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للأمم المتحدة

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**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of  
the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG 5)**

**20 April 2022**

**Draft Proposal to COFI 35 on the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on  
Fisheries Management**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Based on the discussion in WG 1-4, the Chairperson prepared the draft proposal to COFI 35 of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM).

1. The Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG on SCFM) generally agreed that COFI should spend more time on policy issues, including those related to fishery management, and the establishment of SCFM is one of the solutions. At the same time, the WG on SCFM also recognized that establishing SCFM will increase the burden of Members, especially developing Members. It was emphasized that this increased burden includes the lack of the financial resources for physical participation and the lack of personnel and time for preparation and attendance. It is clear that while the establishment of SCFM is highly likely to bring additional value to the COFI system, it cannot be established without addressing these difficulties.

2. Accordingly, the following scheme is recommended for consideration at COFI 35:

- (1) SCFM should be established with the terms of reference in **Appendix 1**.
- (2) However, an actual meeting of SCFM should be held only when all the following conditions are satisfied:
  - (a) An extra-budgetary funding is available for realizing the meeting. Please see **Appendix 2** for details;
  - (b) Measures are taken to mitigate administrative difficulties of developing Members such as lack of personnel and time for preparation and attendance (Please see **Appendix 3** for details); and
  - (c) A minimum level of funding support for developing Members to participate in the meeting is provided (Please see **Appendix 4** for details).
- (3) If, unfortunately, the minimum level of funding support for the participation of developing Members is not secured, the meeting could be held in a virtual manner.

**(APPENDIX 1)****Terms of reference for the Sub-committee on Fisheries Management**

1. The Sub-committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM) shall serve as a forum for consultation and discussion on fisheries management, associated technical and policy issues, and the related work performed by FAO, taking into account the work of relevant international organizations, countries, stakeholders groups and NGOs, and in cooperation with them, as appropriate.
2. In this context, the Sub-Committee shall:
  - (1) provide a technical and policy advisory forum to discuss fisheries governance and management issues and explore solutions for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and advance the” FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries based on the best available science as well as ecosystem and precautionary approaches;
  - (2) identify and discuss major issues and trends in global fisheries management and sustainable development, which require action, such as those related to development and management of small-scale fisheries, effects of climate change on fishery management, and eradication of IUU fishing;
  - (3) recommend international action to address such issues and trends as well as fisheries development needs and, in this regard:
    - (i) to advise on preparing, facilitating, and implementing identified actions;
    - (ii) to advise on the promotion of information sharing on regional policies and technical measures on fisheries management, as appropriate;
    - (iii) to advise on the strengthening of international collaboration to assist FAO Members, in particular developing Members including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Members, in the implementation of such actions and FAO instruments in the domain of fisheries governance and management; and
    - (iv) to advise on possible cooperation between FAO and, as appropriate, relevant international organizations, including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, countries, stakeholder groups, and NGOs, to promote and support good practices and avoid discrepancy in policies and actions.

- (4) address any specific (technical or policy) matters relating to fisheries governance and management referred to this Sub-Committee by its Members, the Committee on Fisheries, or the Director-General of FAO.
- (5) collaborate with and provide inputs to the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade on fishery management issues related to trade in fish and fisheries products.
- (6) collaborate with and provide inputs to the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture on fishery management issues related to aquaculture.

**(APPENDIX 2)****Minimum estimated costs for holding a meeting of SCFM**

(Figures are in thousand dollars)

	Translation of documents	Interpretation, including travel costs	Venue	Travel cost of FAO staff
Host	160	80	by host	23
Rome	160	68	7	0
Virtual	160	68	0	0

**(APPENDIX 3)****Measures to mitigate administrative difficulties of developing Members****1. Avoidance of duplication with other international meetings**

The timing of the SCFM meeting should avoid duplication with other international meetings as much as possible. To maximize the attendance of Members, particularly developing Members, the COFI Secretary should check the timings of other RFMO meetings (both annual and subsidiary body meetings) and global fisheries-related meetings. A most suitable timing for carrying out the SCFM Session will be proposed at the COFI meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.

**2. Allowing regional organizations to represent their Members at SCFM**

[A regional organization whose members are also COFI Members can speak on behalf of these COFI Members at SCFM meetings, provided that all the COFI Members belonging to the organization delegated it to speak on their behalf. The organization shall submit before the SCFM meeting a letter indicating that it has been duly authorized to represent those COFI Members at the SCFM meeting.]<sup>1</sup>

**3. Distribution of more detailed annotated agenda**

In order for participants to better prepare for the SCFM meeting, annotations to the provisional agenda, as in the case of COFI meetings, should be distributed at least two weeks before the meeting in all official languages.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to FAO's internal legal clearance.

**(APPENDIX 4)****Rules for funding support for developing Members**

To provide financial support for developing Members to participate in SCFM meetings, the following rules should be applied:

1. A minimum level of financial support for developing Members should be established. The minimum level should be defined as X% of the number of developing Members in each region. The COFI Secretary, the host Member, and other donor Members are urged to make every effort to find sources or collectively provide financial support. If, for example, X is 20%, the number of developing Members who should receive the support will be 21 (see below)

Region	# of developing Members	20% of developing Members	# of developing Members receiving the support
Africa	36	7.2	<b>8</b>
Asia	17	3.4	<b>4</b>
GRULAC	24	4.8	<b>5</b>
Near East	7	1.4	<b>2</b>
Southwest Pacific	6	1.2	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>

2. Each group, in consultation with the Host Member, any donor countries and the FAO Secretariat, shall decide which Members will receive the support within the group, considering least developing Members and small island developing Members.