

STATEMENT BY GUATEMALA ON COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
(COC-308_Appendix 2/2020)

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Guatemala would like to extend its greeting to you, and also to refer to Doc. No. COC_308_Apendice 2/2019 (sic), of 14 December 2020, informing of the compliance actions recommended by you for CPCs.

Guatemala wishes to reiterate its commitment to compliance and constant improvement in the discharge of its obligations, as already informed through the Annual Report and the communications submitted to the different Commission bodies.

Given the content of the observation for my country, developed in the document referred to above, my delegation considers it essential to clarify an essential aspect which may address the potential concern regarding implementation, functioning and compliance with the national scientific observers programme (*Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program* (Rec. 16-14)).

As stated in the Annual Report submitted, through the responses to the respective questionnaires, i.e. the Scientific Reporting Summary Table (Item S10), Section 2 on research and statistics, and Section 5, my country complies with the above-mentioned Recommendation 16-14. Even though there is no programme implemented by national civil servants, the services are contracted of a qualified entity with experience in implementation of observers programmes onboard the national fleet, whose management is acknowledged and supervised by Guatemala. In fact, since the start of operations by my country in the Convention area, the services have been contracted of another institution or provider for compliance with the obligations of the national scientific observers programme, which must be understood to endorsed, supervised and implemented by Guatemala as the flag State.

My delegation considers that the recommended action may have been addressed through this clarification and there is therefore no need to recommend any action in the document COC_308_Appendix_2/2020.

I respectfully request that this statement be circulated to all CPCs. Yours sincerely.