

STATEMENT BY GUATEMALA TO PLENARY

1. Regarding the Panel 1 report

Noting that there was no consensus on document PA1_503A/20, in particular the extension of paragraph 4 of Recommendation 19-02, my country will not object to the consensus to support ICCAT's collaborative management, but it states for the record its firm position to avoid non-compliance with the procedural rules and regulations of the Convention on broad and non discriminatory participation of the Parties in future decision making processes, as occurred in 2020. This process cannot be considered therefore an authoritative precedent for the future.

2. Regarding the COC report (Doc. No. COC_350/2020)

My country does not share the recommendation not to renew cooperating status for Colombia, nor the objection to this country's request submitted by the European Union, based on bringing into question a vessel that is being investigated, or the expression of Colombia's aspirations. While Rec. 03-20 paragraph 5 establishes that the PWG and not the COC is responsible for review of cooperating status, my delegation wishes to stress the team work spirit inspired by ICCAT and therefore considers it not only contradictory, but that it also lacks any legal and logical basis not to renew the status of this coastal country on the Atlantic Ocean. Closing the doors to a cooperator for its aspirations and exercise of due process, when it has expressed its will to comply with the measures of the Commission, would constitute a dangerous precedent that is contrary to the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and the very extensive body of international fisheries regulations. Therefore, my country encourages the parties to renew Cooperating status for Colombia.

3. Regarding the PWG

In accordance with the provisions of Rec. 03-20, my country supports renewal of Cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname, and it is requested that this be reflected in the relevant report.

4. Regarding the draft calendar of intersessional meetings

My country reiterates the need for sufficient Panel 1 meetings to be held, in terms of number, duration and quality, to address the complex and broad pending business. The Chair of Panel 1 should organise the necessary intersessional meetings to achieve the objectives and not limited due to time constraints.