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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-first Session

Rome, 9-13 June 2014

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES: PROGRESS REPORT

Executive Summary

This document provides the progress report of the COFI Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-2015 and the draft COFI MYPOW 2014-2017, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of COFI.

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 2012-15, and make recommendations for further improvement; and
- review and approve the proposed MYPOW 2014-2017, set out in the Appendix. This rolling plan follows the pattern established at the 30th Session of COFI (July 2012) and is presented for comments, suggestions and approval.

BACKGROUND

1. At its Thirtieth Session held in July 2012, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) approved its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-2015 as proposed in COFI/2012/10¹. The development of the COFI MYPOW conforms to the recommendations embodied in Actions 2.70 to 2.72 of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), and adheres to the periodicity specified by the IPA in terms of the timeframe covered by the programme as well as the submission of timelines of progress reports to Governing Bodies. As underscored by the Committee, the MYPOW 2012-15 provides an important step towards the improvement of COFI's efficiency and accountability and moreover, advocates the incorporation of the gender dimension into the programme.
2. In line with the endorsed MYPOW 2012-15, regular intersessional activities have been facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau with support from the Secretariat to this end. Eight sessions of Bureau Meetings were organized intersessionally by the Chairperson, to discuss the outcome of and follow-up to the last COFI Session as well as the preparation for the upcoming Session.
3. The Secretariat will prepare the progress report on the MYPOW 2012-2015 for review during the 31st Session of COFI, scheduled to be held from 9 to 13 June 2014.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK 2012-2015

4. RESULTS FOR 2012-2015

(1) Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2014 was reviewed by the 31st Session of COFI and provided a solid basis for its guidance and decisions

The intersessional work by the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, successfully identified topics of significance for agenda setting.

(2) Strategy and Priority Setting, and Budget Planning

The decisions and recommendations by the 30th Session of COFI provided a solid basis for the strategy, priority setting and budget planning, which was reported and reviewed by the 145th Session of Council as well as the 38th Session of Conference.

In particular by introducing the electronic system, the rate of responses by Members and Observers of the Committee to the FAO Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries has been drastically improved.

Liaison with the Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture are improved and expected to be further enhanced, in particular among Bureaus in the intersessional period.

Liaison with other Technical Committees through the Secretariat is also enhanced.

(3) Advise on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

The Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance were adopted for endorsement by the 31st Session of COFI.

¹ ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/COFI/cofi_30/10e.pdf

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication were referred to the 31st Session of COFI.

Ratification, acceptance or approval of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was further encouraged by the 31st Session of COFI.

5. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI

The focused deliberations at the 30th Session of COFI had enabled the formulation of a concise report, embodying specific action-oriented recommendations to be presented to the FAO Council and Conference.

The MYPOW 2012-15 was approved by the 30th Session of COFI.

The Progress Report of MYPOW 2012-15 was submitted to the 31st Session of COFI for its review and further recommendation.

The MYPOW 2014-17 was proposed to the 31st Session of COFI for its review and approval.

The Rules of Procedure of the Committee have been continuously reviewed inter-sessionally by the Bureau and the proposed amendments were adopted by the 31st Session of COFI.

The agenda for the 31st Session of COFI has been elaborated by the Bureau in close consultation with the Secretariat.

6. WORKING METHODS

The regular inter-sessional activities were highly facilitated by the Chairperson and other Bureau members with support from the Secretariat.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

7. The Committee is invited to:

- (a) examine this Progress Report, in accordance with its overall objectives and mandate and proposed results, work planning and methods, outlined in the approved MYPOW 2012-15, and make recommendations for further improvement;
- (b) review and approve the proposed MYPOW 2014-2017, set out in the Appendix. This rolling plan follows the pattern established at the 30th Session of COFI (July 2012) and is presented for comments, suggestions and approval.

APPENDIX

DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES 2014–2017**I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) reviews the Organization's work programme in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as overseeing the implementation of such programmes and is mandated to review specific issues pertaining to fisheries that have been referred to the Committee by either the FAO Council, the Director-General, or pursuant to the request of a Member State(s) periodically.

1. RESULTS FOR 2014-2017

A. Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture

2. Result:

- The Conference and the international community at large are provided with updated information and specific advice on the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture and in relation to the specific issues of significance addressed during the scheduled sessions.

3. Indicators and targets:

- Clear, precise and consensual recommendations that are based on updated information of the world situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture are presented to the Conference as a solid basis for its guidance and decision.

4. Output:

- Clear, precise and consensual recommendations are favourably considered by the Conference and provide a solid basis for its guidance and decision.

5. Activities:

- The Committee undertakes general discussions on the current world situation in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Specific issues of topical significance are addressed during the scheduled sessions.

6. Working methods:

- Chairperson liaises with the Secretariat.
- Intersessional work by the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, to identify topics of significance for agenda setting.

B. Strategy and Priority Setting, and Budget Planning

7. Result:

- The Committee recommendations provide a solid basis for Council's guidance and decisions on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization.

8. Indicators and targets:

- The Committee promotes the FAO's Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Implementation to solicit responses and reduce obstacles impeding responses.
- Members respond to the FAO Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Implementation, including the Questionnaire regarding the Implementation of Article 11, Post-harvest Practices and Trade as well as the Questionnaire regarding the

Implementation of Article 9, Aquaculture Development and provide the FAO with statistics and other information in fisheries and aquaculture via the Committee, its Sub-Committees and the regional fisheries bodies.

- Clear and specific recommendations are made by the Committee to the Council regarding the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Committee's recommendations made on the pertinent aspects of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget are reflected in the Council Report.

9. Outputs:

- Report of the Biennial Session of the Committee on Fisheries that provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the Council on sectoral strategies, priorities, programmes and budgets.

10. Activities:

- Use conclusions and recommendations from the biennial Committee on Fisheries meeting.
- Review decisions and recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, statutory bodies and other relevant organs or institutions.
- Review advice from the Regional Conferences in the area of fisheries and aquaculture.
- Review the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Formulate recommendations on the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

11. Working methods:

- Close collaboration with the relevant FAO Departments through the Chairperson and the Bureau.
- Chairperson to be actively involved in improving the rate of response of Members of the Questionnaires and submission prior to the stated deadlines.
- Chairperson to send a reminder to Regional Conferences' Chairpersons to promote completion and submission of responses of the Questionnaires by Members.
- Chairperson to liaise with Members to identify obstacles impeding responses to the Questionnaires and potential mitigation actions.
- Liaise with sub-committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture and other statutory bodies.
- Liaise with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters.
- Liaise with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters.

C. Advise on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

12. Result:

- Committee recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters.

13. Indicators and targets:

- Member Nations obtain value from the deliberations of COFI, using the advice and recommendations to guide domestic actions and policies as reported by FAO.
- Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by COFI to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate.
- Committee's recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference Report.

14. Output:
- The Committee on Fisheries provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.
 - Members of the Committee on Fisheries undertake all necessary action in order to:
 - Facilitate the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;
 - Facilitate the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance;
 - Facilitate the ratification, acceptance or approval of the Port States Measures Agreement, in order to bring it into effect as soon as possible.
15. Activities:
- Report to the Conference on global policy and regulatory issues arising out of its deliberations.
 - Review the status of relevant international instruments, including codes of conduct in areas of competence for the Committee.
 - Consider possible solutions with a view to support concerted action by Members themselves or collectively through FAO and other relevant bodies in areas of competence for the Committee.

II. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI

16. Result:
- Committee works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.
17. Indicators and targets:
- Committee agendas are focused and reports are concise; containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both Council and Conference.
 - Evaluation of results and implementation of MYPOW for the Committee.
18. Outputs:
- Multi-Year Programme of Work 2014-2017 for the Committee adopted in 2014.
 - Second Progress report on Committee's MYPOW in 2016.
19. Activities:
- Review Committee's practices and rules of procedure.
 - Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including more efficient use of the time available.
 - Focus side events on key issues.
 - Facilitate coordination with other Technical Committees.
 - Work out clear modalities for the election and operation of the Bureau with a view to enhancing continuity between sessions.
 - Pay continued attention to effective arrangements for the formulation of agendas and drafting of the final report.

III. WORKING METHODS

20. The Committee collaborates with statutory and other bodies under FAO auspices, liaises with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters, and with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters as well as other relevant FAO Governing Bodies.
21. It liaises with other international organizations active in the areas of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

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22. The Committee undertakes regular intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau with support from the Secretariat. Liaison amongst the Bureaus of the Committee and the Sub-Committees is also strengthened.
 23. It encourages and facilitates participation of civil society's organizations as observers.
 24. The Chairperson liaises with FAO through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.