(Country).... August 2020

**Mr. Lenín Moreno Garcés**

**Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador**

**Sir,**

Pursuant to the right to request that which assists us - in accordance with Art. 66 numeral 23 and Art. 18 paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador - which, without prejudice to the rights established in the Constitution and in international instruments in force, the recognition of the right to direct requests and petitions. I write regarding the very delicate circumstances surrounding the presence of the fleet of fishing vessels along Ecuador’s Exclusive Economic Zone, and the right to freely access public information; bearing this in mind, I request the following considerations:

1. Through the World Trade Organization, propose a binding trade barrier agreement for illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and eliminate the fishing subsidy and technical support of such fishing fleets from these countries.
2. Expedite the technical-scientific research needed to achieve the expansion of the continental and insular shelf beyond 200 nm, under Article 76 of the Convemar.
3. Conduct studies of the marine ecosystem of the water column that is located between the exclusive economic zones of mainland Ecuador and the islands, in order to obtain data on marine species that are under pressure. This for the preservation of species that are protected or endangered, thus facilitating compliance with international treaties. Propose the establishment of a marine protected area on the high seas, especially taking into account the environmental co-management model of the sanctuary Pelagos in the Mediterranean.
4. Support the currently regionally-supported CMAR (Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor) initiative at the national level. Furthermore, in addition to the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Chancellery and the Ministry of Defence as maritime authorities in these cases, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Production, Investment and Fisheries should also be included.
5. Initiate an investigation on the conservation of marine biodiversity before Convemar; that the investigation reach the special arbitration tribunal for evidence of fisheries and the effect on biodiversity, as well as before the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Agency and the Inter-American Center for Tax Administrations (IACT).
6. That the possibility of expanding the Galapagos Marine Reserve be studied and technically justified, so that it can be included in the reforms of the Organic Law on Special Regime of the Galapagos that is processed in the Permanent Specialized Commission on Biodiversity and Natural Resources
7. That Government promote and coordinate with the Assembly and that they resume the respective report and debate on the proposal for the Law on Navigation, Security Management and Maritime Protection
8. Inform the nation’s public what the National Secretariat of Planning and Development has accomplished since replacing the Technical Secretary of the Sea, in accordance with Executive Decree No. 923, as published in Official Register Supplement 710 of March 11, 2016
9. That the competent authorities cooperate with international conservation and environmental organizations and accept support and advice; by working together with the Ecuadorian state, examine the merit of international agreements and whether or not they strengthen the preservation of marine migratory biodiversity through constant presence in the reserve
10. That technical and scientific support for decision-making be maintained in the process of research and implementation by the Government-designated commissions on the subject of fishing fleet; that these commissions be accompanied by national or regional scientists, experts and NGOs, and that the commissions’ actions are publicly known.
11. That in addition to the reports from the Ministry of Environment regarding the existence and amount of economic resources for the preservation of the marine species of the Galapagos, that the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries should also provide such reports regarding specifics of bycatch that is taking place in the country, to the detriment of certain species, such as sharks
12. Report on the Ministry of Defence’s budget amount for the National Navy on the offshore fisheries control axis and the EEZ.
13. Have the National Government set up a fund, by public trust, for the security and management of ocean activities
14. That the National Assembly hold the Chancellery to account for how Convemar has been implemented in the areas of scientific research, technology transfer, fisheries, and ecosystem conservation; provide documentation on how the signed agreements on these issues have been implemented.
15. The Assembly should propose an organizational or legal scheme for the incorporation of ocean and coastal public policies, taking into account the Blue Economy and maritime spatial planning.
16. Monitor fishing gear used by large vessels and board vessels to inspect their fishing, pursuant to the New York Agreement and Convemar's Art. 73
17. Lobby for the endorsement of the United Nations Convention on Marine Biodiversity beyond national borders by the end of 2020
18. That access to internal information for technical and scientific support be granted when the collection and research use of such information contributes to the development of maritime protection policies.
19. Strengthen CITES controls and permits in order to prevent illegal smuggling of shark fins or any protected or endangered species through collaboration between the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries, SENAE and the Ministry of Environment and Water
20. Renegotiate terms and timing of moratorium in which China indicated that the fleet will not fish in these waters from September to November each year., This influence of the Humboldt current reaches Ecuador months before September and November, bringing high productivity and flow of many marine species, including migratory species, with it. The main target species for fishing in this fleet are giant squid, shark and tuna. The high fishing season for giant squid is from July to October. The high fishing seasonality of tuna differs according to the species - bigeye tuna is from March to June in the first season of the year and July to October in the second season; yellowfin tuna from February to May in the first season and October and November in the second season; skipjack tuna is February, March and April in the first season and October and November in the second season. For shark species, we do not even have this data.
21. That Presidents of each nation take the initiative to converse, agree and make the sea a meeting point for the effective conservation and management of natural resources; form a consensus agreement to eliminate fuel subsidy for all vessels that provide port facilities to the vessels in question.
22. That the Precautionary Principle established in the Rio Declaration (1992) be requested and implemented; that the Ecuadorian State assert the ability to impose restrictive measures, without the need for scientific evidence, as a precautionary measure in protection of the fishery resources, biodiversity and livelihoods of future generations.

Kind regards

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