

3 N H \ F R P S R a y s t r a t e g y a i m e d to make sustainable use of natural resources, recognizing the importance of minimizing biodiversity impacts. Building on these foundations, the FAO Conference at its 40th 6 H V V L R Q Z H O F R P H G c o n f e r e n c e i n M o d i o r s i t y M a d r i d W e a n i n g W R Platform, in close consultation with its partners, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other UN organizations. As a result the FAO has developed a draft strategy on mainstreaming Biodiversity which is currently under review by its Member States, and is intended to be tabled at the 163rd Session of the FAO Council.

In this context, allow us to make the following preliminary remarks on the draft text, reserving more detailed specific comments and suggestions to the working sessions of the intergovernmental conference.

As stated earlier, the draft text marks a good start towards formulation of an agreement. There is a rich context to the negotiations and the evolution of the text, including the aspirations expressed and guidance provided since the convening of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee established by UNGA resolution 69/292. It would be fitting to reflect and recall relevant aspirations and guidance from previous processes and its outcomes in the operational provisions and, if not and at the very least, in the preamble of the draft text.

FAO commends the effort made to address certain directives of resolution 69/292 in the previous IGC discussions and in the Chairpersons *nee612 92.udi the

Regarding the text on marine genetic resources (MGR), it may be of benefit to reflect or mimic the text of relevant existing agreements in particular, the text in relation to benefit sharing arising from the use of genetic resources and to emphasize that benefits arising from the use of genetic resources should ultimately contribute to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

Concerning the text on area-based management tools (ABMTs), there appears to be difficulty in the text in distinguishing between ABMTs, in general, and MPAs, with the related need to clarify where certain requirements apply to all ABMTs, and what and where the specific requirements are for MPAs. FAO re-iterates that different ABMTs are in use in fisheries (e.g. VMEs) and notes that the recent definition and criteria for Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECM) by the CBD recognizes the importance of other avenues in addition to MPAs,

