

Statement made by His Excellency Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan at the Meeting on Sustainable Use of Aquatic Living Resources in Tokyo July 14-15, 2026

First and foremost, let me extend our sincere gratitude for the invitation extended to our government to this important **Meeting on Sustainable Use of Aquatic Living Resources** being held here in Tokyo today.

Eritrea is fully aware of the successful economic achievements recorded in Japan's modern history especially its continued policy of self-reliance activities and development which are based on food security of its population especially in areas of agriculture and fisheries of its economy.

In view of this phenomenal achievement and record on food security, Eritrea officially joined **the International Whaling Commission (IWC)** on October 10, 2007 aligning its position with the successful policy practice of Japan and other member nations on food security.

Eritrea is straddling on 3,300 kms of coastline, which includes 354 pristine islands, on the Red Sea. According to scientific surveys, this area is best known as a highly favorable ecosystem for the development of fisheries. Essential reef areas, extensive surface and numerous shelters of the Dahlak archipelago and aggregates of islands contribute to the prospect of a prosperous fishery industry. Despite the limited research conducted, more than 600 species of fish have been recorded in the Eritrean Red Sea.

A baseline survey for **the Project for the Formulation of the Strategies and Practical Approaches for Coastal Development (FSPAC)** was completed jointly by the Ministry of Marine Resources and Japan International Cooperation Agency in August 2020.

Let me take and cease this occasion to request the Fisheries Agency of Japan, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to continue the full implementation of this important project in order to enhance and develop the mutual cooperation on sustainable use of aquatic living resources among Eritrea, Japan and other member nations of International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Thank you