

Opening Statement - Senegal

On behalf of her Excellency, Madame Fatou DIOUF, Minister of Fisheries, as well as on behalf of the Senegalese delegation, I express all my joy and my great pleasure in reaffirming to this present CBI, all the congratulations of the Senegal for having been able to perpetuate the achievements of our dear CBI and for having carried the torch of our organization very high despite the difficulties encountered.

At the start of my statement, I address to His Excellency the Minister of Fisheries of the Republic of Peru, my thanks to the highest authorities of Peru for having kindly authorized the holding of this ordinary session of the IWC, as well as the warm welcome reserved for all the delegations of the Member States for a smooth running of this 69th Session of the IWC.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Please, allow me to give you a brief presentation of our country which is Senegal.

Indeed, Senegal is located in the West of the African continent and extends over an area of 196,722 km², it is limited to the North by Mauritania, to the East by Mali, to the South by Guinea and the Guinea Bissau and to the West by Gambia and the Atlantic Ocean with 718 km of coastline.

Its population is estimated at 18,303,340 inhabitants, with an annual growth rate of 2.54%.

Fishing plays an important role in its economy and contributes 3.2% to the national GDP with a VCE estimated at 240 billion FCFA per year.

The Senegalese consume a lot of fish, around 29 kilograms per person per year, but not whale meat, which is not even fished in our EEZ.

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) created by the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, signed in Washington on December 2, 1946, aims to ensure the “judicious conservation” of whale stocks, in order to enable the “orderly development of the whaling industry”.

Senegal was one of the first African nations to join the International Whaling Commission (IWC) on July 15, 1982, after South Africa (1948) and Kenya (1981).

Since that date, Senegal has transposed the provisions of the Convention relating to sustainable resource management. This transposition into national regulations can be illustrated by the Axes of Sustainable Management and Valorization included in its Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectoral Policy Letter.

Furthermore, the legislative provisions relating to the prohibition and protection of marine mammals are illustrated by the regulatory measures of Law No. 2015-18 of July 13, 2015 relating to the Maritime Fisheries Code.

At the international, regional and sub-regional level, Senegal has joined or ratified other conventions which contribute to the protection of aquatic ecosystems in general and marine mammals (whales) in particular.

Nevertheless, Senegal supports whale hunting in compliance with quotas defined by scientists based on available stocks.

Ladies and gentlemen;

It pleases me from the outset to magnify the constant concern of the bodies and structures of the IWC, to keep an equidistance from interactions or divergences to focus the IWC on the sustainable management of whaling resources in accordance with the provisions of its Convention.

I present to the President of the CBI our condolences for the reminder to God of eminent members of the CBI whose various

testimonies have proven their dynamism and productivity within the Working Group.

May the angels of heaven welcome them with open arms and may God forgive their souls and accept them into his eternal paradise.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To finish my remarks, I would like first of all to sincerely thank the United Kingdom, the headquarters of our Secretariat in Cambridge, in the USA, for having carried out, in collaboration with the Secretariat, the dissemination of new members of the IWC, as as depositary of the Convention.

My congratulations to the President, DIALLO for having managed to successfully chair the last two sessions of the IWC and to Mrs. Martha Rojas URREGO, for her first session as Executive Secretary, a total success in the organization.

May God accept all our prayers for peace within the IWC, may He protect us and keep us away from the spirit of divisions, may Allah guide us and enlighten us on the direction of respect and love for other with a view to improving its visibility and its collaboration with the United Nations.

Finally, allow me to give a special mention to Mr. SERBINI, President of the Scientific Committee and his team for all the diligence carried out with a view to efficient and effective coordination of the work of the Scientific Committee and the Working Groups in close collaboration with the Secretariat and above all to favor the face-to-face meeting which allowed many member countries to participate in the meetings and to be informed in time of the evolution of the results of scientific research.

All my prayers also go for better close collaboration between member countries and all Partners to achieve our pursued

objectives and expected results while developing synergies of actions and pooling of resources.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**By Modou MBENGUE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
OF SENEGAL AT THE CBI**