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# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-third Session

Rome, 9–13 July 2018

## THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Executive Summary

The document outlines FAO's work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a particular focus on the SDG14 indicators for which FAO is the custodian. Critical issues related to methodology, monitoring and reporting are addressed as well as the role of Blue Growth in monitoring and implementing SDG processes.

### Suggested Action by the Committee

#### The Committee is invited to:

- Acknowledge and endorse FAO's proposed plans for uptake of the SDG 14 indicators by countries and for their reporting and monitoring;
- Note that FAO is currently processing the information submitted by members through the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) questionnaire in order to determine country scores for SDG indicators 14.6.1 and 14.b.1, which will be shared with members before they are published in the global SDG progress report of 2019;
- Acknowledge current capacity gaps across countries in reporting SDG indicators and consider financial support for the multi-donor fund for implementing Agenda 2030 with an emphasis on fisheries and aquaculture related SDGs;
- Promote discussion about opportunities for additional financing arrangements (such as public-private partnerships) in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and support initiatives that will lead countries towards the achievement of SDG14 targets;
- Note the call for more integrated and collaborative actions to achieve the SDGs and the role Blue Growth can play and identify actions in capacity building along fisheries and

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aquaculture value chains, and across all food and agriculture sections that target poverty eradication, food security and nutrition and resources management;

- Share experience including success stories on blue growth approaches and investments in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving fisheries-related SDG targets; and
- Provide guidance on FAO's proposals for Blue Forum and Blue Ports.

## **I. ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA – INDICATORS AND THE ROLE OF BLUE GROWTH**

1. The 2030 Agenda<sup>1</sup> and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a vision of a fairer, more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world in which no one is left behind, whilst enjoying rights-based, equitable and inclusive growth. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as well as full and productive employment and decent work for all, are also promoted.

2. FAO's work is generally well harmonized with the 2030 Agenda and a range of SDGs (in particular SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17) and contributing guidance and advice to countries on relevant policy and capacity development, including mainstreaming<sup>2</sup> and fisheries and aquaculture programming. The strategic importance of the SDGs for aquaculture, fisheries and fish value chains is increasingly being recognized in fora such as the FAO COFI Sub-Committees on Aquaculture and Fish Trade. FAO also contributed significantly to SDG Reports<sup>3</sup> and to major events in 2017 such as the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Oceans Conference and the 4th Our Ocean Conference in Malta. Blue Economy/Growth were recognized at these meetings as important approaches for achieving Goal 14 and in particular target 14.7.<sup>4</sup>

3. There is general agreement that available international guidance – such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSFSG), the Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and others such as FAO's Blue Growth – when and where implemented, will undoubtedly contribute to the implementation and monitoring of many SDG targets.

## **II. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS FOR SELECTED SDG TARGETS**

4. Agenda 2030 is a country-owned and country-led framework. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal (IAEG-SDG) and the High-level Group for Partnership,

<sup>1</sup> UN. 2015. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>

<sup>2</sup> UNDG. 2017. Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reference Guide to UN Country Teams (March 2017 Update). United Nations Development Group. 137 p. <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/UNDG-Mainstreaming-the-2030-Agenda-Reference-Guide-2017.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> UNSG. 2017. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals – Report of the Secretary-General. High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. E/2017/66. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2017/secretary-general-sdg-report-2017--EN.pdf>; Statistical annex: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2017/secretary-general-sdg-report-2017--Statistical-Annex.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26843>

Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) are the expert groups mandated to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Both re groups are composed of Member States and include regional and international agencies as observers. Certain international agencies have been designated as custodians of particular indicators, with the responsibility of enabling proper national, regional and global SDG reporting.

5. FAO is the custodian of 21 SDG indicators, out of a total 230 for 169 targets, across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and is a contributing agency to four more. Custodianship carries the responsibility of enabling proper national, regional and global SDG reporting. Monitoring is part of FAO's overall support to Member States in integrating the SDGs into national development plans to implement food security schemes, social safety nets and research and development programmes.

6. In that context, FAO's role is to: i) lead methodological development and documentation of the indicators; ii) support statistical capacity of countries to generate and disseminate national data; iii) collect data from national sources, ensure their comparability and consistency; and iv) disseminate them at global level and contribute to monitor progress at the global, regional and national levels. Under Goal 14, FAO is custodian of four indicators: 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1. FAO is also a contributing agency for SDG indicator 14.c.1, providing methodological support for certain data elements. Part 2 of SOFIA 2018 provides further detail about FAO and the SDGs.

7. A major feature of the SDG Agenda is its integrated and indivisible nature, which requires that results from related indicators be jointly evaluated to allow a comprehensive analysis of the impacts and trade-offs between different development paths. The four SDG 14 targets whose indicators are under the custodianship of FAO are closely interrelated, and will require integrated policies and measures for their achievement, despite having different target deadlines.

#### **SDG Indicator 14.4.1 – *Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels***

8. This indicator measures progress toward Target 14.4 – *by 2020 restoring fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY)*. It provides a means of monitoring progress and changes in the exploitation and management of global fishery resources as a direct measure of sustainability.

9. The MSY-based indicator is used by FAO since 1974 and released each biennium in SOFIA. Due to data and technical capacity limits it is estimated at regional and global levels and therefore not providing a complete overview for all countries. However, the assessment principles and methodologies underpinning indicator estimates are equally applicable at national level. Indeed, a number of countries, either independently or within RFBs context, already assess the status of their fish stocks and are therefore likely to be able to produce national estimates of SDG Indicator 14.4.1 without much difficulty. However, other countries may face various challenges in the production of the indicator due to data and capacity limitations.

10. FAO plans to scale-up countries experience and foster national uptake of indicator 14.4.1 by providing, upon availability of funding and where possible in collaboration with RFBs, training on methodologies applicable in data poor situations and in stock status determination, and capacity building in data collection on catch, effort and biological data which in the medium term will contribute to improve stock assessments.

11. FAO is preparing Reporting and Monitoring Guidelines for indicator 14.4.1 describing the institutional set-up at national level, how the indicator is produced based on a reference list of national stocks, and the Metadata required for reporting the indicator to FAO. FAO also strengthens FIRMS<sup>5</sup> as a global information system to support dissemination and monitoring of stock status.

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<sup>5</sup> The Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System: <http://firms.fao.org/firms/en>

**SDG indicator 14.6.1 – Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

12. This indicator underlines the importance of the fight against IUU fishing which can undermine efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks and prevent achieving long-term sustainability. Different international instruments have been developed over the years to efficiently curb IUU fishing by focusing on the responsibilities of States for their implementation.

13. The 1995 FAO CCRF and related instruments questionnaire includes sections that measure biennial progress in implementing relevant international IUU instruments:

- Adherence and implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Adherence and implementation of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)
- Development and implementation of a national plan of action (NPOA) to combat IUU fishing in line with the IPOA-IUU
- Adherence and implementation of the 2009 FAO PSMA
- Implementation of Flag State Responsibilities in the context of the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance

14. This indicator is based on a country's self-assessed degree of implementation of these instruments. Depending on a country's responses to the relevant sections of the CCRF questionnaire, countries will score an indicator value between 0 and 1. Each instrument is given a weighting, which takes into consideration the importance of the instrument in combating IUU fishing as well as the overlap between the instruments.

15. FAO piloted the methodology for the 14.6.1 indicator as part of workshops for the implementation of the PSMA and related instruments. This ensured that the final indicator methodology, which relies fully on the CCRF questionnaire, and which was approved by the IAEG-SDG, provided accurate scores for a state.

16. First sets of country data have been collected with the launch of the 2018 CCRF questionnaire. National answers to the questionnaire have enabled FAO to calculate country scores for indicator 14.6.1 which are now to be shared with countries. This first score indicator per country will set the baseline for national, regional and global monitoring towards the achievement of SDG target 14.6.

**SDG indicator 14.7.1 – Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries**

17. This indicator – which captures the shifting value of marine resources through time – lacks an internationally recognized methodology. A first methodological approach will be based on data obtained through the System of National Accounts (SNA) to calculate Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, noting the limitations of a single GDP-based indicator a further elaborated methodology is under development including through an expert meeting to include an assessment of the wider range of related factors that contribute to GDP. These include, but are not limited to, subsistence fisheries, recreational fisheries, access agreements, rents, employment, income and trade in services.

18. In the context of the methodological developments FAO has planned three regional workshops with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (and LDCs) during 2018. The workshops will be used to consult with stakeholders on the work that is being undertaken in relation to the development of a methodology to report on SDG 14.7.1, to validate the proposed approach and identify countries for implementing nationally the methodology in the context of pilot countries.

**SDG indicator 14.b.1 – Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries**

19. This indicator is meant to track progress against SDG target 14.b - *Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*. This target is specific to small-scale fisheries and confirms the global recognition of the fundamental role of small-scale fisheries in food security and poverty eradication. In order to guarantee secure access, an enabling environment is necessary which recognizes and protects small-scale fisheries rights. Such an enabling environment has three key features:

- 1) Appropriate legal, regulatory and policy frameworks
- 2) Specific initiatives to support small-scale fisheries
- 3) Related institutional mechanisms which allow for the participation of small-scale fisheries organizations in relevant processes

20. FAO is the custodian agency for the indicator which is based on three questions of CCRF Questionnaire. Depending on a country's responses to the relevant sections of the CCRF questionnaire, countries will score an indicator value between 0 and 1.

21. In the context of supporting member countries in achieving and reporting on SDG 14.b, FAO has developed an e-learning course<sup>6</sup> and organized a workshop on Exploring SDG 14.b and its proposed indicator 14.b.1 in November 2017.

22. Likewise indicator 14.6.1, also the national scores for Indicator 14.b.1, have been collected with the release of the CCRF 2018 questionnaire. However in the case of indicator 14.b.1, the indicator baseline derives from CCRF 2016, when for the first time the subset of questions related with the small scale fisheries has been integrated.

23. Scores for Indicators 14.6.1 and 14.b.1 after being shared with countries will be made available on the FAO SDG indicator platform and in the global SDG database maintained by UNSD.

**SDG indicator 14.c.1 – Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources**

24. Although the FAO is not the custodian it is a contributing agency, and has provided its expertise to assist in the development of the methodology for this indicator.

25. The FAO is contributing to this process through the UN Oceans Forum and has been vocal in its position that the indicator methodology should go beyond ratification by States but also include the implementation of the relevant instruments. The final methodology requires further work and collaboration between the many agencies and the custodian agency, nevertheless, FAO has added questions to the CCRF Questionnaire to ensure that Member States are well placed to report on this indicator.

**FAO capacity development initiatives for SDG indicators**

26. FAO capacity development work aims primarily to enable countries to produce these indicators and report on them according to internationally agreed methodologies and standards. To this end, FAO has already organized global and regional training workshops, and is providing guidance for national monitoring through guidelines and e-learning courses, the identification of reporting systems, including software (CCRF questionnaires, Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries), by using existing partnerships (e.g. FIRMS) and through innovative technologies. This activities are being supported

<sup>6</sup> [www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/SDG14B1](http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/SDG14B1)

through various funding sources including a catalytic Multi-disciplinary fund for the biennium 2016–17.

27. For the future, FAO plans to establish a Multi-Donor Umbrella Programme to fill capacity gaps in National Statistical Systems and enable countries to produce and use SDG indicators effectively. The Programme will help countries monitor progress for SDG targets related to hunger and food security, sustainable agriculture and management of natural resources, through improved monitoring based on higher quality and granular data. Partner countries will produce and disseminate more comprehensive and comparable data on SDG indicators, enabling them to design effective evidence-based national policies and strategies to meet SDG targets.

### III. SDG Reporting Challenges

28. National, regional and Global monitoring of Agenda 2030 are to be underpinned, to the extent possible, on information produced by countries only. Reporting mechanisms must therefore be secured, both at national as international level, through well-defined data flow mechanisms. A critical aspect in measuring progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda is to make high-quality official statistical information available. Therefore, all members of international organizations, NSSs and other national authorities engaged in the work of compiling information for the SDGs must do so in straight adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

29. At national level information should be consistently provided, and must take place to allow a transparent measure of regional and global progress towards the targets. On the other side, Custodian agencies aggregating information and maintaining metadata, should disseminate and coordinate updates in the UNSD SDG indicators Global Database to ensure consistency of the global data series.

30. Substantial investments are and will be needed to ensure that sufficient human and institutional capacities are regularly available as required for such monitoring and reporting. Encouraging and enabling participation and consultation in SDG monitoring and reporting may increase ownership and buy-in into such processes resulting in additional and more reliable information sources and data. Additional, non-traditional and unconventional funding sources need to be explored through government budget re-allocations, private sector contributions including corporate business reporting, or civil society and philanthropic initiatives.

#### Box 1

United Nations Statistical Division guidelines provide that in absence of national data, international organizations as custodian agencies may use non-official data or modelled estimates to compile global indicators, provided that the process is transparent with methodologies available to all partners and by giving full scrutiny opportunity to the estimate data to the member countries.

The Synthesis Report<sup>7</sup> of the 43 Voluntary National Reviews identified the general challenges for countries to meet the monitoring and reporting demands of the 2030 Agenda:

- Data disaggregation
- Data collection, processing management and dissemination as well as lack of technical expertise, compounded by the lack of trained staff and necessary data collection equipment
- Mobilizing financial and technical support for data including the development of methodologies for data collection, as well as monitoring and evaluation

<sup>7</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis\\_Report\\_VNRs\\_2017.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis_Report_VNRs_2017.pdf)

The Synthesis Report also highlights measures taken to strengthen national statistical capacity:

- Clarification of institutional ownership on data and monitoring for SDGs
- Use of technology to improve data collection, analysis, and accessibility
- Involving stakeholders in data collection
- Identification of new data sources to guide SDG implementation
- Mobilizing support through partnerships

31. Other challenges countries face in implementing monitoring and reporting frameworks:

- lack of data
- monitoring process is properly reflected in workplans and budgets
- upgrading levels of transparency in reporting and monitoring

32. Fishery-related indicators face particular challenges because most fishing data for the SDGs are produced and managed outside the National Statistical System, usually by line Ministry Institutions (indicators 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.b.1). For some indicators, data are scarce, as is the scientific information needed, as illustrated in robust stock assessment methodologies at country level, impacting directly on data available for Indicator 14.4.1, or the methodologies to calculate a robust indicator are non-existent and therefore proxy indicators are used, resulting in misaligned target-indicators (indicators 14.6.1 and 14.7.1).

33. The regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) and management organizations (RFMOs) are key players to achieve the SDGs through their many roles including improving data availability, monitoring and reporting. Many RFBs and RFMOs provide technical and scientific support to their member countries including the collection, collation and analysis of data and information. Much of this information is linked to metadata and to long-term data sets that can contribute to assessing the indicator and measuring progress. Cooperation with RFMOs and Regional Seas Convention can play a fundamental role in foster consistency and comparability on countries approach towards their monitoring and reporting frameworks.

34. The 2017 UN Oceans Conference,<sup>8</sup> was largely considered a success in building momentum for the implementation of SDG 14. National strategies should therefore build on that momentum, taking advantage of the Voluntary Commitments including resources, and the results of partnerships dialogues. Cooperation with regional fisheries management organizations and regional seas convention can play a fundamental role in fostering consistency and comparability of countries' approach towards monitoring and reporting frameworks.

#### **IV. BLUE GROWTH – SUPPORTING FOR ACHIEVING AGENDA 2030**

35. “Blue growth” is an innovative, integrated and multi-sectoral approach to the management and use of aquatic resources aiming for inclusive growth that contributes to the three pillars of Agenda 2030 (social, economic and environmental) with the potential to accelerate the SDG processes (Burgess et al., 2018). Blue Growth projects incorporate many of the methods used to derive the SDG indicators and therefore contribute indirectly to monitoring SDGs. In addition, the implementation by the Blue Growth Initiative of binding and non-binding FAO instruments establish the necessary mechanisms and procedures to monitor and report on Member States' progress toward achieving the

<sup>8</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17193OCVC\\_in\\_depth\\_analysis.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17193OCVC_in_depth_analysis.pdf)

SDGs. FAO's ongoing and planned activities on Blue Growth in relation to its strategic framework are further developed in COFI/2018/11 paragraphs 10–13 and 40–41.

36. FAO's Blue Growth Initiative has proven to be an effective platform for developing programmes towards achieving the various goals under Agenda 2030. This incorporates instruments rooted in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries such as the PSMA and the SSFG and cuts across the spectrum of SDGs that FAO is supporting countries to achieve. Some of these are illustrated in the examples below.

37. The Blue Trade component of the Blue Growth Initiative includes the Blue Forum, a multi-stakeholder platform involving government, industry, fisherfolk associations, NGOs, and Civil Society but with a particular focus on the private sector. The Blue Forum would address issues that require comprehensive and coordinated approaches and shared solutions. These could include decent working conditions in the seafood value-chain, human trafficking, sustainability as well as climate change impacts threatening sustainable socio-economic development.

38. A Blue Forum has the potential to be a catalyst for multi-sector partnerships that drive direct social, economic and environmental action to promote the work of the stakeholders (private sector, civil society organizations, NGOs and governments) in transforming the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It will seek to create synergies between initiatives of different sectors/actors, and to identify opportunities for strategic alliances with other on-going initiatives.

39. The Blue Forum would build on the positive experience of the Vigo dialogue, the GLOBEFISH project, the FishInfoNetwork and other existing programmes.

40. The Secretariat proposes that the format and TOR of the Blue Forum be presented to the next session of the COFI FT for its consideration.

41. As critical arteries to the seafood value chain, fishing ports are key generators of economic and social benefits. Ports have however the potential for further growth through more holistic approaches, particularly in environmental sustainability. FAO proposes therefore to develop guidance on international best practices for fishing ports aiming to transition to blue growth models – fishing ports that are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

42. It is proposed that the content and modalities for such guidance on international best practices for blue growth fishing ports be discussed through a stakeholder meeting with key international port authorities and experts in Vigo, Spain. It is envisioned that the subsequent development of guidance on best practices will leverage existing international instruments and approaches related to social (e.g. decent work, gender-inclusiveness), economic (e.g. trade, value chain development) and environmental (e.g. efficient resource use) sustainability, with the aim of integration into port operations and management.

43. Blue Ports is envisioned as a multi-UN initiative with the involvement of agencies such as ILO, IMO, WTO, WCO.

44. The implementation of a Blue Growth framework in the operations of fishing ports would contribute to their long term sustainability and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The Secretariat proposes that such guidance be presented to the COFI Fish Trade in 2019 for consideration.

45. **SDG 2-Zero Hunger:** FAO and partners in Asia are working to develop nutrition-sensitive fish agri-food systems to ensure fisheries and aquaculture programmes are able to premeditate, measure, and monitor and evaluate the nutritional impacts of such food system activities.

46. **SDG 1 and 3-No Poverty, Good Health and Well-Being:** FTT-Thiaroye ovens were developed by FAO and partners, and introduced in 2014 in Côte d'Ivoire as a simple, but efficient, alternative to traditional fish smoking. The ovens burn cleaner and require less wood for smoking with

multiple benefits for women: healthier working environment, lower instances of respiratory problems, better quality of products that also fetch higher prices, and extra time to attend literacy classes.

47. **SDG 5-Gender Equality:** A Norwegian-funded component of an FAO fisheries programme in Somalia focused on the need to build better and safer vessels, replacing the unsafe boats used by the majority of for small-scale coastal fishers. The new vessels, built to FAO safety standards, are constructed by Somalis including women who were selected to learn valuable vessel building skills.

48. **SDG 8-Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Adopted in 2015, Cabo Verde's Blue Growth Charter prioritizes environmental, economic and social development of ocean related priorities. These priorities include climate change research, conservation of sharks, developing marine protected areas, strengthening fisheries communities, improving the quality of fish products, empowering women's groups to market their fish directly to restaurants, improving marine transport networks for tourism, and creating jobs for young people who are often forced to seek work abroad.

49. **SDG 9-Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:** Building back the Filipino fishing fleet following the 2013 typhoon that damaged 30 000 boats, resulted in a hybrid banca vessel, a more efficient and safer one that remains faithful to traditional designs. This new vessel, which local workers were trained to build, is constructed with a fibreglass keel to full FAO safety standards rather than the traditional wooden structure. Innovation that minimizes resource use still appealed to tradition and gained acceptance by the local fishing communities.

50. **SDG 12-responsible consumption and production:** FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean is working with six countries to reduce bycatch and promote more responsible fisheries practices. The project also addresses reducing food losses and encourages sustainable livelihoods by improving the management of bycatch and minimizing discards and sea-bed damage. In this way, the project can transform bottom trawl fisheries into responsible fisheries.

51. **SDG 13-Climate Action:** FAO focused attention on reducing fuel use with links to greenhouse gas mitigation from capture fisheries in Thailand to provide multiple economic and environmental benefits. Interviews with the captains showed limited understanding of the important role these can play in lowering fuel consumption, and how practices in Thai trawl fishing vessels can help the industry decrease greenhouse gas emissions, thereby lowering their carbon footprint.

52. **SDG 14-Life below water:** SDG 14 encompasses more than ocean conservation by focusing on people and coastal communities who rely on marine resources. As such, FAO's blue growth activities under SDG 14 reach across the SDGs in order to establish and address linkages of SDG 14 with other 2030 Agenda targets, particularly SDG 1, no poverty, SDG 2, zero hunger, and SDG 8, decent work and economic growth.

53. The Blue Growth Initiative supports countries with information on optimum levels of fishing, aquaculture expansion, fair and secure access to living aquatic resources and markets for sustainable development. Further, the Blue Growth Initiative supports capacity building for implementing binding and non-binding instruments negotiated with member countries that can help achieve the objectives of SDG 14, including the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, and eco-labelling guidelines.

54. **SDG 6 and 15-Clean Water and Sanitation and Life on Land:** In Algeria, Egypt and Oman water is a challenge along with shortages of good quality soil; however, integrated agri-aquaculture (IAA) is a solution for producing vegetables, fruits and other food. IAA can produce locally-grown food rich in protein and minerals, without intensive water use. Through FAO-organized farmer-to-farmer study tours, Algerian, Egyptian and Omani farmers visited 15 IAA farms, learning new tips and techniques from each other.

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55. **SDG 17-Partnerships for the Goals:** The Nansen Programme, a partnership between the Norway Institute of Marine Research and FAO, provides a platform for many developing countries that lack the proper infrastructure to conduct marine research independently and to obtain critical information key to their reporting on SDG 14 achievements. Private sector dialogue with the other stakeholders is key to achieving Agenda 2030 and FAO hopes to engage the sector by establishing the Blue Forum.