

Original: English

**STATEMENT BY UNITED STATES TO PWG – ROUND 3**

*(submitted by the United States)*

Regarding the proposal to extend the EU's eBCD derogations (PW\_408), the United States would like to thank the EU for providing additional information in document PWG\_420, including its Appendix. We continue to have some concerns with the implementation of the derogations, including the very low number of cross checks associated with trade that is exempt from validation and the high number of trades found to have unspecified inconsistencies and that were subject to verifications. The United States is working through those concerns with the EU, and would like to request a short extension of the third correspondence round - at least until the end of this week (i.e., December 11) to try to finalize this matter and provide an update to PWG. Alternatively, if PWG's business must close before this effort is concluded, we suggest PWG-408 be referred for further consideration by the Commission through the Plenary correspondence process. We look forward to the PWG Chair's guidance on next steps.

The United States is also submitting some suggested edits to the IMM agenda to make it more inclusive of some pending issues that have been deferred due to the situation in 2020. Our edits broaden the agenda item related to review of national observer programs, explicitly add reviews of inspection personnel exchanges (Res. 19-17) and vessel sightings (Rec. 19-09) to the agenda item on at sea boarding and inspection, and add an agenda item regarding at sea and in port transshipment measures. We would like to take this opportunity to remind the PWG that a proposal to strengthen ICCAT's current transshipment measure was submitted by the United States in 2019 and deferred until the next IMM meeting.

The United States would also like to thank the PWG Chair for his efforts to advance the work of this important body throughout this process, including on the IUU vessel list. The United States agrees with the Chair's proposed way forward on that issue as set out in PWG\_422 and reflected in version PWG\_405C of the IUU vessel list.