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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
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# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-third Session

Rome, 9–13 July 2018

### ANNOTATIONS/GUIDE NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS

#### Executive Summary

This information paper provides background information of the Provisional Agenda for the Thirty-third Session of COFI.

## 1. Opening of the Session

- The Chairperson will call the session to order. He will inform delegates of the voting right of the European Union and its Member States on each agenda item (*COFI/2018/Inf.32*).
- After the opening remarks and an administrative report by the Chairperson on the inter-sessional consultation conducted by the Bureau, the Director-General of FAO or his Representative will inaugurate the session (*COFI/2018/Inf.3*).

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session

Procedural (*COFI/2018/1*, *COFI/2018/Inf.4*).

## 3. Designation of Drafting Committee

Procedural.

## 4. State of world fisheries and aquaculture

- The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018 (SOFIA 2018) will be presented as a scene-setting information.
- A relevant document (*COFI/2018/2*) provides a summary of the analyses on the state of world fisheries and aquaculture.
- Any general statements by heads of delegations are expected under this Agenda item.

The Committee is invited to:

- underline the importance of FAO's role in reporting on the state of world fisheries and aquaculture, and advise on how COFI can best contribute to this and benefit from it;
- underline the relevance of SOFIA and advise on its role in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and
- provide advice on how the publication can be improved in future editions.

## 5. Progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and related instruments

- A relevant document (*COFI/2018/3*) provides a summary of the analyses on the implementation of the Code and its related instruments, by FAO Members, regional fishery bodies (RFBs), non-governmental organizations, since the last report to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2016. The detailed analysis of the outcome of the questionnaire and regional statistical analysis of responses to the questionnaire are available in relevant information paper (*COFI/2018/Inf.7*) and session background document (SBD) (*COFI/2018/SBD.1*) respectively.
- Safety at sea (*COFI/2018/Inf.8*, *COFI/2018/SBD.2*) is also addressed under this Agenda item.

The Committee is invited to:

- note the progress on the implementation of the Code and advise on how to address the gaps and constraints identified on various components of the Code and in this regard;
- note the record response rate to the questionnaire and encourage Members to maintain their commitment in responding;
- provide guidance on how to continue to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code;
- advise on the broader use of the data and information submitted through the Code questionnaire, including for reporting on other processes, ad hoc assessments and studies, and specific technical reports; and
- advise on the review of the contents of the questionnaire and further enhancements of the web-based application and related data management and data processing tools.

**6. Decisions and recommendations of the Sixteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Busan, the Republic of Korea, 4-8 September 2017**

- An overview of the topics discussed at the Sixteenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and its main recommendations are reported by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee (and/or the Secretariat) as well as in a relevant document (*COFI/2018/4*). The full report (*COFI/2018/Inf.9*) and a relevant information paper (*COFI/2018/Inf.11*) and SBDs (*COFI/2018/SBD.4*, *COFI/2018/SBD.5*) are available.
- This Agenda item also include the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Scheme (*COFI/2018/Inf.10*, *COFI/2018/SBD.3*) as well as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the IUCN Red List related issues (*COFI/2018/Inf.12*).

The Committee is invited to:

- endorse the report of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade; and
- provide guidance on the follow up to the issues raised in the report.

**7. Decisions and recommendations of the Ninth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Rome, 24-27 October 2017**

- An overview of the topics discussed at the Ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and its main recommendations are reported by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee (and/or the Secretariat) as well as in a relevant document (*COFI/2018/5*). The full report is available as a relevant information paper (*COFI/2018/Inf.13*).
- This Agenda item also includes the Aquatic Genetic Resources and related issues (*COFI/2018/Inf.14*, *COFI/2018/Inf.15*, *COFI/2018/SBD.6*, *COFI/2018/SBD.7*) as well as Antimicrobial Resistance related issues.

The Committee is invited to:

- endorse the report of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture;
- provide further guidance, as appropriate, with regard to the work of the Department in the field of aquaculture, and in particular the preparation of the Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines; and
- take note of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and recommend the wide distribution of the Report, and recommend the preparation of a brief summary of the Report for policy makers.

## **8. Fisheries and ocean governance**

### **8.1 Combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

- This agenda item may include all aspects related to the fight against IUU fishing, including technical work on, *inter alia*: the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, Magnitude of IUU fishing, Transshipment, fisheries subsidies and role of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. The International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing will also be considered.
- The relevant document is *COFI/2018/6*. The relevant information paper (*COFI/2018/Inf.16*) and SBDs (*COFI/2018/SBD.8*, *COFI/2018/SBD.9*, *COFI/2018/SBD.10*, *COFI/2018/SBD.11*, *COFI/2018/SBD.12*, *COFI/2018/SBD.13*, *COFI/2018/SBD.14*, *COFI/2018/SBD.15*) are also available.

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;
- 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"; and
- 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.

## 8.2 Small-scale and artisanal fisheries governance

- This agenda item includes, *inter alia*, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and the Global Assistance Programme /the SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework, the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, the information baseline and assessment of the contribution of small-scale fisheries in marine and inland waters and the Global Work Programme to Advance Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for fisheries.
- The relevant document is *COFI/2018/7*. The relevant information papers (*COFI/2018/Inf.17*, *COFI/2018/Inf.18* and *COFI/2018/Inf.19*).

The Committee is invited to:

- underline the contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to global, regional and national efforts to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular SDG 14;
- note the progress concerning the implementation of the Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), since the Thirty-second Session of COFI in 2016;
- support the SSF Guidelines implementation, including the provision of extra-budgetary resources through the FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the SSF Guidelines;
- note the United Nations General Assembly resolution proclaiming 2022 the “International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture” and provide advice with regard to preparations for its celebration;
- note progress in improving the information baseline and assessment of the contribution of small-scale fisheries in inland and marine waters, facilitate the sharing of data and advice on potential case study countries/sites; and

- note progress regarding the Global Work Programme to Advance Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries (GWP) and advise on future support and potential extra-budgetary funding for the GWP.

### 8.3 Global and regional ocean processes

- This agenda item includes information on UN processes (other than SDGs), including Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction's issues, updates on RFBs, Marine Protected Areas and Convention on Biological Diversity -Aichi Targets. The relevant document is *COFI/2018/8*. The relevant information paper (*COFI/2018/Inf.20*) is also available.

The Committee is invited to:

- advise on the appropriate roles and functions FAO could be taking to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture governance, through efforts such as enhanced partnerships across the UN system and with relevant organizations;
- encourage FAO's continuous role in facilitating dialogue and information exchange among all relevant stakeholders involved in major global and regional processes with a view to strengthen synergies and avoid duplications;
- provide guidance on the role that regional fishery bodies (RFBs)/regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) play in fisheries governance and, as appropriate, aquaculture development, and advise on the actions and measures that may be taken to promote their further strengthening;
- encourage its Members to make contributions to the Part VII Assistance Fund, including through supporting specific projects within the framework of the Terms of Reference;
- provide guidance on options for the role and participation of FAO and RFMOs in the framework of the biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) discussions;
- advise on ongoing processes related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- comment on FAO work on disaster relief and resilience with particular reference to the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and any support that FAO can provide in this regard through further development of policy assistance and capacity development; and
- inform FAO of the desired level of Secretariat input into CBD's strategic vision beyond 2020, and offer direction to FAO's Biodiversity Platform initiative.

## 9. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- This agenda item focuses on three aspects, namely (1) SDG 14 and indicators under FAO custodianship, including processes, statistics and information in support of SDG 14; (2) fisheries and aquaculture contributions to SDG 2, including the 5 Principles for sustainability in food and agriculture, the Global Action Plan on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, the Role of fisheries and aquaculture, including inland fisheries, for food security and nutrition; and (3) Blue Growth Initiative, including implementation update, Social issues (*inter alia*, gender, labour conditions and decent work) and the Blue Forum.

- The relevant document is *COFI/2018/9*. The relevant SBD (*COFI/2018/SBD.16*) is also available. An information note on agroecology (*COFI/2018/Inf.21*) and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 (*COFI/2018/Inf.22*) are also available.

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 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.

## 10. Climate change and other environment related matters

- This focuses on all aspects of climate change (including evidence, projections and national, regional and global level, adaptation and mitigation opportunities, risk and resilience management), and other environment related matters, including Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), Gear Marking, Bycatch and Discards (including mammals), Best trawling practices, Biodiversity (including Biodiversity mainstreaming) and other Environmental impacts (including Marine pollution).
- The relevant document is *COFI/2018/10*. The relevant information papers (*COFI/2018/Inf.23*, *COFI/2018/Inf.24*, *COFI/2018/Inf.25*, *COFI/2018/Inf.26*, *COFI/2018/Inf.27*, *COFI/2018/Inf.28*, *COFI/2018/Inf.30*, *COFI/2018/Inf.31*) and SBDs (*COFI/2018/SBD.17*, *COFI/2018/SBD.18*, *COFI/2018/SBD.19*, *COFI/2018/SBD.20*) are also available

The Committee is invited to:

- comment on the intersessional work undertaken on climate change and provide guidance on future activities to be undertaken by FI in order to enhance the support to Member Countries in addressing the responses to climate change impacts and increasing the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- offer guidance to the FAO's Biodiversity Platform initiative, to help shape its cross-sectoral objectives and be relevant to fisheries and aquaculture.

- inform the FAO Secretariat of the desired level of Secretariat input into CBDs strategic vision beyond 2020 that follows the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- comment on the effectiveness of implementation of the FAO - CITES MOU signed in 2006, and advise on challenges in relation to differing communication on the status of commercially exploited aquatic species, including in relation to CITES, IUCN Red List assessments and Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Target reporting.
- consider the outcomes of the three expert workshops on the “Use of Best Available Science in Developing and Promoting Best Practices for Trawl Fishing Operations” (COFI/2018/Inf.24) and provide recommendations on the role of FAO in the development of trawling best practice guidelines.
- note the reports of the Expert Workshop on Means and Methods for Reducing Marine Mammal Mortality in Fishing and Aquaculture Operations (COFI/2018/SBD.14) and the Global Assessment of Marine Fisheries Discards (COFI/2018/Inf.20) and provide guidance on further actions.
- welcome the work of the Technical Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear and consider its recommendations including endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and provide further guidance for FAO’s ongoing work on ALDFG including the proposed development of a global umbrella programme to support the implementation of the Guidelines.
- provide recommendations on the appropriate role and functions FAO should be taking to address pollution-related issues (including microplastics, mercury and methylmercury, contaminants) and related measures on food safety and environmental management for the protection of fisheries and aquaculture resources.
- provide recommendations on current and additional thematic areas and activities, including regional hotspots, regional collaboration and opportunities for partnerships, inter-agency cooperation and multi-stakeholder initiatives.
- advise on future support and potential extra-budgetary funding for the work programme.

#### **11. FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework**

- The relevant document (*COFI/2018/11*) provides an overview of FAO’s achievements in fisheries and aquaculture in the 2016-2017 biennium and a perspective on FAO’s work in the fisheries and aquaculture sector during 2018-19, in the context of the Strategic Framework.
- This Agenda item includes:
  - Priorities in the Programme of Work and Medium Term Plan including implication of the SDGs in FI programme;
  - The biennial theme, Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO, endorsed by the 40th Conference in particular from a programme-oriented aspect; and
  - Capacity development including coordination among donors.
- Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the Thirty-second Session of COFI (*COFI/2018/Inf.5*, *COFI/2018/Inf.6*) is also available for information.



The Committee is invited to:

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

## **12. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee**

- A progress report of MYPOW 2016-19 and a draft MYPOW 2018-2021 (*COFI/2018/12*) and matters related to the work of the Committee including further strengthening on-going coordination and collaboration with other Technical Committees.

The Committee is invited to:

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

## **13. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Thirty-fourth Session of COFI**

- The Committee is required to elect the office bearers for the Thirty-fourth Session of COFI in accordance with Rule I (1) of its Rules of Procedure.

## **14. Other matters**

### **14.1 Development in *fora* of importance for the mandate of COFI: for information**

- The relevant document (*COFI/2018/Inf.29*) informs the Committee of developments in other fora of importance, both in and outside FAO, for the mandate of the Committee. It covers the decisions and recommendations by other Governing Bodies in FAO, such as the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conferences and other Technical Committees as well as relevant international fora outside FAO.

### **14.2 Any other matters**

- The Committee is invited to address any other matters proposed by Member States under Item 2.

**15. Date and place of the next Session**

- The Committee is invited to decide the date and place of the thirty-fourth session of COFI.

**16. Adoption of the Report**

Procedural.