

FAO Support to Fisheries Strategy Note

1. Analysis of needs and FAO's comparative advantages:

Needs: Fish and fishery products will remain, in the foreseeable future, an important source of food and proteins as well as of income through production and trade. The fisheries sector will continue to play thus an important role in human nutrition, in the fight against hunger and poverty and to fill a need that cannot be filled by other sectors. It is expected that the demand for fish and fish products will continue to grow as a consequence not only of the demographic increase in the population worldwide but also of economic growth. Correspondingly, there will be an increased need for an effective management and conservation of these resources. It will be essential to ensure the sustainable use of the wild stocks that are exploited by capture fisheries, in the seas and oceans as well as in rivers and lakes. As these stocks are reaching their limits in terms of production, aquaculture is expected to respond to the growing demand. A responsible and orderly development of aquaculture, on land and in the marine environment, is therefore a great and complex challenge that will have to be addressed during the forthcoming years. Both for fisheries and aquaculture, there is a considerable need for normative and regulatory action at a global, regional and national level as well as for assistance, capacity building and an integrated approach with related sectors, issues and institutions.

General comparative advantages: technical expertise and experience, multidisciplinary staff with wide geographic representation, importance of knowledge store; recognition as an impartial authoritative body and a facilitator for issue solving and possible conflict prevention; width and depth of contacts with members and other stakeholders.

Specific comparative advantages:

- At the institutional level, and as recognized by the IEE Report, FAO is the only global intergovernmental organisation expressly competent to deal specifically and in a comprehensive and integrative manner with fisheries and aquaculture. No other forum has a similar mandate. This is illustrated i.a. by the work of its Committee on Fisheries (COFI) –with its two Subcommittees on Trade and Aquaculture.
- At the normative level, the unique comparative advantage provided by the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as the sole overarching instrument providing guidance for all activities concerning fisheries and aquaculture, from the water to the plate, and by the fact that FAO is institutionally responsible for the development and promotion of the implementation of the Code and its related instruments, such as International Plans of Action (IPOAs), international Or technical guidelines and binding agreements, some of which have already been adopted whilst others must still be developed.

2. Overall vision and major objectives:

Within the framework of the three current Global Goals of Members, but also in full consistency with the goals of the international community as defined in instruments such as the Johannesburg WSSD Plan of Implementation and the Resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly on Sustainable Fisheries¹, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has been developing a strategy with the following overall vision:

Responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, making an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation.

¹ For instance, Resolution 62/177, which recognizes, among others, "the urgent need for action at all levels to ensure the long-term sustainable use and management of fisheries resources through the wide application of the precautionary approach".

This vision leads to an overarching objective on fisheries and aquaculture, which is expressed in the mission statement:

Strengthen global governance, the managerial and technical capacities of members, and lead consensus building towards improved conservation and utilization of aquatic resources.

Within this vision and this overarching objective, 4 long-term objectives were identified:

Objective 1: FAO as a Global Reference for Responsible Fisheries & Aquaculture

Objective 2: Optimal Performance through an Enabling Environment

Objective 3: Empowerment through Effective Instruments & Processes

Objective 4: Optimizing Synergies & Outreach

3. Expected main outcomes and beneficiaries

<p>Strengthening national and international policy development and implementation and improving the access to information</p>	<p><u>Global agenda setting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increased awareness & recognition of the role of fisheries and aquaculture (poverty alleviation and food security) and improvement of the status of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. • Inclusion of fisheries and aquaculture in present and future international instruments which reflect and give material expression to the global development agenda <p><u>Promotion of national and international instruments and policy development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced sustainable development of aquatic resources at national, regional and global levels, through the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and IPOAs at national, regional, and global levels and through the development and implementation of additional and complementary instruments. • Establishment of common standards, building consensus and international understandings by being a neutral forum • Provision of assistance to member countries to facilitate the formulation and implementation of fisheries and aquaculture policies and strategies leading to improvement of human welfare • Active participation in global and national fisheries and aquaculture policy development <p><u>Data collection and analysis; information/communication and documentation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased recognition and accessibility of FAO as a centre of excellence for efficient collection, analysis and dissemination of high quality information and studies on fisheries and aquaculture and as the authoritative sources of fisheries-related knowledge; easier access to information for all members and other stakeholders; outputs responding to their needs, expectations and demands
<p>Facilitating effective management and responsible use of aquatic resources in an ecosystem context and enhancing the well-being of all stakeholders involved in the production and utilization of aquatic resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced capacity of Members and stakeholders to responsibly manage living aquatic resources and achieve their optimal utilisation; • Active implementation of the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries and aquaculture in a significant number of countries; • Progress made towards sustainable production and utilization and equitable distribution of all derived benefits of aquatic resources

4. Implementation issues:

<p>Effective participation in international fora and creation of worldwide recognized frameworks and tools to achieve responsible production and utilization</p>	<p><u>Institutional strengthening:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved efficiency of FAO, COFI and Regional Fisheries Bodies as demonstrated in a series of indicators <p>Involvement of Regional Offices and FAO Representations in all stages of FI activities (from information gathering to decision making to implementation)</p> <p><u>Networking:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of networks with entities (internal as well as external) and individuals • Identification and monitoring of relevant fora and participation in their activities as appropriate.
<p>Improving the mobilisation of resources as well as of the overall performance by creating a more inspiring and enabling environment and building synergistic relations</p>	<p><u>Resources mobilization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved mobilization of extra budgetary resources at their integration in the regular programme <p><u>Optimal performance through an enabling and inspirational environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more efficient use of human and financial resources through priority setting and selectivity; outstanding staff performance and efficient delivery actively encouraged. • Planned teamwork and a sense of programme ownership that motivates and rewards staff • Effective internal and external collaboration for improved planning, participation and decision makings <p><u>Strengthening in the efficiency, value and outreach of the work of the Organisation in fisheries and aquaculture by creating synergistic partnerships with all relevant IGOs and NGOs (consistent with the recommendation contained in the IEE report on the promotion of partnerships).</u></p>