

**TORREMOLINOS DECLARATION
ON THE CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT OF 2012 ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE TORREMOLINOS
PROTOCOL OF 1993 RELATING TO THE TORREMOLINOS
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY
OF FISHING VESSELS, 1977**

We, the undersigned States, whether or not Members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO),

NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN the continuing and alarmingly high number of fishers' lives and of fishing vessels reported lost every year,

NOTING ALSO WITH DEEP CONCERN that the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 (the Agreement) has not yet entered into force,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the benefits that Sustainable Development Goals 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) will provide to fishing activities and the development of States' national maritime strategies related thereto,

RECOGNIZING that a joint approach by United Nations bodies and other stakeholders is necessary to increase the safety of vessels and to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing,

BEING AWARE that more than 42 years after the first international Convention to address the safety of fishing vessels was adopted (the 1977 Torremolinos Convention), there is still no internationally binding regulatory regime in force concerning the safety of such vessels,

BEING AWARE ALSO that increased safety standards will positively impact on the working conditions, welfare and well-being of fishers and assist in combating IUU fishing,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the entry into force of the Agreement would fill a critical gap in the global regulatory framework, mandating minimum safety measures for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over,

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO that the entry into force of the Agreement, together with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (1995 STCW-F Convention), would create a more robust IMO regulatory framework for the safety of fishing vessels and fishing vessel personnel,

RECOGNIZING that the entry into force of the Agreement would strengthen the implementation of other mandatory instruments already applicable to fishing vessels,

1 EXPRESS our determination to:

- .1 TAKE ACTION so that the entry-into-force criteria of the Agreement are met by the target date of 11 October 2022,^{*} the tenth anniversary of its adoption;
- .2 PROMOTE the Agreement, recognizing that the ultimate effectiveness of the instrument depends upon the widespread support of States, in their capacities as flag States, port States and coastal States;
- .3 DENOUNCE the proliferation of IUU fishing, recognizing that international safety standards for fishing vessels will provide port States with a mandatory instrument to carry out safety inspections of fishing vessels, thereby increasing control and transparency of fishing activities;

2 REQUEST the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization to:

- .1 perform the functions of the Depositary of this Declaration, which is to remain open for signature from 21 October 2019 to 21 October 2020; and
- .2 transmit certified copies of this Declaration to all IMO Member States and other signatory States.

^{*} Upon completion of relevant review at national level.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have affixed their signature
DONE AT TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN, ON 21 OCTOBER 2019

ARGENTINA
BANGLADESH
BELGIUM
BELIZE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
CHILE
CHINA
REPUBLIC OF CONGO
COOK ISLANDS
COSTA RICA
CROATIA
DEM. REP. OF THE CONGO
DENMARK
ECUADOR
FIJI
FINLAND
FRANCE
GABON
GERMANY
GHANA
REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
GUINEA-BISSAU
ICELAND
INDONESIA

IRELAND
KIRIBATI
LIBERIA
LEBANON
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NICARAGUA
NIGERIA
NORWAY
PANAMA
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PERU
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE
SIERRA LEONE
SOUTH AFRICA
SPAIN
TOGO
UGANDA
UNITED KINGDOM
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**MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE**
TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN
21-23 OCTOBER 2019