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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

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SMALL-SCALE AND ARTISANAL FISHERIES GOVERNANCE

Executive Summary

This document reports on work by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department on small-scale and artisanal fisheries governance and development, including both marine and inland fisheries, with a focus on progress towards implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) under the FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the SSF Guidelines. It also addresses the Committee's recommendation to further develop a mechanism for experience sharing, collaboration and monitoring in the context of SSF Guidelines implementation (SSF Global Strategic Framework - GSF), the proclamation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture as well as work on assessing the status of inland and marine small-scale fisheries, and progress regarding the Global Work Programme to Advance Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries (GWP). Complementary and additional information is provided in COFI/2018/Inf.17, 18 and 19.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

Underline the contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to global, regional and national efforts to **the achievement of the SDGs, in particular SDG 14** ;

Note **the progress concerning the implementation of the Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)**, since the Thirty-second Session of COFI in 2016;

- Support the SSF Guidelines implementation, including the provision of extra-budgetary resources through the FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the SSF Guidelines;

- Note the United Nations General Assembly resolution proclaiming 2022 the “International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture” and provide advice with regard to preparations for its celebration;
- Note progress in improving the information baseline and assessment of the contribution of small-scale fisheries in inland and marine waters, facilitate the sharing of data and advice on potential case study countries/sites;
- Note progress regarding the Global Work Programme to Advance Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries (GWP) and advise on future support and potential extra-budgetary funding for the GWP.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since the Committee's Thirty-second Session in 2016, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has continued to provide support to and encourage the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), which were endorsed by the Thirty-first Session of the Committee in 2014. This support has mainly been provided through the FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the SSF Guidelines (FAO SSF Umbrella Programme), established in 2015, but also by other FAO initiatives and projects incorporating SSF Guidelines principles and provisions in relevant activities.

2. The importance of the small-scale fisheries sector as a key contributor to the three pillars of sustainability - environmental, economic and social - is recognized by FAO Members and partners. An important number of independent initiatives by governments, development organizations, research institutes etc. to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, including uptake in policies and strategies, are noted and applauded. Small-scale fisheries actors themselves and their Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) continue their high level engagement, including with regard to capacity development, awareness raising and strengthening representation of small-scale fisheries actors at different scales.

3. 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. This will also directly contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG target 14b, which calls to Provide access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets - but also other SDGs: 1 No poverty, 2 Zero hunger, 5 Gender equality, 12 Responsible consumption and production, 13 Climate action, and 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.

4. Activities and achievements in the context of SSF Guidelines implementation are described below. The document also reports on the proclamation of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture as well as work on assessing the status of inland and marine small-scale fisheries, and progress regarding the Global Work Programme to Advance Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries (GWP). More information is also provided in documents COFI/2018/Inf.17, 18 and 19.

II. PROGRESS TOWARDS SSF GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION

5. The FAO SSF Umbrella Programme, which includes support from Norway and Sweden, is structured around four interrelated components (i) Awareness raising, (ii) Strengthening the science-policy interface, (iii) Empowering stakeholders, and (iv) Supporting implementation.

6. **AWARENESS RAISING** - It is crucial that governments and relevant stakeholders are aware and understand the principles and provisions of the SSF Guidelines if they are to apply them in their work. FAO has invested in increasing awareness at global, regional and national levels on the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty eradication and in why and how 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 (e.g., a workshop on exploring the human rights-based approach - HRBA - in the context of implementation and monitoring of the SSF Guidelines held in Rome on 24-26 October 2016) as well as engaging in global policy processes through the participation – by FAO and small-scale fisheries actors – in conferences and events organized by partners. There have also been considerable efforts invested in the development and dissemination of guidance and communication products, including a handbook on gender-equitable small-scale fisheries development and governance.

7. **STRENGTHENING THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE** - The inclusion of the principles and provisions of the SSF Guidelines in national and regional policies facilitates the actions needed to achieve the full contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty eradication. FAO is engaged in improving the knowledge available on small-scale fisheries and it also provides technical assistance to support governments and stakeholders in converting the improved knowledge into policies and action. This work includes an update of the 2012 "Hidden Harvest: the global contribution of capture fisheries" study (see paragraph 26).

8. Mainstreaming of the SSF Guidelines into the strategies, policies and work programmes of regional intergovernmental organizations, reported on at the Committee's Thirty-second Session in 2016¹, has continued to be a key focus. The Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COOPESCAALC), the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish), and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) can be added to the list of those with specific work and/or commitments in relation to SSF Guidelines implementation. At the national level, several countries have made important commitments to SSF Guidelines implementation including Cambodia, Costa Rica, Guinea, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

9. **EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS** - Institutional mechanisms and informed capable stakeholders, especially small-scale fisheries actors and government staff but also other stakeholders, are necessary for participatory implementation of the SSF Guidelines. FAO collaborates in particular with the members of the Fisheries Working Group of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)² through regular consultations with their representatives. With funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the IPC Fisheries Working Group members have organized a series of national and regional events³ for their members and key partners to discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and to empower their members to take action. There are several initiatives currently being designed by FAO and partners for strengthening small-scale fisheries organizations, including beyond the IPC Fisheries Working Group. This work includes mapping of small-scale fisheries organizations, identifying gaps and assessing capacity development needs.

10. **SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION** - SSF Guidelines implementation benefits from coordination, dissemination of lessons learnt and progress monitoring that also promotes experience sharing. Following the recommendation of the Committee's Thirty-second Session, the SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) has been further developed in consultation with small-scale fisheries actors and was presented to the COFI bureau in 2017. 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 SSF Guidelines implementation. It will have an advisory and facilitative role and its activities will be reported to the Committee. The proposed structure of the SSF-GSF includes an Advisory Group consisting primarily of small-scale fisheries representatives, a Friends of the SSF Guidelines group with COFI Members participating on a voluntary basis, a Knowledge Sharing Platform of other actors and an FAO Secretariat.

11. SSF Guidelines implementation progress monitoring and experience sharing will be important components of the SSF-GSF, including in relation to monitoring of the achievement of the SDGs, in particular SDG 14, target 14b (see COFI/2018/9). A monitoring system should also provide information that helps guide future implementation efforts and it should create learning, promote

¹ See the document COFI/2016/Inf.13

² 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.

³ India, 21-22 March 2016; Thailand (regional) 30 April - 1 May, 2016; Nicaragua (regional) 30-31 May 2016; Brazil 13-17 June 2016; Pakistan, 24-25 August 2016; Tanzania, 30 August - 2 September 2016; Myanmar, 19-19 March 2017. see also <https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/>

exchanges of experiences and support identification of good practices. A multi-stakeholder workshop to discuss such a monitoring system was held in September 2017, and follow-up activities include the testing of indicators in the Caribbean region and the gathering of additional inputs from small-scale fisheries organizations.

12. FAO continues to receive requests from Members and organizations for 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 support the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme.

13. A more detailed description of SSF Guidelines implementation activities is provided in COFI/2018/Inf.17.

III. UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING 2022 THE "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE"

14. Based on a proposal by the Committee's Thirty-second Session in 2016 and the adoption by the Fortieth Session of FAO Conference in 2017, the United Nations General Assembly in the Seventy-second session in December 2017 proclaimed 2022 the "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" and invited FAO to serve as the lead agency for the Year, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. A road map will be developed and countries and partners are encouraged to actively engage in and support the observance of this most auspicious of international years.

IV. PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE INFORMATION BASELINE AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN MARINE AND INLAND WATERS

15. To inform policy processes, knowledge and information are needed. Addressing the fact that the contribution and value of small-scale fisheries, in particular of inland fisheries, is often underestimated - as noted by the Committee's Thirty-second Session in 2016 - work has been undertaken to assess and monitor the status of inland fisheries with a view to give them appropriate recognition and to support their management. A significant effort has been made to update the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular (C942 Revision 3) "Review of the state of the world fishery resources: inland fisheries". The updated circular seeks to go beyond the analysis of trends in production and provide a deeper analysis of the state of inland fishery resources and their importance/relevance to the achievement of a number of SDGs. It also responds to the request of the Thirty-second Session of the Committee to cover broader aspects of the contributions of inland fisheries.

16. In order to improve fisheries monitoring, assessment and management of data-limited, capacity limited fisheries, with particular emphasis on small-scale fisheries, FAO under the GEF-funded Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) project is currently developing a Fisheries Performance Assessment tool that covers the three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, economic and social) as well as the governance component. This tool includes a data-limited assessment module to inform management and will be piloted in at least 25 fisheries in six countries covered by the CFI project (Cap Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Indonesia, Peru and Senegal) through a series of capacity building workshops. This tool, including methodologies, application templates, preliminary results and guidance materials will be made available for users outside the CFI project.

17. Work has been initiated to revisit and update the 2012 World Bank, FAO and WorldFish "Hidden Harvest: the global contribution of capture fisheries" to deepen the information on small-scale fisheries and to provide a comprehensive, authoritative and quantified baseline on their role and contribution. 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 and the national and regional levels.

18. A full description of the above mentioned work streams is provided in COFI/2018/Inf.18.

V. PROGRESS REGARDING THE GLOBAL WORK PROGRAMME TO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE ON RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES FOR FISHERIES

19. The Global Work Programme to Advance Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries (GWP) was welcomed by the Committee in 2016. There is a strong link between the SSF Guidelines and FAO's work on tenure and rights-based approaches for capture fisheries through Chapter 5: Governance of tenure in SSF and resource management.

20. Noting the Committee underlined that FAO should serve as the neutral platform for advancing knowledge on rights-based approaches, FAO is co-organizing the global conference "Tenure and User Rights in Fisheries 2018: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030" (UserRights 2018), in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, 10-14 September 2018 (www.fao.org/about/meetings/user-rights). FAO is calling for an extensive set of case studies on a diverse range of rights-based approaches and welcomes in-kind and financial support for this work.

21. Regarding other elements of the GWP, FAO is intending to launch the repository on existing rights-based management systems in late 2018; through the EAF-Nansen Programme, collaborating with partner countries in Africa on transboundary resources; and is developing proposals for regional and national workshops to support countries in the development of appropriate rights-based fisheries management systems.

22. A more detailed description of the progress regarding the GWP is provided in COFI/2018/Inf.19.