

**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission  
Lima, Peru, 30 January to 3 February 2018**

**COMM6-Report ANNEX12b: Welcome Speech, VI Commission Meeting**  
*(Lieneke Schol, Minister of Production, Peru)*

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Mr. Osvaldo Urrutia, President of the Commission of the Regional Organization of Fisheries Management of the South Pacific.

Ms. Johanne Fischer, Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Héctor Soldi, Vice-president of the Commission,

Gentlemen Presidents of the subsidiary bodies of the SPRFMO

Dear members of the delegations of the countries that visit us, gentlemen authorities and guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my government, I would like to extend a cordial greeting and give you the welcome to our country on the occasion of the **Sixth Meeting of the Commission of the Regional Organization for Fisheries Management of the South Pacific**, which is the First time that Peru host you in our capital, Lima.

We appreciate the trust you placed in us to organize this meeting and we hope that the effort we have made to provide you with the logistics facilities will help to the success of this Sixth Meeting of the Commission.

Peru, as a coastal fishing country of the Pacific basin, grants to this organization a particularly important due of the mandate it has received from our countries in the responsible management of marine resources in the high seas of the Pacific South, for the benefit of our populations, based on an adequate scientific evaluation and precautionary management of them. This can only be done strengthening the scientific arm of this Commission and respecting rigorously its recommendations.

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations such as ours of the South Pacific, are an essential part of the International legal regime of fishing in the high seas or international waters that represent 64% of the total surface of the oceans, and play a vital function that is to promote cooperation between States for the conservation of marine resources and the management of fisheries in that vast area of our oceans.

Therefore, our OROP whose area of responsibility covers more than a half of the largest ocean on the planet, the Pacific, has the huge challenge of managing living resources of this great oceanic space. Is a must, to promote research scientific, identify and evaluate the stocks of the target species of the fishery, establish fishing quotas, establish technical and compliance measures, which I understand you have discussed last week, but most importantly, establish control and surveillance measures to ensure compliance with these measures, topic that I understand is also an important issue of this sixth meeting.

It is timely and important to remember that management and conservation measures adopted within this Organization are legally binding for the states that are part of this Commission, establishing to those states and entities that they have legal fishing rights, and defining mechanisms for combating illegal fishing.

It is also worth remembering that Article 8.4 of the United Nations Agreement on fish stocks specifies that "*Only those States that are members of a Regional Management Organization or participants in such agreement, or that they agree to apply conservation and management measures established by said organization or Agreement, shall have access to the resources fisheries to which the measures are applied.*"

This legal framework gives us the right to take advantage of resources under jurisdiction of the Commission, also assigns us the great responsibility of managing them appropriately for the benefit of current and future generations of our populations.

Therefore, I urge you to take up the challenge of moving forward during this meeting, in the strengthening of the mechanisms that allow the SPRFMO to be a model for management among existing fishing organizations, and to leave our generations future an ocean of abundant resources for the benefit of all.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts made by the Presidency and the Executive Secretariat of the SPRFMO in the preparation for this meeting, and we congratulate all those who supported the organization and logistics of this Sixth Meeting of the Commission.

We are sure that during these five days, we will work hard to reach objectives and reach agreements that ensure the sustainability of the fishing resources in the South Pacific.

Although I am sure that the work will be very intense, do not stop enjoying our city and its exceptional cuisine, and if you have time, I invite you to stay a few days to visit our beautiful beaches, the sanctuary of Macchu Picchu, recently chosen as one of the Wonders of the modern world, or the beautiful places of our Amazon.

With these words, we take for initiated this Sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission Regional Organization for Fisheries Management of the South Pacific, wishing you successes in the results of the meeting, a pleasant stay in our country and a good return to home.

Thank you very much