

# **The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry**

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We, the Ministers of Benin, Chile, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Norway, Palau, Philippines, São Tomè and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste<sup>1</sup>;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017 <sup>2</sup>.

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on “Life Below Water” and Goal 16 on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.”

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

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<sup>1</sup> Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomè and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020)

<sup>2</sup> Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:  
[http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Sessions/CCPCJ\\_26/E\\_CN15\\_2017\\_CRP3\\_e\\_V1703449.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf)