

OPENING REMARKS FOR THE 25TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**The Republic of Korea**

Distinguished Chair of the Commission, Executive Secretary and Staff Members, Delegates of Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties and Observers!

Good Morning, all. My name is Chansoo Park who leads Korean delegation to the 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission and I am from the Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries of Korea. First, it is my honor to attend this meeting held in a beautiful city of Marrakech, which keeps a long history and proud tradition. I sincerely would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Government of Morocco and the ICCAT Secretariat for their tireless efforts to organize this important meeting.

As many of you are well aware of, the overfishing and depletion of fishery stocks become a crucial problem to the world. According to the FAO, one third of the fishery stocks on the globe are experiencing overfishing. Some even provide a doomed projection that in 2048 we may not find seafood on the table any longer if this trend keeps going on for next 30 years. In this regard, preventing fishery stocks from depletion and ensuring the sustainability of fisheries can't be overemphasized.

ICCAT is a best-practice body which takes the lead other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) achieving the recovery of the bluefin tuna stock, which was used to be to be reduced to the historically lowest level, through a workable solution.

At this meeting, the Commission is supposed to discuss about many issues for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in Atlantic Ocean. Many CPCs put forward a variety of proposals to amend current recommendations on bluefin tuna's multi-annual recovery plan, e-BCD system; and to establish new recommendations for observer safety and health, prohibition on discards of tropical tuna by purse seiners and conservation of incidentally caught sharks. I would like to appreciate the proponents for providing meaningful proposals.

Most importantly, the Commission will decide TAC and quota allocated to CPCs during this meeting. I hope that we could reach a well-balanced agreement that ensures the protection of the bluefin tuna stock in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean; and reflects aspirations of fishing nations fairly and squarely considering of the criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities specified in the Resolution 15-13.

Last but not I wish that 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission could accomplish meaningful outcomes to protect fishery stocks that are becoming increasingly depleted.