

Statement of Support Towards the Shanghai Declaration

At Benchmark Holdings, we recognise the critical importance of aquaculture in safeguarding the world's food supply in a way that contributes to sustainable development. Driven by committed people with a desire to make a difference, our products and solutions are designed to align the aquaculture industry towards a more efficient and sustainable future. As an active participant in the global aquaculture industry, we make important contributions to worldwide sustainable food production through our core activities in genetics, advanced nutrition and health. Through product innovation, customer focus and a collaborative approach, we lead in developing new and improved standards, products and solutions that aim to address aquaculture challenges and create beneficial results for our customers, consumers, communities and the environment.

As a result, we welcome the commitments and strategic priorities of the Shanghai Declaration and affirm our full support for it in writing this statement. We believe that the future of the aquaculture industry lies in both promoting a more responsible aquaculture development and in investing in innovation, research, and development, as outlined in the Declaration's commitments. These commitments are also ingrained in our actions, guided by a set of three key principles making up our vision:

- To be a **proactive industry leader**, working with our customers and partners to identify ways to help our industry grow sustainably
- By being a **responsible operator**, looking after all aspects of environmental, social and governance criteria
- By having a **real impact across the value chain** by providing solutions that support our customers to improve yield, quality, animal welfare and reduce environmental impact

Whilst we, at Benchmark, are already driving initiatives which are aligned with the strategic priorities of the Shanghai Declaration, such as the development of advanced genetics for salmon, shrimp and tilapia that reduce mortality, improve animal welfare and improve resource efficiency, we recognize, much like the Shanghai Declaration, the need to maximize the industry's potential by engaging with new, sustainable, and equitable development strategies. The growth of the industry should not present itself as a trade-off with a healthy ecosystem, biodiversity, or social equality.



Furthermore, we believe that in order to align the industry towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, notably goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 13 (Climate Action), we must absolutely maximize and develop the performance of aquaculture to respect natural resources (Strategic Priority C), promote the solutions which enable such an approach (Strategic Priority D), and prepare to mitigate or respond to the impacts of climate change and other potential global crises (Strategic Priority I). Our vision of the aquaculture industry is one of collaboration and innovation in which these SDGs are strived for and respected. As a growing industry which now produces more than 50% of fish for annual human consumption, a figure which we see growing further in the future, we have a vision of a more sustainable and adaptable industry, as well as one welcoming of genetic technologies, medicinal treatments, and alternative methodologies.

These are all steps which are at the core of the Shanghai Declaration and address the themes of the GCA+20 to bridge aquaculture and sustainable development. Our solutions, ranging from the launch of an innovative solution for sea lice in salmon which eliminates the discharge of medicines into the ocean, to the development of a specific pathogen resistant ('SPR') shrimp to our Artemia proprietary technologies, are reflective of the Shanghai Declaration and can help achieve these goals by making the benefits of aquaculture widely accessible. The principles and strategic pathways highlighted in the declaration are also reflective of our forward-looking goals, for example through our support in the development of new aquaculture species with our specialist genetics services and through our efforts to prepare for and adjust to predicted impacts of climate change by implementing risk mitigation strategies.

Not only is an alignment to the commitments outlined in the Shanghai Declaration necessary to safeguard a sustainable approach to feeding an ever-growing human population, it is pivotal in the building of a global food system which encourages the adoption of an Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture. This is all the more important when noting that fish is the most traded agricultural commodity.

We encourage other aquaculture businesses to join us in this united effort to harmonize the industry with the global sustainable development agenda and ethos. The Shanghai Declaration will catalyse a more conscious, progressive, and cooperative approach towards sustainable aquaculture which will facilitate a more resilient and beneficial aquaculture landscape.

Trond Williksen
CEO, Benchmark Holdings Plc