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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fiftieth Session

Rome, 1-5 December 2014

Margarita Lizárraga Medal

Executive Summary

The Selection Committee for the Margarita Lizárraga Medal, which is awarded biennially to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries by the Director-General upon the proposal of the Council, met in Rome on 12 June 2014 and unanimously agreed that the 2014-2015 Award be given to the Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group in Botswana.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to endorse the nomination of the Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group and recommend that the Medal be presented by the Director-General during a special ceremony to be held before 31 December 2015.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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1. At its 29th Session in November 1997, the FAO Conference, by Resolution 18/97, instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal. The Medal, awarded by the Conference upon the proposal of the Council, pays tribute to the late Dr Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior FAO Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code, for her work in the field of fisheries for almost forty years, and for her strong commitment to fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries.
2. The Selection Committee for the Award, composed of the Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and the Bureau of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries, met in Rome on 12 June 2014. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Director-General (Natural Resources), representing the Director-General.
3. The Selection Committee reviewed the three nominations for the 2014-2015 biennium, proposed by the Members of the Screening Committee, taking into consideration that the nominee must have demonstrated:
 - an outstanding, practical and hands-on contribution to the application of the Code;
 - tangible output;
 - results achieved were a sustained effort and not a one-off initiative; and
 - results achieved have the potential for a snow-ball/catalytic effect.
4. The Committee unanimously agreed that the 2014-2015 Award be given to the Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group in Botswana.
5. The SIF Working Group was selected in recognition of an excellent African example of what can be achieved to stop Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing by demonstrating that a lot can be accomplished with relatively small resources through good networking, the sharing of information, regional and international cooperation, and a strong commitment to stop IUU fishing. Its achievement is considered as a model of similar initiatives and to have a catalytic effect on other regions. The contribution of SIF to the application of the Code of Conduct is therefore outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic.