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**CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT OF 2012 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS
OF THE TORREMOLINOS PROTOCOL OF 1993 RELATING TO THE TORREMOLINOS
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS, 1977**

Accession by Belgium

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, and to state that accession by the Kingdom of Belgium was effected by deposit of an instrument on 10 May 2018.

The instrument of accession by Belgium was accompanied by the following declaration:

"As part of a regional arrangement authorized under article 3, paragraph 5, of the 1993 Protocol, Belgium is bound by the relevant European Union legislation, namely Council Directive 97/70/EC of 11 December 1997 setting up a harmonized safety regime for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over. Consequently, Belgium will apply the provisions of the 1993 Protocol regarding safety standards to third country fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over which operate in its internal or territorial waters or which land catch in one of its ports, subject to the terms laid down in the above-mentioned Directive. Under that regional arrangement, the exemptions provided for in regulation 1/6 of chapter I of the annex to the Cape Town Agreement in relation to annual surveys and in regulation 3/3 of chapter I of the annex thereto concerning a common fishing zone or exclusive economic zone shall not apply to the fishing vessels of Belgium, or to third country fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over while operating in the common fishing zone or the exclusive economic zone of Belgium, or while landing catch at its ports. Exemptions issued under regulation 3/3 of chapter I of the annex to the Cape Town Agreement, concerning a common fishing zone or an exclusive economic zone, to fishing vessels falling within the scope of application of regulation 1 of chapter I of the annex to the Cape Town Agreement, shall not be accepted."

The condition for entry into force of this Agreement has not yet been fulfilled. Article 4(1) of the Agreement provides as follows:

"1 This Agreement shall enter into force 12 months after the date on which not less than 22 States the aggregate number of whose fishing vessels of 24 m in length and over operating on the high seas is not less than 3,600 have expressed their consent to be bound by it."

There are, at present, 10 Contracting States to the Agreement with an aggregate number of 1,020 fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over operating on the high seas.
