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Dear Michele,

In response to the letter from Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, dated 16 January 2024, seeking inputs from our organization on sustainable fisheries management in the face of climate change focusing on straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, ICSF would like to draw your attention to the 2022 IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, which observes that small-scale fishing are more at risk of climate change impacts than large-scale fishing.

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report recommends adaptive social protection as one of the innovative measures to deal with the impacts of climate change on small-scale fishing. This recommendation has been reiterated in the First Global Stocktake, 28th Conference of the Parties, UNFCCC, Dubai, Nov-Dec 2023. Under actions to strengthen the social aspects of sustainable fisheries management in the face of climate change (point iii of the above letter), we support, therefore, the promotion of adaptive social protection, especially in developing coastal States.

We are of the view that small-scale fishing targeting highly migratory fish stocks in the small island developing States, archipelagic States and other developing coastal States are also vulnerable to climate change impacts. In addition to adaptive social protection, provisions under climate finance are to be made available to these States to improve sea safety to ensure access to fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers and indigenous people.

We hope the above inputs are relevant and useful and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need more information.

Best regards,

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