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**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of  
the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG 6)**

**10 June 2022**

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Based on the discussion at WG 5, the Chairperson revised the draft proposal to COFI 35.

1. The Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG on the SCFM) generally agreed that COFI should spend more time on policy issues, including those related to fishery management, and the establishment of the SCFM is one of the solutions. At the same time, the WG on the SCFM also recognized that establishing the 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. While the establishment of the 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) The SCFM should be established with the terms of reference in Appendix 1.

(2) The meetings of the three sub-committees should be held between two COFI meetings and one of the meetings should be virtual in the following way, in principle<sup>1</sup>:

Between COFI35 and 36	Between COFI36 and 37	Between COFI37 and 38
SCA (in-person)	SCA (in-person)	SCA (virtual)
SCFT (in-person)	SCFT (virtual)	SCFT (in-person)
SCFM (virtual)	SCFM (in-person)	SCFM (in-person)

(3) A meeting of the SCFM, whether it is in-person or virtual, should be held when an extra-budgetary funding is available for realizing the meeting (see Appendix 2 for details).

(4) Measures should be taken to mitigate administrative difficulties of developing Members such as lack of personnel and time for preparation and attendance (see Appendix 3 for details).

(5) The two SCFM meetings between COFI 36 and COFI 38 should be in-person when a minimum level of funding support for developing Members to participate in the meeting is provided (see Appendix 4 for details). If the minimum level of funding support is not secured, the meeting should be held virtually.

(6) If the meeting is in-person, it should be held either in a Member or at the FAO Headquarter in Rome if there is no host Member.

(7) Any Member wishing to provide the extra-budgetary funding in (3) above for the virtual SCFM meeting between COFI 35 and 36 should announce its intention during COFI 35 or within six months after COFI 35 at the latest.

(8) Any Member wishing to host the SCFM meeting(s) between COFI 36 and COFI 38 should announce its intention during the preceding COFI meeting at the latest. In addition to the cost in Appendix 2, that Member should provide the minimum level of funding support in Appendix 4 for developing Members to participate in the in-person meeting.

(9) In case that there is no Member providing the extra-budgetary funding for the virtual SCFM meeting after COFI 35 or no Member hosting the SCFM meeting(s) between COFI 36 and COFI 38, a multi-donor fund should be established after COFI 35 to: (i) cover the extra-budgetary funding for realizing the meeting in (3) above; and (ii) provide the minimum level of funding support for developing Members to participate in the meeting when the meeting is held in Rome. Subject to the consent of the donors, the fund may also be used for additional support for participation of developing Members when the meeting is held in a Member. Otherwise, the remaining fund should be carried

<sup>1</sup> Two or more sub-committees may be held virtually, depending on the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.

over for the preparation of the following SCFM meeting. The fund can receive financial contributions from Members and other donors, including companies, stakeholder groups, and NGOs.

(10) With regard to (7) above, at six months after COFI 35, the SCFM Secretariat should announce whether or not the virtual SCFM meeting will be held. For each of the SCFM meetings between COFI 36 and COFI 38, the SCFM Secretariat should announce at the end of the preceding COFI: (i) whether or not the meeting will be held; (ii) whether the meeting will be in-person or virtual; and (iii) whether the meeting will be held in a Member or Rome in the case of the in-person meeting.

(11) Please see Appendix 5 for possible scenarios.

**(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 the SCFM**

(Figures are in thousand dollars)

	Translation of documents	Interpretation, including travel costs	Venue	Travel cost of FAO staff	Total
Host	160	80	by host	23	263
Rome	160	68	7	0	235
Virtual	160	68	0	0	228

\*Regardless of the meeting place and modality, all costs need to be supported by extra-budgetary sources of funding.

**(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 should be proposed.

**2. 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, preferably three weeks before the meeting in all official languages.

**(APPENDIX 4)****A minimum level of funding support for developing Members**

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

1. A minimum level of funding support for developing Members should be established. The minimum level should be calculated as 20% of the number of COFI developing Members in each region. Since the membership of COFI as well as the developing status changes from time to time, [the SCFM Secretariat] should calculate 20% for each region using the most updated information when it announces the holding of the SCFM meeting. The indicative number of developing Members who should receive the support in each region is shown below (see the attachment for the list of COFI developing Members in each region as of April 2022):

Region	# of COFI developing Members	20% of COFI developing Members	# of COFI developing Members receiving the support
Africa	32	6.4	7
Asia	14	2.8	3
Europe	2	0.4	1
GRULAC	19	3.8	4
Near East	8	1.6	2
Southwest Pacific	1	0.2	1
Total	76		18

2. Each group should decide which Members will receive the support within the group, considering least developing Members and small island developing Members as well as the request of the host Member and other donors.

Attachment**The list of COFI Developing Members (as of April 2022)**

Region	COFI Developing Members	# of Members
Africa	Algeria, <b>Angola</b> , <b>Burkina Faso</b> , Cabo Verde, Cameroon, <b>Central African Republic</b> , <b>Chad</b> , Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, <b>Eritrea</b> , Eswatini, <b>Ethiopia</b> , Gabon, Ghana, <b>Guinea</b> , Kenya, <b>Liberia</b> , <b>Madagascar</b> , <b>Mali</b> , <b>Mauritania</b> , Mauritius, Morocco, <b>Mozambique</b> , Namibia, Nigeria, <b>Senegal</b> , South Africa, Tanzania, <b>Uganda</b> , <b>Zambia</b> , Zimbabwe	32
Asia	<b>Bangladesh</b> , <b>Cambodia</b> , China, DPRK, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, <b>Myanmar</b> , Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam	14
Europa	Azerbaijan, Turkey	2
GRULAC	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, <b>Haiti</b> , Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela	19
Near East	<b>Afghanistan</b> , Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Libya, <b>Somalia</b> , <b>Sudan</b> , <b>Yemen</b>	8
Southwest Pacific	Fiji	1

Note:

1. The list of the COFI Members is found at GSB: Committee on Fisheries (fao.org).
2. The countries belonging to each regional group are found at GSB: FAO Member Nations by region for Council election purposes.
3. The list of developing countries is found in the OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients (<https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2022-23-flows.pdf>). The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are highlighted in bold.

(APPENDIX 5)

**Flowchart showing what will happen between COFI 36 and COFI 38  
depending on the availability of external fund**

