

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE (WCP)

34th SESSION OF COFI

INDONESIA'S COMMENTS ON ITEM 6

Decisions and recommendations of the Seventeenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Vigo, Spain, 25–29 November 2019

Indonesia takes note of the decisions and recommendations made in the 17th session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade that was held in November 2019 and thanks the Government of Spain for hosting the meeting.

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia is blessed with abundant fisheries resources, with small-scale fishers and fish farmers as the prime mover. As such, Indonesia would like to seek more support from the FAO and its member countries in the effort to enhance the value chain of small scale-fisheries and aquaculture, including through encouraging more space and market access. Indonesia also suggested FAO to provide global trade analysis in a sustainable manner so that small-scale fishers, fish farmers, and business actors may benefit from it.

In this regard, Indonesia wishes to extend its appreciation to FAO for its grant under the project of “Development of Effective and Inclusive Food Value Chains” in North Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, which is aimed at improving the quality of Pindang fish products. Indonesia proposes that this project can become an example of best practice for other developing countries in improving the welfare of fishers and small-scale business actors.

On the issue of trade control policies, Indonesia views the importance of these policies in increasing transparency and combating IUU fishing, while underscoring the need to provide ample time and capacity building for the exporting countries in meeting the requirements of such policies.

On the Implementation of Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), Indonesia supports the FAO Secretariat’s effort to revise the questionnaire questions which will further improve the quality of the survey results. A special assistance to the group of countries who are having difficulties in filling out the questionnaires, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), should also be encouraged.

Indonesia also appreciates FAO’s continuous effort in building transparent data platforms, such as GLOBEFISH and FIN, which could facilitate data exchange among countries. In this regard, Indonesia wishes to emphasize the importance of data accuracy and reliability in supporting trade of fisheries.

On the agenda of working with other international organization, Indonesia would like to encourage FAO to further increase cooperation with business community with the objective of reducing illegal business practices, such as fish laundering, in the international market. Indonesia also encourages FAO to collaborate with the Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) for Tuna and other organizations that have developed various technologies needed for traceability.

In terms of biodiversity conservation and trade, Indonesia encourages FAO to provide scientific-based evidence and data to CITES, particularly for fishery species stock assessment that are either registered with CITES or those proposed to be included in the Appendix II. This is vital to minimize the current tendency to produce CITES listing that is solely based on

advocacy that undermines scientific considerations. Indonesia further invites FAO to provide capacity building programs in identifying CITES-listed species for coastal areas communities. Indonesia wishes to highlight the importance of FAO to facilitate information-sharing on fisheries-related services that may help developing countries in developing effective policies on these services.

Indonesia also attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights in the fisheries business and industry. Toward this objective, Indonesia's Government has taken several concrete measures including providing relevant regulatory framework that aims at eliminating labor exploitation and improving the welfare of the relevant stakeholders in the fisheries sector.