

First Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries (ToS SF)

Statement by Romania

Mrs. Elena Dumitru

Minister Plenipotentiary

*Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN Office in Geneva and International Organizations in
Switzerland*

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Thank you Chair!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to present our country experience on the sustainable fisheries.

About Romania

Romania is a mid-size country of 238,391 sq.km. Situated in Central Europe, at the crossroads of trading routes connecting Western Europe to Eastern Europe and Asia. Geographically, Romania is made of hills, plateaus and plains concentrically placed around the Carpathian Mountains. Its hydrographic potential is also significant: Romania has 66 000 km of rivers out of which 18 200 km are in the mountain area; 1 075 km are located in the lower part of the Danube and has a 244km shoreline along the Black Sea. However, most of the fisheries activities are carried out within the 12 mile-zone and in inland waters.

Few words about the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Fisheries

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, adopted by UN in September 2015, is a key reference point for all of us over the coming years. In this respect, Romania proceeded to strengthen the capacity building at the national level by creating a special Department for Sustainable Development under Prime Minister Cabinet coordination and revived the Interministerial Committee for Sustainable Development under Ministry of Environment, headed by Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Environment. Romania has established the Fisheries and Aquaculture Agency (FAA), belong Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which is dealing with the fishery management.

Romania will submit the Voluntary National Review (VNR) to HLPF, New York, on July 2018. One of the SDGs included in VNR for this year is SDG 6-Water.

In this respect Romania, as UN and EU member state, considers that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is an enhanced cooperation at local, national, regional and international level. On one hand we act to have a healthy water environment to support agriculture, fishery and food security. On the other hand, we promote a free carbon environment for “win-win-win” investments for all stakeholders involved, having in mind gender balance and green jobs.

Since 2007, when it has become a member of the European Union, Romania, through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Agency has made efforts to comply with the provisions of the European Regulations, through the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, but also with the provisions of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)’ recommendations towards the development of sustainable fisheries through the efficient management of living aquatic resources in natural habitats.

The aim of our fishing policies is to ensure sustainable fishing by establishing quotas based on scientific criteria.

Regarding the fishing activity, Romania is engaged in commercial and recreational fishing activities in inland waters, on the Danube and in the Black Sea waters and, as a result, during 2017 there were caught 3600 tons of fish in inland waters, 9553 tons in the Black Sea - having as target species especially turbot, sprat and Rapa whelk.

We also mention that aquaculture is a growing sector, based on a multi-annual strategic plan with concrete objectives, covering an area of 75,000 ha, Romania registering in 2017 a total production of 12500 tons, which includes freshwater species like: carp, Asian carp species, trout, sturgeon, etc.

In this respect, by updating the legislation and aligning it with the EU objectives, Romania has adopted a series of measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources, cross border cooperation, public awareness, as follows:

-Developing a very good cooperation with the Marine Research Institute in Constanta, for the assessment of the fish stocks in the Black Sea and the implementation of joint projects in the aquaculture field with the Research Institute in Galati (Galati-Danube port) and the Nucet Research and Development Center (Nucet is an inland pond in Dambovita county), developing strategies and legislation regulating the use of living aquatic resources;

*- Cooperation with Bulgaria in joint inspections and control missions in the Black Sea under the coordination of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) - **in 2017 over 250 joint inspections were carried out;***

*-Conclusion of a cooperation protocol, in 2017, between the regional services of Romania and Bulgaria for joint inspections and control missions on the Danube, in order to prevent illegal fishing activities in the common border area - **10 joint missions were performed in 2017;***

*- Establishing common **prohibition periods** and introducing them in the national legislation of the two Member States on the Danube common border (Romania- Bulgaria) on general fishing and Pontic Shad;*

*-Participation in **two inspection**, control and surveillance missions carried out in the Black Sea in 2017 under **the coordination of Frontex and EFCA**, in the territorial waters of Romania and Bulgaria.*

Climate Change and SDG 14-Oceans

Fish is the main animal protein for more than 1 billion people. Average worldwide fish consumption is about 20 kilograms per person per year. Marine resources are essential to the food security of much of the world's population and Sustainable Development Goal 14 looks to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. Monitoring progress toward this goal is paramount but raises substantial challenges. In this respect, Romania acts as a responsible partner related to the implementation of marine strategy, in the Black Sea marine region. On framework of the Bucharest Convention, Romania has an active role striving for getting

the commitment of all Parties of the Convention for the implementation of the measures to protect and preserve marine biodiversity, namely to achieve the good environmental status of the Black Sea.

In this respect, we attach great importance to the actions for the protection of marine environment. We are focusing on the reduction of pollution coming from land based sources and open sea, but also on the promoting of sustainable fishery. The purpose of these actions is the recovery and conservation of the marine ecosystems in order to ensure sustainable development of marine and coastal areas.

*Romania will be part of the EU efforts to achieve the good environmental status of EU Member States marine waters by 2020. In line with **the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Romania announced the voluntary commitment” Good environmental status in the Black Sea marine region by 2020” within the High Level UN Ocean Conference on the Implementation of SDG14 that took place in New York in June 2017 and reiterated our commitment within Our Oceans Conference in Malta in October 2017.***

Our actions will allow us to prevent and reduce marine pollution in order to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The target covered by this voluntary commitment is “14.1 - By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”.

*We shall actively participate **to public debate** on the EU Strategy on prohibiting the plastic bags recently launched (16 January 2018), focusing on plastic debris.*

*In November 2017 within the COP23 UNFCCC Bonn, **Romania signed the second “Because the Ocean” Declaration** that requires commitments to be transformed into concrete and ambitious action we emphasize the need to stimulate support for ocean related projects, in line with the goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, through existing instruments.*

Conclusion

*The two important commitments of Romania Government are the fight against climate change adverse effects and to improve the citizens' daily life by decent job creation and assuring food security, in order **NO ONE LEFT BEHIND.***

Thank you for your attention.