

A number of delegates noted that the key to a successful strategy for LBSMP lay in strengthening local, national, and regional programmes for addressing this serious problem. Several developing countries, including South Pacific States, Algeria, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Kenya, Malaysia, and Mexico, and such NGOs as Four Directions (representing indigenous peoples) and the IOI, stressed the need to strengthen countries' capacities to mitigate and prevent LBSMP, through better information and data exchange and training, as well as enhanced international cooperation in this field; otherwise developing countries would not be able to meet the target dates recommended in PC/42/Add.6.

Conservation and Management of High Seas Living Resources (including Whaling and Driftnet Fishing)

There were a number of interventions on this subject, which overlapped to some extent with comments on UNCLOS. Some delegations which represent distant fishing interests (e.g. EC and Japan), stressed that nations have a responsibility to develop and manage high seas living marine resources, based on principles agreed to by the international community (and contained in the UNCLOS); harvesting such resources should be undertaken on the basis of scientific methods for determining stocks and catches of directed and non-directed species. As well, countries should cooperate to develop responsible enforcement programmes and activities. This in itself was generally accepted and understood by all delegations addressing this issue, but a number of delegations raised other issues, which led to interesting exchanges on the protection and conservation of living marine resources.

The Four Directions Council and Fishworkers, a group representing artisanal fisheries in Africa, stressed the special rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to living marine resources in coastal areas and on the high seas and the need for the international community and agreements to recognize these rights. Both representatives also called for international cooperation and assistance to promote such environmentally sound and sustainable methods to harvest living marine resources.

New Zealand's Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) proposed that PC/42/Add.6 incorporate the following principles as options for Agenda 21:

- Affirm the validity of the 1972 Stockholm Conference recommendation that there should be a ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling and call for its full implementation (aboriginal and subsistence whaling would be exempted);
- Welcome the IWC report on small cetaceans and urge the IWC to continue this work, and governments specifically concerned to act