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منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-third Session

Rome, 9 - 13 July 2018

### DEVELOPMENTS IN *FORA* OF IMPORTANCE FOR THE MANDATE OF COFI

#### Executive Summary

This document informs the Committee of developments in other *fora* of importance, both in and outside FAO, for the mandate of the Committee. The document covers the decisions and recommendations by other Governing Bodies in FAO, such as the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conference and other Technical Committees as well as international fora outside FAO other than those already covered by other documents prepared for this Session.

## I. FAO CONFERENCE

1. At its Fortieth Session, held in Rome from 3 to 8 July 2017, the FAO Conference<sup>1</sup> endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and in particular:
  - a) adopted the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes and stressed their importance as a guiding document for Members' and the international community's use as a reference in related activities;
  - b) appreciated the role FAO played in UN fora and processes related to fisheries and aquaculture, and supported FAO's increased leadership role in these processes;
  - c) welcomed the growing number of Parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) and the First Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA held in Oslo, Norway on 29-31 May 2017;
  - d) underscored the importance of the role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and nutrition and the importance of reducing food waste and losses, particularly in the post-harvest value chain, and welcomed further work in this area;
  - e) stressed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and welcomed the inclusion of the SSF Guidelines in regional and national policies, strategies and related implementation activities;
  - f) noted the ongoing work on the issues of transshipment, gear marking and reducing food loss and waste in fisheries and that these issues would be subject to continued focus at the next session of COFI;
  - g) emphasized the importance of FAO maintaining its technical capacity in fisheries and aquaculture; and
  - h) encouraged FAO to continue to support developing countries in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture through capacity development.
  - i) The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 155th Session for the Declaration of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022 and adopted Resolution 6/2017.
  - j) The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 155th Session to declare the annual observance of the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing on 5 June and adopted Resolution 9/2017.

## II. FAO COUNCIL

2. At its Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session, held in Rome from 5 to 9 December 2016, the FAO Council<sup>2</sup> endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and in particular:

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<sup>1</sup> C 2017/REP

<sup>2</sup> CL 155/REP

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- a) welcomed the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and encouraged non-Parties to join the Agreement;
- b) underlined the importance of FAO's technical capacity in fisheries and aquaculture, in particular with regard to food security and nutrition and related strategies and programmes;
- c) highlighted the importance of reducing food waste and losses, in particular in the post-harvest value chain, and welcomed further work in this area;
- d) requested FAO to continue its collaboration with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- e) endorsed the proposed work plan of the Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies (WG-AqGR), highlighting the need for close collaboration between the WG-AqGR and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA);
- f) stressed the need for improved aquaculture production efficiency and requested FAO's assistance in promoting sustainable aquaculture development, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- g) recognized the importance of FAO's support for capacity development in aquaculture, including youth and women employment, farmer networks, access to markets, biosecurity and in addressing occupational and safety hazards;
- h) called for the finalization of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes;
- i) supported the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) and its continued development, and recognized its important role as a tool in combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and in supporting the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA);
- j) welcomed the development of an FAO Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Umbrella Assistance Programme as a mechanism to mobilize extra-budgetary resources, and agreed on the need for a complementary mechanism in the form of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) to be developed, in consultation with small-scale fisheries stakeholders;
- k) underscored the importance of FAO support in best practice guidance on the management of inland fisheries and recommended the development of an effective methodology to monitor and assess the status of inland fisheries;
- l) welcomed the Global Work Programme (GWP) and recommended the creation of a database for existing rights-based management systems;
- m) welcomed the FAO draft Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change for 2017-20, recognizing the important role of the ocean on climate change and the impacts of climate change on the ocean, fisheries and aquaculture; and
- n) endorsed the draft Resolution "Observance of the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing" on 5 June to be submitted to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference for adoption; and
- o) endorsed the draft Resolution "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" in 2022 to be submitted to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference for adoption.

3. At its Hundred and Fifty-eighth Session, held in Rome from 4 to 8 December 2017, the FAO Council<sup>3</sup> requested the Secretariat to transmit to the Commission for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC), for review and approval at its forthcoming regular session to be held in January 2018 in Panama, the draft amendments to the Statutes of COPESCAALC extending the Commission's mandate to artisanal marine fisheries, as proposed by the CCLM.

### III. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

4. At its Thirtieth Session, held in Khartoum, the Republic of Sudan, from 19 to 23 February 2018, the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)<sup>4</sup>:

(a) Invited countries to enhance collaboration and coordination towards a stronger and more effective biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including in the context of climate change and the commitment to do so in the Ministerial Declaration;

(b) Declaration by Civil Society Organizations noted the lack of consideration in existing public policies relating to some of the main strategic production sectors which are the source of livelihood and identity of a significant portion of African societies such as fisheries, pastoralism and forestry, and that this considerably hindered living conditions, undermines current poverty reduction strategies, and hampered efforts to diversify income sources at local level. They urged, *inter alia*, to put an end to resource grabbing affecting farming, fisheries, forests, and pastoralist communities, and move towards an equitable and sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the interests of local communities by developing and/or putting in place appropriate legislative frameworks and regulations.

5. At its Thirty-fifth Session, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 5 to 8 March 2018, The FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC)<sup>5</sup>:

(a) recommended FAO to promote nutritious diets including through the consumption of fish, meat and fresh products, in order to contribute to the improvement of food security and nutrition;

(b) welcomed the proclamation of 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture and 2024 as the International Year of Camelids;

(c) recommended FAO to support the role of fisheries and aquaculture, particularly artisanal, small-scale fisheries and aquaculture producers, in the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition;

(d) recommended FAO to provide technical support to relevant bodies regarding fisheries subsidies which lead to overfishing and overcapacity, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

(e) recommended FAO to support the setting up of an integrated strategy to prevent, discourage and eliminate IUU fishing in the region, including through the implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures and other supplementary international instruments;

(f) recommended FAO to support governments to strengthen and prepare national, regional and global programmes and initiatives related to the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources; adaptation and mitigation of climate change and disaster risk management for the agricultural sector, including fisheries; and the development of innovative environmental policies for the socioeconomic inclusion of family farmers;

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<sup>3</sup> CL 158/REP

<sup>4</sup> ARC/18/REP

<sup>5</sup> LARC/18/REP

(g) recommended FAO to support the sustainable management, conservation, production and trade of fish products, as well as efforts to address the negative effects of climate change to the sector; and

(h) reaffirmed FAO's role in the technical secretariats of the regional commissions and endorsed the recommendations of, *inter alia*, the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

(i) The Mesoamerica Subregion requested the support of FAO to identify, in coordination with the governments, the territories with the highest levels of food insecurity and its causes and called upon FAO to promote nutrition education, and the consumption healthy and nutritious diets, with particular attention to aquaculture and fisheries products.

(j) The South America Subregion requested FAO to acknowledge and give prominence to the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition and poverty eradication.

6. At its Thirty-fourth Session, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 9 to 13 April 2018, the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC)<sup>6</sup>:

(a) recommended FAO to support countries on sustainable fisheries and other actions to prevent IUU fishing.

(b) recommended FAO to support countries in other identified priority areas - agricultural productivity and diversification; GIAHS; ecosystem services and biodiversity; risk reduction and resilience building; innovation and technologies; and sustainable soil and water management; empowerment of rural women and girls; capacity development for statistics collection, SDG monitoring and reporting; Port State Measures Agreement and the combating IUU for sustainable fisheries.

(c) During the Ministerial-level session of the Regional Conference, convened from 12 to 13 April:

- The Ministers and delegates recognized the important roles of smallholders, family farmers and fishers in contributing to food security and nutrition and called for efforts to enhance their capacity to more effectively link with modern value chains.

- Mainstreaming of gender equality including greater recognition of the important role played by women in agriculture and fisheries and their further empowerment was encouraged. Ministers and delegates recognized that uplifting the quality of life in rural areas to retain youth in agricultural activities was also important.

(d) The representative of the civil society organizations emphasizing the need to respect the rights and interests of small farmers, landless, rural women, fishers, agricultural workers, pastoralists and herders, indigenous peoples, consumers and youth in all aspects of agricultural development.

7. At its Thirty-fourth Session, held in Rome, from 7 to 11 May 2018, the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC)<sup>7</sup> requested FAO to:

a) support countries in the Near East and North Africa region in developing a regional cooperation programme in line with the One Health Approach, aiming at i) coordinating regional efforts to combat the transboundary pests and diseases; and ii) improving the performance of national plant, animal and fish health services for better and timely control of transboundary diseases, particularly those that seriously affect the rural poor; and

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<sup>6</sup> APRC/18/REP

<sup>7</sup> RERC/18/REP

b) assist Members in addressing the issue of fish mortality due to contamination and climate change impact, pointing out the source of contamination and the importance of addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

8. At its Thirty-first Session, held in Voronezh, Russian Federation, from 16 to 18 May 2018, the FAO Regional Conference for Europe<sup>8</sup>:

a) request FAO to support Members in applying Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT).

b) discussed the Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 29th Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), and

- noted the recommendations in the Report of the 29th Session regarding management of inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture in Europe;

- appreciated the concrete recommendations from the EIFAAC International Symposium on “Adaptation of inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture to climate change”;

- requested that EIFAAC identify and discuss priorities of work for the region in its future sessions and issues to be brought to the attention of future sessions of the ERC;

- highlighted the role of EIFAAC as an important pan-European platform for scientific research and policy advice on inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture, including recreational fishing; and

- called upon FAO to provide sufficient resources and encouraged Members to make voluntary contributions to that aim.

c) discussed the Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 5th Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) and:

- agreed that the CACFish reports become an integral part of the ERC in an independent agenda item;

- requested that the ERC identify and discuss priorities of work for fisheries and aquaculture development in the CACFish subregion in line with achieving the universal goals of the United Nations SDGs and the FAO Regional Initiatives for consideration by the 6th Session of CACFish, October 2018, Turkey;

- encouraged relevant Members of the ERC and CACFish observer countries to announce their intention to join the Commission; and

- noted the importance of increasing the level of fish consumption in diets of Central Asia and the Caucasus and the role of the Commission in aquaculture development and promoting sustainable resource use.

## **IV. OTHER TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

### **A. Committee on World Food Security**

9. At its Forty-third session, held in Rome from 17 to 21 October 2016, CFS<sup>9</sup>:

(a) Recommended to strengthen the security of tenure rights in line with the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of

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<sup>8</sup> ERC/18/REP

<sup>9</sup> CFS 2016/43 Report

National Food Security, including in all cases of conflict; (b) Acknowledged the overview provided in the documents CFS 2016/43/8 “Experiences and Good Practices in the Use and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) – Summary and Key Elements” and CFS 2016/43/INF/17 Rev.1 “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure – Global Thematic Event”. (c) The Committee considered the documents CFS 2016/43/4 “Draft decision – Connecting Smallholders to Markets” and CFS 2016/43/5 “Connecting Smallholders to Markets – Recommendations”, as presented by Ms Anna Gebremedhin (Finland), Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Smallholders, including artisanal fisher folk and:

- a) expressed its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Connecting Smallholders to Markets;
- b) endorsed document CFS 2016/43/5 “Connecting Smallholders to Markets – Recommendations”, noting these recommendations are voluntary and non-binding;
- c) encouraged all stakeholders to disseminate the recommendations among their constituencies at the local, national, regional and global levels, and make use of and support the application of them when formulating strategies, policies and programmes concerning connecting smallholders to markets;
- d) encouraged all stakeholders to document experiences and lessons from using these recommendations and requested the CFS Monitoring OEWG to organize a stock-taking event in a future CFS Plenary Session, subject to available resources, to share lessons and assess the continued relevance, effectiveness and the use of the recommendations;
- e) invited all stakeholders to facilitate follow-up by mapping, assessing and promoting exchange of experience in some key areas, such as methodologies for data collection, food safety and public procurement programmes;
- f) decided to transmit these recommendations to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD for their consideration, pursuant to Rule XXXIII, paragraph 17, of the FAO General Rules of the Organization and Rule X, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and in accordance with paragraph 22 of the CFS Reform Document;
- g) decided to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider, endorse and ensure the wide dissemination of these recommendations to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the FAO General Rules of the Organization, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document;
- h) agreed to include these recommendations in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF).

10. At its Forty-fourth session, held in Rome from 9 to 13 October 2017, CFS<sup>10</sup>:

(a) Noted the 2017 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) Ministerial Declaration which reiterates the crucial role that sustainable food systems can play in eradicating poverty and hunger, and which makes reference to key messages promoted by CFS and the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), *inter alia*, on tenure governance, responsible investment, sustaining rural and urban livelihoods, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, biodiversity, women’s empowerment and gender equality, addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable countries and

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<sup>10</sup> CFS 2017/44 Report

communities requiring urgent humanitarian assistance, and raising the productivity of small-scale producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers; and

(b) Recommended to apply the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) to all types and sizes of agricultural investments including fisheries, forests and livestock for enhancing food security and nutrition.

## **B. Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters**

11. At its Hundred and Fifth Session, held in Rome from 23 to 25 October 2017, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)<sup>11</sup> endorsed the draft Council Resolution proposing amendments to the Statutes the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPECAALC) entailed a change to the official name of the Commission and an extension of its mandate to marine fisheries, and agreed to forward them to the 158th Session of the Council for approval.

12. At its Hundred and Sixth Session, held in Rome from 12 to 14 March 2018, CCLM<sup>12</sup> noted that the COPECAALC, during its XVth Regular Session which took place in Panama City, Panama, from 22 to 24 January 2018, reviewed and unanimously approved the amendments to the Statutes aimed at expanding the mandate of the Commission to marine artisanal fisheries, as requested by the Council at its 158th Session, and endorsed the revised Statutes and agreed to forward them to the 159th Session of the Council for approval.

## **C. Committee on Forestry**

13. At its Twenty-third Session, held in Rome from 18 to 22 July 2016, the Committee on Forestry (COFO)<sup>13</sup>:

(a) supported the development of the five interconnected principles of a common vision for sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries that provided a framework for policy dialogue on sustainability, and welcomed the fact that these were also being discussed by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and COFI in order to promote a more coherent and integrated approach and invited Members to consider, *inter alia*:

a) strengthening dialogue with agriculture, fisheries and other relevant sectors on joining efforts for transformative change towards the achievement of the SDGs, in particular on actions to eradicate hunger and eliminate poverty, while conserving and sustainably managing natural resources in line with the recommendations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF); and

b) using the five interconnected principles developed by FAO as an approach to promote sustainability for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, based on balancing the different dimensions of sustainability across sectors and along value chains;

(b) requested FAO to support countries in using the five interconnected principles developed by FAO to strengthen policy dialogue on agriculture, forestry and fisheries and to enhance governance capacities to effectively deliver joint contributions to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;

(c) requested FAO to continue facilitating dialogue and information exchange with regard to climate change among the different sectors, such as environment, forestry, fisheries and agriculture, including

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<sup>11</sup> CL 158/2

<sup>12</sup> CL 159/2

<sup>13</sup> COFO 2016/REP

livestock at national, regional and international levels, with a view to strengthening synergies and avoiding duplications; and

(d) invited other FAO Technical Committees to continue to collaborate to further integrate forestry and related areas, including agriculture and fisheries.

#### **D. Committee on Agriculture**

14. At its Twenty-fifth Session, held in Rome from 26 to 30 September 2016, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG)<sup>14</sup>:

(a) Recognized the key role agriculture plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stressed the need to promote actions that balance the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental – and that are more integrated across agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

(b) Endorsed the five elements developed by FAO as a basis for the policy dialogue and governance arrangements needed to identify sustainable development pathways across the SDGs, across sectors and along related value chains;

(c) Invited the other FAO Technical Committees, the Rome-based Agencies, and other stakeholders, to continue enhancing collaboration and coordination towards a stronger and more effective contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to the 2030 Agenda; and

(d) Supported a greater role for FAO in providing the necessary data and information and building the capacities of countries, with due consideration to regional specific challenges, agreements and priorities, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

#### **E. Commission of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

15. At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) agreed that improving the collection and sharing of information on aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) is of high priority and included the preparation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Report) into its Multi-Year Programme of Work. At its Thirteenth and Fourteenth Regular Sessions, the Commission considered the scope of the Report and decided, at the latter session, "that the scope of the report would be farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives within national jurisdiction. Countries were also invited to provide a species list of nationally important aquatic genetic resources of capture fisheries within national jurisdiction." The Commission called on countries to participate in the process by preparing country reports on AqGR and to strengthen related information systems.

16. At its Fifteenth Regular Session, the Commission endorsed a revised timeline for the preparation of the Report, an indicative list of thematic background studies and cost estimates. The Commission invited countries to prepare country reports for the Report with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. It established the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) with the task to guide the preparation and review of the Report. The Commission also invited the Committee on Fisheries Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies to contribute to the preparation of the Report.

17. The Working Group, at its First Session, held from 20 to 22 June 2016, reviewed the Draft Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, noted that it was a preliminary analysis based on a limited set of country reports, that a higher number of country

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<sup>14</sup> C 2017/21

reports was needed to finalize the Report, and made detailed comments and recommendations with regard to the finalization of the Report. The Working Group, at its Second Session, held from 23 to 25 April 2018, reviewed the Revised Draft Report and recommended that the Commission, at its next regular session, take note of the finalized Report. It also recommended that a brief summary of the Report be prepared in all FAO languages and widely distributed, including, in particular to policy makers. The Working Group recommended a further review and revision, as appropriate, of possible follow-up activities, including preparations for a draft Global Plan of Action on AqGR, in close collaboration with the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI:AQ) and the COFI Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies, and taking into account inputs received from regional consultations, with a view to submit a draft Global Plan of Action on AqGR to the Commission, for consideration at its 18th Regular Session. The Working Group noted the importance of sustained funding for the development, use and conservation of AqGR and recommended the Commission to call on donors and the international development community to make resources available for these important activities.

## **V. OTHER FORA**

### **A. World Trade Organization (WTO)**

18. The Ministerial Conference of the WTO took place in December 2017, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Ministerial Conference, which has to meet at least once every two years, can take decisions on all WTO matters. Since 2001, in another Ministerial Conference in Doha, countries agreed to clarify and improve WTO rules applicable to fisheries subsidies<sup>15</sup>. This mandate to negotiate fisheries subsidies was further refined at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference (2005) to strengthen fisheries subsidies rules, mentioning explicitly subsidies contributing to “overcapacity and overfishing”, as well as the need for special consideration for developing countries<sup>16</sup>.

19. During this last Ministerial Conference in 2017, countries agreed to continue to negotiate on the basis of comprehensive and effective disciplines to tackle fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, as well as those associated with IUU-fishing, taking into consideration the special needs of developing countries.<sup>17</sup>

### **B. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

20. In July 2016, during the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14), UNCTAD, FAO, and UNEP made an international call to countries and the international community on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14<sup>18</sup>, particularly on the

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<sup>15</sup> Paragraph 28: “In the context of these negotiations, participants shall also aim to clarify and improve WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of this sector to developing countries.” - 2001 WTO Ministerial Declaration, available at [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min01\\_e/mindecl\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_e.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> Annex D – Paragraph 9: “there is broad agreement that the Group should strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing, and call on Participants promptly to undertake further detailed work to, inter alia, establish the nature and extent of those disciplines, including transparency and enforceability. Appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed Members should be an integral part of the fisheries subsidies negotiations, taking into account the importance of this sector to development priorities, poverty reduction, and livelihood and food security concerns”. Available at [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min05\\_e/final\\_text\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min05_e/final_text_e.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> Ministerial Decision WT/MIN(17)/64: “Members agree to continue to engage constructively in the fisheries subsidies negotiations, with a view to adopting, by the Ministerial Conference in 2019, an agreement on comprehensive and effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU-fishing recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members and least developed country Members should be an integral part of these negotiations”, available at <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/MIN17/W5.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> SDG 14 – “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” – For more information <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>

specific target SDG 14.6 dealing with fisheries subsidies<sup>19</sup>. The Conference is the highest decision-making body of UNCTAD, which meets every four years, at which current trade and development issues and associated policy options are discussed.

21. The UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP Joint-Statement entitled “Regulating Fisheries Subsidies must be an integral part of the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”<sup>20</sup> delivered during the Conference has been endorsed by more than 90 countries, international governmental organizations, and active civil society organizations. The Joint-Statement highlights important elements associated with the WTO’s mandate on fisheries subsidies and the SDG 14.6 target, such as transparency, the agreed prohibitions *per se*, and the special needs of developing countries.

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<sup>19</sup> Target 14.6 – “By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.”

<sup>20</sup> Available at [http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/U14ditc\\_d16\\_FishSub\\_Statement\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/U14ditc_d16_FishSub_Statement_en.pdf).