

# UNFSA

Resumed Review Conference

23-27 May 2016

Gunilla Tegelskär Greig

Science Affairs Department, International Unit

Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management

# UNFSA

The 1995 United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**) relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (**UNFSA**)

In force as from 11 December 2001

## UNFSA – review conference

To assess how effectively the Agreement has been to ensure the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

- 2006
- 2010
- 2016

# UNFSA

- 83 partners (ratified) – incl. EU Member States
- 23 RF(M)Os (incl. ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC)
- Annual informal consultations (ICSP)
- Recommendations from Review Conference

## Sections of the Review Conference

- Conservation and management of stocks
- Mechanisms for international co-operation and non-members
- Monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement
- Developing States and **non-parties**

## Resumed review conf. 2016

- Concern that the **status of stocks** has not improved since 2006 and 2010
- Importance of **data collection** & sharing for better stock assessment, implementation of **EAF**, and **enforcement** emphasised
- Only six **additional parties** since 2010
- 43 RFMO members not parties to the Agreement

## (issues - cont.)

- **Overfishing** - with participants from developing countries voicing their right to develop their own fisheries to ensure their sustainable development, and skepticism about developed countries' claimed progress in lowering their fishing effort.

# Recommendations

Many recommendations remain the same as in 2006 and 2010 but altered where situation has changed / advanced - particularly on compliance and enforcement



# Based on the July 2015 DOALOS Voluntary Questionnaire

Draft background document "Advance and unedited reporting material for the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on ..."

# SE priorities for EU position

## Part VII – Requirements of Developing States (Articles 24 – 26)

## Evaluation of the implementation of Chapter VII – rationale:

Para 147: previous rec. “Concrete measures to enhance the ability of developing States to develop their fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, including **facilitating access** to such fisheries”

Para 215: “Additional efforts are required, including by undertaking performance reviews [of RFMO/As] on a regular basis and by strengthening the comprehensiveness of those reviews over time, ...”.

Para 217: “very little progress has been made in the development of **transparent criteria for allocating fishing opportunities**, in order to address participatory rights in RFMO/As, particularly of developing States”

Para 299: issues that could prevent States from becoming parties to the A.

Paras 310–314: **the provision of assistance** for implementation of the A.

## EU position – *inter alia*:

- Highlighted the potential for parallel processes, such as the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development and its SDGs & the imminent entry-into-force of the **FAO's Port State Measures Agreement**
- Examine reasons for lack of participation in the Agreement (e.g. lack of implementation of capacity-building measures in Chapter VII)

## EU position (cont.)

- Better data collection and transmission obligations need to be respected
- Developing countries' participation in and benefitting from an equitable share in fisheries managed by RFMOs

# Recommendations: Developing States

Take concrete measures to enhance the ability of developing States to develop their fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, including facilitating access to such fisheries, consistent with articles 24 and 25 of the Agreement.

## Recommendations: developing States

1. Enhancing the participation of developing States in RFMO/A
2. Strengthening the capacity of developing States
3. Strengthening of capacity-building mechanisms and programmes, including the Assistance Fund
4. Avoiding adverse impacts on, and ensuring of access to fisheries by, subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers and women fishworkers, as well as indigenous peoples in developing States – encourage VGSSF impl.
5. Avoiding the transferring of a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing states, *including through urgently developing a common understanding of the concept of “disproportionate burden”*

## UNFSA future

- More in-depth focus of future ICSP meetings
- Next review conference in 2020, at the earliest



*Merci!*