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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-third Session

Rome, 9–13 July 2018

FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE UNDER THE FAO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of FAO's achievements in fisheries and aquaculture in the 2016–2017 biennium and a perspective on FAO's work in the fisheries and aquaculture sector during 2018–19, in the context of the Strategic Framework. In addition, global developments and trends that are likely to influence FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture are presented, in the context of the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan 2018–21.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- Welcome FAO's achievements in the field of fisheries and aquaculture within the Organization Strategic Framework;
- Note the global and sectoral developments and trends identified;
- Welcome the main priorities of priorities identified for FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture; and
- Recommend measures to strengthen FAO's fishery data collection, analysis and dissemination for the effective conservation and sustainable use of aquatic resources.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework, its Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018–21 and Programme Work and Budget (PWB) 2018–19 (MTP-PWB) were approved by the FAO Conference in its 40th session in July 2017, Rome. The conference appreciated the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The reviewed Strategic Framework was developed through a consultative strategic thinking process during 2016, taking into account the strong support expressed by the FAO governing bodies for progress in the strategic direction of the Organization. This process involved identification of global trends expected to frame agricultural development over the medium term, and sectoral (including fisheries and aquaculture) and regional trends arising from regional strategic reviews and deliberations of the FAO regional conferences and technical committees; derivation of main challenges expected to be faced by countries and development actors in food and agriculture (including fisheries and aquaculture) in the coming years; analysis of main global developments setting the overall context in which FAO operates; and the implications of these challenges and developments for FAO's Strategic Objectives in the context of FAO's basic attributes and core functions. The review took into account the major global developments that occurred in 2015-2016, most importantly, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and entry into force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
3. The reviewed Strategic Framework provided the basis for fine-tuning the conceptual framework and theory of change of FAO's five Strategic Objectives (SOs) within the context of the Organization's vision, attributes and core functions. The MTP-PWB set out the programmatic framework and resources for planning, implementing and monitoring results through indicators and targets, including the contribution of FAO's work toward 39 SDG targets. Web-Annex 1 provides an overview of FAO's Strategic Programmes including alignment with the SDGs.
4. In this context, the present document first provides a brief overview of FAO's achievements in fisheries and aquaculture in the 2016–17 biennium. It then outlines key global and sector specific developments and trends, which will influence FAO's future work in fisheries and aquaculture. The last section lays out the priority areas of FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture during 2018–19 and beyond.

II. ACHIEVEMENTS IN FAO'S WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN 2016–17

5. FAO's Strategic Programmes guide FAO's technical work to address complex, cross-cutting and multidisciplinary priorities, including support to countries on the SDGs. Strategic Programmes integrate FAO's work from global/normative activities to regional initiatives and national programmes and enable identification of relevant stakeholders to facilitate inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination. This section describes the major achievements of FAO in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors during 2016–2017, within the context of the Strategic Programmes, and in response to requests from statutory bodies and individual members.
6. Supporting the sustainable management of living aquatic resources, balancing their use and conservation in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible manner remains an overarching priority area of action for FAO. Over the last biennium this support has been translated into significant normative and field work, in collaboration with FAO's strategic programmes, member countries and partner agencies, supported by significant resource mobilization and the development of common narratives, along a number of key areas:

Blue Growth

7. Blue Growth has continued to gain recognition as a very effective way to frame FAO's work on fisheries and aquaculture in support of food and nutrition security, poverty reduction and sustainable management of living aquatic resources. The results of the BGI are increasingly being recognized with the participation of FAO in more than 30 Blue Economy/Blue Growth meetings and events in 2016 and 2017. The Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) is now supporting > 20 countries in various BG interventions, including \$40 million alone in implementing the Africa Package, and over the last two years another \$10 million in other regions through extra-budgetary funding. Interventions include dialogues and technical work to support the transition to BG in Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, facilitating access to financial mechanisms in Africa and the Caribbean, and specialized technical advisory services (e.g. aquaponics). BGI is also the means of implementation for the marine/fisheries component of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
8. Supported by financial and human resources from the Strategic Programme 2 (SP2) and as part of the BGI in Asia and the Pacific, practitioners in the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam were trained in Innovative Integrated Agro-Aquaculture (IAA). IAA is recognized specifically in FAO's Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. SP2 further supported direct implementation of IAA practices in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (integrating aquaculture/rice through Farmer Field Schools [FFSs]), Viet Nam (rice/fish practices and tiger shrimp culture through FFSs, integrated shrimp/mangrove culture) and Myanmar (rice/fish capacity development activities through South-South Cooperation in collaboration with SP3 and regional partners).
9. Aquaponics is a combined aquaculture/agriculture closed system where vegetables, herbs or fruit are irrigated with the same water used to raise the fish. FAO is also implementing demonstration aquaponic systems and training-of-trainers in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis, with new activities also starting in Grenada and Saint Lucia, as part of a Caribbean Blue Growth Initiative.
10. At the 22nd UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) in Marrakesh, Morocco, FAO, the World Bank and the African Development Bank announced the *African Package for Climate-Resilient Ocean Economies*. The Package is an effort to coordinate Blue Growth-aligned technical assistance and resource mobilization for participating countries valued at USD3.5 billion. Eleven countries have been identified as priority countries to support the transition from business as usual to a Blue Economy over the next three years through the development of an investment portfolio of projects in line with Blue Growth concepts and actions.
11. FAO collaborated with the government of Cabo Verde to hold a 3-day international conference on Blue Growth which brought together 150 participants from 30 delegations, primarily from African coastal nations, small island developing states (SIDS) and international including ministerial delegations from six of the participating countries: Cabo Verde, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, São Tomé and Príncipe. Delegates noted that their understanding of Blue Growth and its potential for development was improved and they were more confident of including Blue Growth in their development agendas. More than 5 countries requested FAO support in developing or advancing their Blue Growth agendas after the conference.

Aquaculture contribution to Food Security

12. The trends reported in *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2016¹* and 2018² reaffirm the key role fisheries and aquaculture play as sources of food, nutrition, income and

¹ FAO 2016. *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*. Rome, Italy.

² FAO 2018. *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*. Rome, Italy.

livelihoods for a large number of people around the world. Since 1961 the average annual increase in global fish consumption (3.2 percent) has doubled the rate of population growth and exceeded growth consumption of meat from all terrestrial animals combined.

13. This increase in global fish consumption is directly linked to the sharp increase in aquaculture development. The sector continues to grow faster than other major food production sectors, although it no longer enjoys the growth rates of the 1980s and 1990s. The average annual growth during the period 2000–2016 was 5.8 percent globally, with double-digit growth in a small number of individual countries, particularly in Africa. In 2014, for the first time aquaculture production for human consumption overtook capture fisheries production; in 2016 aquaculture was responsible for 53 percent of the fish production dedicated to food.

Agenda 2030 and SDG 14

14. The United Nations Ocean Conference that took place in June 2017 was a significant development for catalysing targeted global action towards the achievement of UN SDG 14 for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans. FAO is the custodian agency for four of the ten SDG 14 indicators (14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1, 14.b.1). In April 2018 the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) approved the reclassification of indicator 14.6.1 (implementation of international instruments aiming to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported [IUU] fishing) and 14.b.1 (Progress by countries in the degree of application of frameworks which recognize and protect access rights for small-scale fisheries) to Tier II, as requested at the 32nd meeting of COFI. This means that three out of the four SDG 14 indicators with FAO custodianship are Tier I or II indicators.³ It will also be important that fisheries consider its contribution to other important SDGs, including SDG 2 on zero hunger.

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing

15. The FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) entered into force in June 2016, providing a framework to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, and setting minimum international standards to be applied by Port States when considering the entry and use of ports by foreign fishing vessels. To date 53 Parties have signed the Agreement, including the European Union (EU). The 1st Meeting of the Parties was held in Oslo, Norway, in May 2017. Supported by SP2 and SP4 a newly endorsed 5-year multi-donor umbrella capacity building programme to facilitate implementation of the PSMA and complementary international instruments and regional mechanisms is now in place.

16. The first working version of the Information System of the *Global Record for Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels* (Global Record) was launched in April 2017 as an online, transparent and reliable source of traceable information, to assist fishing and maritime authorities on issues such as vessel registration, fishing licence provision, inspection and/or entry permits.

17. In a third major normative development in combating IUU fishing, the FAO *Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes* (CDS) were approved by countries in June 2017. The guidelines are the first international policy document to provide assistance to states, regional fisheries management organizations, regional economic integration organizations and other intergovernmental organizations when developing, implementing or harmonising CDS. The guidelines will play an essential role in the implementation of other instruments against IUU fishing.

³ Tier I indicators are those indicators for which established methodology and standards are available and data are regularly produced by countries; Tier II indicators have established methodology and standards but data are not regularly produced by countries.

Fisheries subsidies and Trade issues

18. In 2016, FAO, UNCTAD and UNEP developed and widely promoted a Joint Statement “*Regulating fisheries subsidies must be an integral part of the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda*”, during the fourteenth session of UNCTAD. The statement emphasized the need to address harmful fisheries subsidies as specified in the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) mandate and SDG target 14.6.4 Since then the statement has been endorsed by over 90 countries, and FAO and UNCTAD performed several joint-events in order to support countries to have a strong foundation on the topic contributing to WTO discussions towards regulating fisheries subsidies. FAO has continuously supported international efforts to achieve SDG target 14.6, and continues to work with partners to provide technical expertise, capacity building, form political consensus and deepen understanding of trade-related fish aspects of SDG 14.

19. Taking into consideration the substantial volume of fish and fishery products traded internationally, linked with an overall low import tariff and the associated risk of dealing with a perishable product, many countries face trade barriers accessing foreign markets. In order to allow a better understanding of possible trade barriers and to reduce their impact, FAO has continued to promote the debate on market access issues at the sessions of the Sub-committee on Fish Trade, and it will start to provide more detailed information on the Globefish website on market access issues, including non-tariff measures.

Social Sustainability

20. Work on employment and labour conditions in the fisheries and aquaculture sector was particularly strengthened through the biennium, with particular support from SP3. On the occasion of World Fisheries Day in November 2016, the Holy See, FAO, ILO, fish industry representatives and trade unions condemned illegal fishing and forced labour in fisheries and urged collective commitment to prevent human rights abuses in fisheries supply chains. In 2017, the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade discussed social sustainability issues including human and labour rights abuses in seafood value chains and their trade implications, urging FAO to strengthen its work programme and technical assistance in these areas. In 2016 and 2017 FAO continued to facilitate the Vigo Dialogue on decent work in fisheries and aquaculture, a multi-stakeholder forum held in Vigo, Spain since 2014.

Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and Marine Pollution

21. In February 2018, FAO countries agreed on a set of draft *Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear*, taking a big step forward towards cleaner seas and safer navigation, for endorsement by COFI 2018. ALDFG have serious detrimental impacts on fish and other marine organisms. The guidelines will allow authorities to monitor how fishing gear is used and who is using it, and are viewed as an effective tool towards achieving better fisheries management. FAO is currently preparing a concept for the development of a global umbrella programme of work to prevent, reduce and eliminate ALDFG.

22. ALDFG contribute up to ten percent of the eight million tonnes of plastic litter that ends up in our oceans every year, while “other marine debris” contribute a further ten percent. Noting the urgency to achieve significant reduction in marine pollution, including plastic pollution, FAO has continued to investigate the potential impacts of microplastics on human health through the ingestion of fish and fisheries products. The Joint FAO/WHO Codex Committee on food additives and contaminants is also in the process of identifying polymers for their human toxicity, while FAO is also pursuing studies on hazard assessment of potential toxicity of nanoplastics in seafood, working with partners UNEP, IMO, GESAMP and the London Convention.

⁴ By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

23. The implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) has progressed through an SSF Umbrella programme, supported by SP1. A number of case studies that examine good practices of SSF Guidelines implementation in different parts of the world in relation to the different thematic areas of the SSF Guidelines have been conducted. A revision of the 2012 report *Hidden Harvest: The Global Contribution of Capture Fisheries*, is in preparation, with a focus on SSF. In line with the 2016 COFI recommendations, discussions are continuing on the proposal for an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) as a complementary mechanism to the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme.

Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

24. In 2017 the GEF-supported FAO-led *Common Oceans* Programme on global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) completed and published a review and analysis of the over 19 international instruments and eight regional conventions that address biodiversity and sustainable deep-sea fishing in ABNJ. The review was accompanied by training programme including a step-wise guide to assist countries, where necessary, to better integrate their international obligations into national laws and policies. It followed a 2016 FAO report on global Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) processes and practices, as a consolidated output of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/105.

25. Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), and particularly Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), have long been essential for support to and implementation of management of shared fishery resources. Increasingly, they are also providing key services in capacity building and strengthening of regional and global scientific knowledge in support of the development and management of fisheries and aquaculture. The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) is playing a key role in this regard through coordination and the sharing of information and experiences among the 53 RFBs. In response to requests, performance reviews of RFMOs are being institutionalized and undertaken with increasing regularity. As at 23 October 2017, 15 RFMOs had undergone performance reviews, and six of them (Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization [SEAFO]) had also conducted a second performance review, with more planned by others, in order to enhance their contribution to sustainable resource management.

26. At the UN Biodiversity Conference in Mexico in 2016 (CBD COP 13) FAO and its partners showed how consideration of biodiversity had been strengthened, in particular in relation to conservation of threatened species and vulnerable habitats, and highlighted efforts by RFMOs and national fishery authorities to update their management instruments. This includes the work of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, which aims to strengthen the convergence of actions by RFMOs and regional seas organizations.

State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

27. The remarkable growth in aquaculture production globally has brought to light the importance of collating information on the status, trends in use and drivers affecting Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR) to underpin sound management and sustainable exploitation. To improve the collection and sharing of AqGR information the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) tasked FAO with producing a State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture report (SoW). Following review by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the SoW report has been submitted for endorsement by the 33rd Session of COFI. The State of the World report is based primarily on country

reports submitted to FAO by its Members, which have been incorporated into a database for periodic updating and analysis.

EAF-Nansen Programme

28. The fifth phase of the EAF-Nansen programme, “*Supporting the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, considering climate and pollution impacts*”, a long-standing partnership between FAO and the Government of Norway, started its activities after the naming ceremony of the new R/V Dr Fridjof Nansen, the only research vessel carrying the UN flag, in March 2017 in Oslo, Norway. Since then the vessel has surveyed waters of 24 African countries. Having covered well over 30 000 nautical miles, and hosting over 260 scientists from 25 countries. The programme continues to collect information on the state of oceans, ecosystems and fishery resources, providing training and capacity building opportunities, and supporting improvements in fisheries management systems according to the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

29. In this biennium the FAO has continued to establish strong links with post-graduate educational programmes, which included Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Michigan State University (USA) in relation to Inland Fisheries capacity building and advanced learning, and with the IMO World Maritime University (WMU) courses through their Ocean Sustainability Institute, among other established programmes.

30. Finally, the FAO flagship publication: The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2016 received much media interest and support, and continues to be a crucial source of data, information, and innovation in fisheries and aquaculture. Since its release in July 2016 to April 2018 the SOFIA report had been accessed through the FAO website over 1 500 times a day, the highest access rate of any FAO publication. In addition, the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017–2026 was also published in the biennium, along with numerous technical papers and other publications. Many of these publications rely on the FAO statistics on fishery and aquaculture commodities production and trade.

III. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTORS

31. The 2017 FAO *The Future of Food and Agriculture report*⁵ notes that agricultural demand may increase by 50 percent by 2050 compared to 2013, as a result of population growth and income growth in low and middle-income countries, growth which would hasten a dietary transition towards higher consumption of animal protein. Significant growth in fish and seafood production will thus be needed to secure food and nutrition for a growing and aging population, in the context of limited resources and environmental impacts. FAO projections are of an 18 percent growth in total world fish production by 2030, virtually all of it coming from aquaculture. Financial and technical support to ensure further aquaculture growth, particularly outside Asia, and better disease control worldwide, are two of the pre-conditions for achieving this level of growth.

32. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016, aims to tackle the complex challenges facing the planet today, including food security and poverty alleviation, in an indivisible, multi-sectoral approach. This will require that the fisheries and aquaculture sector consider its contribution to the whole 2030 Agenda in a cross-sectoral and multi-objective way. FAO is the custodian UN agency for 21 indicators of SDGs, including four for SDG14. As a custodian agency, FAO is expected to develop methodologies, assist countries in the collection of relevant data,

⁵ The Future of Food and Agriculture (FAO, Rome 2017).

validating and harmonizing them, estimating regional and global aggregates and making them available for international reporting.

33. Ocean issues have become increasingly important in the Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, in recognition of its climate and carbon regulatory role, and for being a crucial source of our planet's biodiversity and ecosystem services. The leadership of FAO in the 22nd and 23rd COP in Marrakesh (2016) and Bonn (2017) in the Global Climate Action Agenda is expected to continue in coming years, highlighting the importance of adaptation measures to ensure sustainable contributions of fisheries to food and livelihood security. The FAO/World Bank/African Development Bank *Africa Package for Climate Resilient Ocean Economies*, launched at COP22, and the Oceans Pathway Partnership launched by the government of Fiji at COP23, will add to FAO's climate change agenda.

34. In a landmark decision at the 23rd UNFCCC COP in October 2017, parties requested their Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBTA) and its Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to jointly address issues related to agriculture, taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security. This decision, known as the *Koronivia joint work on Agriculture*, has the potential to include fisheries and aquaculture in global strategies to address food security in the context of climate change.

35. Biodiversity mainstreaming, the consideration of biodiversity across fisheries and aquaculture, has gained substantially in profile since the 1992 adoption of the CBD and reinforced with the 2016 'Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being' at CBD COP13⁶. The adoption of the Aichi Targets by the Parties to CBD in 2010, and in particular Aichi target 6 (fisheries) and Aichi target 11 (area-based management of biodiversity) outlines fisheries' accountability for the full footprint of its activities and facilitates the measurement of action by countries in mainstreaming biodiversity into their policies and management measures.

36. The UN General Assembly at its December 2017 meeting discussed a draft of an 'International legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (A/72/L.7)', and agreed to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

37. The FAO *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines) and the *Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (VGGT) both serve as references for the responsible governance of tenure. In November 2017 the 72nd session of the UNGA declared 2022 the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, highlighting the importance of this subsector for food and livelihood security. Tenure rights can support the poor and vulnerable and can help deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. Finally, at its 72nd session the UNGA decided to proclaim the United Nations *Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development* for the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2021, to boost international coordination and cooperation in research and scientific programmes for better management of ocean and coastal zone resources and reducing maritime risks. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is to prepare an implementation plan, in consultation with Member States, UN bodies, scientific community and ocean stakeholders, with a view to leading to major steps (breakthroughs) in ocean science supporting ocean management and services.

⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-13/hls/cancun%20declaration-en.pdf>

IV. AREAS OF PRIORITY IN 2018–2019 AND BEYOND

39. The work to be undertaken in the 2018–19 biennium will make significant contributions to improving food security and nutrition (SO1), sustainable fisheries and aquaculture production in the era of climate change (SO2), animal health and bio-security (SO2 and SO5), poverty reduction, decent working conditions and livelihoods and the climate-poverty nexus (SO3), improved post-harvest practices, consumer protection and fish trade and reduction of seafood waste and loss (SO4), inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems (SO4), and preparedness of ocean-dependent communities for addressing climate change and natural disasters through adaptation and mitigation (SO2, SO3, SO5).
40. Supporting the conservation and sustainable management of living aquatic resources, balancing economic, social and environmental considerations, will continue to be an overarching priority area of action for FAO. This will include concerted efforts to, *inter alia*, further implement the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* and related instruments, including the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries*, the *Voluntary Guidelines for on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests*, the *Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)* and the *Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA)*; eliminate IUU fishing and implement the *Port States Measures Agreement*; secure socially responsible value chains; ensure effective management of resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction; and facilitate the sustainable growth of aquaculture, among others.
41. Considering the global and growing significance of sustainable aquaculture development and its potential contributions to global food security and nutrition, livelihoods, as well as to the achievement of a wide range of SDG targets, efforts will be directed to the development of best-practice guidelines for sustainable aquaculture production. These guidelines, would make use of the responses to the biennial Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) questionnaire, and may include, among others, governance frameworks, efficiency and waste, biosecurity and potential for growth through integrated approaches.
42. Much of the above work will be delivered through the framework provided by FAO's BGI. At the national level, FAO will continue to pilot the implementation of Blue Growth strategies in collaboration with development partners, such as the FAO/World Bank/African Development Bank *Africa Package for Climate Resilient Ocean Economies*, and the development of a BG investment portfolio. In particular, an inter-regional TCP-funded Blue Hope project will strengthen coastal communities and offer opportunities to generate incomes from sustainable use of coastal resources including adding value to fish products with a focus on youth and women.
43. FAO will also capitalize on the Global Environment Facility 7th Programme (GEF7) where its first key objective of the International Waters focal area is "strengthening national Blue Economy opportunities to reduce threats to marine and coastal waters" to develop, strengthen and scale up its Blue Growth work with a focus on fisheries and aquaculture in coastal areas. In addition to accessing GEF resources, partnerships with institutes such as the ACP Secretariat support delivery of their Blue Growth agenda will also be sought.
44. At global level activities continue to align BGI with related initiatives of major organizations such as UNEP, OECD, World Bank and the EU. These organizations have welcomed collaboration with FAO in the achievement of blue growth/blue economy, where, FAO would provide knowledge products such as science based fisheries information, facilitation for extension and advisory services, capacity building for policy development, gender-sensitive value chain support and for the implementation of international instruments and good practices. Plans are under way to establish a Blue Growth Network Secretariat to build coordinated global momentum and to encourage the creation of a Blue Forum to engage the private sector in the uptake of Blue Growth approaches.

45. Implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and in particular Sustainable Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) will be the focus of many of FAO global activities, as well as to several other SDGs. Particular attention will be devoted to the areas and indicators for which FAO is custodian: fisheries sustainability (14.4.1), fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (14.6.1), contribution of fisheries to the gross domestic product (GDP) in SIDS (14.7.1), and protection of Small-Scale fisheries (14.b.1). It is envisaged that additional funding will be required to support the statics and data collection systems required to monitor progress towards achieving the related SDG targets in many countries and regions.

46. The UN process to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (A/72/L.7), will receive considerable attention from FAO, including the role of RFBs, and on whether existing treaties, such as the 2001 FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture might be considered as a possible model for discussions with regards to access and benefit sharing regimes for genetic resources. In so doing, FAO will continue to provide support to existing RFMOs to enhance their contribution to sustainable resource management.

47. FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture will continue to contribute to FAO's Strategic Objectives through cross-sectoral technical work, including promoting FAO principles for sustainable agriculture, developing climate change adaptation and mitigation principles for coastal and ocean industries and dependent communities, and promoting area-based management. In particular, spatial planning is seen as fundamental for the integrated management of land, water and other resources in a way that accommodates the needs of competing economic sectors, minimizes conflict and integrates social, economic and environmental objectives.

48. In 2019 the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department intends to organize an International Symposium at FAO in Rome on *Sustainable Fisheries Management: Strengthening the Science-Policy Interplay*, to showcase sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices in the 21st century, and to illustrate how sustainable practices contribute to food security and nutrition and towards poverty alleviation.

49. Finally, through the Strategic Programming processes at FAO, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department will continue to integrate the recommendations and suggestions from the Committee on Fisheries and its sub-Committees, with the programme of work and budget as driven by the FAO Strategic Objectives, and the regional and national priority areas of work.

ANNEX 1

Main components of FAO's Strategic Framework**FAO's vision**

A world free from hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contributes to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The three Global Goals of Members:

- Eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- Elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and
- Sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Objectives

- 1) Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- 2) Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- 3) Reduce rural poverty
- 4) Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- 5) Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Additional objective

- 6) Technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes (climate change, gender, governance, nutrition)

Core Functions

- 1) Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others
- 2) Assemble, analyse, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to FAO's mandate
- 3) Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels
- 4) Advise and support capacity development at country and regional level to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes
- 5) Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate
- 6) Facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development, between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector
- 7) Advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels, in areas of FAO's mandate

Functional Objectives

- Outreach
- Information Technology
- FAO governance, oversight and direction
- Efficient and effective administration