



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Global Strategic Framework

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in support of the implementation of the
Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries
in the context of food security and poverty eradication

Broad consultations have led to holistic guidelines

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication ([SSF Guidelines](#)) are the result of extensive consultations with more than 4 000 representatives of small-scale fishing communities, civil society organizations, governments, research organizations, regional organizations and other stakeholders from over 120 countries. They were endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries ([COFI](#)) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)) in 2014.

Key issues in the SSF Guidelines include allocating tenure rights equitably; managing resources responsibly; supporting social development and decent work; empowering fish workers along the entire value chain; promoting gender equality; and addressing climate change and disaster risks.

The SSF Guidelines are the first internationally agreed instrument dedicated entirely to the small-scale fisheries sector. They are also unique in that they approach sustainable fisheries from the point of human rights.

A global strategic framework puts words into action

Implementing the SSF Guidelines takes combined efforts by many actors. These actors need easy ways to exchange ideas and concerns, and a space for collaboration. FAO is therefore supporting the *Global Strategic Framework in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines (SSF-GSF)*.

The SSF-GSF is a partnership mechanism giving small-scale fishery actors, government representatives and other stakeholders a space to collaborate at a global level. One key objective is to give small-scale fishery actors an opportunity to advise others on how they would like to see the SSF Guidelines put into action.

The SSF-GSF has an advisory and facilitative role. Its members can share experiences, mobilize resources together, develop synergies and coordinate efforts to advocate for policies and approaches that favour the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

The work in the SSF-GSF complements the [FAO Umbrella Programme for the promotion and application of the SSF Guidelines](#).





How the Global Strategic Framework functions

The SSF-GSF is made up of an Advisory Group, the Friends of the SSF Guidelines, and a Knowledge Sharing Platform. Their work is facilitated by a Secretariat in FAO. The FAO Secretariat supports the SSF-GSF administratively and technically. It consults with representatives from the SSF-GSF on a regular basis, gaining valuable input for FAO's work to implement the SSF Guidelines.



THE FRIENDS OF THE SSF GUIDELINES

are FAO Members participating on a voluntary basis. They provide programmatic advice and guidance, including on future priorities, of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines to FAO and other interested actors. In turn, the Friends of the SSF Guidelines receive advice from the Advisory Group.



THE ADVISORY GROUP

consists of representatives from each global small-scale fisheries organization and other relevant organizations in support of small-scale fisheries, indigenous peoples (working directly in the small-scale fisheries sector) and rural workers, and follows criteria of gender and regional balance.



THE KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM

is composed of actors from academia, research institutes, regional organizations, and NGOs. As the name suggests, they contribute knowledge, and they support the Friends of the SSF Guidelines and the Advisory Group with research, communication, capacity development, resource mobilization and other relevant activities.

Reporting to the FAO Committee on Fisheries

The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) is a global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries issues are examined. The SSF-GSF was developed on recommendation from COFI. All activities that the SSF-GSF undertake are summarized by the FAO Secretariat and reported back to COFI for consideration. It is thus a powerful mechanism to reach all FAO Members.

Learn more:
www.fao.org/2/ssf-guidelines

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