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

31 May to 4 June 2021
Brussels, Belgium

Outcomes of the Second Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA

The Parties are invited to:

Note the outcomes of the second meeting of the Parties to the PSMA.
I. Introduction

1. The Second Meeting of the Parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing was held in Santiago, Chile, from 3-6 June 2019. This working document summarizes the outcomes of the meeting, including decisions taken by the Parties.

II. Outcomes of the Second Meeting of the Parties

2. Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties:

   a. The meeting noted that while the increase in the number of Parties is an important achievement, the effective implementation of the PSMA requires further uptake of the Agreement and called on those that have not yet adhered to the PSMA to do so.
   b. The meeting acknowledged challenges faced by Parties in effectively implementing the Agreement, in particular developing States Parties, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS); and that the challenges faced by Parties are diverse and therefore require specific measures in order for them to be addressed appropriately.
   c. The meeting noted that there has been progress in implementation of port State measures in RFMOs and Parties were encouraged to promote the further adoption of port State measures in RFMOs where they do not already exist. In addition, Parties were urged to promote the alignment of existing RFMO measures with the minimum standards of the Agreement, ensuring their implementation, monitoring and compliance.

   a. The Parties adopted the pilot PSMA Applications for Designated Ports and Contact Points (PSMA-App) developed by FAO. The meeting called for Parties that have not uploaded information on designated ports and national contact points to do so. Observers States were invited to upload information on national contact points to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement.
   b. With respect to the global information exchange system (GIES), the Parties requested FAO to:
      i. develop a prototype for the global information exchange system by the next meeting of the Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE), expressing their preference for a GIES as an integrated system using a modular and phased implementation approach;
      ii. provide additional details to the Parties on the outcomes of the GIES feasibility study, including development costs, running costs, language and data protection related issues, timeframe and work programme on implementation to be discussed at the next meeting of the TWG-IE.
   c. The Parties encouraged FAO to thoroughly test the GIES prototype in a number of regions to ensure that Parties with different circumstances are able to assess its feasibility and limit the burden.
   d. The Parties agreed that:
      i. The GIES should be operational as soon as possible. In particular to satisfy the requirements of the PSMA, the ability to securely share law enforcement sensitive inspection results and information on denial of port entry should be completed as a first step as soon as possible;
ii. Active participation by States can be an important element to maximise the potential of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels to support the functioning of the GIES.

5. Requirements of developing States.

a. The Parties adopted the Terms of Reference of the Funding Mechanisms under Part 6 of the Agreement.

b. The Parties encouraged FAO to continue work on the development of the capacity development portal to ensure the efficient use of the resources available and avoid duplication of efforts.

c. The meeting reiterated the need to:

i. continue building on the support initiated in many developing States Parties and non-parties, and to initiate support in those that may not have received support as of yet;

ii. continue to engage in comprehensive assistance matching the needs of developing States with focus on policy and legislation, operations and monitoring, control and surveillance, institutional set-up and capacity, as well as appropriate training;

iii. Continue work on awareness-raising on IUU fishing, and the mechanisms available to combat it.

d. The Parties recognized:

i. the importance of various options of the funding mechanisms, including the trust fund(s) to support the purposes listed in paragraph 17 of the Terms of Reference, and in particular, the direct links with the FAO Global Capacity Development Programme to support the implementation of the Agreement and complementary instruments to combat IUU fishing;

ii. the value of not only financial contributions, but also cooperation to provide technical assistance and share best practices. Parties also recognized the important efforts made outside of the framework of the PSMA Assistance Fund, but that were in support of Article 21 of the Agreement, notably bilateral and multilateral technical and financial assistance by a number of Parties, as well as support through regional fisheries management organizations and other regional fisheries bodies.

6. Monitoring, review and assessment of the implementation of the Agreement.

a. The Parties adopted the questionnaire for the review and assessment of the effectiveness of the Agreement.

b. The Parties agreed that the questionnaire should be launched during the first week of June 2020, and left open for response until 1 September 2020. In addition, the Parties requested that the Secretariat invites regional fishery bodies (RFBs) to provide information on their implementation of the Agreement.

c. The Parties noted that the questionnaire is an initial tool to be used in the process to monitor and review the effectiveness of the Agreement and may be amended and adapted according to the needs identified by the Parties.