

RECOGNIZING the concern expressed by the countries at the FAO Committee on Fisheries in 1991 on the change of the flag of the fishing vessels to avoid conservation measures internationally adopted;

RECALLING the concern expressed by ICCAT on this same problem at its Twelfth Regular Meeting in 1991, reiterated at its Eighth Special Meeting in 1992;

BEARING IN MIND that under Agenda 21, States commit themselves to the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources;

BEARING IN MIND the conclusions of the FAO Technical Consultation on high Seas Fishing held in September, 1992, which recommend the establishment of an International Agreement to avoid the continuation of the undermining of the effectiveness of the conservation measures agreed upon internationally,

RECOGNIZING the need to exercise responsible fishing, demonstrated at all the international fora and the recommendation made to FAO to elaborate a Code of Conduct for responsible fishing;

BEARING IN MIND the excellent work carried out by FAO in the elaboration of an Agreement to promote compliance, by fishing vessels that fish on the high seas, of conservation measures internationally agreed upon, and the great success achieved by the quickness of its conclusions and approval by the FAO Council, of the text of the Agreement and the recommendation for its adoption at the 27th Conference (November 6-25, 1993);

BEARING IN MIND that the "Agreement" is an essential part of the Code of Conduct;

CONSCIOUS of the urgent need to have available a Code of Conduct for the exercise of responsible fishing that allows the conservation of the resources and the maintenance of the activity and that it is not advisable to delay further the implementation of the pertinent action for its finalization;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

1. SUPPORTS that the "Agreement", once adopted by the FAO Conference, be adopted as soon as possible by the ICCAT Contracting Parties, with the object that the flag states assume the responsibility that corresponds to them in relation with the activity of their fishing vessels.
2. RECOMMENDS that the FAO Conference take into account the support shown by the FAO Council so that the general principles of the Code of Conduct be developed by FAO using the same "fast track" system used in drafting the "Agreement", and which has attained such commendable results.