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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأمم المتحدة
للزراعة

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-fourth Session

1–5 February 2021

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Executive Summary

This information paper provides background information on the Provisional Agenda for the 34th Session of COFI.

1. Opening of the Session

- The Chairperson will call the Session to order. The Chairperson will inform delegates of the voting right of the European Union and its Member States on each Agenda Item (COFI/2020/Inf.18).
- After the opening remarks and an administrative report by the Chairperson on the inter-sessional consultation conducted by the Bureau, the Director-General of FAO or his Representative will inaugurate the Session (COFI/2020/Inf.3).

2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session

Procedural (COFI/2020/1, COFI/2020/Inf.4, COFI/2020/Inf.19). Additional matters to be discussed under Agenda item 17, Any Other Matters, should be proposed under this Agenda item.

3. Designation of Drafting Committee

Procedural.

4. Status, trends, emerging issues and innovative responses to ensure responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture: Building back better

- This Agenda Item is to combine the status of world fisheries and aquaculture and the progress in the implementation of the Code and related instruments, in order to respond innovatively to emerging issues in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Document (COFI/2020/2) provides a summary of the status, trends and emerging issues of world fisheries and aquaculture as emerging from the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020 (SOFIA 2020).
- Document (COFI/2020/2.2) provides the outcomes of the *International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability: Strengthening the Science-Policy Nexus*. A summary report of the International Symposium is available as COFI/2020/SBD.17
- Document (COFI/2020/2.1) will provide a summary of the analyses on the progress of implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and its related instruments, by FAO Members, regional fishery bodies (RFBs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), since the last report to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2018. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Code's adoption, a trend analysis on the implementation of the six core elements of the Code was also undertaken on the basis of all progress reports presented to COFI over the years.
- Detailed analysis of the outcome of the Code questionnaire and regional statistical analysis of responses to the questionnaire are available in relevant information paper (COFI/2020/Inf.7) and COFI/2020/SBD.4.
- Document (COFI/2020/Inf.3.1) presents the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative.
- Document (COFI/2020/Inf. 3.2) summarizes the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on fisheries and aquaculture.-

A High-level Special Event celebrating the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

- Document (COFI/2020/2.3) COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture will be tabled, after extensive consultation with Members.

- Statement from heads of Delegations are expected under this Agenda Item.

The Committee is invited to:

- endorse the COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture; and
- advise on possibilities for future support and extra-budgetary funding for the recommendations in the COFI Declaration, including through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (*COFI/2020/Inf.3.1*).

5. Decisions and recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Trondheim, Norway, 23-27 August 2019

- An overview of the topics discussed at the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and its main recommendations are reported in document (*COFI/2020/3*). The Report of the Session is available as a relevant information paper (*COFI/2020/Inf.9*).
- This Agenda Item also includes aquatic genetic resources and related issues (*COFI/2020/Inf.9.1*), the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in aquaculture (*COFI/2020/Inf.9.2*) as well as the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2020 (GCA2020) (*see Annex 3 of COFI/2020/3*).

6. Decisions and recommendations of the Seventeenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Vigo, Spain, 25-29 November 2019

- The relevant document (*COFI/2020/4*) contains highlights of the topics discussed at the Seventeenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI/FT/XVII) and summarizes its main recommendations. The Report of the Session is available as a relevant information paper (*COFI/2020/Inf.10*).
- This Agenda Item also includes information on fisheries subsidies in the World Trade Organization (WTO) discussions as well as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

7. Contributions of fisheries and aquaculture to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- This Agenda Item focuses on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and indicators under FAO custodianship. The relevant document is *COFI/2020/5*.
- The draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition (*COFI/2020/Inf.11.1*) and a Mid-term Review of UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (*COFI/2020/Inf.11.2*) are also addressed under this Agenda Item.

8. Supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries

- The relevant document (*COFI/2020/6*) summarizes achievements of FAO to support marine and inland small-scale and artisanal fisheries governance and development, and progress under the FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines

for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

- It further highlights the contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to food system transformation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as innovative efforts to improve technical capacities for data collection and analysis in small-scale fisheries.
- It presents preparations for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022.
- Relevant information papers are *COFI/2020/Inf.12*, *COFI/2020/Inf.12.1*, and *COFI/2020/Inf.12.2*. *COFI/2020/SBD.20* is also available.

9. **Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**

- Relevant document (*COFI/2020/7*) reports on FAO's contributions towards achieving Targets 14.4 and 14.6 of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)14 of the 2030 United Nations' Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aim to end illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing by 2020, respectively.
- The document provides an overview of progress on: (i) adherence to, and implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA); (ii) the outcomes of the second meeting of the Parties to the PSMA; (iii) activities related to FAO's Global Programme to support the implementation of the PSMA and complementary international instruments; (iv) the development and implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record); (v) the development of technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing; and (vi) negotiations regarding the prohibition of subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing.
- Results of the in-depth, global study on transshipment, and the outcomes and recommendations of the fourth FAO/IMO/ILO Working Group, are reported, and the role of 'regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in combatting IUU fishing are also presented. Finally, the status of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS) and related outcomes of the Seventeenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade are discussed. The relevant information paper (*COFI/2020/Inf.13*) and *COFI/2020/SBD.5*, *COFI/2020/SBD.9*, *COFI/2020/SBD.10*, *COFI/2020/SBD.11*, *COFI/2020/SBD.12* and *COFI/2020/SBD.21* are available.
- The activities on International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing (ID-IUU) will also be reported.

10. **Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture**

- The relevant document (*COFI/2020/8*) provides an overview of some of the major global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture governance that are implemented with the involvement and support of FAO. It describes the role that FAO plays as a key stakeholder and as the specialized UN entity working on fisheries and aquaculture issues.
- The paper highlights the importance of an adequate level of coordination among relevant organizations in order to achieve the targets set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and describes FAO's collaborative processes, and considers how these activities address the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions as key to achieving sustainable development. Relevant information paper (*COFI/2020/Inf.14*).
- Safety at sea and decent work in fisheries and aquaculture is addressed under this Agenda Item. Relevant information paper (*COFI/2020/Inf.14.1*).

- Relevant information paper on legal framework for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture (*COFI/2020/Inf.14.2*) is also available.

11. Addressing climate change and other environment-related matters in fisheries and aquaculture

- The relevant document (*COFI/2020/9*) provides an overview of the work carried out by FAO on climate change in relation to fisheries and aquaculture, as well as other environment-related matters, in particular abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, marine litter, anthropogenic underwater noise, and harmful algal blooms. The document reports on normative work in response to the Committee's recommendation to address these issues through direct support to Members with field projects, and through various means to contribute to relevant global processes.
- SDG Decade of Action and UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration are also addressed under this Agenda Item.
- Relevant information papers are *COFI/2020/Inf.15.2* and *COFI/2020/Inf.15.4*. *COFI/2020/SBD.6*, *COFI/2020/SBD.7*, *COFI/2020/SBD.8*, *COFI/2020/SBD.13*, *COFI/2020/SBD.14*, *COFI/2020/SBD.15*, *COFI/2020/SBD.16* and *COFI/2020/SBD.23* are also available.

11.1. Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across fisheries and aquaculture

- This Sub-Agenda Item focuses on all biodiversity related aspects including, Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM), bycatch and discards (including marine mammals) and aquatic genetic resources, in the context of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Draft 2021-23 Action Plan of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors is set out in the appendix of document *COFI/2020/9.1*.
- The relevant document is *COFI/2020/9.1*. The relevant information paper is *COFI/2020/Inf.15.3*. *COFI/2020/SBD.18* and *COFI/2020/SBD.19* are also available.

12. Enhancing COFI discussions on fisheries management: Proposal for a new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

- This Agenda Item provides the outcome of the inter-sessional consultation on this matter jointly made by the COFI Bureau and Secretariat and proposes to continue the consultation process regarding possible options for a new sub-committee, including the review of the current COFI process, in a more transparent manner and with wider participation, toward the 35th Session of COFI in 2022. The relevant documents (*COFI/2020/10*) and the minutes of the Joint Task Force (*COFI/2020/SBD.1*, *COFI/2020/SBD.2*, *COFI/2020/SBD.3* and *COFI/2020/SBD.22*) are available.

13. FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework

- The relevant document (*COFI/2020/11*) provides an overview of FAO's achievements in fisheries and aquaculture in the 2018-2019 biennium and a perspective on FAO's work in the fisheries and aquaculture sector during 2020-21, in the context of the Strategic Framework.

- This Agenda Item includes:
 - Priorities in the Programme of Work and Medium Term Plan including implication of the SDGs in FI programme;
 - The biennial theme, *Promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition*, endorsed by the 41st Conference in particular from a programme-oriented aspect;
 - Hand-in-hand Initiative (*COFI/2020/Inf.3.1*);
 - UN Food Systems Summit 2021;
 - Impact of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture (*COFI/2020/Inf.3.2*); and
 - Capacity development including coordination among donors.
- Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the Thirty-third Session of COFI (*COFI/2020/Inf.5*) and the Report of Thirty-third Session of COFI (*COFI/2020/Inf.6*) are also available for information.
- Consider opportunities for inclusion of fisheries and aquaculture in the FAO Strategic Framework.

13.1 Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture

- The relevant document is COFI/2020/Inf.3.3.

14. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee

- A progress report of MYPOW 2018-21 and a draft MYPOW 2020-2023 (*COFI/2020/12*) are available.
- This Agenda Item also includes collaboration with other Technical Committees.

15. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 35th Session of COFI

- The Committee is required to elect the office bearers for the 35th Session of COFI in accordance with Rule I (1) of its Rules of Procedure.

16. Date and place of the next Session

- The Committee is invited to decide the date and place of the 35th Session of COFI.

17. Other matters

17.1 Developments *in fora* of importance for the mandate of COFI: *for information*

- The relevant document (*COFI/2020/Inf.16*) informs the Committee of developments in other fora of importance in FAO, for the mandate of the Committee. It covers the decisions and recommendations by other Governing Bodies of FAO, such as the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conferences and other Technical Committees.

18. Adoption of the Report

Procedural.