A Global Strategic Framework

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has developed a Global Strategic Framework in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).

The Global Strategic Framework is a partnership mechanism with an advisory and facilitative role. Its members can share experiences, mobilize resources together, develop synergies and coordinate efforts to advocate for policies and approaches that favour the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. It was developed on recommendation from the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

Within the Global Strategic Framework there is an Advisory Group with representatives from global small-scale fisheries organizations:

- **THE ADVISORY GROUP**
  - are representatives from global small-scale fisheries organizations, OHCHR and IFAD. They engage with the other framework members, and their activities are reported to COFI.

- **THE FRIENDS OF THE SSF GUIDELINES**
  - are FAO Members participating on a voluntary basis. They share experiences from implementing the SSF Guidelines with other FAO Members, and they receive and channel advice from the Advisory Group to COFI.

- **THE KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM**
  - is composed of actors from academia, research institutes, regional organizations, or NGOs. They contribute knowledge and support the Advisory Group and the Friends of the SSF Guidelines, and they seek advice from the Advisory Group on their initiatives to implement the SSF Guidelines.
The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) are the first internationally agreed instrument dedicated entirely to small-scale fisheries. They are also unique in that they approach sustainable fisheries from the point of human rights. They were endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014.

The Advisory Group primarily consists of representatives from global small-scale fisheries organizations, identified following criteria for geographical representation and gender balance. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are also part of the Advisory Group.

As the name suggests, the group gives advice on what to think about when implementing the SSF Guidelines around the world. Their input is most valuable for FAO, as well as for the Friends of the SSF Guidelines and for all the actors in the Knowledge Sharing Platform.

The current members of the Advisory Group are:

**Editrudith Lukanga and Cairo Laguna**

**World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers**

Editrudith Lukanga from Tanzania and Cairo Laguna from Nicaragua are the Co-Presidents of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF). WWF is an international organization bringing together 42 organizations from 40 countries, including, but not limited to, trade unions, associations, federations of cooperatives and aboriginal nations dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods.

WFF’s main objectives are to:

- protect, defend, and strengthen the economic viability and quality of life for fish harvesters, fish workers and the communities that depend on the fishery resources for their livelihood;
- create an understanding of the resource as a common heritage of humanity, and ensure that it is passed on to future generations;
- promote a legal regime that will ensure the rights of fishing communities;
- promote food security both locally and worldwide;
- promote equitable representation of fish-harvesters and fish workers’ organizations in all appropriate international and regional fora, and advocate for their recognition.
Partnership with small-scale producers

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is a global platform of 300 million small-scale food producers, rural workers organizations and grass root/community based social movements. It has longstanding collaborative relationship with FAO.

The IPC Working Group on Fisheries participated in the negotiations on the SSF Guidelines since 2008, and remains an important partner in FAO’s work related to the SSF Guidelines implementation. Appointed representatives of the IPC Working Group on Fisheries are part of the Advisory Group.

**Naseegh Jaffer**
*World Forum of Fisher Peoples*

Naseegh Jaffer from South Africa is a member and former Secretary General of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP). WFFP is a mass-based social movement of small-scale fisher people with 73 member organisations from 49 countries. WFFP allows for organisations to become members if they represent fisher peoples, are democratically constituted and adhere to the WFFP constitution and comply with its objectives.

**Chief Gary Harrison**
*International Indian Treaty Council*

Chief Gary Harrison from Alaska is a member of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC). IITC is an organization of Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific. It has 98 member organizations from 19 countries.

**Alex Castillo**
*La Via Campesina*

Alex Castillo is a member of La Via Campesina (LVC). LVC is an international, autonomous, pluralist, multicultural movement bringing together peasants, small and medium size farmers, landless people, rural women and youth, indigenous peoples, migrants and agricultural workers from around the world. It has 175 member organizations in 85 countries.

**WFFP’s main objectives are to:**
- protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood;
- represent the small scale, artisanal fishers interest at the international level and play the role of global political organ of the same communities;
- advocate for the rights of fisher people to access and manage fisheries resources, for human rights and for the protection of natural biodiversity;
- represent the interests of its constituencies at regional and international levels.

**IITC’s vision and main objectives are to:**
- support Indigenous Peoples’ struggles for human and Treaty rights, self-determination, food sovereignty, environmental health and justice;
- disseminate information, build coalitions, do advocacy, and offer training and technical assistance;
- build direct, effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in regional, national and international events, gatherings and policy discussions addressing their rights, ways of life and survival.

**LVC’s main objectives are to:**
- defend peasant agriculture for food sovereignty as a way to promote social justice and dignity;
- oppose corporate driven agriculture that destroys social relations and nature;
- develop a model of small-scale sustainable production benefiting communities and their environment;
- put the aspirations, needs and livelihoods of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.
Learn more and get in touch

Email: ssf-guidelines@fao.org
www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries
www.foodsovereignty.org/working_groups/fisheries
Twitter: #SmallScaleFisheries, #SSFGuidelines, @FAOfish, @IPCSovereignty