

JOINT STATEMENT OF CANCUN ON THE AIDCP

Recognizing the commitments made by the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), the governments of Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Vanuatu and Venezuela, gathered at the 17th Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP, in Cancun, Mexico, on 20 June 2007,

DECLARE:

1. Complete satisfaction with the successful results systematically obtained in the international agreement that is carried out in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) which guarantees the conservation of all the species associated with this fishery.
2. However, we state our deep concern at the fact that the United States of America to date is not fulfilling its commitment to grant effective access to its market for tuna caught in the EPO as required by the IDCP, through Annex I of the 1995 Declaration of Panama which expressly notes with regard to the United States of America: "Effective access for tuna caught in compliance with the La Jolla Agreement", that has become the AIDCP. This by continuing to reject the AIDCP *dolphin safe* certification for those that decide to use it.
3. It is worth recalling and emphasizing that both the United States of America and all the signatories present, when they made the commitments in the Declaration of Panama, did so without any reservation nor limitation to the domestic legal system, without any State Party being exempt from compliance with the obligations acquired.
4. The above-described situation jeopardizes cooperation for conservation, required by the AIDCP, international law, the States and the fleets that operate sustainably in the framework of these agreements. In this regard we reiterate the importance of the United States of America demonstrating to the signatory countries concrete and effective actions, towards the effective conservation of dolphins and other important species of the marine ecosystem, complying with its commitments through *inter alia*, appeal to the Supreme Court and the application of its domestic laws and regulations that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has the responsibility to implement to eliminate the illegal barriers that impede effective access to the market, in this case for tuna caught in a manner consistent with AIDCP *dolphin safe*.
5. In view of all the above, we exhort the United States of America to fulfill, fully and completely, the obligations it has committed to and not undermine the AIDCP. All the High Contracting Parties, must demonstrate effective commitment to the fulfillment of the obligations in order to achieve the permanence of and in the AIDCP.

29 June 2007