



Statement for 2022 UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, 27 June -1 July)

Madrid, 24 June 2022

Distinguished delegates and participants in UNOC 2022 Lisbon,

We wish to introduce you to the work of the Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council (LDAC). The LDAC is a unique EU fisheries stakeholder-led organisation recognized by the EU Common Fisheries Policy. The LDAC is currently made up by both fishing sector organisations (including catching, processing and marketing sectors, and trade unions), and other groups of interest (environmental and development cooperation NGOs, consumers and civil society). Our composition is 60:40 and currently we have more than 50 member organisations from 13 EU coastal Member States. All our members have a direct and legitimate stake in the conservation and management of fisheries in international waters outside the EU.

The LDAC became fully operational in May 2007. Since then, it has become a prominent actor in gathering the views of the relevant stakeholders from a given region, or with knowledge on specific topics. We are not a lobbying group but an organisation that provides a diversity of informed views and operate normally by consensus while we reflect any diverging views in our written contributions. Our aim is to formulate recommendations on how to improve implementation of the External Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Our core mission is to provide evidence based advice to the European Commission and EU Member States on matters related to Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with Third Countries (the official public access agreements of the EU); relations with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in which the EU is a contracting party; or with international organizations in whose waters the EC Fleet operates; as well as labour, social, sanitary and human rights aspects related to trade flows for wild fish products.

We are proud to have achieved a culture of trust and mutual respect among fishing sector representatives, environmental and cooperation for development NGOs and other interest groups with the common goal of promoting the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of fishing resources.



The LDAC is proud to participate at the UNOC in Lisbon and strongly supports the implementation of the SDG14. We are particularly committed in underpinning with specific recommendations and actions the operationalisation of targets 14.2 (protection of marine and coastal ecosystems), 14.4 (end overfishing and IUU fishing), 14.6 (prohibition of harmful fisheries subsidies), 14.A (promotion of scientific knowledge, research capacity and transfer of marine technology), B (access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets) and C (implementation of international laws as reflected in UNCLOS and consolidation of legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources).

In the past years, we have produced several pieces of advice that are closely linked to SDG14, namely on topics such as marine spatial planning (including MPAs); ecosystem approach (VMEs) and impact assessments for marine activities in the high seas; [social dimension of CFP](#); [precautionary approach for deep-sea mining in the high seas](#); the role of fisheries in blue economy; [fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated \(IUU\) fishing](#); [transparency of fishing activities and enhancement of monitoring, control and surveillance systems for EU and non-EU vessels](#); or the [role of women in fisheries](#); to name a few.

The LDAC is a member of the Advisory Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and contributed actively as member of the EU delegation in several international fora such as FAO, UNFSA, ISA, BBNJ or RFMOs.

In our 15 years of existence, the LDAC has also built several [networks and partnerships with organisations in Western Africa](#) and the Indian Ocean to foster good practices and exchange of knowledge and expertise at regional level. These organisations are composed by policy makers, administrations, think tanks, confederations of artisanal fishers, coastal communities' groups.

The LDAC has also issued recommendations on how to [enhance the role of the EU in the International Ocean Governance](#), ensure [level playing field in trade](#), the Tuna Transparency Initiative (TTI) and the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI), aimed at improving transparency and governance in decision making in fisheries management in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Signed by organization's representative and title:

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