

Original: Spanish

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
ON PROPOSED AMENENDMENTS TO THE ICCAT CONVENTION**

Good morning, Honourable Vice Chairman, Honourable Delegates, Chair of the Working Group

The Republic of Venezuela welcomes the initiative that the Commission has put forward to review the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, adapting it to twenty-first century good governance and management. Likewise, we applaud the commendable effort that the Working Group has made, to achieve in tangible facts, a consolidated document including the proposals of Contracting Parties.

However, we consider that it is not the right moment to approve the text including the consolidated proposals. We believe and therefore express, that the work of this Group should be continued. It is essential that a more in-depth review of each proposal is carried out, in particular, those relating to the change in Depositary and the Article on the "Settlement of disputes", which leaves many legal loopholes in the actual text and could lead to misinterpretations on behalf of Contracting Parties. Moreover, in accordance with the domestic procedures of the Republic of Venezuela, a new document of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas should be submitted to revision by the pertinent Government bodies to decide on its approval.

It is necessary that the amendment of Articles include explicit details in a way that they do not raise doubts or questions and instead make the text fully understandable.

In this respect, as regards the proposals for amendments, the Republic of Venezuela reiterates that in order to reach a consensus among Contracting Parties, more work should be carried out taking into account that it will be Convention that will govern the Commission for the following years and it should be considered of paramount importance.

Thank you