

Original: English

**STATEMENT OF CHINESE TAIPEI ON THE CONVENTION AMENDMENT**

*26<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of ICCAT, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 16-25 November 2019*

Three important documents relating to the ICCAT Convention amendment, "Protocol to Amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas", "Recommendation by ICCAT on Fishes Considered to be Tuna and Tuna-like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs" and "Resolution by ICCAT Regarding Participation by Fishing Entities under the Amended ICCAT Convention" are adopted at the same time at the plenary session of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of ICCAT.

Chinese Taipei would like to congratulate this great achievement made by every CPC. Special appreciation also goes to the Chair of the Commission, Mr. Raul Delgado, as well as the Madam Chair of the Convention Amendment Working Group, Mrs. Deirdre Warner-Kramer. This great moment cannot be reached without the excellent leadership of both of them.

The amendment of the ICCAT Convention is never an easy task. In the past 7 years, each delegation contributed their great efforts in addressing many issues related to the convention amendments. Different opinions did exist among delegations during negotiations. However, with the collective wisdom and spirit of collaboration shown by all delegations, each delegation demonstrated its greatest flexibility, and finally overcame their differences and reached a very fruitful outcome to bring the existing ICCAT Convention in harmony with recent developments of international fisheries legal instruments, and accommodate all CPCs that have real fisheries interests in this region. We sincerely wish that this new amended ICCAT Convention can enter into force as soon as possible to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this organization for the conservation and management of ICCAT species.

We have participated in this organization as a cooperating non-Contracting Party/ Entity/Fishing Entity for more than 20 years, and have established close cooperation relationship with this organization and many other delegations to facilitate the work of ICCAT. We look forward to seeing the entry into force of the amended convention in the earliest possible time, and will spare no effort to make more contributions and cooperation with this organization and all distinguished delegations in this organization.