**WCPFC13-2016-08\_Attachment 5 MX**

**Statement by Mexico to WCPFC13 – 8 December 2016**

México greets and addresses all the members here presents at the 13th Meeting of the WCPFC and as well to all the Cooperating Non Member (CNM), Observers, and in particular to the **Party members of the Agreement of Nauru (PNA)** [Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Kirivati, Palau, Nueva Guinea Solomon Islands Tuvalu| and specially Nauru, country which hosted that important meeting with was the base for the historic agreement to promote the management and conservation of the fish resources in the South Pacific Region. Also and in a special way México express its recognition to Nadi, for hosting in this beautiful, affable and welcoming country this meeting of the Commission.

Mexico is and has been for several years a (CNM) and has expressed before, its full commitment to collaborate in the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by this Commission. This objective is also recalled by Article 32(4) of the WCPF Convention that provides for members of the Commission to request Non-Parties to this Convention whose vessels fish in the Convention Area to cooperate fully in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. Therefore México has been acting along those lines and submitted again on April 6/16 its application for renewal of its current status, because as I just said, fully shares the same objectives for management and conservation expressed also by the PNA members and which I am sure are also shared by all the Delegations here present.

I also briefly would like to highlight some precedents related with our case derived from the 6th Meeting celebrated in Papeete, French Polynesia 7–11 December 2009, at that time, Japan pointed out that Mexico's participation in the work of the NC should be considered at future renewals of the CNM status. Mexico, it was stated, should participate in the work of the NC and cooperate fully with WCPFC Members in the conservation and management of the Northern Pacific bluefin tuna. Since then and in the last seven years following that suggestion, México has been attending regularly all the meetings of the NC as well as the last celebrated in Fukuoka and also and as complementary all the meetings of the ISC of the North Pacific. This clearly shows the degree of compromise, interest and responsibility of my country for fully cooperate with the objectives which in common we seek here and which the CEO of PNA Mr. Ludwig Kumoru mentioned as the need of the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, or as he textually expressed, for the (Decades to come) fundamental objective which Mexico and I am sure all the Delegations here present fully share.

WCPFC6 also approved the application for renewal of CNM status for Mexico with the following participatory rights: Mexico‘s fishing activities in the Convention Area are limited to not more than six unique purse-seine vessels fishing only in the EEZs of WCPFC Members, in accordance with appropriate bilateral agreements aspect that WCPFC6 encouraged but an approved right and **privilege that we are not and have not yet use.**

Important is to remark that at that meeting, some Members considered that CNMs who do not make a monetary contribution to the work of the Commission, **but who gain financially from the fisheries of the Convention Area, are in effect ―free riders**‖. Several Members considered therefore that CNMs **should contribute in proportion to the benefits they receive,** with some of these suggesting that CNMs contribute in equal proportion to Members of the Commission. **Mexico it is not clearly a free rider**, because as I said we do not fish in the WCPFC area and we still do not have or receive any economic benefits, but still we have been participating and contributed voluntarily as you well know and this makes a significant difference, which I kindly ask you all to reflect and consider; because it makes a significant difference and because it is in a way unique in the WCPFC. Mexico as a CNM have not fishing boats and does not have the intention to have any single fishing ship in the area of the Commission in 2017 and it is fully committed to make a financial contribution for 2017. This undoutobly is a unique case.

Other point for your high consideration it is also derived from the WCPFC 6, in which it was encouraging CNMs to make **voluntary contributions**, citing in particular the fact that CNMs do not have full participatory rights. This request was for several delegations a factor of concerns for setting a precedent in other regional fisheries management organizations.

Madam Chair and Delegates this year for internal financial reasons which are affecting my country and which I am sure several Delegations here present will understand, because those are sometimes common among the development countries, we have not yet been able to contribute with our voluntary provision for 2016. One reason as I expressed before it is because we do not fish or profit in the WCPFC area, which makes difficult to seek funds either for the government or from the industry. Please tell me or better, rise yourflag as a country which does not fish or gain any profit and will be in a position and committed to make financial contribution. Considering this fact and noteworthy difference, because México has paid in full till last year and with your agreement here today, we will paid during the first semester of 2017 the corresponding to 2016 and in the second semester of 2017, the full contribution for that year ~~if we keep our current status~~. You should consider also that our federal budget starts in January and ends in December, making nowadays difficult or unfeasible to paid right now. I ask you to consider and support this proposal and to reflect in the unique case that Mexico represents for this Commission.

To close let me refer to the **Attachment P** of the Sixth Regular Session 7–11 December 2009 Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia, which in its numeral 3 says:

**3. If a contributor is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Commission it shall not participate in the taking of decisions by the Commission if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding** two full years. **Interest shall be payable on such unpaid contributions at such rate as may be determined by the Commission in its financial regulations. The Commission may, nevertheless, waive such interest payments and permit such a member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member.**

Madam Chair thank you very much for given me the opportunity to talk and rise Mexico case and our firm proposal to fulfill the payment using a language previously utilized in a precedent case (Senegal) and which is:

Recommend that the Commission grant and maintain México CNM status conditional upon payment of financial contributions of its 2016 assessments amount at the earliest opportunity in the first semester of 2017 and the 2017 assessed amount, similarly in the second semester of the 2017.