

UNECE contribution to the

Background Note for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, Lisbon, 2-6 June 2020

The global demand for fish has led to increasing pressure on existing fish stocks. Due to overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), the world fish stocks are being depleted. In some areas such as the Mediterranean and Black Sea, significant drops in capture have been observed. Rough calculations indicate that global IUU fishing represents around 11 to 26 million tons of fish every year with a value of USD 26 to 35 billion annually. IUU fishing exploits the resources of developing countries, prevents assessment of existing stocks and the development of science-based quotas for sustainable exploitation.

In order to counter further depletion and promote sustainability, global fish resources are managed by Fishery Management Organisations (FMOs). An essential requirement for an effective management of fish resources through FMOs is the timely acquisition of information on stocks and