteins essential for a healthy diet that will contribute to achieving the global climate objectives;
- Recalls in that perspective, that the fisheries sector should be considered part of the solution in the fight against climate change;
- Reiterates the fisheries sector's commitment to the energy transition/decarbonisation;
- Highlights nonetheless that affordable, viable and adapted options for fuel alternatives are not yet available to the fisheries sector; therefore calls on the COP 28 UNFCCC to enable public and private investments for the energy transition/decarbonisation of the sector and help marketing scale-up existing decarbonisation innovations;