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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-fourth Session

1–5 February 2021

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES: A PROGRESS REPORT OF MYPOW 2018-2021 AND A DRAFT MYPOW 2020-2023

Executive Summary

This document provides the progress report of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 2018-2021 and the draft MYPOW 2020-2023, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of COFI.

Suggested action by the Committee

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 2018-2021; and
- approve the proposed MYPOW 2020-2023, as set out in the Appendix.

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

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BACKGROUND

1. At its 33rd Session in July 2018, the Committee approved the progress report on the MYPOW 2016-2019 and draft MYPOW for 2018-2021.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK 2018-2021

A. RESULTS FOR 2018–2021

2. Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture
 - (a) The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2018 was presented at the 33rd Session of COFI and provided a solid basis for its guidance and decisions.
 - (b) Clear, precise and consensual recommendations based on the updated information on the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture were presented to the 160th Session of Council and the 41st Session of the Conference.
 - (c) The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2020 was launched on 08 June 2020.
3. Strategy and Priority Setting and Budget Planning
 - (a) The decisions and recommendations by the 33rd Session of COFI provided a solid basis for the 160th Session of the Council to make recommendations and decisions on strategy and priority setting as well as budget planning.
 - (b) The FAO Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including supplementary questions for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, was conducted.
 - (c) Decisions and recommendations by the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture were provided for review and approval by the Committee.
 - (d) The programme of work and budget in fisheries and aquaculture was reviewed and recommendations on the strategies and priorities were provided for formulating the programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.
4. Advice on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters
 - (a) The decisions and recommendations of the 33rd Session of COFI provided a solid basis for the 41st Session of the Conference to make recommendations and decisions on global policy and regulatory matters.
 - (b) The status of relevant international instruments in areas of competence of the Committee and recommendations were made in order to facilitate the implementation of those instruments.

B. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI

5. The deliberations at the 33rd Session of COFI enabled the formulation of a concise report, embodying specific action-oriented decisions and recommendations to be presented to the Council and Conference.

6. Some Bureau Members proposed to abolish the report published in a form of an FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report, which is simply a duplication of the report in a form of the Conference documents and causes additional costs.

7. The Progress Report of the MYPOW 2016-2019 was endorsed and the draft MYPOW 2018-2021 was approved by the 33rd Session of COFI.

8. The agenda for the 34th Session of COFI has been elaborated in close consultation with the Bureau of COFI.

9. The first working document (COFI/2020/10) for COFI 34 was made available on the relevant website on 05 February 2020, 21 days behind the deadline requested by the 33rd Session of COFI, namely six months prior to the 34th Session of COFI. For other COFI 34 documents, the Secretary of COFI set the deadline for drafting by the end of March 2020, giving enough period for the clearance by the senior management of the Organization prior to the first deadline of translation, namely the end of April 2020, in order to fulfil the requirement that all COFI documents, including SOFIA, are to be made available in all FAO languages at least four weeks before the session commences.

10. Liaison with the two Sub-Committees was further improved.

11. Liaison with other Technical Committees, in particular with the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) was further enhanced under the supervision of the Bureau and the senior management of the Organization.

12. The side events during the 33rd Session of COFI were organized in close consultation with the Bureau in a focused and coordinated manner.

C. WORKING METHODS

13. In keeping with the MYPOW for 2018-2021, inter-sessional consultations have been facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau with the support by the Secretary. Four meetings of the Bureau, as well as three Informal Meetings for COFI Members, have been organized by the Chairperson in order to follow up the decisions and recommendations of the 33rd Session of COFI as well as preparation for the 34th Session of COFI. In addition, three meetings of the Joint Task Force for Investigation of the Proposal to Establish a New Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, as well as one meeting of the Informal Consultation of the Bureau was conducted for reviewing the draft Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the 5th Meeting of COFI 34 Bureau was held on 08 May 2020 via Zoom.

(APPENDIX)

DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES 2020–2023

I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) shall¹:
 - (a) review the programme of work of the Organization in the field of fisheries and aquaculture and their implementation;
 - (b) conduct periodic general reviews of the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture and fishery problems of an international character and appraise such problems and their possible solution with a view to concerted action by nations, by FAO and by other intergovernmental bodies;
 - (c) review specific matters relating to fisheries and aquaculture referred to the Committee by the Council or the Director-General, or placed by the Committee on its agenda at the request of a Member Nation in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, and make recommendations as may be appropriate;
 - (d) consider the desirability of preparing and submitting to Member Nations an international convention under Article XIV of the Constitution to ensure effective international cooperation and consultation in fisheries and aquaculture on a world scale; and
 - (e) report to the Council or tender advice to the Director-General, as appropriate, on matters considered by the Committee.

II. RESULTS FOR 2020-2023

A. Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture

2. Result:

The Council, 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 Council and the Conference as a solid basis for its guidance and decision.

¹ Rule XXX.6, General Rules of the Organization

4. Output:

Clear, precise and consensual recommendations are favourably considered by the Council and the Conference for its recommendations and decisions.

5. Activities:

The Committee is informed of the current world situation in fisheries and aquaculture, including the report on the Status of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), and undertakes general discussions.

Specific issues of topical significance are addressed during the scheduled sessions.

6. Working methods:

SOFIA and the relevant documents are prepared with enough time in advance to the Session of the Committee, as a solid basis for discussion at the Committee.

B. Strategy and Priority Setting, and Budget Planning

7. Result:

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

8. Indicators and targets:

(a) The Committee further promotes the FAO's Questionnaire on Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) to solicit responses and reduce obstacles impeding responses.

(b) Members respond to the FAO Questionnaire on the implementation of the Code and provide the relevant information on fisheries and aquaculture for FAO via the Committee and its Sub-Committees.

(c) Clear and specific recommendations are made by the Committee to the Council regarding the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget for fisheries and aquaculture.

(d) The Committee's recommendations made on the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget are reflected in the Council Report.

9. Outputs:

The report of the Committee that provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the Council on sectoral strategies, priorities, programmes and budgets.

10. Activities:

(a) 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.

(b) Review advice from the Regional Conferences in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.

(c) Review the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

(d) Formulate recommendations on the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

11. Working methods:

(a) Close consultation with the Chairperson and other Bureau Members.

(b) Close collaboration with the relevant FAO Divisions, Centres and Offices.

- (c) Liaise with Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture and other statutory bodies.
- (d) Liaise with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters.
- (e) Liaise with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters.
- (f) Report the outcome of the Committee on the programme and budgetary matters to the Council appropriately.

C. Advise on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

12. Results

The Committee's decisions and recommendations provide a solid basis for the Conference's recommendations and decisions on global policy and regulatory matters.

13. Indicators and targets:

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

14. Output:

The report of the Committee that provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.

15. Activities:

- (a) Review the status of relevant international instruments in areas of competence for the Committee.
- (b) 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.

16. Working methods:

Report the outcome of the Committee on global policy and regulatory matters to the Conference appropriately.

III. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI

17. Result:

The Committee works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

18. Indicators and targets:

- (a) The focused agendas are appropriately elaborated.
- (b) All COFI documents, including SOFIA, are to be made available in all FAO languages at least four weeks before the session commences.
- (c) The sessions are conducted in efficient and effective manner.
- (d) MYPOW is appropriately implemented.

(e) Reports are concise and containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.

19. Outputs:

- (a) Focused agendas and concise reports containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.
- (b) Report published electronically and no longer as a formal Fisheries and Aquaculture Report.
- (c) COFI documents, including SOFIA, made available according to agreed schedules.
- (d) Progress reports on MYPOW and draft MYPOWs prepared and made available for the following four years.

20. Activities:

- (a) Formulate focused agendas in close consultation with the Bureau in a timely manner.
- (b) Prepare results-oriented COFI documents, including SOFIA, and make them available in a timely manner.
- (c) Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions more efficiently and effectively, including more efficient use of the time available.
- (d) Recognizing the importance and usefulness of side events, facilitate more focused and coordinated side events in line with key issues addressed in the main sessions.
- (e) Facilitate further coordination and collaboration with the Sub-Committees and other Technical Committees.
- (f) Pay continued attention to effective arrangements for drafting of the final reports.

IV. WORKING METHODS

21. 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.

22. It liaises with other international organizations active in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture.

23. 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 further strengthened.

24. It encourages and facilitates the participation of observers including civil society organizations.

25. The Chairperson liaises with FAO through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.