

Opening speech by Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary

Ladies and gentlemen Ministers present,
Eng. Mostafa Elsayad, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Prof. Dr Salah Eldin Mesalhy, Chairman of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA)
Major General Islam Rayan, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of National Company for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NCFA)
Major General Alhussein Farahat, Executive Director of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA)
ICCAT Chairman,
Lady, gentleman ICCAT Vice-Chairs,
Lady, gentlemen Commission Officers,
Ladies, gentlemen Delegates,
Ladies, gentlemen partners,
Dear interpreters,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

Duly respecting your ranks and capacities,

Asalam Alaykoun

I have the honour of addressing you on the occasion of this 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission/ICCAT, which is being held for the first time here in Cairo, on Egyptian soil, this beautiful country which is so often referred to during our schooling for its major role in the history of mankind. Allow me, on behalf of the Secretariat, to express my sincere thanks to the authorities of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who have spared no effort to ensure the smooth organisation of this meeting, and for the very warm welcome they have extended to us.

In this respect, and with the hope of significant results from this session, this meeting is set to remain in our memories, also considering the prevailing circumstances prior to the meeting.

ICCAT Chairman, dear Delegates, the Secretariat is constantly seeking the optimal balance between the Commission's orders, the main element being the meetings, and the Secretariat's ability to respond adequately to those orders (taking quality into account). This year again saw a new record in the number of meetings, which continues to entail a number of challenges and a growing concern about the possibilities of organising these meetings properly. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to appeal once again for your assistance in achieving this balance.

Next, but not less important, I would particularly like to renew/reiterate my great pride in my dear colleagues from the Secretariat for their dedication and constant efforts to improve the Secretariat's contribution in the pursuit of the Commission's objectives.

Chair, dear Delegates, the Secretariat remains more determined than ever to pursue its commitment at your side, and in close synergy with the other subsidiary bodies of the Commission, while counting on the much-appreciated assistance of the partners, to serve you better.

Thank you very much for your kind attention!

Choukran jaziilan!