

Workshop on linking global and regional levels in the management of areas beyond national jurisdiction

Wednesday, 18 February 2015

Red Room

Opening Remarks

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

1. It is a **great pleasure to welcome** you today to this Workshop on linking global and regional levels in the management of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
2. It is an even greater honor to welcome **so many of our partners**.
3. Building **strategic partnerships** is key for FAO.
4. The **Common Oceans Program is an excellent example** of how a wide range of stakeholders with different mandates and activities and different communities of practice can work together to address the long-term challenges of managing areas beyond national jurisdiction in a sustainable manner.
5. The **active involvement** of national governments, international organizations, regional fisheries management organizations, research organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector can help address the challenges of the effective management of fisheries and

biodiversity conservation - in an area comprising 64% of the oceans' surface.

6. Over the past year, FAO has been increasingly promoting **the Blue Growth initiative**.
7. **This initiative aims** at maximizing socioeconomic benefits from a sustainable management of our living aquatic natural resources, which places a strong emphasis on national and regional policies that are responsible and sustainable and that lead to economic growth and food security.
8. **The world's oceans, seas and coastlines are inextricably linked.**
9. Sustainable use of oceans requires **careful management of areas beyond and within national jurisdiction.**
10. Joint work through programs such as Common Oceans and the Blue Growth Initiative will strengthen the implementation of the ecosystem approach for sustainable fisheries and conservation of biodiversity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. **FAO has been following with interest** the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.
12. In the context of the recommendation to the United Nations General Assembly in relation to an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Working Group recognized that the development process **should**

not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies.

13. We know that there is more understanding than ever about the need to adequately safeguard our natural resources if we are to meet the food security needs of our growing planet.
14. In the context of fisheries, Regional Fisheries Bodies have an important role to play in safeguarding food security and implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries. And other institutions have an equally important role to play in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
15. Together, as partners, we will work more effectively towards strong governance and common commitments to ensure the effective and consistent implementation of measures to safeguard our areas beyond national jurisdiction.
16. Developing countries continue to strengthen their institutional capacities. Today they are more effectively participating in regional processes and bringing their concerns and interest to the negotiations.
17. Our joint efforts, building on established and emerging partnerships and global best practices can assist in the management, sustainable use and protection of marine living resources and associated ecosystems to benefit present and future generations.
18. FAO is proud to be working towards these objectives in partnership on this Common Oceans Programme.
19. I take this opportunity to wish you a successful workshop.
20. Thank you for your attention.