

Original: Spanish

**STATEMENT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA  
ON THE ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

*Submitted by Venezuela*

Good morning, Honourable First Vice Chair, Honourable Delegates,

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers a laudable and worthy initiative the interest shown by ICCAT to undergo a second review to evaluate its performance as a Regional Fisheries Monitoring Organization (RFMO).

In this sense, and in accordance to the review carried out to the Report of the Panel and its recommendations, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela concludes that ICCAT's mandate complied with the primary objectives as regards to conservation and management of different fisheries conducted in the Atlantic Ocean. However, it considers that faced with this opportunity, it would be more relevant to continue evaluating recommendations proposed by this Panel in order to submit them to the consideration of all Contracting Parties and define which could be considered to achieve the best performance.

It is essential that Contracting Parties are provided with all the necessary time to evaluate the Report of the Panel in order to avoid taking decisions lightly on such an important issue. Therefore, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supports the proposal of the European Union on the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Working Group to follow-up on the Second Performance Review of ICCAT.

Thank you