
**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR
THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND
CENTRAL PACIFIC**

First session
Christchurch, New Zealand
23 – 28 April, 2001

WCPFC/PrepCon/7
28 April 2001

FFA MEMBER COUNTRIES' STATEMENT

In agreeing to the resolution “Mechanisms to promote participation”, FFA member countries do so on the understanding that the meeting described will take place within the following framework.

- That the Chair of PrepCon 1 will select the Chair of the meeting in consultation with PrepCon participants. Every effort will be made to identify a chair acceptable to all participants. If an acceptable Alternative Chair cannot be agreed then the current Chair of PrepCon will chair the meeting to ensure continuity.
- That an open agenda which does not attempt to list specific terms at the outset, will be used so as to ensure any relevant issues to promote participation are able to be discussed.
- That the costs, resources and funding implications for the Small Island States' participation at the informal two day meeting will be considered and addressed by the PrepCon participants. Funding provided to assist with attendance may be administered by the FFA through a separate fund.
- That this undertaking to a meeting is limited to this one meeting, in anticipation that all relevant issues will successfully be addressed at the meeting.
- Any discussions or outcomes from this meeting will be without prejudice to delegations' positions. The key outcomes from the meeting will be provided to the PrepCon by way of a written chairs report.
- That notwithstanding the above commitment, that the FFA member countries' position, as has been clearly expressed, is that there will be no re-opening or weakening of the final text of the Convention or the resolutions of the MHLIC.

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