



## The Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI)

Nominated Contact Point:

Ahmed Al-Mazrouai (Secretary) [ahmed.almazrouai@fao.org](mailto:ahmed.almazrouai@fao.org)

### **Statement of support to the Shanghai Declaration**

Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for the opportunity presented to us to give a short statement.

The Regional Commission was established in 1999 in the Gulf Region aiming to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the area covered by the commission. It has eight member countries. The Commission of RECOFI two ad-hoc working groups: (1) Working Group on Fisheries Management and (2) Working Group on Aquaculture. Aquaculture receive great attention in the Commission, reflecting the interest of the member countries and the importance of this sector in the region. As part of the Regional Commission for Fisheries participation in the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium + 20 (GCA+20), we would like to emphasize the global importance of the Shanghai Declaration. The Declaration is distinctively designed, starting with a clear vision of sustainable aquaculture. It is consists of five commitments and ten strategic priorities that includes indicative actions aiming to reach the main vision.

RECOFI fully support the Shanghai Declaration and believe that it would be able to assist the global efforts to bring aquaculture to the next era. The commission and the member countries are in line and will be committed to work with the FAO and the other concerned UN agencies to collaborate to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals comply with the principles of this declaration. We are in this regard would to call on these key elements for this declaration (1) Integrate aquaculture with natural environment, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, regenerative energy and other sectors, and within food systems for increased resilience. (2) Promote aquaculture development approaches that conserve and improve ecosystems and biodiversity, and reduce the carbon intensity of food production systems. (3) Promote Indigenous Peoples' participation in aquaculture, however, in this regards RECOFI is interested in the local people, engage them, and benefit them in this sector.(4) Prepare for and potentially mitigate impacts from global crises, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and pandemics. (5) Strengthen data and information collection and analysis for monitoring the progress and contributions of aquaculture.