

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON
HARMONISATION AND IMPROVED OBSERVER SAFETY**

Presented by Norway

NOTING the regional observer programmes (ROPs) established by ICCAT;

RECALLING that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Certification (STCW- F), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1995, sets forth safety training standards for observers and other fishing vessel personnel;

ALSO RECALLING the 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) which outlines fishing vessel standards and includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers and to provide a level playing field for industry, and acknowledging that ratification of this agreement will address and increase observer safety through appropriate safety standards for vessels, safety equipment and communication equipment;

RECOGNISING that challenges relating to health and safety for observers are global and should be harmonised in order to ensure level playing field and facilitate implementation at national level;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the proposal presented to the JOINT FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters, for FAO to conduct an expert workshop, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Association for Professional Observers (APO), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) to conduct an expert workshop to:

1. Review available information and existing national and regional measures on the safety, security and working and living conditions of fisheries observers under the observer programmes;
2. Prepare recommendations on how to improve conditions and harmonise measures globally; and
3. Present the expert consultation recommendations for consideration at the FAO Committee on Fisheries, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee and the ILO Governing Body in 2020, so that guidance for further action can be provided.

EMPHASISING that improved dialogue at the national level between the competent authorities and their fishing vessel operators is warranted;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. The Commission will evaluate the outcome of the proposal presented to the JOINT FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters at this AD Hoc Working Group's meeting in Torremolinos, Spain, 23-25 October 2019, and consider appropriate follow-up.
2. CPCs will commit themselves to strengthen the dialogue with their fishing vessel operators with a view of raising awareness of the health and security challenges confronting observers, thus enhancing cooperation between crew members and observers.