



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

Speech by Mr Abdellah Srou
GFCM Executive Secretary
ICCAT 26th Regular Meeting
Agenda Item 10, Plenary (cooperation with other organizations)

Excellencies,
Representatives of countries and organizations,
ICCAT Chairperson and Executive Secretary,
Colleagues,

I am very pleased to attend the ICCAT 26th Regular Meeting on behalf of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO. At the outset of my intervention, I would like to congratulate Spain for hosting the meeting in this beautiful setting as well as the ICCAT Secretariat for its excellent organization.

The GFCM and ICCAT have long been partner organizations. The history of cooperation between these two organizations goes back to almost 30 years ago, when a joint working group was established to strengthen technical cooperation on data collection and issues of mutual interest. This is due to the fact that GFCM and ICCAT partly share the same geographical area of competence as well as many member States.

Over the years we have witnessed a need to further this cooperation, in particular in the context of UN SDG 14. It is evident that all organizations having a mandate relating to the oceans and their living marine resources must make efforts to join forces and cooperate in pursuing their shared objectives, while taking account of their respective their mandates.

This has been the philosophy of the GFCM and we have already concluded some 15 memoranda of understanding. Most recently, the GFCM Members have underlined the relevance of concluding a memorandum of understanding with the ICCAT, with a view to building upon a more formal cooperation arrangement.

It is my honour to inform you that the GFCM stands ready to enter into a memorandum of understanding with ICCAT should this course of action be approved during this regular meeting.

I thank you all very much for your attention.

Mr Abdellah Srou, GFCM Executive Secretary