



MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FISHERIES AND BLUE ECONOMIC GROWTH ON IUU FISHING AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY

WHEN

Monday, 4th October 2021
10:30 am – 12:30 pm (Eastern Caribbean Time)

Draft Agenda

ITEM NOS.	AGENDA ITEMS	TIME (EC)
ITEM 1	Welcome Remarks by Chairman of the CRFM Ministerial Council (Chairman of the Meeting) <i>Hon. Saboto Caesar, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>	10:30a.m. – 10:35a.m.
ITEM 2	Welcome Remarks by CARICOM Secretariat <i>Mr. Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary-General, CARICOM Secretariat</i>	10:35a.m. – 10:40a.m.
ITEM 3	Remarks by Government of Norway <i>Ms. Trine Danielsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway</i>	10:40a.m. – 10:50a.m.
ITEM 4	Presentation on the Copenhagen Declaration and the Blue Justice Initiative <i>Mr. Gunnar A. Stølsvik, Specialist Director, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway</i>	10:50a.m. – 11:00a.m.
ITEM 5	Presentation on the “Blue Resilience Project” <i>Ms. Zazie Schafer, Acting Director, UNDP Nordic Representation Office (NRO)</i>	11:00a.m. – 11:05a.m.
ITEM 6	Presentation of the CRFM Ministerial Council Resolution No. MC 15(6) of 2021 <i>Milton Haughton, Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat</i>	11:05a.m. – 11:10a.m.
ITEM 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statements by Ministers from CRFM Member States on IUU fishing and organized crime• Signing of the Declaration by each country	11:10a.m. – 12:25p.m.

ITEM 8	Next Steps and Closing Remarks by the Chairman	12:25p.m. – 12:30 pm
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INFORMATION NOTE

Meeting:	MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FISHERIES AND BLUE ECONOMIC GROWTH ON IUU FISHING AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY
Scheduled Date:	4 October 2021 during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture
Time:	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Participants: Special Guest: Other Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministers responsible for Fisheries from the 17 Member States of the CRFM, partner organizations and CRFM staff.• Representatives of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway• Senior Government Officials and Representatives of Regional Institutions and International Development Partners
Meeting:	Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

BACKGROUND

1. Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing is a major threat to fisheries resources in the Caribbean Region, undermining regional and national efforts to sustainably use, manage and protect fish stocks and marine ecosystems leading to the loss of both short and long-term social and economic opportunities including food security, livelihoods, exports and realization of sustainable and inclusive blue economic growth of the region.
2. The growing connection between IUU fishing and transnational organized criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms trafficking and trade in contraband goods, which use fishing as a cover, as well as, document fraud and forgery, tax crimes, and money laundering, is also another area of growing concern.
3. The purpose of this Ministerial Meeting is to take concrete action to strengthen regional and international cooperation at the political and technical levels to combat and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector.

INTERNATIONAL BLUE JUSTICE CONFERENCE (DECEMBER 2020)

4. On 10 December 2020, several Ministers responsible for Fisheries from the CARICOM / CRFM Member States participated in a virtual High-Level International Blue Justice Conference that was convened by the Government of Norway. The main purpose of the Conference was to promote and advance political support for the non-binding Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the fishing industry.
5. The Hon. Ezechiel Joseph, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives, Saint Lucia, and then Chairman of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM, delivered a Statement to the Conference on behalf of CARICOM / CRFM Member States, setting out the collective vision and regional action taken and planned to combat IUU fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry.
6. The Copenhagen Declaration was adopted by 9 countries: Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka on 15 October 2018. Since

then, another 26 countries have conveyed their support by signing the document. These are: Timor Leste, Mozambique, Benin, Liberia, Greenland, Maldives, Chile, Marshall Islands, South Africa, Nauru, Myanmar, São Tomè and Príncipe, Mexico, Fiji, Philippines, Costa Rica, Scotland, Iceland, Seychelles, Panama, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Honduras, Colombia, Cape Verde Islands, and Brazil.

7. The Copenhagen Declaration has since its adoption emerged as an important international framework for cooperation, capacity building, sharing of knowledge and coordination of action against IUU and organized crime in fisheries. It also provides the political basis and framework for the Blue Justice Initiative, under which the Norwegian Government in cooperation with other interested countries and UN organizations (e.g. UNDP), seek to find effective and sustainable solutions against IUU fishing and transnational organized crime to create a fair, equitable and profitable blue economy free from fisheries crime.

CRFM MINISTERIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON IUU AND ORGANIZED CRIME

8. The Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM, which was held on 21 May 2021, followed-up on the undertaking given by CARICOM / CRFM Member States at the December 2020 High-level International Blue Justice Conference. The meeting discussed the issues and recognized the need for Member States to cooperate with other affected countries to improve understanding and knowledge of the problem, identify countermeasures, and build capacity to prevent, deter and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, in the region and globally.
9. The Ministerial Council issued ***Resolution No. MC 15(6) of 2021*** expressing support for the *Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry* and the Blue Justice Initiative which together provide a non-binding international framework for cooperation among States to prevent and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.
10. The CRFM Ministerial Council Resolution (***No. MC 15(6) of 2021***) also encourages Ministers Responsible for Fisheries to individually support the Copenhagen Declaration and convey their interest in cooperating and benefiting from the Blue Justice Initiative to the Blue Justice Secretariat based at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries which was established to support the Declaration.
11. The Resolution further sets out the next steps agreed upon by the Ministerial Council in order to support the implementation and realize the intent of the Copenhagen Declaration to prevent and eradicate IUU fishing and organized crime in the fisheries sector, including the following:
 - (i) Convening a high-level, virtual ministerial conference of CRFM Member States at which Ministers wishing to do so would deliver brief statements on the subject of IUU fishing and organized crime in the fisheries sector and then sign the Copenhagen Declaration;
 - (ii) The Minister responsible for Fisheries of Norway would be invited to participate in the ministerial meeting;
 - (iii) Convening, in collaboration with UNDP, a regional technical meeting with fisheries and security officials from Member States to map out the specific needs and to agree on at least one high-priority intervention that will benefit all CRFM Member States and that could be supported under the Blue Justice Initiative; and
 - (iv) Collaborating with the Blue Justice Initiative to strengthen the response of CRFM Member States to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry, and to leverage the opportunity for collaboration with other

interested States and organizations through strategic interventions, using technology and innovations.

1. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the Ministerial Meeting on 4 October 2021 is to take action to strengthen regional and international cooperation at the political and technical levels to combat and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector in the region.

Ministers responsible for Fisheries will make brief statements on IUU fishing and organized crime and express their support for the *International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry* by signing the document.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

The Meeting will be held during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture on 4 October 2021 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM (Eastern Caribbean time) via GoToMeeting. Ministers and other participants are asked to confirm their participation and intention to present a brief (4 minutes) statement and affix their signature to the Copenhagen Declaration during the Meeting.

3. DOCUMENT

The following documents are attached and may also be downloaded from the CRFM website (www.crfm.int):

- (1) Draft Agenda and Information Note
- (2) The International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry
- (3) CRFM Ministerial Council ***Resolution No. MC 15(6) of 2021***
- (4) Flyer on the Blue Justice Initiative

4. MEETING ADMINISTRATION

The CRFM Secretariat will provide technical and administrative support for the Meeting.

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

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