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منظمة
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session

Rome, 5-9 December 2016

International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

Executive Summary

The 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (July 2016) endorsed a proposal to declare an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, taking into account the existing FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of international years, and acknowledging that this proposal needed to be further considered by all relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to:

- a) Review the proposal to establish observance of 2022 as an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA), and provide guidance as deemed appropriate;
- b) Submit the proposed draft Conference resolution to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference (July 2017) for approval.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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1. The 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries endorsed the proposal for the Declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture¹, taking into account the existing FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of international years, and acknowledging that this proposal needed to be further considered by all relevant FAO Governing Bodies.
2. In the context of the discussions on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the 32nd Session of COFI also noted that the proposal for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture was an opportunity to further consolidate efforts to improve small-scale fisheries.
3. The Bureau of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries agreed to submit the draft resolution to the 155th Session of the Council for its consideration and endorsement, with a view to forwarding it to the 40th Session of the Conference in July 2017 for approval. The draft resolution has been elaborated in consultation with all regional groups through COFI Bureau Members and is set out in Appendix A.

¹ COFI/2016/Inf.25

Appendix A**Draft Conference Resolution****The Conference,**

Noting that fishing and aquaculture are human activities that provide high quality food, social and economic benefits, and contribute to nutrition and food security, poverty reduction and rural development;

Recognizing the importance of the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans and their resources;

Affirming the relevant role that artisanal fisheries and aquaculture play in the eradication of hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and the sustainable use of fisheries resources, thereby contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 14;

Recalling the 34th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, 29 February - 3 March 2016) decision to work towards the establishment of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture and the 154th Session of the FAO Council's endorsement;

Further recalling the 32nd Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries endorsement of the proposed "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture";

Affirming the urgent need of raising public and government awareness of the importance of implementing specific public policies and programmes to promote artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in a sustainable manner, with particular attention to the most vulnerable rural areas;

Requests the Director-General to transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider declaring the year 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.