

Response from Mauritius

Sustainable Fisheries Management

Fish stocks continue to be regarded as a common resource, part of our common heritage, to be managed collectively. To ensure sustainable fishing, it is not only the quantity of fish taken from the sea that is important, but also their species and sizes, the techniques used in fishing and areas where they are caught. In order to ensure security of food supply, actions are needed for the sustainable utilization, conservation and management of the resources based on scientific information.

The success of regulating fisheries also depends on the protection of the marine ecosystems in which they take place. The main concerns are over-fishing and pollution. The effects of these threats know no frontiers and therefore must be fought through collective action.

Policies must therefore be devised to regulate the amount of fishing, if this heritage is to be passed to the future generations. The policies must deal with the biological, economic and social dimension of fishing. These policies must address the following issues: conservation, enforcement, marketing, and co-operation.

Management of the utilisation of living resources should be based on research, science-based recommendations and the development of legal framework that clearly reflects the concept and objectives of sustainable development.

Information on the marine ecosystem and its sustainable utilization needs to be made accessible. This includes information on biodiversity, fish stocks, monitoring of pollution, and traceability of marine products. It is important that this information is accessible to the public. Sensitisation of the public is a *sine qua non* condition for the success of conservation of our marine environment.

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) fishing

International fora have always expressed concern that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing undermines the conservation and management measures put in place by the Regional Fishery Management Organisations. A regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) programme should be set up to deter and eliminate such activities. Each state should be encouraged to have their national plan of action against IUU fishing and appropriate port state control measures.

Cases of piracy against humanitarian, commercial and fishing vessels have been reported off the coast of Somalia. This is hampering the proper management of fishery resources in the region. The international community should be called upon to provide all its support to ensure the safety of fishing vessels and their crew and fishermen operating in the region.