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PROGRESS BY FAO AND PARTNERS CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES SINCE THE THIRTY- SECOND SESSION OF COFI IN 2016

Executive Summary

This Information Paper provides additional information in support of the document COFI/2018/7 on Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries Governance by giving additional examples of activities and achievements by FAO, governments, small-scale fisheries actors and other partners in the context of implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) since the Committee's Thirty-second Session in 2016. This paper also draws attention to the need for continued extra-budgetary funding 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* (FAO SSF Umbrella Programme) in order to support FAO's role in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Small-scale fisheries, encompassing all activities along the value chain – pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest – in both marine and inland waters, play an important role in food security and nutrition, and provide an opportunity for poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization. Small-scale fisheries contribute about half of global fish catches and employ more than 90 percent of the world's capture fishers and fish workers, about half of whom are women. However, small-scale fisheries tend to be inadequately addressed, both with regard to resource management and from a broader social and economic development perspective. The SSF Guidelines, endorsed by the Thirty-first Session of the Committee in 2014, were developed in a participatory way to address this situation¹.

2. Implementing the SSF Guidelines at the national and local levels, with support from global and regional policy and strategic processes, will enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security, poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods. Mainly by means of the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme, FAO in collaboration - with its Members, regional organizations and other partners - is supporting efforts to mainstream and implement the SSF Guidelines.

3. The FAO SSF Umbrella Programme serves a critical function in creating synergies, strengthening partnerships and generating added value by integrating the principles of the SSF Guidelines in policies and strategies as well as in existing and planned initiatives of governments and partners at global, regional, and national level. It supports the development of tools and capacities necessary for implementation at the local and national levels. The FAO SSF Umbrella Programme is also instrumental in enabling FAO to support regional policy processes, which are important as a basis for national SSF Guidelines implementation and impact at local level. Targeting the regional level has been a strategic decision with a view to maximize impact utilizing the resources available and FAO's comparative advantages.

4. In addition to small-scale fisheries actors' organizations, including supporting civil society organizations, who have been key in the development of the SSF Guidelines, other partners have, over time, become more active in supporting sustainable small-scale fisheries and in promoting and using the SSF Guidelines to guide their investments and initiatives. These include bilateral donors, NGOs, intergovernmental and UN organizations as well as foundations.

5. The activities and achievements highlighted in this document are organized according to the four interrelated components of the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme:

- Awareness raising: knowledge products and outreach
- Strengthening the science-policy interface: sharing of knowledge and supporting policy reform
- Empowering stakeholders: capacity development and institutional strengthening, and
- Supporting implementation: programme management, collaboration and monitoring.

6. The document does not claim to contain an exhaustive list of achievements, but provides key examples. Appendix 1 contains a bibliography with relevant publications and material.

¹ The importance of small-scale fisheries as a contributor to food security, nutrition and livelihoods, the challenges the sector is facing and the background to the SSF Guidelines have been reported on in previous COFI documents, see, for example, COFI/2011/8 (www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/021/k9674E.pdf) and COFI/2014/3 (www.fao.org/cofi/23150-06f3fe142a720e59e7e957ad95a0f916a.pdf).

II. COMPONENT 1: RAISING AWARENESS - KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND OUTREACH

7. It is crucial that governments and relevant stakeholders are aware of and understand the principles and provisions of the SSF Guidelines if they are to apply them in their work. Accordingly, FAO has invested in increasing awareness of governments and other stakeholders at global, regional and national levels on the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty eradication and on why and how the principles and provisions of the SSF Guidelines should be applied in small-scale fisheries governance and development. This awareness raising has included the organization of specific meetings and workshops, as well as engaging in global policy processes through the participation in conferences and events organized by partners. There have also been considerable efforts invested in the development and dissemination of guidance and communication products.

8. Examples of engagement in global policy processes and related international gatherings through the FAO SSF Umbrella programme – generally in collaboration with small-scale fisheries actors and partners – include events organized in 2017 by the United Nations (UN Ocean Conference), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), World Trade Organization (WTO), Committee on World Food Security (CFS), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Chatham House, Oak Foundation and Duke University. These engagements have drawn the attention to small-scale fisheries and, the need for effective participation of small-scale fisheries actors in decision-making processes that concern their lives and livelihoods, and have contributed to a stronger alignment of policies and strategies with the SSF Guidelines.

9. With support from partners, the SSF Guidelines have been translated into 20 languages, including the six official languages of the UN. A number of communication products have also been developed, such as videos² and a new SSF Guidelines webpage. Advice and sharing of good practices and experiences are needed across all aspects of the SSF Guidelines but perhaps even more so in relation to the social dimensions and the fundamental principles based on international human rights standards, which are topics that are not conventionally dealt with by fisheries administrations and others involved in fisheries governance. Outputs of the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme include:

- The organization of a *Workshop on exploring the human rights-based approach (HRBA) in the context of implementation and monitoring of the SSF Guidelines* (FAO, Rome, October 2016). As a follow-up, an information note on the relationship between the governance of small-scale fisheries and the realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been published in collaboration with the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and other FAO divisions. In addition, side events on ‘Joining forces for sustainable small-scale fisheries through a human rights-based approach to ocean conservation’ at the UN Ocean Conference and on ‘SDGs and small-scale fisheries: meeting commitments and realizing the right to adequate food’ at the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) were organized with partners in 2017.
- The participatory development of a *Handbook on gender-equitable small-scale fisheries development and governance* that provides practical examples of the relevant content of the SSF Guidelines to support their implementation. The handbook is currently available in

² For example www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqC9Bef-IwE (also in French, Spanish and Portuguese); www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOiH6vEn03Q; www.youtube.com/watch?v=UASHm18Dorw; www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6_E5Hti4PE; www.youtube.com/watch?v=xa-0jORA_5s; www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqnBCRPZsMo; www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpBP59xwX8I; www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVcN8EHEzA8; www.youtube.com/watch?v=d51WUZT1Uks; www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DjbZWHIBgM; www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQbP8nuBksE; www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY6sA0MF2Os; <https://vimeo.com/157599801>; www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoRApPeIePw; www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECq2PyVsuYc; www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7CJAU0zIMw

English and French. An animated video on chapter 8 of the SSF Guidelines on gender quality has been produced and is available online³.

- A guide on how to legislate in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines will be finalized in 2018 under the lead of the FAO Legal Department.
- *A Practical Guide to the Implementation of Chapter 9 of the SSF Guidelines (Disaster Risks and Climate Change): Building Resilience for SSF Communities* has been prepared, as well as a video⁴ on lessons learned from cyclone Ockhi in India.
- The development of a roadmap as a user-friendly simple tool that helps countries initiate implementation of the SSF Guidelines, and related tools, is underway.

10. New information and communications technologies (ICTs) are increasingly being used across the fisheries sector, for navigation and location finding, mobile phones for trading, information exchange and emergencies, radio programming with fishing communities and web-based information and networking resources. Responsible use of ICTs can contribute constructively both to livelihoods enhancement and poverty reduction in fishing communities. Accordingly, FAO and the Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) works closely with WorldFish to provide an overview of the state of the art in ICT relevant to small-scale fisheries in Asia and allow for APFIC countries to share their experiences in implementing such technologies.

III. COMPONENT 2: STRENGTHENING THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE – SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORTING POLICY REFORM

11. It is necessary for national and regional policies to incorporate the principles and provisions of the SSF Guidelines to achieve the full potential of small-scale fisheries to contribute to food security and poverty eradication. To inform such policy processes, knowledge and information are needed. Appropriate and accurate information is also needed to create a basis for decision-making with regard to political attention to and investments in the small-scale fisheries sector. Accordingly, the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme supports improving the knowledge available on small-scale fisheries and also aims at providing technical assistance to support governments and stakeholders at the regional and national levels in converting the improved knowledge into policies and action. Some examples include:

- Work has been initiated to revisit and update the 2012 *Hidden Harvest: the global contribution of capture fisheries* (published by the World Bank in collaboration with FAO and WorldFish) to provide a comprehensive and authoritative baseline on the role and contribution of small-scale fisheries. This work – a Hidden Harvest 2 (HH2) – is being carried out in collaboration with WorldFish and Duke University and it is expected to be completed in 2020 based on the compilation and analysis of existing data at the global level, as well as case studies at the national and regional levels. This work is described more in detail in the document COFI/2018/Inf.18.
- FAO Technical Paper on *Marine protected areas: interactions with fishery livelihoods and food security*. The document draws on contributions and presentations made at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia, in 2014 where FAO participated in events related to small-scale fisheries and the SSF Guidelines and discusses the challenges and opportunities of marine protected areas (MPA) for small-scale fisheries, livelihoods and food security.
- Seven case studies have been commissioned that examine good practices of SSF Guidelines implementation in different parts of the world and in relation to different thematic areas of the SSF Guidelines. The case studies promote increased interaction between research and fishing

³ STILL BEING FINALIZED, WILL ADD LINK LATER

⁴ STILL BEING FINALIZED, WILL ADD LINK LATER

communities, including the use of traditional knowledge and participatory research. The results of the case studies will be published in an FAO Technical Paper that can be distributed and presented widely to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

12. FAO is continuing to collaborate with research partners in the context of SSF Guidelines implementation. Through collaboration with the Too Big to Ignore Research (TBTI⁵) network, a book on SSF Guidelines implementation has been published. This book, *The Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global implementation*, gathers experiences and suggestions to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in 34 chapters. The TBTI is also organizing the 3rd World Small-scale Fisheries Congress in Thailand on 22-26 October 2018. The FAO SSF Umbrella Programme will facilitate participation of policy makers, small-scale fisheries actors and early career researchers from developing countries to participate in the sharing of up-to-date information about all aspects of small-scale fisheries and the formulation of action plans and capacity development programmes to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Moreover, FAO and WorldFish intend to sign an MoU that will cover, among other things, continued collaboration on small-scale fisheries and implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

13. With regard to support to regional policy processes, in 2015-2016, FAO conducted a series of six regional workshops in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Africa, North Africa and the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region to support awareness raising and SSF Guidelines implementation planning. Some 65 FAO Members participated in these workshops with small-scale fisheries actor representatives and civil society organizations, academia, as well as regional and international organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders. Building on the results of these workshops, the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme has continued to provide technical support to regional organizations and their policy processes to strengthen their role and capacity as catalysts and platforms to support member countries in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. There are also a number of initiatives directly by regional organizations and examples of policy processes with focus on the SSF Guidelines include:

- In the Caribbean, a participatory process is ongoing to formulate a protocol to formally incorporate the SSF Guidelines into the *Caribbean Community Common Fisheries (CRFM)* policy, thus enabling all Caribbean fisheries stakeholders to implement them within a common policy. The participatory process, that includes capacity development, is a collaborative effort among academic institutions, fishing industry organizations, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to advance and monitor the progress of implementation.
- The *Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)* conducted its first survey on small-scale fisheries and the results will underpin further work on small-scale fisheries in the region.
- In Latin America, the *Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA)* has integrated the SSF Guidelines in its 2015-25 strategy and established an artisanal fisheries working group. OSPESCA also released an edition of the SSF Guidelines featuring an additional foreword by OSPESCA Regional Director. Moreover, a “model law on small-scale fisheries” has been developed by the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) with FAO’s assistance.
- In Western Africa, the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) artisanal fisheries working group has revised its TORs which now include the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and a meeting is planned in 2018, combined with a regional workshop, to support awareness raising and SSF Guidelines implementation planning.

⁵ The Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) is a global research network and knowledge mobilization partnership that focuses on addressing issues affecting the sustainability of small-scale fisheries. TBTI comprises 400 researchers and 20 organizations from 45 countries. The network is organized into 14 research clusters. Through the clusters, TBTI conducts in-depth, transdisciplinary research, aiming to improve understanding of various aspects of small-scale fisheries around the world.

- The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) supports the implementation of the Mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, which includes a target (No 2) on “Support livelihoods for coastal communities through sustainable small-scale fisheries” and a specific output (no 2.2) dedicated to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. A GFCM working group on small-scale fisheries has been established and the group had its first meeting in September 2017. A ministerial conference on small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea will be organized on 26 September 2018 in Malta and a draft Regional Plan of Action on small-scale fisheries, based on the SSF Guidelines, is under preparation for adoption at this conference.
- In Southeast Asia, the *Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)* is in the process of developing a regional approach on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In addition to more general consultations on the regional approach, SEAFDEC organized an experts workshop on the human rights-based approach and gender-equitability in this context in September 2017.
- FAO, together with WorldFish and the *Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)*, is preparing a document on linkages between Pacific Island and global policies supporting small-scale fisheries with a view to inform future activities in this context in the Pacific.

14. In the context of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats’ Network (RSN) Newsletter reports specifically on small-scale fisheries activities. Small-scale fisheries have also been given attention at recent the RSN meetings.

15. At the national level, several Members have taken the initiative to move towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. FAO has provided support as and when needed in reply to requests. Examples of national SSF Guidelines implementation processes include:

- *Cambodia*: A review of the existing regulatory framework to assess how well it aligns with key aspects of the SSF Guidelines has been developed, as well as a participatory assessment of 16 Community Fisheries (CFis). Pilot projects are being implemented in those CFis.
- *Costa Rica*: A draft law on small-scale fisheries has been finalized. An agreement for a follow-up phase to support the approval process of the law as well as to further strengthen communities, inter-institutional mechanisms and regional experience sharing within the context of OSPESCA is being finalized. To complement this, civil society organizations continue to work in communities, including in relation to improving market access for small-scale fisheries products.
- *Ecuador*: A national workshop to formulate a government and fisheries sector roadmap towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines has been held and its implementation is currently underway.
- *Guinea*: Based on the commitment by the *African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Professional Organizations (CAOPA)* at the Our Oceans conference in October 2017 in Malta, work towards a National Plan of Action (NPOA) in Guinea has been initiated through the organization of consultative workshop in 11-12 January 2018.
- *Peru*: A workshop to formulate a joint government/small-scale fisheries sector roadmap for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, giving emphasis to gender issues, was held at the request of the Vice-ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- *Sri Lanka*: a small-scale fisheries forum has been created consisting of academics, researchers, state actors, civil society organizations and community based organizations. This forum is expected to take a lead role in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- *Tanzania*: The development of a NPOA for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines is coordinated through a National Task Team and will include, among other things, the establishment of a gender desk at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and support to the organization of women fish processors and traders. An inception workshop was held in February 2018.

IV. COMPONENT 3: EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS – CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

16. Institutional mechanisms and informed, capable stakeholders are necessary for participatory implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The FAO SSF Umbrella Programme supports improved technical and organizational capacities of governments and stakeholders at the local, national and regional level. FAO collaborates in particular with the members of the IPC Fisheries Working Group⁶ through regular consultations with their representatives on issues related to the implementation of the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme and more broadly on the SSF Guidelines implementation. With funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the IPC Working Group members have organized a series of national and regional events for their members to discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and empower their members to take action. Collaboration is also ongoing with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), an international non-governmental organization that was actively involved in the development of the SSF Guidelines and continues to be an important partner in the implementation process.

17. With regard to training programmes directed at governments, initiatives include FAO's current engagement with, among others, the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (Wageningen University and Research – WUR, the Netherlands) on fisheries governance courses, and the TBTI interdisciplinary training course initiative. In this context, a Fisheries Emergency Rapid Assessment Tool (FERAT) for responding to emergencies in inland fisheries has been developed. Furthermore, training on fishery and aquaculture response in emergencies (FARE) has been conducted in the Caribbean.

18. Current initiatives aiming at strengthening small-scale fisheries organizations and their capacities include:

- In Central America, *the Fondo para el desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y El Caribe (Latin American Fund for Indigenous Peoples Development-FILAC)* delivered a capacity development course for Indigenous Peoples on the SSF Guidelines in Panama in August 2017. Follow-up activities in the region are being developed, including the preparation of a guide for Indigenous Peoples in Central America on the SSF Guidelines as tool for empowerment and support to the establishment of a regional network of Indigenous Peoples on small-scale fisheries.
- In the Caribbean, a new Global Environment Facility (GEF) project called Stewardfish will seek to strengthen fisher organizations so that they become more active in decision-making. The FAO SSF Umbrella Programme will facilitate support to the project by the IPC Fisheries Working Group and ICSF.
- Within the context of the FMM project “Enable women to benefit more equally from agri-food value chains”, awareness raising on the SSF Guidelines in selected African countries has taken place and national workshops with a focus on chapters 6-8 of the SSF Guidelines targeting, in particular, women in Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana and Tunisia, took place between May and August 2017. A regional workshop in Ghana of the network of fish safety, technology, quality and socio-economics in Africa in November 2017 pulled together key experiences from the national level work and country-specific guides have been drafted and are being finalized for publishing. In Burkina Faso, arrangements for follow-up activities have been made to explore value-addition options for small-scale fisheries products.

⁶ The IPC Fisheries Working Group represents CSOs that have been engaged in the SSF Guidelines process since the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2008, and now works closely with FAO on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

19. A specific example, also within the framework of the FMM project, where support to a small-scale producer organization has yielded tangible results is the clam fishery in Tunisia. Women clam collectors were endowed with stronger bargaining power; advocacy at the policy level triggered more transparent marketing transactions; and a fair trade agreement was established between an association of women clam collectors, a clam depuration and export establishment and an international importer. This agreement has allowed the women clam collectors to gain more predictability and security with regard to prices and their income.

20. There are several initiatives currently being designed for mapping small-scale fisheries organizations, assessing their needs and providing support and the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme collaborates with partners in this respect. This includes work by the Duke University with support from the Oak Foundation to co-design with key small-scale fisheries organizations a global inventory and mapping of the world's small-scale fisheries organizations and carry out a participatory capacity needs assessment.

21. In 2017, within the framework of the FMM project "Increase the use of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) among CSOs and grassroots organizations", the learning guide "Putting the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure into practice: A learning guide for civil society organizations" was adapted to create learning material tailored to small-scale fisheries for efforts to bridge the VGGT and SSF Guidelines. This learning material was co-developed by FAO and the IPC Fisheries Working Group and piloted in Indonesia with around 50 representatives of small-scale fisheries organizations. A High Level Dialogue with the Minister for Marine Affairs and Fisheries was also organized to present the results of the training and discuss concerns and issues faced by small-scale fishers. Training activities are now also planned in eight other countries: Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, Honduras, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda. Moreover, a Global Stocktaking Meeting will be organized for the organizations leading the training workshops in all the targeted countries, in order to get feedback from the different parties involved in the training workshops, and to discuss about the lessons learned, the possible improvements of the Learning Guide and the way forward.

V. COMPONENT 4: SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION: PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT, COLLABORATION AND MONITORING

22. The implementation of the SSF Guidelines benefits from coordination, dissemination of lessons learnt and progress monitoring that also promotes experience sharing. There are two main streams of work being supported by the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme in this respect: the development of the SSF Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) as a partnership mechanism to support SSF Guidelines implementation, and monitoring of progress toward securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

23. In line with the 2016 Committee recommendations, the development of a SSF-GSF as a complementary mechanism to the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme in support of the effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines implementation is continuing. The SSF-GSF will represent a partnership mechanism that aims for coherent implementation approaches, development of synergies, common advocacy and resource mobilization efforts, as well as experience sharing. Moreover, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines progress monitoring and experience sharing are likely to be important components of the SSF-GSF, including in relation to monitoring of the achievement of the SDGs, in particular SDG 14, target 14b.

24. The SSF-GSF is a multi-stakeholder framework and while not having any formal constitutional or legal standing, it will promote participation of small-scale fisheries actors - in collaboration with government representatives - in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines by providing a forum for their involvement at the global level. It will have an advisory and facilitative

role and its activities will be reported to Committee. A draft of the SSF-GSF, developed together with the Fisheries Working Group of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), has been presented to the COFI Bureau in 2017.⁷

25. The proposed structure of the SSF-GSF includes an Advisory Group, a Friends of the SSF Guidelines group, a Knowledge Sharing Platform and a Secretariat:

- The Advisory Group is composed of two representatives from each global small-scale fisheries organization and other relevant constituencies to be identified through a consultative process and in a participatory manner, e.g., indigenous peoples (working directly in the small-scale fisheries sector) and rural workers, and following criteria of gender and regional balance.
- The Friends of the SSF Guidelines will be COFI Members participating on a voluntary basis. The Friends of the SSF Guidelines will receive advice from the Advisory Group and shall provide programmatic advice and guidance, including on future priorities, of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines to FAO and other interested actors.
- Other actors (e.g. academia, research institutes, regional organizations, and NGOs) will form the Knowledge Sharing Platform and support the achievement of the objectives of the SSF-GSF and in particular generate knowledge and support capacity development. They will support the Friends of the SSF Guidelines and the Advisory Group with research, communication, capacity development, resource mobilization and other relevant activities.
- An FAO secretariat will facilitate the work of the SSF-GSF and regularly consult with Advisory group's representatives in this context. The FAO secretariat will prepare a summary of SSF-GSF activities for consideration by COFI at its regular sessions.

26. Work has started towards guidance on monitoring of improvements in small-scale fisheries and of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Such a monitoring system should also provide information that helps guide future implementation efforts and it should create learning, promote exchanges of experiences and support identification of good practices. A background/scoping study has been commissioned to identify existing monitoring systems and indicators that could be of relevance, paying particular attention to the SDGs. A multi-stakeholder workshop to work *Towards a global system for monitoring progress on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines* took place in September 2017 at the Bellagio Center of the Rockefeller Foundation at Lake Como, Italy. Follow-up activities include the testing of indicators in the Caribbean region and the gathering of additional inputs from small-scale fisheries organizations.

27. A related global governance framework is the Agenda 2030. In particular, FAO, as custodian agency for SDG indicator 14.b.1 - Progress by countries in adopting and implementing a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries supports countries in working towards achieving SDG 14b and reporting on its progress. The indicator is a composite indicator based on three questions of the FAO CCRF questionnaire. FAO encourages and supports countries in ensuring participatory and meaningful reporting processes in this context (see COFI/2018/9).

28. FAO SSF Umbrella Programme management is under the overall responsibility of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department SSF Task Force. This Task Force consists of Fisheries and Aquaculture Department technical officers. There is also a Technical Network on Small-Scale Fisheries that includes staff from other FAO departments and the regional/subregional offices concerned by the Programme.

⁷ This draft is attached in Appendix 2.

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

29. Since the Committee's Thirty-second Session in 2016, there has been a considerable increase in the interest in small-scale fisheries and in supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines among FAO members, regional organizations, donors and other development partners, and on behalf of stakeholders in general. In total, during the last four years some 4 000 copies of the SSF Guidelines document, in several different languages, have been distributed and FAO continues to receive requests for materials, as well as for technical support. The intensive awareness raising efforts that have taken place since the endorsement of the SSF Guidelines in 2014 are paying off. However, the efforts need to continue and in particular, there needs to be more action on the ground where real change and impact will be generated.

30. Local level implementation will continue to require support by national, regional and global initiatives and processes. FAO plays a facilitating and catalytic role at all levels, but its comparative advantage lies with its convening power and ability to identify, develop, analyse and share methods and good practices. Hence, the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme is expected to continue to play a critical role and to contribute to the enabling environment needed for creating in-country impact and change on the ground through policy support, capacity development, exploring good practices and support to national initiatives.

31. FAO Members are encouraged to initiate national level implementation in collaboration with small-scale fisheries actors and to work with FAO and other partners to improve the livelihoods of the many millions of people in coastal and inland areas that are dependent on small-scale fisheries and the income and nutrition they provide. FAO continues to receive requests from Members and organizations for technical and other support to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and additional extra-budgetary funding will be required to respond to such requests. Resource partners are hence encouraged to also support the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme.

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FAO video on the SSF Guidelines: www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQH3UqDiy2k

Video on an Africa Regional Capacity Building Workshop for the Implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines, organized by the CSOs in 2016: https://vimeo.com/209381532?utm_source=email&utm_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm_campaign=28749

Video by WFFP-WFF-ICSF-IPC (funded under their IFAD project for dissemination of information on SSF Guidelines): www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqC9Bef-IwE (also available in French and Spanish).

FAO videos on Directrices para sostenibilidad de pesca en pequeña escala en Costa Rica: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdWq5eKA2No and www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0YCgTSFZSU

FAO's sub-regional office in the Pacific, a video on coastal fisheries in the Pacific and co-management: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHCwrMNHnhk

GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) video on Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: www.youtube.com/watch?v=kR5QVKzvLtQ

GFCM video on the regional conference "Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea" held in Algiers on 7-9 March 2016: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFuYK6l-8vo

Reports on the CSO led consultations for the development of the SSF Guidelines (WFF, WFFP, ICSF and IPC): <https://sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/>. There is also an ICSF webpage on Human Rights and Fisheries (<https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/human-rights-and-fisheries-1>).

APPENDIX 2: Note for the COFI Bureau on SSF-GSF

Note for the COFI Bureau meeting on 20 April 2017

Update on the progress of the development of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF)

Context

In 2016, the FAO Committee on Fisheries welcomed the development of an FAO SSF Umbrella Assistance Programme and agreed on the need for a complementary mechanism in the form of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) to be developed with the full and effective participation of all regions and in consultation with all small-scale fisheries stakeholders. The Committee also invited FAO to further spell out the purpose, role and structure of the SSF-GSF, stressing its function in relation to information and experience-sharing, and in promoting an inclusive and holistic approach. The Committee also suggested exploring the role of the SSF-GSF in relation to monitoring the progress of achieving the relevant SDG targets, while recognizing that the responsibility of SDG reporting lies with the countries.

In this regard, in close collaboration with the IPC Fisheries Working Group, the following zero draft for such a Global Strategic Framework (GSF) in Support of the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) was prepared. It is not intended to establish a new organ of FAO, nor interfere with the normal processes of FAO. This is a multi-stakeholder framework with no formal constitutional/legal standing. The SSF-GSF does not have any decision-making authority, its role is advisory and facilitative.

The COFI Bureau is invited to share this zero draft with its members for feedback and guidance for further development, and to share comments during the COFI Bureau meeting on 20 April 2017.

Global Strategic Framework (GSF) in Support of the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) – Zero Draft

Vision and objective

The vision for the SSF-GSF is to provide a global mechanism for facilitating interaction between COFI Members and interested actors to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at all levels, and to promote a common vision and implementation approach, which is based on the principles of the SSF Guidelines themselves. The SSF-GSF is established in light of the endorsement of COFI of the need for a mechanism complementary to the FAO SSF Umbrella Assistance Programme. It will operate within the framework of FAO and in alignment with its rules and policies.

The objectives of the SSF-GSF are to:

- 1) Support the outcomes of the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme and other FAO activities in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines,
- 2) Guide and inform activities and initiatives by other interested parties in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and other projects promoting the SSF Guidelines implementation.

In order to achieve the objective, key core tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Awareness-raising on the SSF Guidelines,
- Promotion of a human rights-based approach;
- Support to the monitoring of the SSF Guidelines implementation through participatory processes, in line with the relevant paragraphs of the SSF Guidelines (13.4 and 13.5) and the recommendation by COFI in 2014 on the role of FAO and a monitoring process through COFI;
- Development of information and experience-sharing mechanisms, and
- Mobilization of resources.

Importantly, the SSF-GSF will promote the full and effective participation of small-scale fisheries actors in the SSF Guidelines implementation, in particular small-scale fisheries communities including women, youth and indigenous peoples.

Guiding principles

32. The main principles guiding the activities and functioning of the SSF-GSF are those stated in Chapter 3 of the SSF Guidelines (Guiding principles) to ensure a coherent implementation of any policies, strategies and actions in support of the SSF Guidelines implementation.

Structure

The SSF-GSF is a multi-stakeholder framework with no formal constitutional/legal standing. The SSF-GSF does not have any decision-making authority, its role is advisory and facilitative. The activities of the SSF-GSF will be reported to COFI.

The structure of the SSF-GSF reflects the Guiding Principles of the SSF Guidelines, with clear roles for different actors to promote a balanced and equitable partnership approach and cross-sectoral collaboration for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.⁸

Governments have a key responsibility to make implementation happen at the regional, national and local level, and to incorporate the SSF Guidelines in relevant policies, strategies, etc. – not only for fisheries but also for overall socio-economic development. High level political engagement, together with investments in capacity and participatory decision-making processes at the national level, will be required in order to realize the new vision for small-scale fisheries.

Fishers and fish workers, through their organizations, are the main drivers of change and play a major role in the “bottom-up” processes towards ensuring that the SSF Guidelines are mainstreamed into relevant policies, strategies and actions at the local, national and regional levels. The role of CSOs has been revalidated in a new Exchange of Letters between IPC and FAO, and in the “FAO strategy for partnership with civil society”.

The SSF Guidelines call for the involvement of all actors in their implementation. Having due regard to this approach, the means for engagement in the SSF-GSF will be:

Friends of the SSF Guidelines

The Friends of the SSF Guidelines will be COFI Members participating on a voluntary basis. The Friends of the SSF Guidelines shall provide programmatic advice and guidance, including on future priorities, of the SSF Guidelines implementation to FAO and other interested actors. One Member shall be identified by the Members to represent the Friends of the SSF Guidelines and maintain

⁸ This mechanism has been elaborated on the understanding that: (i) given the intrinsic nature of its membership and governance, the main interlocutors for FAO are its Member Governments; and (ii) the Basic Texts, rules, procedures or composition of FAO’s Governing Bodies will not be affected by this mechanism.

relations with the Advisory Group and the Knowledge Sharing Platform of the GSF-SSF, including reporting to each session of COFI, directly or through the FAO secretariat.

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group is composed of two representatives from each global small-scale fisheries organization and other relevant constituencies, that would be identified through a consultative process and in a participatory manner, like Indigenous Peoples (working directly in the small-scale fisheries sector) and rural workers; and following criteria of gender and regional balance; along with the participation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This Advisory Group shall advise the Friends of the SSF Guidelines on the SSF Guidelines implementation and monitoring process by all interested actors and interact with FAO, to inform FAO's implementation work and to facilitate CSOs participation in it.

Knowledge Sharing Platform

Other actors (e.g. academia, research institutes, regional organizations, and NGOs) would be identified by the secretariat and by the advisory group among the actors who have had a previous engagement with the SSF Guidelines and work actively with small-scale fisheries issues; to support the achievement of the objectives of the SSF-GSF and in particular to generate knowledge and support capacity development.

They will support the Friends of the SSF Guidelines and the Advisory Group with research, communication, capacity development, resource mobilization and other relevant activities. Members of the Knowledge Sharing Platform can also seek advice on a voluntary basis from the Advisory Group on strategies and activities needed to further the SSF Guidelines implementation.

The FAO secretariat will facilitate the work of the SSF-GSF and regularly consult with the IPC Fisheries Working Group secretariat in this context. The FAO secretariat will prepare a summary of SSF-GSF activities for consideration by COFI at its regular sessions.

Follow-up

The zero draft of the SSF-GSF will be shared with relevant partners, including governments and regional organizations, for further refinement (e.g. details on maximum number of members of Friends of the SSF Guidelines and Advisory Group, selection criteria etc.), development and testing.

Results will be reported to the next COFI meeting in 2018.