

Committee on Fisheries

34TH Session, 1-5 February 2021

Brazil's Comments under the Written Correspondence Procedure

Item 6: Decisions and recommendations of the Seventeenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Vigo, Spain, 25–29 November 2019

Brazil expresses its gratitude to the Government of Spain for hosting the 17th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, as well as to the Secretariat for the preparations that led to a successful meeting. Brazil endorses the report of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.

Regarding the guidance on the follow-up of matters raised, and taking into account that the COVID-19 pandemic posed an additional burden, whose total extension is yet to be determined, to fisheries and aquaculture activities, Brazil urges that the work of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade remains focused on promoting an open trade system, based on sound science and accurate data.

We cannot envision a sustainable system, if producers around the world must face an uphill battle against unnecessary sanitary barriers, arbitrary and overly expensive certification schemes, and subsidized production.

The Sub-Committee must continue fostering cooperation, dialogue, and capacity building as well as promoting the development of thorough scientific and technical evidence for us not to fall prey to unjustifiable trade measures, often advertised as environmentally sustainable or food safety-related. The CDS Guidelines are an example of FAO's indispensable work in promoting legality and transparency without hampering trade.

A fair-trading system, in which not only major players, but also small-scale fisheries can participate, is the cornerstone for combating food insecurity through fisheries, generating income, and promoting the sustainable use of the resource.

We would like to emphasize the importance of FAO's work on contributing to the development of national capacities to produce reliable and comparable statistics on trade, production, consumption, fleets, and employment as well as on the development of national plans of action to combat IUU fishing.

Brazil would also want to renew its strong support for the work of FAO in providing scientific advice to advance the standard-setting process of Codex and the need to continue with the provision of FAO funds to facilitate this work.

Finally, we also would like to emphasize the need for the FAO to continue to support the ongoing WTO negotiations to, in line with the mandate of the MC-11 and SDG 14.6, eliminate subsidies for illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and prohibit certain forms of subsidies that contribute for overcapacity and overfishing. Subsidies account for the deterioration of fish stocks in recent decades, which is why limiting its global amount would contribute to marine sustainability.