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منظمة  
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للأمم المتحدة

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of  
the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG 3)**

**17 December 2021**

**Responses to the Inquiries Made during WG 2 on the Options**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents the Secretariat's responses to the inquiries made during WG 2 on the options.

1. Comparison in specific nature between a sub-committee (Options A-C) and an informal working group (Option D) (In response to the inquiry by Cook Islands)

|               | Advice of COFI | Participation               | Interpretation and translation services  |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Sub-committee | Yes            | Open to COFI Members        | Since it is an officially established governing body, it is required to have interpretation and translation in all FAO official languages, but the availability of those services is subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources <sup>1</sup> |
| Working group | Yes            | Subject to decision by COFI | Subject to availability of fund  |

2. Whether can the existing Sub-Committees afford to accept additional discussion on fisheries management (Option C) (In response to the inquiry by European Union)

The provisional agenda and timetable of SCFT 17 (COFI:FT/XVII/2019/1) (<https://www.fao.org/3/na801en/na801en.pdf>) indicates some free time slots on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. However, in practical terms, it can be almost impossible to accommodate additional discussions on fisheries management in these free slots for several reasons. Firstly, considering the short availability of time (one afternoon slot and another morning slot), they seem insufficient to allow any adequate discussion on fisheries management. Secondly, the absence of any proper interval after the plenary debates makes impossible to draft the summary report and its subsequent plenary analysis considering the regular session work throughout weekdays. Finally, in the case of physical meetings, the appointed free slot on the last day is devoted to the final translation of the session report to be adopted by the Sub-Committee. In addition, there is always an activity conducted and organized by the host country associated with fish trade that usually takes place on the afternoon free slot.

3. Whether is there any difference in the process of approval by FAO governing bodies with regard to establishment of a new sub-committee (Option A) and a working group (Option D) (In response to the inquiry by the United States of America)

If the new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management needs to be established, this proposal must be endorsed by the Council and the Conference (as the Sub-Committee on

<sup>1</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock is also held subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Livestock). The working group proposed in Option D is an informal one<sup>2</sup> as the current one for consideration of the establishment of the new Sub-Committee and could be established by the decision by COFI.

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<sup>2</sup> Different from “subsidiary working parties or study group” prescribed as “Subsidiary Bodies” in Rule VII of the Rule of Procedures of the Committee on Fisheries