

Partnership dialogue 5:

INCREASING ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND PROVIDING ACCESS FOR SMALLSCALE ARTISANAL FISHERS TO MARINE RESOURCES AND MARKETS

Wednesday, 7 June 2017: 03:00pm-06:00pm

Statement by Conservation International

I would like to thank the organisers for this opportunity to speak.

Conservation International is a non profit organization with offices in more than 30 countries.

I am delighted to announce two voluntary commitments; the first (#15143) is a commitment on **Social Responsibility in Global Fisheries and Aquaculture**.

This is backed by two dozen seafood businesses plus numerous governments, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs.

As highlighted by the representative from Indonesia earlier this week, recent revelations about slavery and labor rights abuses in fisheries have shone a spotlight on social issues in the sector. This is not acceptable in the 21st century.

Our paper in the current edition of Science describes a new framework for social responsibility. It provides recommendations to businesses, governments and NGOs.

Following on from this, the coalition will next identify best practices for businesses; strengthen government regulations; and work to incorporate the framework into seafood standards.

We invite governments, businesses, NGOs, and multilaterals to join this coalition by committing to this framework.

Together we will protect human rights, dignity, and access to resources; deliver opportunities to all; and improve food and livelihood security.

Conservation International also delivers **financing solutions** through partnerships with sustainable ocean businesses and investors, user fees, government allocations, and philanthropy.

Our 2nd commitment (#15087) is a financing solution for two conservation mosaics along Colombia's Pacific coast. In partnership with *Fondo Accion, the Walton Family Foundation, and the Swedish embassy in Bogota*, I am proud to announce **La Minga** or „everyone together“.

The country's peace deal represents a striking opportunity to secure a brighter future for the area's Afrocolombian communities – a future grounded in sustainable management of their incredibly rich coastal resources.

La Minga will combine community leadership, national and regional government budget allocations, a \$5M endowment, and a sinking fund.

Over \$1M has been committed already, with more donors ready to contribute.

We invite others to join us.

Conservation International also provides economic valuation and ocean health tools, technical support and capacity building to **support countries** to sustainably and equitably grow your Blue Economies.

A **better future** is possible – one which delivers jobs and economic benefits from our oceans, tackles social responsibility, *and* improves ocean health.