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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-third Session

Rome, 9-13 July 2018

COMBATTING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Executive Summary

This document gives an overview of the status and implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), notably on the outcome of the first meeting of Parties and follow-up actions, as well as FAO's capacity development programme focused on the implementation of the PSMA and complementary international instruments. Progress on the development and implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) is also reported. The progress on the development of technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing) is reported, as well as efforts to undertake a global review of transshipment practices. The outcomes and recommendations of the fourth session of the Sub-Committee on Implementation of International Maritime Organization (IMO) Instruments, the issue of subsidies and IUU fishing, and the role of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in combatting IUU fishing are all presented. The status of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS) and the related outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade are reported, as well as the progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 14.6.1.

The Committee is invited to:

- Welcome the growing global commitment towards the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), and urge all FAO Members to become Party to the Agreement.
- Note the conclusions of the First Meeting of Parties to the PSMA, and subsidiary working groups.
- Welcome the ongoing capacity development efforts to meet the needs of developing States in the effective implementation of the PSMA and complementary instruments and encourage Members to support FAO's PSMA global capacity development programme.
- Welcome the progress in the development and implementation of the Global Record particularly through the release of the first version of the information system in 2017 to FAO Members for data upload.
- Consider the conclusions and recommendations of the third and fourth meetings of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group.

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Other documents can be consulted at <http://www.fao.org/cofi/en/>*



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- Note the coordination of efforts by FAO and States in making the first public version of the Global Record available in 2018 and call for broader participation by FAO Members through the submission of data for this initiative to have the desired impact in the fight against IUU fishing and effectively support the implementation of the PSMA and other international instruments, mechanisms and tools.
- Note the progress on the development of technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU Fishing and consider recommending the use of these guidelines.
- Consider the outcomes of the global review on transshipment practices and provide guidance for further action.
- Note the status of the international negotiations on subsidies and IUU fishing.
- Take note of the outcomes and recommendations of the fourth session of the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments.
- Take note of the outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in relation to the CDS Guidelines.
- Note the progress on the SDG Indicator 14.6.1 "Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing".
- Recall the important role that RFMOs continue to play in combatting IUU fishing and encourage the adoption of relevant conservation and management measures (CMMs) to combat IUU fishing.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The road to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) has included a number of recent commendable achievements since COFI 32, notably the growing support for and implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), the release of the first version of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), and the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS). In addition to these international instruments, during the intersessional period the scope of work on combatting IUU fishing has broadened to ensure that progress is made on other important facets of IUU fishing. These include a global study on transshipment and IUU fishing, as well as continuing efforts in the development of technical guidelines for the estimation of the magnitude of IUU fishing. Additionally, the Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear (COFI/2018/inf.25), put forward for endorsement at the current session of COFI, marks an important step towards improved fishing practices and control.

2. The programme of work to combat IUU fishing has been growing in a manner that will ensure that the awareness and global commitment to combat IUU fishing will continue to increase, and that the means for eluding regulation and enforcement should continue to diminish, particularly when combined with accompanying gains in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS). The international day for the fight against IUU fishing¹ was observed for the first time on 5 June 2018 at FAO headquarters.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2009 FAO AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES AND NEXT STEPS

3. The PSMA entered into force on 5 June 2016, 30 days after the date of deposit with the Director-General of FAO of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance. As of June 2018, there were 55 Parties to the Agreement. Moreover, a number of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) continue to align their port control schemes and measures with the provisions of the PSMA.

4. Following the guidance of COFI at its 32nd session, the First meeting of the Parties to the PSMA to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing was convened in Oslo, Norway, from 29 to 31 May 2017 (COFI/2018/Inf.16). The Meeting was attended by 36 Parties, 16 other States, 11 Intergovernmental Organizations, and four Non-Governmental Organizations. The Parties to the PSMA concluded a number of issues related to the responsibilities under the PSMA, the transmittal, electronic exchange and publication of information, requirements of developing States, the monitoring, review and assessment of the implementation of the PSMA, and follow-up meetings.

5. The Parties to the PSMA agreed that FAO take on the role of gathering information necessary for the implementation of the PSMA, including on designated ports, national contact points, and any other relevant information useful for the implementation of the Agreement. Concerning the involvement of non-parties, Parties to the PSMA agreed that FAO should also seek to gather information on contact points from non-parties.

6. Regarding the transmittal, electronic exchange and publication of information, Parties to the PSMA agreed that the need to access basic information should be prioritized initially, while more advanced information systems could be developed at a later stage, based on the information exchange requirement referred to in the Agreement. It was highlighted that transparency and accessibility with regards to information exchange would be crucial, and that the need for accuracy would have to be taken into consideration. It was also agreed that an open-ended technical working group should be

¹ On 5 December 2017 the United Nations General Assembly declared 5 June as the International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, following a proposal by FAO.

established to provide guidance on elaborating an information exchange mechanism and other technical matters, including the need to provide for varying levels of access depending on the nature of the information provided.

7. The Parties to the PSMA established the Part 6 Working Group and approved its Terms of Reference. Additionally, Parties to the PSMA called upon FAO to enhance financial and technical support with regards to capacity development efforts, including for small island developing States (SIDS), for which implementation of the PSMA is particularly difficult.

8. On the monitoring, review and assessment of the implementation of the PSMA, Parties agreed that it would be necessary to conduct the review of implementation through a questionnaire every two years initially and thereafter at such frequencies to be determined by the Parties. The Parties further agreed that the Secretariat would formulate a prototype web-based questionnaire for the purpose of monitoring implementation of the Agreement, as well as recording challenges faced. This questionnaire would be reviewed and refined by the technical working group. The Parties to the PSMA agreed to hold meetings every two years along with supplementary technical meetings as required.

9. The First meeting of the ad hoc working group (Part 6 Working Group), held in Oslo, Norway, from 1 to 2 June 2017, discussed the main requirements and priorities of developing States in the implementation of the Agreement (COFI/2018/SBD.8). The important linkage between activities supported by the Assistance Fund and FAO's global capacity development programme in support of the PSMA and complementary instruments was emphasized. The terms of reference for the funding mechanisms to assist developing States Parties were adopted and recommended for endorsement by the Parties at their next meeting. The second meeting of the Part 6 Working Group is to take place from 5-6 July 2018, immediately prior to this COFI session.

10. Since the conclusion of the first meeting of the Parties, FAO has been working to develop templates for the exchange of information on national points of contact and designated ports. A new PSMA website was launched in April 2018 and the designated port and national point of contact templates drafted by FAO are now available on it. The templates will be piloted through the new website and are open for review by the Parties at their second meeting. The PSMA website also provides an application to support the coordination of PSMA capacity development activities.

11. The first Open-ended technical working group on information exchange meeting was held in London, United Kingdom from 16 to 18 April 2018 (COFI/2018/SBD.9). The meeting considered what type of global information exchange system should be developed to support the implementation of the PSMA. The meeting agreed that a two-staged approach for developing a global information exchange system was appropriate. The first stage would facilitate the exchange of basic information such as designated ports and national points of contact. The second stage would focus on the development of a robust global system that facilitates the near real-time exchange of information that would include a publically available information section and a limited access section for protected information such as port inspection reports. The meeting agreed that the mechanism for information exchange was important and the modalities that provide for the timely exchange of information should be used. It was further agreed that FAO will explore options to facilitate a standardized approach for the electronic exchange of information. The meeting agreed that linkages with relevant systems of RFMOs, as well as those of global systems such as IMO's Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) and Equasis was important and that the Global Record is a promising platform for information sharing and could also be linked.

12. A second meeting of the PSMA Open-ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange will be held in the Republic of Korea before the second meeting of Parties to the PSMA in 2019.

III. GLOBAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

13. In the intersessional period, FAO continued to broaden and scale up its capacity development activities to assist developing countries in the implementation of the PSMA, complementary instruments, and regional mechanisms to combat IUU fishing. These efforts would build on the assistance already delivered through FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, which delivered assistance to 37 countries since 2015.

14. FAO is currently implementing a five-year capacity development programme through projects supported by partners and donors, executed at national, regional and global levels. The programme was endorsed in December 2016, and as of April 2018, had received funding from the European Union (EU), Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the United States of America, totaling USD 9.7 million over 5 years as a starting point, and will be providing support to some 33 countries.

15. Specifically, these projects support countries in: i) conducting an assessment of their legal, institutional and operational capacity to implement the Agreement and complementary instruments and regional mechanisms to combat IUU fishing; ii) strengthening national policy and legislative frameworks to combat IUU fishing; iii) the strengthening of MCS enforcement institutions and systems, including through South-South Cooperation and mechanisms for regional harmonization, coordination and cooperation; iv) the enhancement of capacity to improve flag State performance in line with the related FAO Voluntary Guidelines, and to more effectively take action against persons and entities engaged in IUU fishing, and; as appropriate; v) the implementation of market access measures, such as catch documentation and traceability schemes. Activities for the further development of the Global Record, for the enhancement of Portlex —FAO's database on national port State measures— and for the development of a PSMA Capacity Development Portal to be hosted by FAO are supported under certain projects.

IV. THE GLOBAL RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS, REFRIGERATED TRANSPORT VESSELS AND SUPPLY VESSELS (GLOBAL RECORD)

16. Progress on the Global Record since COFI 32², has been substantial. Developing from experience gained through a Pilot Project³ involving eleven partners⁴, in April 2017 the first version of the Global Record information system was released⁵ and made available through restricted access to FAO Members for data upload and viewing vessel information. Since then, a number of States started uploading data to the global system currently achieving a good coverage for the regions of Latin America and Europe⁶. Participation from other regions in this initial phase needs to be strengthened. Most States included vessel details mainly for Phase 1⁷ vessels, with some expanding likewise to Phases 2 and 3⁸. Several States are also starting to include historical details, fishing authorisations and compliance information.

17. The third and fourth meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group (GRWG) were held in June 2017⁹ (COFI/2018/SBD.10) and April 2018¹⁰ (COFI/2018/SBD.11), respectively. The third meeting of the GRWG (June 2017) agreed on the importance of a timely public release of the Global Record to support the implementation of PSMA,

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6882e.pdf>

³ <http://www.fao.org/global-record/background/global-record-pilot-project/en/>

⁴ Colombia, Comoros, Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Philippines, Seychelles, Spain and Uruguay.

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/global-record/news-events/detail/en/c/882133/>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/global-record/news-events/news/en/>

⁷ Vessels of 100 gross tonnage, or 24 m, and above.

⁸ Phases 2 and 3 include vessels of 10 gross tonnage, or 12 m, and above.

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/40941/en>

¹⁰ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/41011/en>

particularly through data verification and risk analysis. In order to speed up participation, it recognized the value of alternative but limited options for States to submit data to the Global Record, including from RFMOs systems and IHS Maritime and Trade (IHSM&T) database, subject to the approval by the State in the Global Record portal. The fourth meeting of the GRWG¹¹ (April 2018) explored ways of broadening States' participation, particularly through the use of automatic data exchange mechanisms¹² being developed in the Global Record and strengthening the involvement of RFMOs through linkages with the Global Record¹³. The GRWG acknowledged the IMO Resolution A.1117(30) (GRWG/4/2018/Inf.8¹⁴) which expands the voluntary use of the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme to non-steel hull fishing vessels and length categories beyond Phase 1, and emphasized that States may need to amend their national legislation to mandate the use of the IMO number, and RFMOs to update their measures as appropriate. The GRWG reiterated the importance of a speedy implementation and release of the Global Record to support the implementation of the PSMA particularly for data verification, considering the need to link the results of an inspection to a particular vessel. It also agreed that the Global Record may support risk analysis at this very initial implementation stage of PSMA, and serve as a precursor of the global system to be established for the exchange of inspection information under the PSMA. The GRWG noted the opportunities available for capacity development support, particularly to further develop integrated information systems and automatic data exchange mechanisms.

18. A procedure was launched in January 2018 for the designation of the official National Focal Point (NFP) for the Global Record, in order to follow up on data submission for the public version of the system. States are encouraged to increase participation through the submission of data prior to the public release of the Global Record information system which is foreseen before COFI 33. The release will showcase the usefulness and role of the Global Record in support of international instruments such as the PSMA, the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) and other complementary initiatives and tools such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VGFSP) and VGCDS. Furthermore, participating States can showcase their commitment and joint efforts to fight IUU fishing.

19. The Government of Sweden contributed about 0.9 million USD in 2018 to the development and implementation of the Global Record for a five year period. Together with contributions from the EU and the governments of Iceland, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the United States of America funding for the development of the system is secured for a further 2-3 years period and capacity development activities are being scaled up to support States to participate in the Global Record.

V. MAGNITUDE OF IUU FISHING

20. The 32nd Session of COFI welcomed the Global Review of Studies to estimate levels of IUU fishing¹⁵ and supported the development by FAO of technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing. FAO convened a second expert workshop (June 2018) to review a draft of the technical guidelines, an advanced copy of which is being presented at this session of COFI (COFI/2018/SBD.13). The guidelines will be finalized during 2018.

¹¹ <http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/GlobalRecord/GRWG4/2e.pdf>

¹² FLUX (Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange): <http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/GlobalRecord/GRWG4/Inf12e.pdf>

¹³ Submission of data subjected to approval by relevant State.

¹⁴ <http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/GlobalRecord/GRWG4/A30Res1117e.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl765e.pdf>

VI. TRANSSHIPMENT AND IUU FISHING

21. COFI, at its 32nd session in 2016, encouraged FAO to initiate work on Transshipments and IUU fishing, including: a review of current regulations and at sea transshipment practices, and consider which, if any, at-sea transshipment activities should be authorized; guidance on specific control mechanisms where transshipments are authorized and regulated; and a review of at-sea transshipment authorization and notification procedures, reporting and transparency requirements and other tools used to provide independent monitoring and control over transshipment.

22. In 2017, FAO initiated a global study on transshipment and IUU fishing, including a literature review, a stakeholder survey and case studies (COFI/2018/SBD.15).

23. The global study was prepared and reviewed at the Expert Workshop on Transshipment and IUU fishing, held in Rome, 21–23 February 2018 (COFI/2018/SBD.14).

24. The Workshop considered examples of effective and ineffective monitoring and control of transshipments and agreed that transshipment was an important part of fishing operations and that when appropriately monitored and controlled posed no added threat to the marine environment or the sustainability of fish stocks. It was noted that there appeared to be an increase in transshipping operations globally and that there was a need to ensure these operations were effectively controlled.

VII. JOINT FAO/IMO AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON IUU FISHING AND RELATED MATTERS

25. The outcomes of the Third Session of the Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing and Related Matters, held from 16 to 18 November 2015, were presented at the fourth session of the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments, held from 25 to 29 September 2017 (COFI/2018/SBD.12). The Sub-Committee made a number of decisions and recommendations relevant to combatting IUU fishing.

26. The IMO Secretariat will continue to participate in the working group of the FAO's Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessel. The Sub-Committee agreed that the FAO, IMO and International Labour Organization (ILO) Secretariats, Member States and regional organizations, including regional fisheries bodies, should promote the benefits of the implementation of the PSMA, and they should encourage States to become Parties. Additionally, the Sub-Committee agreed that joint capacity building and technical cooperation programmes for enhanced implementation of international instruments to combat IUU fishing, in particular the PSMA, should be explored. Moreover, the Sub-Committee endorsed a recommendation to encourage the coordinated implementation of the PSMA with other types of inspections, such as those that might be carried out under IMO and ILO treaties.

27. The IMO Secretariat was invited to explore with FAO how the IMO Mandatory Member State Audit Scheme could contribute to the VGFSP. It was recommended that a reference to the VGFSP be made in the Implementation of IMO Instruments (III) Code, under related instruments in order to promote the linkage between fisheries, ship safety¹⁶ and environmental protection. Additionally, the Sub-Committee agreed that the FAO, IMO and ILO Secretariats would be invited to further explore how the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance could be implemented effectively, in conjunction with other relevant instruments adopted by IMO and the ILO.

¹⁶ COFI/2018/Inf.8. Safety at sea in the fisheries sector.

28. The Sub-Committee agreed that information on piracy and armed robbery against ships and other security-related issues should be disseminated by FAO to FAO Members and regional fishery bodies.

29. IMO's International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), which provides training requirements for fishing vessel personnel, entered into force in 2012. The treaty is currently undergoing a comprehensive review in the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) to update and revise the treaty, taking into account the unique nature of the fishing industry, the fishing working environment and the need to prevent damage to the marine environment. The FAO/ILO/IMO document for Guidance on Training and Certification of Fishing Vessel Personnel also provides additional instructions. The Sub-Committee agreed that FAO, ILO and IMO should work together on updates to the training requirements.

30. The next meeting of the joint working group is scheduled to take place in 2019.

VIII. VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEMES

31. The Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) (COFI/2018/Inf.10) were adopted by the FAO Conference in July 2017, highlighting their important role in achieving sustainable fisheries, as well as their effectiveness in preventing trade in products from IUU fisheries.

32. At the sixteenth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, held from 4 to 8 September 2017, the CDS Guidelines were further discussed (COFI/2018/Inf.9). The Sub-Committee supported the planned work of FAO in raising awareness on the CDS Guidelines and underlined the complementarity of CDS with other international instruments and initiatives, such as the PSMA and the Global Record, and the need for integrative cost-effective programmes in the CDS implementation as well as in capacity building towards that end. The Sub-Committee also highlighted the role RFMOs, other regional bodies and industry stakeholders in its implementation. The Sub-Committee underlined that CDS should be risk-based and not become unnecessary technical barriers to trade, highlighting the usefulness of harmonization in order to avoid duplication and unnecessary costs for users.

33. The Sub-Committee, noted the importance of many of the components included in the proposed Global Assistance Programme, but recommended that the establishment of a separate programme for this purpose is premature. The Sub-Committee suggested that in the future, FAO can inform on best practices, based on national and regional implementation experiences.

IX. ROLE OF REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

34. RFMOs, have continued to play a crucial role in the various initiatives and activities to combat IUU fishing, both in terms of being explicitly mentioned in international instruments, as well as their presence at, and contribution to, meetings and workshops related to IUU fishing. RFMOs are increasingly adopting conservation and management measures (CMMs) that result in their leading the way for the implementation of various international instruments, including CMMs on port State measures, CDS, IUU vessel lists, compliance, and flag State performance.

35. At the first meeting of Parties to the PSMA (held in Oslo, Norway, from 29 to 31 May 2017), RFMOs were identified by Parties as important entities to assist with implementation of the Agreement, in particular with regards to port and flag State responsibilities under the PSMA, and the successful initiatives of RFMOs related to port State measures were highlighted. In particular regard to information exchange, Parties noted that the procedures and mechanisms for information submission

to RFMOs would be useful examples, particularly for States with small fisheries administrations and limited resources.

36. In the negotiation of the VGCDs, it was noted at the Fifteenth session of the COFI sub-committee on fish trade, held in Agadir, Morocco, from 22 to 26 February 2016, that existing and well-established CDS of RFMOs should be taken into account to avoid duplication.

37. The well-established information systems of RFMOs, particularly the vessel records, have the potential to facilitate data submission to the Global Record to make the process easier for participating States. The third and fourth meetings of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group recognized that RFMOs can play an important role in the implementation of the Global Record particularly through linkages of their information systems with the Global Record to facilitate the submission of data by States and that this decision has to be taken by each flag State.

38. RFMOs are also contributing to several global initiatives of importance in combating IUU fishing. RFMOs have participated in and provided inputs to the global study on transshipment and IUU fishing that was reviewed at the Expert Workshop on Transshipment and IUU fishing, held in Rome, 21–23 February 2018. RFMOs recent estimates of IUU fishing and the methodologies used also constituted a relevant input to the technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing. Both documents are to be presented to this COFI session.

X. SDG Indicator 14.6.1

39. At the 32nd session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Member States agreed to the use of the Questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments (CCRF Questionnaire) as a tool for Member States to report on SDG indicators. Following up on this decision, FAO developed a methodology for indicator 14.6.1 "Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing", which included the addition of several new sections to allow States to report on the relevant international instruments aiming to combat IUU fishing. This methodology was piloted as part of ongoing workshops in support of the implementation of the PSMA and related instruments. In consideration of the feedback received through this pilot, FAO then submitted the final methodology for the indicator to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG indicators, which approved the indicator for upgrade to tier I.

XI. FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AND IUU FISHING

40. The SDG target 14.6 is to *"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"*.

41. The issue of fisheries subsidies was discussed at the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (The Ocean Conference) held in New York 5-9 June 2017. The outcome, adopted by the General Assembly noted the need to *"Act decisively to 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, including through accelerating work to complete negotiations at the World Trade Organization on this issue, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and*

differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of those negotiations".

42. The issue of fisheries subsidies and IUU fishing was discussed at the sixteenth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee on Fisheries, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, 4-8 September 2017. The Sub-Committee noted the need to prohibit subsidies that contribute to overcapacity, overfishing and IUU fishing. The Sub-Committee underlined FAO's important role in providing specialized technical expertise to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its Members on the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies, and supported the active participation in the eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) of the WTO (10-13 December 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina). The Sub-Committee supported the collaboration of FAO with WTO, particularly in connection with the current negotiations on fisheries subsidies and also stressed the importance of capacity building and technical assistance on fisheries subsidies for developing countries.

43. At MC11, WTO Members agreed 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. Furthermore, WTO Members recognized 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.