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CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (BIENNIAL THEME)

Executive Summary

This paper aims to describe progress achieved with the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and how FI's work has contributed to delivering on its three Outcomes, in the context of the biennial theme "Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO".

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 2018-19 biennial theme – *Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO* – was endorsed by the FAO Council at its 155th session in December 2016 and by the FAO Conference at its 40th session in July 2017. The selection of the theme is the result of a review process and deliberations in the relevant Governing Bodies during the 2017–2018 biennium. The biennial theme is timely in light of the recent global developments, including the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the overarching Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, as well as the UNFCCC COP23 Decision for the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, and the adoption of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change at the 156th FAO Council session in April 2017. This purpose of this paper is twofold:

- inform COFI on recent and planned FAO work and activities that contribute to the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change
- foster discussions of the Committee on how to: (i) mobilize and upscale climate action financing for food and agriculture systems with a focus on fisheries and aquaculture; and (ii) foster and facilitate inter-sectorial dialogues on climate

2. The FAO Strategy on Climate Change and its Action Plan translates FAO's core mandate into strategic choices and action priorities at global, regional, national and local levels with the central goal of supporting its Member Nations in achieving their commitments to face climate change. It is based on FAO's work for over a decade and has been formulated to focus FAO's work on climate change with the desire to best serve FAO Member Countries in achieving their commitments under the Paris Agreement and their priorities under the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result, all FAO Departments are engaged in implementing the Strategy and contribute to its three outcomes, namely: (i) Enhanced capacities of Member Nations on climate change through FAO leadership as a provider of technical knowledge and expertise; (ii) Improved integration of food security and nutrition, agriculture, forestry and fisheries considerations within the international agenda on climate change through reinforced FAO engagement; and (iii) Strengthened coordination, and delivery of FAO work on climate change.

Outcome 1 – Enhanced capacities of Member Nations on climate change through FAO leadership as a provider of technical knowledge and expertise

Guidance on policy development

3. The climate change political framework has evolved in recent years, following the pace of the climate change negotiations. In order to implement the Paris agreement, Member States are required to prepare, communicate and maintain successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), submitted every five years to the UNFCCC secretariat (the next round of NDCs, new or updated, is to be submitted by 2020). FAO aims to support over 40 countries in the biennium 2018-19 to implement and/or further refine the agricultural sector components of their NDCs. Following the publication of FAO's first detailed regional analysis of NDCs for Eastern Africa¹ in 2017, FAO will support the East African countries in developing NDC implementation strategies and will carry out additional regional analyses on the NDCs. To this end, with the support of Strategic Programme 2 and the German Government, FAO is developing a platform to support NDC implementation and facilitate knowledge and information sharing among relevant stakeholders. FAO will continue to facilitate the Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use under the umbrella of the NDC Partnership, which was launched in 2017. The NDC partnership is a coalition of countries and institutions working to mobilize support and achieve climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. It currently has a membership of around 20 actively participating countries. A newly released technical paper on "Impacts of Climate Change on fisheries and aquaculture – Synthesis of

¹ www.fao.org/3/a-i8165e.pdf

current knowledge, adaptation and mitigation options”² compiles evidence on climate change impacts on the fisheries and aquaculture sector, both in marine and inland systems. The report is intended to be of fundamental use by countries in their NDC development and implementation, including resource mobilization efforts, as it provides guidance for adaptation and mitigation.

4. Further guidance on the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) was provided by the 2017 supplementary guidelines developed by FAO³ on “addressing agriculture, forestry and fisheries in National Adaptation Plans”, and will be complemented by forthcoming supplementary guidelines on “addressing fisheries and aquaculture in National Adaptation Plans”. These guidelines will collect and analyze relevant information from fisheries and aquaculture to support the sector’s ability to take part in national climate change adaptation planning processes. The guidance builds on the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and aquaculture (EAA) and other approaches such as the sustainable livelihoods approach. Clear steps to ensure that the specificities of the sub-sector are reflected in the NAP process and support adaptation planning within the sub-sector, in consultation with key stakeholders and bearing in mind potential interactions with other sub-sectors will be proposed.

5. A useful complement to the guidelines is the module B4 of the climate smart agriculture (CSA) sourcebook dedicated to fisheries and aquaculture.⁴ It comprises a wide range of knowledge and expertise on the concept of CSA to better guide policy makers and practitioners to make the sector more sustainable and productive, while responding to the challenges of climate change and food security. The module also builds on the EAF and EAA and outlines the progress of the sector in making the shift to CSA, the priority areas of action for the future and areas where further research is needed.

6. Given the increasing space allocated to oceans in the climate change fora, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) decided to prepare a special report on Oceans and Cryosphere. FAO is actively engaged in the development of the report and was involved in the definition of its outline. Moreover, FAO is providing comments to the most relevant chapters dealing with marine ecosystems, dependent communities, and coastal areas and will act as review editor.

Support to project formulation and implementation

7. The outcome 1 of the FAO climate change strategy also calls for support to Member Countries’ efforts in accessing climate finance. In this respect, FI is engaged in resource mobilization that resulted in the access to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for the formulation or implementation of adaptation projects in 17 countries so far (see document COFI/2018/10). The partnership between FAO and GEF will continue growing as GEF-7 is rolled out, enhanced by the recent integration of the FAO’s GEF unit into the Climate and Environment Division (CBC). GEF-7 programming will offer new opportunities to develop projects that aim at supporting transformation of key systems in an even more focused and impactful way. FI also undertook informing countries about possibilities under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), so far in the Caribbean and shortly in the Pacific regions.

8. The African Package for Climate-Resilient Ocean Economies, a joint FAO-World Bank-African Development Bank effort is actively supporting countries in accessing funds to develop their ocean-based economies and implement their NDCs in focus areas including measures to build resilience, reduce vulnerability, develop early-warning systems, increase energy efficiencies and optimize carbon sequestration. Eleven countries have been identified as priority countries to support

² Barange, M., Bahri, T., Beveridge, M., Cochrane, K., Funge-Smith, S. & Poulain, F. eds. 2018. Impacts of Climate Change on fisheries and aquaculture - Synthesis of current knowledge, adaptation and mitigation options. *Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper*. No. 627. Rome, FAO. 628 pp.

³ www.fao.org/3/a-i6714e.pdf

⁴ www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/production-resources/module-b4-fisheries/b4-overview/en/

the transition from business as usual to a Blue Economy over the next three years through the development of an investment portfolio of projects in line with Blue Growth concepts and actions.

Outcome 2 – Improved integration of food security and nutrition, agriculture, forestry and fisheries considerations within the international agenda on climate change through reinforced FAO engagement

9. FI was actively engaged in advocating for oceans and more specifically fisheries and aquaculture under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). As part of FAO coherent reporting on SDG indicators, particularly those for which FAO is the custodian agency, FI also contributed to the SFDRR indicator C2 on loss in agriculture attributed to disasters (which contributes to SDG1.5). FI has contributed a chapter in the second edition of FAO's report on the impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security.⁵ During the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22), oceans were officially recognized as part of the climate action agenda, which translated into the hosting of the Oceans Day in the official zone of the COP22. This emphasis was confirmed during COP23, with more prominent discussions on oceans and their dependent communities in the climate negotiation process. FAO was one of the main co-organizers of the Oceans Day, both at COP22 and COP23 where it showcased adaptation solutions with the support of partners and Member Countries' representatives who have been working to identify climate vulnerabilities and context-specific strategies to improve the resilience of dependent-communities and increase the knowledge base. Moreover, FAO contributed to the Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA), a multi-stakeholder initiative involving governments, international agencies, NGOs, scientific institutions, private sector, and subnational authorities to advance the oceans and climate agenda (especially in the UNFCCC, the UN Ocean Conference, and in other United Nations fora). The ROCA was launched at the UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco and FAO provided an update on its work and priority areas and ensured the fisheries and aquaculture sector was adequately addressed.

10. The adoption of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA) at COP23 marked a milestone for climate action in agricultural sectors. The decision recognizes the fundamental importance of agriculture in responding to climate change, and calls for joint work between the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI) on specific elements, thus broadening the conversation on agriculture from its former scientific and technical focus also to consider implementation. The Subsidiary Bodies are expected to report on progress and outcomes of the KJWA to the COP at its twenty-sixth session in November 2020.

11. FI is custodian of four targets under SDG 14 (14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1) and was therefore a key player at the UN Oceans Conference (5–9 June, 2017, New-York, USA) where the interlinkages between climate change and the achievement of SDG14 were acknowledged. The Conference stressed the adverse impacts of climate change on the ocean and recognized the particular importance of the Paris agreement in addressing them. The call for action includes the need to dedicate greater resources to marine scientific research in order to better understand the relationship between climate and the health and productivity of the ocean among other goals, and to develop and implement effective adaptation and mitigation measures to increase the ocean resilience and address the impacts of climate change on the ocean.

12. Building on the outcomes of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA pathway), the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Development States (GAP) was launched by FAO and its partners in July 2017. Over twenty projects involving or led by FI are currently supporting the SAMOA pathway on a range of topics including fisheries resource assessment, capacity building, risk assessment, food security and nutrition

⁵ www.fao.org/3/I8656EN/i8656en.pdf

and poverty reduction and business investment planning in aquaculture, management of coastal areas, or improvement of fishing practices.

Outcome 3 – Strengthened coordination and delivery of FAO work on climate change

13. FI pursued efforts to maintain or increase coordination both within and outside the Organization to ensure the sharing of knowledge and maximize the impacts of its actions while optimizing the use of human and financial resources. Within the Organization, regular participation in the FAO Technical Network on Climate Change allowed the FI Department to benefit from and contribute to corporate knowledge, as well as share experiences. This allowed FI to raise awareness on climate-related aspects of fisheries and aquaculture within the Organization. Within FI, the Departmental working group on climate change includes representatives of all the Branches, decentralized officers and staff involved in projects dealing with climate change and extreme events and ensures internal coordination and exchange of information. The purpose is to benefit from multiple expertise and promote cross-fertilization and exchange of lessons learned between initiatives in order to maximize their efficiency.

14. Outside the Organization, active collaboration with external partners, some of which PaCFA⁶ members, allowed conveying fisheries and aquaculture-related concerns in the climate change arena more efficiently. FI also works in partnership with a number of organizations (academia, NGOs, IGOs, civil society) in the implementation of its programmes. FI joined efforts with over 20 partners for the organization of the UNFCCC COPs Oceans Days, with the World Bank and the African Development Bank for the set-up of the African package for Climate-Resilient Ocean Economies and with many others for the implementation of its projects.

15. In 2018, a webinar led by FI on Opportunities for Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (EbA) presented an opportunity to share experiences and provide training for nearly 300 participants.

⁶ PaCFA is a voluntary global level initiative among more than 20 international organizations and sector bodies with a common concern for climate change interactions with global waters and living resources and their social and economic consequences. www.fao.org/pacfa/it/