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**Second Meeting of the Parties to the
2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures**

Santiago, Chile, 3 – 6 June 2019

**TRANSMITTAL, ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE AND PUBLICATION OF
INFORMATION**

The Parties are invited to:

- submit information on designated ports and national contact points;
- review the applications for submitting and viewing the information on the national contact point and designated ports and provide guidance on the way forward;
- consider the outcomes and recommendations of the first and second meetings of the TWG-IE and provide guidance on the way forward;
- recommend the appropriate option in moving forward with the development of a global information exchange system.

I. Introduction

1. Article 16 of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (the Agreement or PSMA, interchangeably), states that Parties should cooperate to establish an information sharing mechanism, preferably coordinated by FAO, in conjunction with other relevant multilateral and intergovernmental initiatives, and to facilitate the exchange of information with existing databases relevant to the Agreement.

2. At the First Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement, held in Oslo, Norway, from 29 to 31 May 2017, the Parties agreed that, on the matter of data-exchange, a staged approach should be adopted, initially prioritizing the need to access basic information, such as on designated ports and national contact points, moving towards the development of more advanced information systems based on the information exchange requirements referred to in the Agreement. It was highlighted that transparency and accessibility regarding information exchange would be crucial, and that the need for accuracy would have to be taken into consideration.

3. Furthermore, Parties established an open-ended technical working group to provide guidance on elaborating information exchange mechanisms and other technical matters, including the need to provide for varying levels of access depending on the nature of the information provided.

II. First Meeting of the PSMA Open-Ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange

4. The first meeting of the PSMA Open-Ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE) was convened in London, United Kingdom, from 16 to 18 April 2018. The TWG-IE considered the type of information exchange mechanism they wished to see developed by FAO. Options considered included a basic reporting system, a complete e-PSMA system or a system that linked with other systems and networks.¹

5. The Working Group noted in particular that:

- designated port and national points of contact templates should be piloted and open for review by the Parties at their second meeting;
- the near-real time exchange of information, both public and protected, was crucial;
- FAO should explore options to facilitate a standardized approach for the electronic exchange of information;
- linkages with the relevant systems of regional fisheries management organizations and global systems such as those used by the International Maritime Organization (Global Integrated Shipping Information System and Equasis) were important; and
- the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels² is a promising platform for information sharing and could be linked with the PSMA information exchange system, as appropriate, to facilitate the exchange of information for the PSMA

6. The Working Group considered that a two-staged approach for developing a global information exchange system was appropriate. The first stage would facilitate the exchange of basic information such as designated ports and national points of contact and be implemented as soon as possible through the PSMA website. The second stage would focus on the development of a robust global system that facilitates the exchange of information and would include a publically available information section and a limited access section for protected information such as port inspection reports.

¹ The options are described in PSMA_TWG/1/2018/2: Developing an information exchange mechanism to support the implementation of the Agreement www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/PSMA/OpenEndedTWG/2018/2e.pdf

² <http://www.fao.org/global-record/en/>

III. Status of Information Exchange to Implement the Agreement

7. Following the guidance from the Parties at their first meeting and further elaboration from the first meeting of the TWG-IE, the Secretariat proceeded with the two staged approach for the development of an information exchange system needed to implement the Agreement.

STAGE I

8. The Secretariat developed a prototype application for the submission of information on national contact points and designated ports. To accommodate the possibility for different national entities to submit information, two sets of unique credentials, one for the submission of national contact points and the other for designated ports were created. The pilot application was launched on 19 June 2018; Parties to the Agreement received both sets of unique credentials, while non-Parties were provided with credentials to submit information on their national contact point. This application is accessible through the link provided in communication to the Parties and non-Parties as well as through the operational resources tab of the Agreement website³.

9. The Secretariat also developed a prototype application⁴ for viewing information on national contact points provided by the Parties and non-Parties, as well as information on designated ports provided by the Parties. The application was launched during the Second Meeting of the ad-hoc working group established by the Parties to the Agreement (Part 6 Working Group) which was held in Rome, Italy, from 5 to 6 July 2018. The application is open to the public and therefore no credentials are required to access the application. As a precautionary measure and in consideration of the confidentiality aspects of some of the information submitted, the Secretariat did not publicise, through the application, personal contact information fields submitted by Parties and non-Parties for the national contact point.

10. As of 25 April 2019, the Secretariat has received 201 designated ports from 19 Parties and 29 national contact points.

STAGE II

11. Following the recommendations made by the TWG-IE at their first meeting, the Secretariat conducted a feasibility study of the various options for the development of a global information exchange system (GIES) in support of the Agreement⁵; which were outlined and presented for discussion during the Second Meeting of the TWG-IE, which took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 15 to 17 May 2019. Three options were presented for consideration: the GIES as a Basic port State measures (PSM) system, GIES as Global PSM System, and GIES as an Integrated PSM System.

12. The recommendations made by the TWG-IE on this matter at their second meeting can be found in PSMA/2019/Inf.3 Report of the Second Meeting of the PSMA of the PSMA Open-ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange, 15-17 May 2019, Seoul, Republic of Korea.⁶

³ <http://www.fao.org/port-state-measures/operational-resources/en/>

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/port-state-measures/psmaapp/?locale=en&action=qry>

⁵ TWG-IE/2/2019/2 Options for the development of a global information exchange system in support of the PSMA <http://www.fao.org/port-state-measures/meetings/technical-working-groups/twg-ie-2-meeting-documents/en/>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/port-state-measures/meetings/meetings-parties/second-mop-documents/en/>

IV. Suggested action by the Parties

13. The Parties are requested to:
- submit information on designated ports and national contact points;
 - review the applications for submitting and viewing the information on the national contact point and designated ports and provide guidance on the way forward;
 - consider the outcomes and recommendations of the first and second meetings of the TWG-IE and provide guidance on the way forward;
 - recommend the appropriate option in moving forward with the development of a global information exchange system.