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## CONFERENCE

### Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 6-13 June 2015

### Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (Rome, 9-13 June 2014)

#### Executive Summary

The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome, Italy, from 9 to 13 June 2014. The Committee reviewed issues of an international character, as well as the FAO programme in fisheries and aquaculture and their implementation.

The Committee expressed its praise and support for the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2014 publication, and emphasized the need for further measures to rebuild fish stocks.

The Committee, while commending the new web-based questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code), called upon FAO to further develop and review the questionnaire. While noting the progress made by the Members in implementing the Code and related instruments, the Committee underscored the need to continue supporting developing countries.

The Committee acknowledged efforts being made by Members in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and emphasized the importance of the coming into force of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA) as soon as possible. The Committee requested FAO to expand its efforts to effectively implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. The Committee endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VGFSP). The Committee reiterated its support for the Global Record's continued development.

The Committee endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and agreed to dedicate them to Ms Chandrika Sharma, the Executive Secretary of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF). The Committee welcomed FAO's proposal for a Global Assistance Programme (GAP) for implementation of the SSF Guidelines and recommended to further develop the GAP in a participatory manner.

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The Committee acknowledged FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) and suggested the establishment of a BGI working group to further develop its application.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of inland fisheries and recommended that inland fishery issues be better included in national, subregional, regional and global instruments addressing water use and food security. The Committee urged FAO to provide guidance and increase capacity development in the areas of data collection and analysis, stock assessment, management, post-harvesting, and policy development.

The Committee endorsed the reports of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

The Committee welcomed FAO's new Strategic Objectives as a basis for focusing FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture.

The Committee endorsed the Progress Report of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-2015 of the Committee and the MYPOW 2014-2017.

The Committee adopted the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

#### **Suggested action by the Council and Conference**

The Council and Conference are invited to:

- Endorse the Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries

*Queries on the substantive content of document may be addressed to:*

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### **Programme and budgetary matters for the attention of the Council**

- The Committee called upon FAO to:
  - further develop the web-based system, together with the related data processing tools and usability features;
  - undertake a review of the contents of the questionnaire, taking into account recent developments in global fisheries and aquaculture, as well as comments already provided by respondents, and include space for complementary information to be added to each section;
  - ensure coherence of the Code questionnaire with the Sub-committees' questionnaires on trade and aquaculture, and
  - provide assistance to Members, as appropriate, to compile and submit information through the web-based questionnaire. (paragraph 10)
- The Committee underscored the need to continue supporting developing countries in enhancing food security through the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. (paragraph 11)
- The Committee requested FAO to expand its efforts to effectively implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. The Committee called for further work to address the issue of post-harvest losses and waste in certain fisheries. (paragraph 14)
- The Committee welcomed FAO's proposal for a Global Assistance Programme (GAP) to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines without delay. (paragraph 23)
- The Committee acknowledged the FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) and many Members expressed interest to collaborate in this initiative. (paragraph 32)
- Some Members suggested the establishment of a BGI working group to further develop the application of the initiative and that regional workshops be carried out in relation to the BGI. (paragraph 33)
- The Committee encouraged FAO to continue with the delivery of its capacity development programme to assist developing countries in strengthening and harmonizing port State measures. (paragraph 38)
- The Committee reiterated its support for the Global Record's continued development by FAO. (paragraph 40)
- The Committee acknowledged the importance of inland fisheries as a means towards meeting FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOs) of food security, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, stable markets and increased resilience. (paragraph 44)
- The Committee urged FAO to provide guidance and increase capacity development in the areas of data collection and analysis, stock assessment, management, post-harvesting, and policy development. (paragraph 49)
- The Committee expressed support for FAO's capacity-building activities on post-harvest issues, in particular for small-scale producers and processors in developing countries. (paragraph 54)
- The Committee welcomed FAO's ongoing work on value-chains and recommended its strengthening, especially in relation to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. (paragraph 55)
- The Committee took note of paragraph 68 of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries of 9 December 2013 on catch documentation and welcomed the offer by Norway to support the convening of an Expert Consultation on this issue. (paragraph 59)
- The Committee agreed that FAO should continue its work on the monitoring of such schemes and undertake an analysis of their effects on fisheries management and on economic returns. (paragraph 61)

- The Committee reiterated the need for FAO's continued technical assistance and engagement with national governments for the development of aquaculture and all its aspects. (paragraph 69)
- The Committee, while approving the Evaluation Framework for Assessing Conformity of Public and Private Certification Schemes with the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, recalled the need to address the concerns expressed by the Members on this issue at the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee. (paragraph 75)
- The Committee welcomed FAO's new SOs as a basis for focusing FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture on food security, poverty reduction and sustainable management and utilization of natural resources. The Committee stressed that all work carried out by FAO should be consistent with the Strategic Framework, including the activities carried out under extra-budgetary funds. (paragraph 80)
- Many Members expressed support for FAO's continued work on certain issues such as deep-sea fisheries, lost and abandoned fishing gear, and the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture. (paragraph 82)
- The Committee noted the need for integrating biosecurity, carrying out capacity assessment and spatial planning in the implementation of aquaculture strategies. (paragraph 84)
- The Committee called upon FAO to:
  - further elaborate and provide more technical precision regarding the BGI in contributing to the SOs;
  - provide support to countries regarding the impacts of climate change in relation to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and
  - provide assistance to Members, as appropriate, to compile and submit statistics, including socio-economic data and related information on small-scale fishers and communities. (paragraph 86)

#### **Global policy and regulatory matters for the attention of the Conference**

- Many Members emphasized the importance of the coming into force of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) as soon as possible. (paragraph 13)
- The Committee endorsed the SSF Guidelines by accepting the Chair's proposal for the finalization of paragraph 6.18. (paragraph 17)
- Many Members emphasized that FAO should be the centre of fisheries and aquaculture activities within the UN System. (paragraph 34)
- The Committee endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VGFSP). (paragraph 37)
- The Committee recommended that inland fishery issues be better included in national, subregional, regional and global instruments addressing water use and food security to ensure that inland capture fisheries, and the men and women depending on them for food and nutritional security, were appropriately considered. (paragraph 47)
- The Committee reiterated its support for FAO's work with regard to commercially exploited aquatic species of interest to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). (paragraph 62)
- The Committee expressed support for FAO's collaboration with the World Trade Organization on issues related to trade in fish and fishery products and, in particular, the fisheries subsidies negotiations. (paragraph 63)
- The Committee reiterated the need to promote and implement existing international instruments, agreements, plans of action and technical guidelines. (paragraph 81)

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## Opening of the Session

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its 31<sup>st</sup> Session in Rome from 9 to 13 June 2014. The Session was attended by 110 Members of the Committee and one Associate Member, by observers from five other FAO Member Nations, the Holy See, representatives from six United Nations (UN), Specialized Agencies of UN and related organizations and observers from 65 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. A list of delegates and observers is available on the COFI webpage<sup>1</sup>.
2. Mr Johán H. Williams, Chairperson, 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI, opened the Session and welcomed the participants.
3. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, inaugurated the Session and delivered a statement. The text of his statement is available on the COFI webpage.
4. Mr Koji Sekimizu, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) delivered a statement. The text of his statement is available on the COFI webpage.
5. The Chairperson gave an administrative report on the intersessional work by the Bureau.

## Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session

6. The Committee adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the Session. The Agenda is attached as Appendix A to this Report. The List of Documents which were placed before the Committee is available on the COFI webpage.

## Designation of Drafting Committee

7. The following Members were elected to the Drafting Committee: Argentina, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Qatar, United States of America and Zimbabwe. Argentina chaired the Drafting Committee.

## State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments<sup>2</sup>

8. The Committee expressed praise and support for the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2014 publication. It welcomed and appreciated the release of the publication prior to COFI which provided adequate time for review.
9. The Committee welcomed the new categorization of the status of marine stocks, as requested by the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of COFI. Most Members were encouraged by the results in SOFIA 2014. Some expressed cautious optimism with regards to the stock status and others remained concerned. They also emphasized the need for further measures to rebuild the stocks. There were requests to include more detailed information on the status of specific stocks, including data on fleet capacity and addition of socio-economic data, with a strong call to add regional information and perspectives. Members called for disaggregating data in future editions, suggested that specific topics be emphasized or added, and requested that assessments on some stocks and species be updated and corrected. Specifically, some Members requested that the ratio of stocks fished sustainably/unsustainably be expressed in terms of volume (catch in tonnes) and value.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/cofi>

<sup>2</sup> COFI/2014/2/Rev.1 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk055e.pdf>)

10. The Committee commended the work undertaken by FAO to develop the new web-based questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and welcomed the substantial increase in response rates of Members, regional fishery bodies (RFBs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which provided for a more thorough and reliable analysis to be carried out. The Committee called upon FAO to:

- (a) further develop the web-based system, together with the related data processing tools and usability features;
- (b) undertake a review of the contents of the questionnaire, taking into account recent developments in global fisheries and aquaculture, as well as comments already provided by respondents, and include space for complementary information to be added in each section;
- (c) ensure coherence of the Code questionnaire with the Sub-Committees' questionnaires on trade and aquaculture, and
- (d) provide assistance to Members, as appropriate, to compile and submit information through the web-based questionnaire.

11. The Committee noted the progress made by Members in implementing the Code and related instruments, together with the notable engagements of RFBs and NGOs. It underscored the need to continue supporting developing countries in enhancing food security through the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. In particular, the safeguarding of small-scale fisheries and the improvement of data collection and monitoring systems including through capacity development programmes, were highlighted. Furthermore, the Committee noted that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) required distinct support to improve implementation of the Code and to alleviate trade-barrier constraints.

12. The relevance of aquaculture in the provision of livelihoods and fish as food was underscored. The Committee recognized the need to support the expansion of small-scale aquaculture in developing countries in line with responsible practices laid down in the Code.

13. The Committee acknowledged efforts being made by Members in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, including through regional mechanisms and the development of national plans of action. Many Members emphasized the importance of the coming into force of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) as soon as possible. Some Members noted with concern the persisting problem of piracy in some regions of the world which needed to be addressed with urgency.

14. The Committee reiterated its support for FAO's ongoing work on bycatch management and reduction of discards. It requested FAO to expand its efforts to effectively implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards, addressing all fishing gears where bycatch, including, inter alia, marine mammals, and discards were a concern. The Committee called for further work to address the issue of post-harvest losses and waste in certain fisheries.

15. Concern was expressed over ghost fishing by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and that greater attention should be paid by Members and RFBs/regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to mitigate ALDFG impacts, noting that cost-effective technologies and practices were available. Many Members highlighted the need for further work on this issue.

16. The importance of safety at sea in the fisheries sector was highlighted and the Committee welcomed the effective cooperation established in this regard between FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and IMO. Many Members stressed the link between safety at sea and forced labour and the occurrence of IUU fishing activities. They referred, in this context, to the ILO

Convention 188 and to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the implementation of the provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993.

### **Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries<sup>3</sup>**

#### **Endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)**

17. The Committee endorsed the SSF Guidelines by accepting the Chair's proposal for the finalization of paragraph 6.18.

18. The Committee agreed that a footnote be added to paragraph 6.18 of the Guidelines (reading: "Section 25 is entitled Conflicts in respect to tenure of land, fisheries and forest"). The Legal Counsel indicated that this explanatory footnote did not reopen the Guidelines. The endorsed Guidelines are available on the COFI webpage.

19. The Committee agreed to honour Ms Chandrika Sharma in the SSF Guidelines for her invaluable contributions to small-scale fisheries.

20. The Committee noted the critical role of the adopted SSF Guidelines in improving the social, economic and cultural status of small-scale fisheries, which were often particularly vulnerable to disasters and climate change. The Committee highlighted the need of the sector, which played a crucial role in contributing to the promotion of livelihoods, as well as food security and nutrition in many countries. It also reiterated the importance of the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines, in particular the human-rights based approach.

21. Some Members noted that the SSF Guidelines should not represent a barrier to trade, fostering legal and formal access of small-scale fishers.

22. The Secretariat was requested to take note of statements made by Members and to reflect them in the Chairperson's Report of the Technical Consultation on SSF Guidelines<sup>4</sup>.

#### **Global Assistance Programme (GAP) for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines**

23. The Committee welcomed FAO's proposal for a GAP to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines without delay.

24. The Committee agreed on the inclusive and consensus-seeking overall strategic approach and the structure of the GAP around four components: raising awareness; strengthening the science-policy interface; empowering stakeholders and supporting implementation. It also confirmed that the principles of the SSF Guidelines should be mainstreamed in policies and actions at all levels.

25. Some Members, while supporting the SSF Guidelines, expressed their disappointment with the endorsement process of the Guidelines.

26. The Committee recommended to further develop the GAP in a participatory manner and to define the roles of different partners in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

27. The Committee acknowledged FAO's role in the development and implementation of the SSF Guidelines including a monitoring process through COFI.

28. The Committee emphasized the role of governments in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, as well as regional and local fisheries organizations to ensure ownership of the SSF

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<sup>3</sup> COFI/2014/3 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk050e.pdf>)

<sup>4</sup> COFI/2014/Inf.10 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk041e.pdf>)



Guidelines. It also recommended building on existing experiences and institutional structures and processes.

29. The Committee noted the urgent need for extra-budgetary funding for the implementation.
30. Some Members called for the establishment of a Sub-Committee on small-scale fisheries.

## **Global and regional processes and instruments**

### **Global and regional processes<sup>5</sup>**

31. FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) was presented as an initiative of the Director-General of FAO, responding to the call from Rio+20, and as a part of the Strategic Framework of the Organization. The BGI recognizes the important role of aquatic resources for food security. The goal of the BGI is to address food security and poverty alleviation through quality capture fisheries and aquaculture production through processes which are integrated, sustainable and socioeconomically sensitive.

32. The Committee acknowledged the BGI and commended the efforts of the Secretariat to identify the areas of activity that would be a part of the initiative. Many Members expressed interest to collaborate in this initiative. Some Members noted that the BGI was presented only in abstract terms and expressed concern about the lack of a common understanding of the concept.

33. Some Members suggested the establishment of a BGI working group to further develop the application of the initiative and that regional workshops be carried out in relation to the BGI. Some Members expressed support for the proposal by the Republic of Korea to establish a "FAO World Fisheries University". The proposed University would promote the BGI to enhance capacity building of developing States in the field of fisheries through education and training.

34. Many Members emphasized that FAO should be the centre of fisheries and aquaculture activities within the UN System, and supported FAO collaborating across the UN System. Some Members also supported collaboration with other current regional and global processes. However, duplication of coordination mechanisms should be avoided. Several Members noted that the FAO Secretariat should prioritize between different initiatives in accordance with mandates from its Statutory Bodies.

35. On the subject of non-FAO RFBs/RFMOs, several Members applauded the practice of conducting performance reviews on a regular basis as a necessary process to show transparency and accountability in their activities, and emphasized the need to implement the recommendations. One Member also suggested that the effectiveness of catch reporting and monitoring should be a part of all performance reviews.

36. On the subject of FAO RFBs, a number of Members expressed concern that FAO RFBs and FAO RFMOs were grouped together in one discussion within the paper. Likewise, some Members requested that the activities of the RFBs be organized in subregions taking into account the criteria of similarities, challenges and development which countries may face. There was support for the idea of FAO RFBs being strengthened on a case by case basis. One Member requested a workplan to revitalize existing FAO RFBs by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFI in 2016.

### **Instruments combating IUU fishing<sup>6</sup>**

37. The Committee welcomed the conclusion of the Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance and praised the work carried out by the Secretariat in reviewing the adopted Voluntary

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<sup>5</sup> COFI/2014/4.1 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk130e.pdf>)

<sup>6</sup> COFI/2014/4.2/Rev.1 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk052e.pdf>)

Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VGFSP), which were unanimously endorsed by the Committee as available on the COFI webpage. The Committee urged Members to start implementing the VGFSP as soon as possible. Some Members proposed to hold a technical consultation to address transshipment at sea.

38. The Committee noted the slow rate of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession to the PSMA. Many Members declared their appreciation of the benefits of the PSMA as a cost-effective and important tool to combat IUU fishing. Some Members informed the Committee on the status of their internal processes to become party to the Agreement. The Committee encouraged FAO to continue with the delivery of its capacity development programme to assist developing countries in strengthening and harmonizing port State measures, including through bilateral, subregional and/or regional coordination.

39. One Member reiterated that references in the documents of the session to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) did not prejudice the position of any State with respect to signature, ratification or accession to this instrument and its further role. Furthermore, some Members also reiterated that references in the documents of the session to the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement did not imply that this Agreement may apply to States that had not expressed their consent to be bound by it.

40. Recognizing the role of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) in the concerted fight against IUU fishing, the Committee:

- (a) reiterated its support for the Global Record's continued development by FAO and commended FAO on the preparation of the strategy document and the demonstration of the prototype;
- (b) welcomed FAO's efforts in coordinating the Global Record with other existing systems to keep it cost-effective, while working towards standardization at the global level;
- (c) appreciated the collaboration with IMO in extending its ship identification number scheme to fishing vessels and agreed that the IMO number should be used as the Global Record's unique vessel identifier for Phase 1;
- (d) noted that several RFMOs have made provisions for the IMO number to be compulsory in their convention areas;
- (e) agreed that States were responsible for the data and its provision to the Global Record, possibly through RFMOs, and
- (f) appreciated FAO's continued assistance to developing States.

41. Some Members recognized the need for an advisory committee to clarify outstanding issues and to find a solution for the long-term financing.

42. Some Members noted that the UN General Assembly in relation to IUU fishing had called on Members to initiate work within FAO in developing guidelines on catch documentation schemes to be addressed under Agenda item 8 on Fish trade.

### **Inland fisheries<sup>7</sup>**

43. The Committee expressed appreciation for FAO's work in raising the profile of inland fisheries and welcomed inland fisheries as a stand-alone agenda item and requested continued attention in the future.

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<sup>7</sup> COFI/2014/5 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk021e.pdf>)

44. The Committee acknowledged the importance of inland fisheries as a means towards meeting FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOs) on food security, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, stable markets and increased resilience.
45. The Committee recognized the many competing uses of inland waters and recommended that a cross-sectoral, ecosystem approach be taken. This approach should include the opportunities and threats posed by aquaculture, stocking, invasive/alien species and climate change.
46. The Committee noted that information and data on inland fisheries was insufficient and often difficult and expensive to collect. However new methods were available, e.g. remote sensing and geo-spatial tools, to help in this regard. As a result of poor information, the contribution of inland fisheries to livelihoods and food security was undervalued and therefore not adequately considered in the local, national, regional and global agenda.
47. The Committee recommended that inland fishery issues be better included in national, subregional, regional and global instruments addressing water use and food security to ensure that inland capture fisheries, and the men and women depending on them for food and nutritional security, were appropriately considered. The Committee noted that the recently endorsed Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries would provide guidance in this regard.
48. Some Members noted the important role of FAO's decentralized offices, regional fishery bodies, and basin and river authorities in addressing inland fishery issues and recommended that FAO strengthen those bodies dealing with inland fisheries and increase subregional and regional cooperation.
49. The Committee urged FAO to provide guidance and increase capacity development in the areas of data collection and analysis, stock assessment, management, post-harvesting, and policy development. Some Members further supported the concept of community-based fishery management.
50. Some Members supported FAO convening a high-level policy meeting on inland capture fisheries, potentially in conjunction with the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries: Fresh Water, Fish and the Future, to be held in January 2015, together with Michigan State University.
51. Some Members recognized the importance of collaboration and partnerships, and appreciated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Michigan State University and FAO to formalize cooperation for responsible development and management of inland capture fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

#### **Decisions and recommendations of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Bergen, Norway, 24-28 February 2014<sup>8</sup>**

52. The Committee endorsed the Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Bergen, Norway, 24–28 February 2014, and thanked the Government of Norway for hosting the Session.
53. The Committee underlined the important function of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade as a forum for Members on technical and policy-related trade issues.
54. The Committee expressed support for FAO's capacity-building activities on post-harvest issues, in particular for small-scale producers and processors in developing countries. Some Members recognized the special conditions of SIDS and recommended that this should be reflected in FAO's work.

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<sup>8</sup> COFI/2014/6 (<http://www.fao.org/3/b-mk062e.pdf>)

55. The Committee welcomed FAO's ongoing work on value-chains and recommended its strengthening, especially in relation to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.
56. Many Members expressed concern that various documentation requirements could pose unjustifiable barriers to trade.
57. Some Members supported work on the best practice guidelines on traceability and emphasized the need to convene an Expert Consultation to undertake a gap analysis in relation to best practices and standards for traceability, should extra-budgetary resources materialize.
58. The Committee noted the usefulness of catch documentation schemes in combating IUU fishing and welcomed initiatives to harmonize current schemes, *inter alia*, in order to reduce the administrative burden and costs.
59. The Committee took note of paragraph 68 of the UN Fisheries Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries of 9 December 2013 on catch documentation and welcomed the offer by Norway to support the convening of an Expert Consultation on this issue.
60. The Committee recognized that FAO would undertake to elaborate guidelines and other relevant criteria relating to catch documentation schemes, including possible formats, based on the following principles: a) conformity with the provisions of relevant international law; b) not create unnecessary barriers to trade; c) equivalence; d) risk-based; e) reliable, simple, clear and transparent; and f) electronic if possible, aiming for adoption at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee of Fisheries. The assessment of schemes and formats would include cost-benefit considerations and take into account catch documentation schemes already implemented by certain Members as well as by RFMOs.
61. Many Members expressed their concern at the proliferation of private standards, certification and eco-labelling schemes as prerequisites for market access, and about the use of labelling requirements lacking scientific or methodological base. The Committee agreed that FAO should continue its work on the monitoring of such schemes and undertake an analysis of their effects on fisheries management and on economic returns.
62. The Committee reiterated its support for FAO's work on commercially exploited aquatic species of interest to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Committee requested the FAO Expert Advisory Panel to strengthen its consideration of technical issues related to fisheries management and international trade consistent with the Panel's terms of reference. Some Members recommended that such work be funded by FAO's Regular Programme.
63. The Committee expressed support for FAO's collaboration with the World Trade Organization on issues related to trade in fish and fishery products and, in particular, the fisheries subsidies negotiations.
64. Some Members commended the FAO's work in improving the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) for fish products in collaboration with the World Customs Organization, and encouraged FAO to continue this activity with focus on endangered species and on a possible breakdown between farmed and wild species.
65. The Committee took note of the concerns expressed by some Members regarding the use of unilateral trade measures.
66. Many Members congratulated GLOBEFISH upon its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and noted its usefulness in supplying information and analysis on markets and trade.

67. The Committee welcomed the kind invitation of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee.

### **Decisions and recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 7-11 October 2013<sup>9</sup>**

68. The Committee endorsed the report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation from 7–11 October 2013 and thanked the Russian Federation for hosting the session.

69. The Committee:

(a) recognized the importance of aquaculture for food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation, income generation, employment and trade;

(b) emphasized the need to engage all regional networks, strengthen public/private partnerships and provide support to the small-scale sector in the effort to develop sustainable aquaculture;

(c) reiterated the need for FAO's continued technical assistance and engagement with national governments for the development of aquaculture and all its aspects.

70. Some Members suggested that the Sub-Committee take a strategic approach to address aquatic animal health issues.

71. Some Members underscored the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation with emphasis on the regional and subregional levels in promoting sustainable aquaculture development.

72. The Committee recognized the contribution of sustainably-managed inland fisheries and culture-based fisheries to global food security and nutrition, while some Members emphasized the importance of maintaining genetic integrity of stocks with regards to stock enhancement programmes.

73. While endorsing the revised terminology on culture-based fisheries, a few countries requested amendments to some of the definitions. The Secretariat proposed that this request be proposed to the next Session of the Sub-Committee for its consideration.

74. Some Members requested that the process of establishing the FAO Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies be open and transparent, and that Genetically Modified Organisms not be included in the scope of the Group's activities.

75. The Committee, while approving the Evaluation Framework for Assessing Conformity of Public and Private Certification Schemes with the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, recalled the need to address the concerns expressed by the Members on this issue at the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee.

76. The Committee re-emphasized the need to use a regional approach for setting priorities during the development of the strategic framework for the work of the Sub-Committee and recommended that FAO conduct inclusive consultations to set regional priorities. The Committee emphasized the need to harmonize the Sub-Committee strategic framework with FAO's SOs.

77. Many Members acknowledged the importance of the BGI for FAO's future work on aquaculture development, supported the Global Aquaculture Advancement Partnership Programme and recognized its role as a mechanism for technical cooperation and resource mobilization. Some Members called for its financing under the Regular Programme budget. Sri Lanka announced the first

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<sup>9</sup> COFI/2014/7 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk029e.pdf>)

contribution to the Global Aquaculture Fund, initiated by His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, Honourable President of Sri Lanka, and requested others to follow.

78. The Committee welcomed the kind invitation of Brazil to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in Brasilia, from 5 to 9 October 2015.

### **FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture under the reviewed Strategic Framework<sup>10</sup>**

79. The Committee commended the quality of the document on FAO's programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture, which had improved over successive sessions of COFI. The separate information document of the Secretariat follow-up on recommendations from the previous COFI was welcomed.

80. The Committee welcomed FAO's new SOs as a basis for focusing FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture on food security, poverty reduction and sustainable management, and utilization of natural resources. The Committee stressed that all work carried out by FAO should be consistent with the Strategic Framework, including the activities carried out under extra-budgetary funds.

81. The Committee reiterated the need to promote and implement existing international instruments, agreements, plans of action and technical guidance. Some Members also encouraged to increase collaboration with RFMOs, other intergovernmental organizations and mechanisms, noting the utility of recognizing the respective comparative advantages of all those concerned.

82. Many Members expressed support for FAO's continued work on certain issues such as deep-sea fisheries, lost and abandoned fishing gear, and the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture, including the possibility of focusing future agenda items on these issues.

83. The Committee expressed concern about over-exploitation, marine and land-based sources of pollution, declining biodiversity, increase in alien/invasive species, ocean acidification and disease outbreaks.

84. The Committee noted the need for integrating biosecurity, carrying out capacity assessment and spatial planning in the implementation of aquaculture strategies.

85. The Committee acknowledged the importance of applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture management, also taking into account all dimensions of sustainability (social, economic and environmental). The Committee also welcomed integrated approaches to deliver on the strategic priorities of food security, sustainability, poverty reduction and productivity.

86. The Committee called upon FAO to:

- (a) further elaborate and provide more technical precision regarding the BGI in contributing to the SOs;
- (b) provide support to countries regarding the impacts of climate change in relation to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and
- (c) provide assistance to Members, as appropriate, to compile and submit statistics, including socio-economic data and related information on small-scale fishers and communities.

87. The Committee welcomed the kind offer of Spain to host a conference in Vigo, Spain in 2015 to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Spain invited all COFI Members and participants to attend.

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<sup>10</sup> COFI/2014/8 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk415e.pdf>)

### **Multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) of the Committee<sup>11</sup>**

88. The Committee approved the Progress Report of the MYPOW 2012–2015 and the MYPOW 2014–2017.

89. The Committee suggested further improvement of the MYPOW, *inter alia*, by identifying quantifiable targets and indicators, and the actors to implement the decisions. It was also proposed to clearly mention the importance and usefulness of side events.

### **Rules of Procedure of the Committee and Sub-Committees<sup>12</sup>**

90. The Committee reviewed and adopted the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee set out in Appendix I to Document COFI/2014/10, as in Appendix B attached to this Report.

### **Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFI**

91. The Committee elected Mr Fabio Hazin (Brazil) as Chairperson and Mr William Gibbons-Fly (United States of America) as First Vice-Chairperson. Ghana, Kuwait, New Zealand, Poland and Republic of Korea were elected as Vice-Chairpersons.

### **Any other matters**

92. The Republic of the Philippines recalled Typhoon Hayan which hit the Philippines in November 2013, and the loss of lives, destruction, pain and suffering it caused. He expressed gratitude and appreciation to the UN, NGOs and numerous countries, for their significant assistance and generous support in the aftermath of the disaster. He also recalled the 116<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of the Philippines.

93. The representative of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea recalled the importance of the UNCLOS for the legal regime of the oceans, as well as that of the UN-Oceans for inter-agency consultations on ocean matters. He appreciated the contributions by FAO and Members to the reports of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. He thanked FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for the long-standing cooperation on fisheries-related matters.

94. The representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature highlighted some impacts of fishing on the environment. Furthermore, emphasis was given to the significance of impacts on fisheries resulting from climate change and ocean acidification, as well as the need for integrated management, and FAO and others were thanked for the ongoing collaboration.

### **Date and place of the next Session**

95. The Committee agreed that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFI will be held in Rome, in 2016. The exact dates will be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the COFI Bureau, for presentation to the next FAO Council in December 2014 and the FAO Conference in 2015.

### **Adoption of the Report**

96. The Committee had before it a Final Draft Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI prepared by the Drafting Committee and presented by its Chair.

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<sup>11</sup> COFI/2014/9 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mj984e.pdf>)

<sup>12</sup> COFI/2014/10 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mj985e.pdf>)

97. The Section entitled “Endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)”, namely, paragraphs 17 to 22 of this Report, was adopted. A Chairperson’s statement is attached in Appendix C.

98. The remaining sections of the Final Draft Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI prepared by the Drafting Committee were adopted subject to the following arrangement. The Committee agreed that comments, including amendments, proposed by COFI Members to the Final Draft Report which were not approved by the Committee, but were reviewed by the Bureau, be reproduced in Appendix D hereto.



## APPENDIX A: Agenda

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session
3. Designation of Drafting Committee
4. State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments
5. Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries
  - 5.1 Endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF-Guidelines)
  - 5.2 Global Assistance Programme for implementation of the SSF-Guidelines
6. Global and regional processes and instruments
  - 6.1 Global and regional processes
  - 6.2 Instruments combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
    - (a) Endorsement of Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance
    - (b) Progress and status of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
7. Inland fisheries
8. Fish trade
  - 8.1 Decisions and recommendations of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Bergen, Norway, 24-28 February 2014
  - 8.2 Guidelines on Traceability and Catch Documentations
  - 8.3 Any other matters
9. Aquaculture
  - 9.1 Decisions and recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 7-11 October 2013
  - 9.2 Global Aquaculture Advancement Partnership (GAAP) Programme
  - 9.3 Any other matters
10. FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture under the reviewed Strategic Framework
11. Multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) of the Committee
12. Rules of Procedure of the Committee and Sub-Committees
13. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFI

14. Any other matters
15. Date and place of the next Session
16. Adoption of the Report

## APPENDIX B: Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Fisheries<sup>13</sup>

### Rule I

#### Officers

1. At the first session in each biennium, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson, a first Vice-Chairperson and five other Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of its Members, who shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairperson and new Vice-Chairpersons and who will act as a Bureau between sessions and during sessions.

*2. The Chairperson, the first Vice-Chairperson and five other Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected from the following regions: one representative each from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, Near East, North America and Southwest Pacific<sup>14</sup>.*

*3. When electing the Chairperson, the Committee shall give due consideration to the desirability of ensuring rotation of the office among the regions<sup>15</sup>.*

~~2-4.~~ Between sessions, in relation to agendas, formats and other matters, and to perform other actions relevant for ensuring preparations for the sessions, the representatives of the regional groups in the Bureau shall consult with Members in a timely way.

~~3-5.~~ The Chairperson, or in his absence the first Vice-Chairperson, shall preside at meetings of the Committee and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work. In the event of the Chairperson and the first Vice-Chairperson not being able to preside at a meeting, the Committee shall appoint one of the other Vice-Chairpersons or, failing these, a representative of its Members to take the chair.

~~4-6.~~ The Director-General of the Organization shall appoint a Secretary, who shall perform such duties as the work of the Committee may require and prepare the records of the proceedings of the Committee.

### Rule II

#### Sessions

1. The Committee shall hold sessions as provided in Rule XXX, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the General Rules of the Organization with timing that enables the Programme and Finance Committees to take into consideration the report of the Committee in formulating advice to the Council.

2. Any number of separate meetings may be held during each session of the Committee.

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<sup>13</sup> In the text of the draft amendments reproduced below, the proposals regarding deletions are indicated using strikethrough text and the proposals for insertions are indicated using *underlined italics*.

<sup>14</sup> The insertion was proposed by Thailand, on behalf of some Members of the Asia Regional Group, during the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of COFI held in July 2012.

<sup>15</sup> The insertion is proposed in response to the proposal by Thailand to change current practice whereby the Vice-Chairperson is automatically elected as Chairperson at the succeeding COFI session. The proposed phrasing is similar to Rule I, paragraph 2, of the RoP of the Committee on Forestry. It is worth noting, at its 97<sup>th</sup> session in October 2013, the CCLM has considered the possibility to recommend that a similar provision be adopted by the other Technical Committees. On that occasion, the CCLM considered document CCLM 97/3 on *Bureaus and Steering Committees of Technical Committees under Article v of the Constitution (Composition and Functions)* and, noting that issues considered were under negotiation by the membership of Technical Committees, decided to review the matter again at a future session (CL 148/2 Rev.1, paragraphs 6-7).

3. The sessions of the Committee shall in the years immediately following a regular session of the Conference be held at the seat of the Organization; in other years they may be held in another place in pursuance of a decision taken by the Committee in consultation with the Director-General.
4. Notice of the date and place of each session shall normally be communicated at least two months in advance of the session to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization, and to such non-member States and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.
5. Each Member of the Committee may appoint alternates and advisers to its representative on the Committee.
6. Presence of representatives of a majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for any formal action by the Committee.

### **Rule III**

#### **Attendance**

1. Participation of international organizations in an observer capacity in the work of the Committee shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization,<sup>16</sup> as well as by the general rules of the Organization on relations with international organizations.
2. Attendance by non-member States of the Organization at sessions of the Committee shall be governed by the principles relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the Conference.
3.
  - a) Meetings of the Committee shall be held in public, unless the Committee decides to meet in private for discussion of any items on its agenda.
  - b) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (c) below, any Member Nation not represented on the Committee, any Associate Member or any non-member State invited to attend in an observer capacity a session of the Committee may submit memoranda and participate without vote in any discussion at a public or private meeting of the Committee.
  - c) In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may decide to restrict attendance at private meetings to the representative or observer of each Member Nation of the Organization.

### **Rule IV**

#### **Agenda and Documents**

1. The Director-General, in consultation with the Bureau through the Chairperson of the Committee, shall prepare a provisional agenda and shall normally circulate it at least two months in advance of the session to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and to all non-member States and international organizations invited to attend the session.
2. All Member Nations of the Organization and Associate Members acting within the limits of their status may request the Director-General normally not less than 30 days before the proposed date of the

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<sup>16</sup> It is understood that in this context the terms "Constitution" and "the General Rules of the Organization" are to be taken to include all general rules and policy statements formally adopted by the Conference and intended to supplement the Constitution and the Rules, such as the "Statement of principles relating to the granting of observer status to nations", and the general rules regarding relationships between the Organization and governmental and non-governmental organizations.

session to insert an item in the provisional agenda. The Director-General shall thereupon circulate the proposed item to all Members of the Committee, together with any necessary papers.

3. The first item on the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda. The Committee in session may by general consent amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item, provided that no matter referred to it by the Council or on the request of the Conference be omitted from the agenda.

4. Documents not already circulated shall be dispatched with the provisional agenda, or as soon as possible thereafter.

## **Rule V**

### **Voting**

1. Each Member of the Committee shall have one vote.

2. The decisions of the Committee shall be ascertained by the Chairperson, who shall resort, upon the request of one or more Members, to a vote, in which case the pertinent provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

## **Rule VI**

### **Records and Reports**

1. At each session, the Committee shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including when requested a statement of minority views. The Committee shall make every effort to ensure that recommendations are precise and can be implemented. Policy and regulatory matters shall be referred to the Conference whereas programme and budget matters shall be referred to the Council. Any recommendations adopted by the Committee which affect the programme or finances of the Organization shall be reported to the Council with the comments of the appropriate subsidiary committees of the Council.

2. Reports of sessions shall be circulated to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and to non-member States invited to attend the session, as well as to interested international organizations entitled to be represented at the session.

3. The comments of the Committee on the report of any of its subsidiary bodies and, if one or more Members of the Committee so request, the views of those Members shall be incorporated into the Committee's report. If any Member so requests, this part of the Committee's report shall be circulated as soon as possible by the Director-General to the States or international organizations which normally receive the reports of the subsidiary body in question. The Committee may also request the Director-General, in transmitting the report and records of its proceedings to Members, to call particular attention to its views and comments on the report of any of its subsidiary bodies.

4. The Committee shall determine the procedures in regard to press communiqués concerning its activities.

## **Rule VII**

### **Subsidiary Bodies**

1. In accordance with the provisions of Rule XXX, paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee may, when necessary, establish subcommittees, subsidiary working parties or study groups, subject to the necessary funds being available in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization, and may include in the membership of such subcommittees, subsidiary working parties or study groups Member Nations that are not Members of the Committee

and Associate Members. The membership of such subcommittees, subsidiary working parties and study groups established by the Committee may include States which, while not Member Nations or Associate Members of the Organization, are members of the United Nations, any of its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.

2. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies, the Committee shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

3. The Committee shall determine the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies, who shall report to the Committee. The reports of the subsidiary bodies shall be made available for information to all members of the subsidiary bodies concerned, all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization, non-member States invited to the sessions of the subsidiary bodies, and to interested international organizations entitled to attend such sessions.

### **Rule VIII**

#### **Suspension of Rules**

The Committee may decide to suspend any of the foregoing Rules of Procedure, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given and that the action contemplated is consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization.<sup>17</sup> Such notice may be waived if no Member objects.

### **Rule IX**

#### **Amendment of Rules**

The Committee may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, amend its Rules of Procedure, provided that such amendment is consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization. No proposal for the amendment of these Rules shall be included in the agenda of any session of the Committee unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Director-General to Members of the Committee at least 30 days before the opening of the session.

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<sup>17</sup> See footnote to Rule III, paragraph 1.

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**APPENDIX C: The Chairperson's statement with regard to the Voluntary  
Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food  
Security and Poverty Eradication**

It has been brought to my attention that the issue is that of the universal applicability of the SSF Guidelines.

The interpretation of the Chair is that the SSF Guidelines are applicable to all small-scale fisheries worldwide including in countries and territories under occupation.

I will ask that this statement be added to the Report of this COFI Session.

## **APPENDIX D: COFI Members' comments proposed at the time of the adoption of the Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI and after the Session<sup>18</sup>**

Cambodia : Statement under Agenda Item 14, Any Other Matters

The delegation of Cambodia highlighted the important contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and underscored the need for capacity building in fisheries management within the sector. It welcomed the upcoming Inland Fisheries Conference to be held in FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 26 to 30 January 2015, which will include a session on governance and tenure rights. It also extended its invitation to all Members to attend the Tenure and User Rights Conference organized by the Government of Cambodia from 23 to 27 March 2015.

Canada: comments regarding the draft Report of COFI 31 (June 2014)

We welcome the opportunity to submit comments regarding the draft COFI report, which identify the key revisions that Canada would have suggested during the report adoption process, had we had more time to do so.

Given the unusual circumstances of the COFI 31 session, which we would not wish to see repeated, we have kept our comments to a minimum. Our recollection of the COFI 31 proceedings is that the Committee agreed that Participants could submit such comments after the COFI 31 session, prior to the finalization of the report. We understand that any such comments will not result in changes being made to the report, but instead will be appended to the COFI report in one combined annex. It is with this understanding that we have opted not to comment on matters raised by other Members during the report adoption process which may be reflected in the comments annex. In this regard, it should be noted that our approval of the report should not be construed as an endorsement of other Members' appended comments.

Furthermore, it is our understanding that Canada's explanation of position regarding the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* will be appended to the COFI report in a separate annex to the COFI report, along with the *Voluntary Guidelines*.

With the above understanding, please find below, Canada's comments on the draft COFI 31 report. Please note that paragraphs are numbered according to the draft circulated on 13 June 2014.

### ***Paragraph 37<sup>19</sup>***

Canada does not agree that COFI noted a "slow rate" of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession to the PSMA. We do not recall such statements in plenary. Processes to become Party to a treaty can take a certain amount of time. We would have suggested it read: "The Committee **welcomed the new ratifications, approvals, acceptances and accessions** to the PSMA."

### ***Paragraph 76<sup>20</sup>***

<sup>18</sup> This Appendix contains comments (including proposed amendments) made by COFI Members on the Final Draft COFI Report, at the time of the adoption of the Draft Report (See Paragraphs 96 to 98) or after the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI. These comments do not relate to that part of the Final Draft COFI Report on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (See paragraphs 17 to 22). The comments (including proposed amendments) shall be understood as expressing the views of the Member which made the comment. They shall not be understood as having been submitted to the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI for its consideration and adoption.

<sup>19</sup> It has become paragraph 38 in the current main text.



Canada indicated in its intervention that the Global Aquaculture Advancement Partnership Programme (GAAP) should not divert attention away from the FAO's core activities in convening and supporting the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, especially in relation to the development of a strategic framework/workplan. Thus, we would have suggested adding a sentence: "**The Secretariat was cautioned that the GAAP should not divert attention and resources from the Secretariat's and Sub-Committee's core activities.**"

As stated above, please accept these as Canada's comments on the draft report of COFI 31, to be appended to the said report.

Mexico : Proposal on paragraph 38 (originally 37) of the draft Report

To insert "or the other measures being adopted to achieve the essential objectives of the Agreement" at the end of the third sentence in the paragraph.

Republic of Korea : Proposal on the second sentence in paragraph 33 (originally 32) of the draft Report

[Current text]

Some Members expressed support for the proposal made by the Republic of Korea to establish a "FAO World Fisheries University". The proposed University would promote the Blue Growth Initiative to enhance capacity building of developing States in the field of fisheries through education and training.

[Proposed modification]

Some Members expressed support of the Joint initiative driven by the Republic of Korea and FAO to establish a "FAO World Fisheries University". The University would promote the Blue Growth Initiative by enhancing capacity building of developing States in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture through education and training.

[Reason]

This is not a proposal but a fact that both FAO and Republic of Korea agreed to promote the establishment of the University through MOU. Member's strong support will accelerate the establishment of the University.

Spain : Statement under Agenda item 11, Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee

Spain announced a contribution of 250 000 EUR to FAO for the establishment of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels as a new concrete tool to fight IUU fishing and related activities.

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<sup>20</sup> It has become paragraph 77 in the current main text.