THE TORREMOLINOS DECLARATION  
ON THE CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT OF 2012

We, the representatives of the Member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO),

NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN the continuing and alarmingly high number of fisher’s 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 (Life below water) and 17 (Partnerships) will provide to fishing activities and the development of Member States’ national maritime strategies related thereto,

RECOGNIZING that a joint approach by UN 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 forty years after the first international treaty to address the safety of fishing vessels was adopted (the 1977 Torremolinos Convention), there is still no effective internationally binding regulatory regime concerning the safety of such vessels in force,

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

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 vessel personnel and fishing vessels,

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

EXPRESS their 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 Member States, in their capacities as flag States, port States and coastal States.

3 Denounce the proliferation of IUU fishing, recognizing that increased safety standards of fishing vessels will empower port States to carry out safety inspections of fishing vessels operating in their waters, thereby increasing the transparency of fishing activities.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have affixed their signature
DONE AT TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN, ON [21 OCTOBER 2019]

[SIGNATURE OF MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES]