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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-third Session

Rome, 9-13 July 2018

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES: A PROGRESS REPORT OF MYPOW 2016-2019 AND A DRAFT MYPOW 2018-2021

Executive Summary

This document provides the progress report of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 2016-2019 and the draft MYPOW 2018-2021, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of COFI.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- examine this Progress Report, in accordance with its overall objectives and mandate and proposed results, work planning and methods, outlined in the approved MYPOW 2016-2019; and
- approve the proposed MYPOW 2018-2021, as set out in the Appendix.

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BACKGROUND

1. At its 32nd Session in July 2016, the Committee approved the progress report on the MYPOW 2014-2017 and draft MYPOW for 2016-2019.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK 2016-2019

A. RESULTS FOR 2016–2018

2. Strategy and Priority Setting and Budget Planning

The decisions and recommendations by the 32nd Session of COFI provided a solid basis for the strategy, priority setting and budget planning, which was reported to and reviewed by the 155th Session of the Council.

The FAO Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries has been further improved, *inter alia*, by adding supplementary questions for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Liaison with the Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture are further improved.

3. Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2018 is presented at the 33rd Session of COFI and provides a solid basis for its guidance and decisions.

The intersessional work by the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, successfully identified topics of significance for agenda setting.

4. Advise on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

The decisions and recommendations of the 32nd Session of COFI provided a solid basis for global policy and regulatory matters, which was reported to and reviewed by the 40th Session of the Conference.

The implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication was facilitated.

The implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance are facilitated.

The 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (the Port States Measures Agreement) entered into force on 5 June 2016. According to the guidance given by the 32nd Session of COFI, the First Meeting of the Parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures was held in Norway, from 29 to 31 May 2017.

According to the authorization given by the 32nd Session of COFI, the Voluntary Guidelines for the Catch Documentation Schemes were adopted by the 40th Session of the Conference.

Following the endorsements given by the 32nd Session of COFI and the approvals by the 40th Session of the Conference, the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 5 December 2017 declared the year 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture as well as 5 June as the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)

Fishing. The first celebration of the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing was organized as a side event during the 159th Session of the Council on 5 June 2018.

As supported by the 32nd Session of COFI, the Technical Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear was held in Rome from 5 to 9 February 2018 and adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear for endorsement by the 33rd Session of COFI.

B. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI

5. The deliberations at the 32nd Session of COFI enabled the formulation of a concise report, embodying specific action-oriented recommendations to be presented to the Council and Conference.

6. The Progress Report of MYPOW 2014-2017 and the MYPOW 2016-2019 were approved by the 32nd Session of COFI.

7. The Progress Report of the MYPOW 2016-2019 and the draft MYPOW 2018-2021 are submitted to the 33rd Session of COFI for its approval.

8. The agenda for the 33rd Session of COFI has been elaborated in close consultation with the Bureau of COFI.

9. Liaison with other Technical Committees, in particular with the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) through the Secretariat is also further enhanced. The four Technical Committees jointly organized the side event on FAO Technical Committees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the 158th Session of the Council on 5 December 2017.

10. The side events during the 33rd Session of COFI were organized in close consultation with the Bureau in a focused and coordinated manner.

C. WORKING METHODS

11. In keeping with the MYPOW for 2016-2019, regular inter-sessional consultations have been facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau with the support of the Secretary. Nine meetings of the Bureau, as well as three Informal Meetings for COFI Members, have been organized by the Chairperson for follow-up and implementation of recommendations arising from the Committee's previous session, as well as for preparing the current session.

APPENDIX

**DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES 2018–2021****I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMMITTEE**

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) reviews the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture, the Organization's work programme in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, oversees the implementation of such programmes and is mandated to review specific issues pertaining to fisheries and aquaculture that have been referred to the Committee either by the FAO Council, by the Director-General, or pursuant to the request of a Member State(s) periodically.

II. RESULTS FOR 2018-2021**A. Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture**

2. Result:

The Council, the Conference and the international community at large are provided with updated information and specific advice on the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture and in relation to the specific issues of significance addressed during the scheduled sessions.

3. Indicators and targets:

Clear, precise and consensual recommendations that are based on updated information of the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture are presented to the Council and the Conference as a solid basis for its guidance and decision.

4. Output:

Clear, precise and consensual recommendations are favourably considered by the Council and the Conference and provide a solid basis for its guidance and decision.

5. Activities:

The Committee undertakes general discussions on the current world situation in fisheries and aquaculture.

Specific issues of topical significance are addressed during the scheduled sessions.

6. Working methods:

Close consultation with the Chairperson and other Bureau Members.

Intersessional work by the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, to identify topics of significance for agenda setting.

B. Strategy and Priority Setting, and Budget Planning

7. Result:

- The Committee's recommendations provide a solid basis for the Council's guidance and decisions on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization.

8. Indicators and targets:

- The Committee further promotes the FAO's Questionnaire on Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) to solicit responses and reduce obstacles impeding responses.
- Members respond to the FAO Questionnaire on the implementation of the Code and provide the relevant information on fisheries and aquaculture for FAO via the Committee and its Sub-Committees.
- Clear and specific recommendations are made by the Committee to the Council regarding the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget for fisheries and aquaculture.
- The Committee's recommendations made on the pertinent aspects of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget are reflected in the Council Report.

9. Outputs:

- Report of the Committee that provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the Council on sectoral strategies, priorities, programmes and budgets.

10. Activities:

- Review decisions and recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, statutory bodies and other relevant organs or institutions.
- Review advice from the Regional Conferences in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.
- Review the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Formulate recommendations on the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

11. Working methods:

- Close consultation with the Chairperson and other Bureau Members.
- Close collaboration with the relevant FAO Departments.
- Liaise with Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture and other statutory bodies.
- Liaise with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters.
- Liaise with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters.
- Report the outcome of the Committee on the programme and budgetary matters to the Council appropriately.

C. Advise on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

12. Results

- The Committee recommendations provide a solid basis for the Conference's guidance and decisions on global policy and regulatory matters.

13. Indicators and targets:

- Member Nations obtain value from the deliberations of the Committee, using the advice and recommendations to guide domestic actions and policies as reported by FAO.
- Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by the Committee to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate.
- The Committee's recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference Report.

14. Output:

- The Committee provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.
- Members of the Committee undertake all necessary action in order to facilitate the implementation of the instruments, *inter alia*:
 - The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;
 - The Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance;
 - The Port States Measures Agreement;
 - The Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes; and
 - The Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear.

15. Activities:

- Review the status of relevant international instruments in areas of competence for the Committee.
- Consider possible solutions with a view to support concerted action by Members themselves or collectively through FAO and other relevant bodies in areas of competence for the Committee.
- Report the outcome of the Committee on global policy and regulatory matters to the Conference appropriately.

III. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI

16. Result:

- The Committee works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

17. Indicators and targets:

- The Committee's agendas are focused and reports are concise and containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.
- Evaluation of results and implementation of MYPOW for the Committee.

18. Outputs:

- Focused agendas and concise reports containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.
- Progress report on MYPOW 2016-2019 is endorsed in 2018.
- Multi-Year Programme of Work 2018-2021 for the Committee is adopted in 2018.

19. Activities:

- Review the Committee's practices and rules of procedure, if necessary.
- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including more efficient use of the time available.
- Recognizing the importance and usefulness of side events, facilitate more focused and coordinated side events in line with key issues addressed in the main sessions.
- Facilitate further coordination and collaboration with the Sub-Committees and other Technical Committees.
- Pay continued attention to effective arrangements for the formulation of agendas and drafting of the final report.

IV. WORKING METHODS

20. The Committee collaborates with statutory and other bodies under FAO auspices, liaises with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters, and with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters, as well as other relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

21. It liaises with other international organizations active in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture.

22. The Committee undertakes regular intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau with support from the Secretariat. Liaison amongst the Bureaus of the Committee and the Sub-Committees is also further strengthened.

23. It encourages and facilitates the participation of observers including civil society organizations.

24. The Chairperson liaises with FAO through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.