



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-first Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 13-18 October 2014

POLICY ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Committee

The Committee:

- a) Welcomes the work of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) on "Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition" and the relevant report, and acknowledges its findings as an important contribution to the CFS recommendations.
- b) Recognizes the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition, as a primary source of protein and essential nutrients, and as a provider of income and livelihoods for numerous communities across the world, in a context of growing demand for fish and rapid aquaculture development.
- c) Recommends the following actions by all concerned stakeholders (states, international organizations, national and international research institutes, development agencies and development partners, private sector and civil society) to address the development, policy and governance challenges in order to maintain and enhance the contribution of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to food security now and in the long term:

1. Give to fish the position it deserves in food security and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes

- 1a) Make fish an integral element in food security and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes, including nutrition interventions, with special regard to promoting fish as a source of good protein and micronutrients, encouraging maternal and child consumption of fish including

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through nutrition education, promoting small-scale production and local arrangements, such as procurement through local markets, e.g. for school meals.

1b) Eliminate harmful subsidies that encourage over-fishing and reorient them towards public good investments that support the contribution of fish to food security and nutrition, and diversification of activities.

1c) Support initiatives to gradually eliminate fish discards and reduce post-harvest losses and waste at all steps of the fish value chain.

1d) Support research to improve knowledge on the impact of the production and consumption of fish on nutrition including by collecting intra-household and gender-disaggregated data. International cooperation should be promoted to maximize research outputs.

2. Design climate change adaptation strategies in fisheries for food security and nutrition

2a) Monitor the impact of climate change on fisheries resources and engage in inclusive dialogue and analysis to devise necessary action and mainstream climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture policies as appropriate to address the present and future impacts on food and nutrition security, especially for most vulnerable zones, coastal and small island states.

3. Seize the opportunities and address the challenges of aquaculture development

3a) Lead research, innovation, and development initiatives that aim at enhancing sustainability and productivity of aquaculture, and its contribution to the various dimensions of food security and nutrition, both in small and large scale systems, with due consideration to the integrity of ecosystems notably: improved fish nutrition and feeding efficiency, seeking alternatives to fishmeal and fishoil in aquaculture feeds, development of low trophic aquaculture, promotion of herbivore species, domestication and genetic improvement, integration in agroecological models of production at the farm and landscape levels, and improved linkages with the food supply chain.

3b) Put in place the conditions to develop and implement South-South collaborations to encourage sharing and learning experiences in aquaculture.

4. Recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries

4a) Recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition, and take into account their characteristics in the design and implementation of all national and international policies and programs related to fisheries, including through appropriate and inclusive representation.

4b) Support self-organized, local professional organizations and cooperatives, to foster the integration of small-scale operators into markets.

4c) Support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and assist smallholders - especially women - to add value to their produce and diversify their activities through adapted certification, adequate access to financing, capacity building and strengthened professional organizations.

4d) Give high priority to the support of small-scale fisheries through adequate planning, legislation, recognition or allocation of rights and resources, and the promotion of their contribution to food security and nutrition.

5. Enhance fish markets and trade's contribution to food security and nutrition

5a) Ensure that food security and nutrition are better taken into account in the objectives of policies and mechanisms related to international, regional and local fish trade, including by the inclusive development of guidelines, procedures and regulations to protect the food security and nutrition of local populations, consistent with trade laws, rights and obligations.

5b) Allocate more policy attention and resources to develop, promote, facilitate and support domestic and regional fish trade through, inter alia improved infrastructures for landing and marketing, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, harmonized food safety regulations, supporting capacity building for local, national or regional fish trade and fish value chain activities.

5c) Support the inclusion of food security and nutrition concerns in sustainability certification standards and facilitate the engagement of small-scale operators by adequate support and capacity building.

6. Improve social protection and labour rights

6a) States should ensure improvement in working conditions in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including safety at sea, promoting decent work, eliminating forced labour, ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) No. 188 Work in Fishing Convention and developing social protection systems.

7. Fully address the gender dimension of the fisheries and aquaculture sector

7a) Enshrine gender awareness and equality in fisheries and aquaculture policies, investments, programmes, projects and rights systems, including licensing and access rights, notably by ensuring these do not create negative impacts on women.

7b) Promote access to gender adapted training and collect appropriate gender-disaggregated data;

7c) Recognize as fishing activity those forms of harvest typically practiced by women, such as inshore and inland harvesting of invertebrates by hand.

The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) should

7d) Develop policy guidance on gender equality and economic contributions, e.g. technical guidelines on gender in aquaculture and fisheries within the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries.

8. Integrate food security and nutrition concerns into the governance of oceans, fisheries and aquaculture

States should

8a) Use and implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Good Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, recognizing the particular relevance of article 8.3 on collective rights and common resources.

- 8b) Ensure the active and meaningful participation of fishing communities, fish workers in all decisions that impact their enjoyment of the right to food – notably in the co-management of resources.
- 8c) Formally protect the rights and ongoing tenure over sites for food-insecure people, fishing communities and indigenous and tribal peoples, including taking into account the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.
- 8d) Assess food and nutrition security impacts, especially for the affected communities, of fisheries policies, interventions and investments, including when allocating fishing rights, when negotiating fishing agreements, and when developing other activities in coastal zones.
- 8e) Strengthen international assistance and cooperation to build the capacity of developing countries to negotiate better terms in fishing agreements to protect the food security and nutrition of their populations.
- 8f) Make food security and nutrition an integral element of fish-value-chain governance mechanisms, certification standards, corporate social responsibility policies, support to the development of small and medium enterprises, by e.g. helping them access best management practices and credit schemes.

FAO should

- 8g) Take the lead in a global effort to redevelop resource assessment tools and governance concepts suitable for use in improving the contribution of fish to food security and nutrition, including by developing new approaches for use in the multispecies, multigear fisheries and more adapted to the specific characteristics of small-scale fisheries.
- 8h) Lead reform of international fisheries and ocean governance with the objective of improving the transparency and inclusiveness of the major international programmes and initiatives, and prioritizing food security and nutrition and poverty alleviation.

The CFS and COFI should

- 8i) Convene a special joint session involving international fisheries and aquaculture bodies and related actors to share views on how to coordinate their policies and programmes towards progress in the food security and nutrition outcomes of their activities.
- 8j) Raise awareness of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition and disseminate the HLPE report and CFS recommendations to international organizations and bodies, including towards the preparation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.