

## ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

### South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management

Sponsored by Chile

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC  
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

**Recalling** that Australia, Chile and New Zealand launched international consultations in 2006 for the establishment of a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Organisation;

Also **recalling** that four negotiation meetings have been held in Wellington (February 2006), Hobart (November 2006), Reñaca (May 2007) and Noumea (September 2007);

**Taking into account** that UNGA Resolution 61/105 urges coastal states and states fishing on the high seas, to pursue cooperation in relation to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, either directly or through appropriate subregional or regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to ensure the effective conservation and management of such stocks;

Also **taking into account** that UNGA Resolution 61/105 calls upon all states, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply, in accordance with international law and the FAO Code of Conduct, the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, including straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and discrete high seas fish stocks;

**Taking note** of the draft convention prepared by the independent chair of the consultation;

Also **recalling** that the future convention will apply to the high seas of the South Pacific;

#### **RESOLVES TO:**

1. **Call upon** governments of APPF member countries participating in these negotiations to apply their best efforts to finalise as soon as possible a convention text that establishes a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Organisation;
2. **Encourage** the governments of APPF member countries participating in these negotiations to adopt a convention that is modern and efficient in nature, and that is based on best international practice;
3. Also **encourage** the governments of APPF member countries participating in these negotiations to ensure that the objective of this convention is the long term conservation of living marine resources and the administration of

sustainable fisheries through the use of the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach;

4. **Urge** the governments of APPF member countries participating in these negotiations to apply the interim measures adopted in Refiaca, Chile, in May 2007;
5. **Support** the principle that due account be taken of the rights and interests of coastal states and communities, especially developing states, as well as the fishing history of each stock;
6. **Encourage** the governments of APPF member countries participating in these negotiations to ensure that the interests of developing countries, in particular small island developing states, are taken into account.