challenges they are confronted with, including the increasing competition with other blue economy sectors for using the marine space. The subsistence of small-scale fishers is at the heart of EU concerns when concluding Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with third countries. These agreements, in addition to foreseeing support to activities for the economic development of local value chains, only authorize the EU fleet to fish the surplus of stocks that local fishers cannot fish and only if this activity does not endanger the stocks that local communities are depending on.

The shift to sustainable aquatic food production must be accelerated by promoting, among others, the same high 12 792 reW*nBT/F1 0 0 11 72.024 597.344(d2st)taof

new ILO Conventions on fis
implementation of all these agreements by all our partner countries.

Climate change affects marine biodiversity, fish and other aquatic organisms, their ecosystems and the distribution of their stocks. The European Union continues to promote climate change and biodiversity considerations into policy decision making as well as the adoption of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and biodiversity related measures to support the resilience of fish stocks. In such a challenging context, the production and consumption of food, including aquatic food must be adapted. Only effectively managed aquatic resources can contribute to sustainable food systems worldwide. The EU is exploring ways to improve our understanding of the interactions between climate and fisheries and aquaculture, including via nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches considering sea basins specificities. The EU will continue to work to integrate climate change and biodiversity considerations in the work of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and other bodies and instruments dealing with the conservation and management of marine living resources.

Sustainable fisheries management by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

International and regional cooperative governance mechanisms are key in maintaining oceans as a source of sustainable food. To this end, conservation and management regimes adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations are the most relevant tools provided for under international law to promote sustainability of stocks, access to marine resources and ensure that the oceans are an affordable source of high-quality proteins.

Through its engagement in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the European Union contributes to international and regional cooperation focussing on the conservation and full restoration of marine biodiversity, the sustainability of the stocks, the promotion of science and science-based decision and ensuring food security. Along with those objectives, the EU stands also firm on the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and promoting fisheries control and a culture of compliance in those organisations.

In the face of unprecedented challenges of climate change and its effects on the oceans, further strengthening of cooperation within Regional Fisheries Management Organisations is essential for those organisations to adequately perform their role with respect to ensuring compliance, fight against IUU fishing, and enhance international governance for sustainable fisheries that, in turn, contribute to fair, healthy, and sustainable food systems.

Moreover, fishing activities should respect the principles of long-term conservation and

approach against IUU fishing, the EU aims to level the playing field for honest operators and support compliance with conservation and management rules that aim at the sustainable use of fisheries resources. Through its IUU fisheries dialogues with non-EU countries based on the IUU Regulation, the EU further ensures that countries abide by their international obligations, whilst

Mozambique (EUR 35 million): Support for increased investments in the sustainable blue economy, development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture value chains, and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Angola (EUR 30 million): Prioritizing the sustainable management of marine biological resources, economic inclusiveness in aquatic foods value chains, and enhanced marketability of aquatic food products.

In summary, these EU commitments underscore a comprehensive approach to leveraging aquatic foods for food security and nutrition.

Portugal

Enhancing Global Food Security and Nutrition through Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems

In line with previous comments, we advocate a two-pronged approach to enhance **seafood security and nutrition** and perhaps this approach could be highlighted in the document. Namely, this two-pronged approach encompasses a **re-balancing of the exploitation** of the wild ocean food resources away from overexploited species to **underexploited species** and a total utilization of harvested biomass (**zero waste**). This requires **investment in seafood science and technology** in order to develop safe, healthy, palatable, and economically viable food products from processing by-products and underutilized seafood species. On the other hand, aquaculture has to be expanded, but on a more viable and broader basis in what regards sustainability and feed supply. The

Spain

in the diet as it prevents cardiovascular risks. In this sense, it has been determined through scientifically proven data that the presence of fish in the diet of a country's population is associated with increased life expectancy. This claim is corroborated by a study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* that a group of people who were randomly assigned to a Mediterranean dietary pattern had 30 % less mortality, heart attacks and strokes than those who did not follow this dietary pattern. Moreover, fish is source of essential unsaturated fats, such as omega