

STATEMENT BY MAURITANIA

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania notes with regret that its request for allocation of a quota enabling it to engage in the tuna fishery, may not be favourably accepted by ICCAT. However, the SCRS report does not indicate any issue in establishing new allocations.

The delegation of Mauritania has noted that all the discussions on management of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna catches have not complied with the principles of equity which should govern our organisation. It is regrettable to note that the decisions taken on quota allocation do not take into account the concerns of developing countries. Rather, these decisions undermine them and continue to favour a limited number of Contracting Parties.

In the face of this situation which forsakes the fundamental principles on which ICCAT is constituted, Mauritania is compelled to oppose adoption of any the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna recommendation if the proposed quota system does not take into account the interests of our developing countries. Mauritania is obliged to consider the possibility of lodging a formal objection to any recommendation that it deems non-equitable in accordance with the provisions of the Convention texts.