

Original: Spanish

**STATEMENT BY NICARAGUA TO PLENARY ON PANEL 1**

Our Delegation would like to refer to the Letter of the Chair of ICCAT Panel 1, of 16 December, which was published through ICCAT Circular # 8575/2020, and informed of the alleged results of the process of the work carried out by this Panel.

In this regard, we would like to express the following:

- The process developed was characterized by partiality, lack of transparency and discrimination as regards the statements of Central American countries.
- Our Delegation strongly opposes the attempt of the Chair of Panel 1 to curtail our right to commence development of our fishery.
- The suggestion by the Chair of Panel 1 that the amendment to the table proposed by Nicaragua not be discussed at the plenary stage, is discriminatory: we request that it be duly disseminated to the other CPCs.
- Our Delegation requests and requires that CPCs without historical catches be given the opportunity to develop their fisheries. We do not agree with the situation whereby a few are authorised to take large amounts of catches while those of us without historical catches are denied this right. Nicaragua submitted on 10 January of this year, a declaration of interest in commencing its fishery – a requirement that was established at the 26th Regular Meeting of ICCAT, held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in November last year – thus complying with the requirement established at that meeting so that countries without historical catches could start the development of their fishery. On this basis, *we reserve the right to operate our fishery as enshrined at the meeting in Palma de Mallorca in 2019.*

I thank you in advance for circulating this communication to all ICCAT members and cooperator members.

I take this opportunity to express to you the assurances of my highest consideration.