

## ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

### Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Provisional Agenda (CCAMLR-XXVI/1), had been distributed prior to the meeting and was adopted without amendment. The agenda is given in Annex 3.

2.2 The Chair referred Agenda Item 3 to the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF), and Agenda Items 8 to 10 to the Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC). The reports of SCAF and SCIC are given in Annexes 4 and 5 respectively.

### Report of the Chair

2.3 The Chair reported that, with China becoming a full Member on 2 October 2007, the Commission now had 25 Members and nine other States party to the Convention.

2.4 China made the following statement:

‘First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Government, I would like to express our appreciation to all Members of CCAMLR for their trust and assistance with regard to China’s membership acknowledgement. We thank the Australian Government for its help in many ways during the whole application process. Australia has not only done an excellent job as Depositary, but also offered the capacity building workshop in Beijing in August, which was a precious opportunity for us to become familiar with the Convention.

China acceded to the *Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources* on 19 October 2006. A full membership of CCAMLR is a new start for China to cooperate with other Members to implement and enhance the objective of the Convention, its provisions and its conservation measures.

We are willing to share our experience in this field as well. China is a Contracting Party to the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)* as well as a Signatory of the *Agreement for the Implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA)*. As a responsible fishing country, China faithfully implements the *1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)* of FAO and issued the *Program of Action on the Conservation of Living Aquatic Resources of China* in 2006 according to the CCRF. China has membership of a number of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC). China has also participated in the negotiation for the establishment of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. China plays an active role in the above RFMOs and strictly abides by the relevant conservation measures and regulations.

CCAMLR is a leading organisation in many aspects of international marine resource conservation and management. We believe CCAMLR will continue to play an important role and achieve greater success in the 21st century. China has made the right decision to join this organisation, and we believe that CCAMLR has also made the right decision to accept China as its Member. We will give our every effort to contribute to the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources and to enhance scientific research and international cooperation towards the objective of conservation and sustainable development of the world fisheries.’

2.5 Four Scientific Committee working group meetings, along with associated subgroup meetings and workshops, had been held during the intersessional period; details of these meetings are elaborated in SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 1.7.

2.6 For the 2006/07 season, 71 inspectors had been designated, in accordance with the CCAMLR System of Inspection, by Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand and the UK. A total of 27 at-sea inspections were reported: 23 conducted by UK-designated CCAMLR inspectors in Subarea 48.3 and four conducted by Australian-designated CCAMLR inspectors in Division 58.4.3b.

2.7 CCAMLR-designated scientific observers were on board all vessels in all finfish fisheries in the Convention Area (see paragraph 11.1 for further details).

2.8 During the 2006/07 season, CCAMLR Members had actively participated in 13 fisheries in the Convention Area. In addition, three other managed fisheries were conducted in national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) within the Convention Area. Vessels fishing in fisheries managed under conservation measures in force in 2006/07 had reported, by 5 October 2007, a total of 104 364 tonnes of krill, 14 023 tonnes of toothfish and 3 941 tonnes of icefish. A number of other species were taken as by-catch.

2.9 The Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. (CDS) has been operating since 2000 and now includes the participation of two non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR: Seychelles and Singapore; along with three Acceding States: Canada, Mauritius and Peru. The total number of catch documents (i.e. landing/transshipment, export and re-export documents) received and processed by the Secretariat to date is well over 33 000.

2.10 In accordance with the Commission’s request, the Secretariat continues the development of the electronic web-based CDS (E-CDS) documentation.

2.11 The Centralised Vessel Monitoring System (C-VMS) continues to be implemented under Conservation Measure 10-04. Since its commencement, 53 vessels have been monitored in 12 subareas or divisions, as well as voluntarily outside the Convention Area.

2.12 During the year, the Commission and the Scientific Committee had been represented by observers at a number of international meetings (sections 15 and 16; SC-CAMLR-XXVI, section 10).