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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-second Session

Rome, 11-15 July 2016

ANNOTATIONS/GUIDE NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Summary

This information paper provides background information of the Provisional Agenda for the Thirty-second Session of COFI.

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1. Opening of the session

- The Chairperson will call the session to order. He will inform delegates of the voting right of the European Union and its Member States on each agenda item (*COFI/2016/Inf.23*).
- After the opening remarks and an administrative report by the Chairperson on the inter-sessional consultation conducted by the Bureau, the Director-General of FAO or his Representative will inaugurate the session (*COFI/2016/Inf.3*).

2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session

Procedural (*COFI/2016/1*, *COFI/2016/Inf.4*).

3. Designation of Drafting Committee

Procedural.

4. State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments

- The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016 (SOFIA 2016) will be presented as a scene-setting information.
- A relevant document (*COFI/2016/2*) provides a summary of the analyses on the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and its related instruments, by FAO Members, regional fishery bodies (RFBs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), since the last report to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014. It reviews the role of the biennial flagship publication The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) in supporting the work of decision-makers in general and that of FAO in particular, and presents key information in SOFIA 2016 concerning the current status, recent trends and prospects in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The detailed analysis of the outcome of the questionnaire and regional statistical analysis of responses to the questionnaire are available in relevant information paper (*COFI/2016/Inf.7*) and session background document (SBD) (*COFI/2016/SBD.1*) respectively.
- Any report on the 20 Anniversary of the Code is also expected under this Agenda item.
- Safety at sea is also addressed under this Agenda item (*COFI/2016/Inf.8*, *COFI/2016/SBD.2*).
- Any general statements by heads of delegations are expected under this Agenda item.

The Committee is invited to:

- comment on FAO's role in reporting on the state of world fisheries and aquaculture, and how COFI can best contribute to this and benefit from it;
- comment on the extent to which SOFIA serves this role and how the publication can be improved;
- note the progress on the implementation of the Code and address the gaps and constraints identified on various components of the Code and in this regard;
- note the record response rate to the questionnaire and encourage Members to maintain their commitment in responding to the related instruments;

- provide guidance on how to continue to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code;
- advise on the broader use of the data and information submitted through the Code questionnaire, including for reporting on other processes, ad hoc assessments and studies, and specific technical reports;
- advise on the review of the contents of the questionnaire and further enhancements of the web-based application and related data management and data processing tools; and
- note progress concerning safety at sea in the fisheries sector, including through cooperation between FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO).

5. Decisions and recommendations of the Fifteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Agadir, Morocco, 22-26 February 2016)

- An overview of the topics discussed at the Fifteenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and its main recommendations are reported by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee (and/or the Secretariat) as well as in a relevant document (*COFI/2016/3*). The full report is available as a relevant information paper (*COFI/2016/Inf.9*).
- The issue on the IUCN red listing of commercial fish species and its impact on fisheries management is also addressed under this Agenda item.

The Committee is invited to:

- Endorse the report of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade; and
- Provide guidance on the follow up to the issues raised in the report.

5.1 Catch Documentation Schemes

- The sub-item focuses on catch documentation schemes (CDS) including the outcomes of the Expert and Technical Consultations on Catch Documentation Scheme and any follow-up to be made (*COFI/2016/3.1*, *COFI/2016/Inf.10*).

The Committee is invited to:

- Provide further guidance on the development and implementation of the Guidelines.

6. Decisions and recommendations of the Eighth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Brasilia, Brazil, 5–9 October 2015

- An overview of the topics discussed at the Eighth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and its main recommendations are reported by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee (and/or the Secretariat) as well as in a relevant document (*COFI/2016/4*). The full report is available as a relevant information paper (*COFI/2016/Inf.11*).
- This Agenda item also includes the future collaboration with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) in particular between the recently established Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the CGRFA and the COFI Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies (*COFI/2016/SBD.7*).

The Committee is invited to:

- Endorse the report of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture;
- Endorse the proposed work plan of the Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies as presented in Annex 1 of *COFI/2016/4*; and
- Provide further guidance, as appropriate, with regard to the work of the Department in the field of Aquaculture.

7. **Combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

- Without overlapping with Agenda item 4, this item focuses on the IUU fishing issue. The relevant document (*COFI/2016/5*) provide an overview of the status and implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), together with FAO's capacity development efforts in relation to the Agreement, the progress on the development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (see also *COFI/2016/Inf.12*, *COFI/2016/SBD.12*, *COFI/2016/SBD.13*, *COFI/2016/SBD.14*, *COFI/2016/SBD.15*), the outcomes of the work carried out by FAO in relation to the estimation of the magnitude of IUU fishing and options for further work on this subject (*COFI/2016/SBD.5*).
- The FAO's collaboration with other international organizations and networks in combatting IUU fishing is also reported (*COFI/2016/SBD.8*, *COFI/2016/SBD.10*).
- The rationale to declare an "International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing" (*COFI/2016/SBD.18*) is also provided for discussion under this Agenda item.

The Committee is invited to:

- Note the coming into force of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, urge other FAO Members to become Party to the Agreement and invite Parties to hold an inception meeting followed by a meeting of the ad hoc working group to be established under Article 21 of the PSMA;
- Note the capacity development needs of developing States in the effective implementation of the PSMA and complementary instruments and encourage Members to support FAO's PSMA global capacity development programme;
- Note the continued progress concerning the development of the Global Record as a supporting tool in the implementation of the PSMA and other international instruments to fight IUU fishing, in particular through the formation and work of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group (GRWG) and three Specialized Core Working Groups;
- Provide further guidance on the Global Record in the light of the conclusions and advice given by the GRWG;
- Provide guidance on the follow-up actions related to estimation of the magnitude of IUU fishing in the light of the conclusions of the study carried out by FAO;
- Consider the recommendations of the Third Session of the Joint FAO IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing and related matters and note developments on combatting IUU fishing in other international fora;
- Consider the development of guidelines for an IUU Fishing Risk Assessment Framework; and

- Consider the declaration of an “International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing” and that FAO coordinates related activities.

8. **Role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and ICN2 Follow-up: Nutrition-related implications for fisheries and aquaculture, including loss and waste of food**

- This Agenda item address the role of fisheries and aquaculture to food security in a broad scope including a follow-up to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN 2), which could be also addressed under Items 5 & 6 respectively as part of the reports of the Sub-Committees. The relevant document (*COFI/2016/6*) provides information, in particular focusing on ICN 2 follow-up.
- The issue on loss and waste of food will be also addressed under this Agenda item.

The Committee is invited to:

- Endorse the key areas of work identified for follow up to ICN2 in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- Advise on how best to prioritize fish consumption in nutrition strategies to maximally reap the nutrition and health-promoting benefits; and
- Advise on approaches to improve data collection on the nutrient composition of fish and fishery products.

9. **Securing sustainable small scale fisheries**

- The relevant document (*COFI/2016/7*) reports on progress towards implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), which were endorsed by the Thirty-first session of COFI in 2014. It also addresses the Committee’s recommendation to further develop the Global Assistance Programme (GAP) in a participatory manner as a framework to facilitate a coordinated and coherent approach to implementation and the need for continued support to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Complementary and additional information is provided in *COFI/2016/Inf.13*.
- This item also includes implication of eco-labelling for market access by developing countries in the context of small-scale fisheries.

The Committee is invited to:

- Consider the activities and developments in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines since their endorsement by the 31st Session of COFI in 2014, share information on other related initiatives and advise on additional activities in support of small-scale fisheries; and
- Advise on future support for SSF Guidelines implementation, in particular with regard to:
 - i) Mobilizing extra-budgetary resources through the FAO Umbrella programme for the Promotion and Application of the SSF Guidelines, and
 - ii) The steps that may be taken after the session in developing an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) in accordance with FAO rules and procedures.

9.1 **Outcome of and follow-up to the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries**

- As requested in Paragraph 43 in the COFI 31 report, continued attention at inland fisheries is given under this sub-item. Relevant document (*COFI/2016/7.1*) provides the outcome of the Global Conference “*Freshwater, Fish and the Future*” held at FAO HQ in January 2015. The Conference developed ten steps to responsible inland fisheries and recommendations to implement the ten steps. The conference recognized that whilst good information on some inland capture fisheries exist, there is inadequate knowledge on the sub-sector and its role in food security and poverty alleviation. Therefore, in addition to the ten steps, additional information and options are presented in order to improve knowledge on the state of inland capture fisheries to enable better integration into decision making on food security and poverty alleviation. More information is provided in *COFI/2016/Inf.14*, The Rome Declaration: ten steps to responsible inland fisheries, and the report of the Global Conference is provided as *COFI/2016/SBD.11*.

The Committee is invited to:

- Consider the content of the working document and in conjunction with the information papers, noting "Ten steps to responsible inland fisheries - outcomes from a global conference in Part 3, Highlights of Special Studies, of SOFIA 2016;
- Endorse the ten steps to responsible inland fisheries for future activities related to food security and poverty alleviation;
- Consider the need for an improved global assessment of inland fisheries; and
- Consider and advise on means to secure funding through extra budgetary or regular programme funds to improve the information on the state of inland fisheries.

9.2 Outcome of and follow-up to the Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: A global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries

- The relevant document (*COFI/2016/7.2*) reports on work on rights-based approaches in fisheries, in particular on the outcomes of Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: A global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries (UserRights 2015) co-organized by FAO and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
- Additionally, it describes the results of subsequent consultative meetings and introduces the thematic areas proposed for a global work programme on rights-based approaches in capture fisheries within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The outline and main features of the proposed global work programme are provided in *COFI/2016/Inf.15*, and the report of UserRights 2015 is provide as *COFI/2016/SBD.9*.

The Committee is invited to:

- Provide information and feedback on recent activities relating to rights-based approaches in fisheries;
- Advise on future support and potential extra-budgetary funding for the proposed global work programme and comment on its content, in particular on the principles and thematic areas identified by the consultative processes to date as well as priority activities within the proposed work programme; and
- Provide recommendations on additional thematic areas and activities.

10. Global and regional processes

- The relevant document (*COFI/2016/8*) provides an overview of the major global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture governance that are implemented with the involvement and support of FAO. It describes the role that FAO plays as a key stakeholder and as the specialized UN entity working on fisheries and aquaculture issues. In particular, given the numerous processes in which FAO is involved in this respect, this paper also highlights the importance of an adequate level of coordination among the relevant organizations in order to achieve the new targets set by the post-2015 process.
- Finally, in addition to describing the numerous relevant processes, this paper also highlights the importance of ensuring linkages are maintained between UNGA and COFI.

10.1 United Nations (UN) related matters

- Any matters related to UN could be addressed under this Agenda item including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ), the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA) (including the 20th Anniversary of UNFSA, Part VII Fund and the Review Conference in 2016) (*COFI/2016/Inf.20*).

10.2 Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB) related matters

- Any matters related to Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) could be addressed under this Agenda item including any reports on the activities from the RFBs including those established under the FAO framework, progress of establishment of new RFBs (*COFI/2016/Inf.16*, *COFI/2016/SBD.16*, *COFI/2016/SBD.17*).

10.3 Climate change and other environment related matters

- FAO Corporate Climate Change Strategy and any matters related to environmental issues could be addressed under this Agenda item including Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), gear marking, ocean acidification, micro-plastics, noise, bycatch, discards and wastes and conservation of biodiversity (*COFI/2016/Inf.17*, *COFI/2016/Inf.18*, *COFI/2016/Inf.19*, *COFI/2016/SBD.3*, *COFI/2016/SBD.4*, *COFI/2016/SBD.6*, *COFI/2016/SBD.18*, *COFI/2016/SBD.19*, *COFI/2016/SBD.20*).

The Committee is invited to:

- advise on the appropriate roles and functions FAO could be taking to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture governance, through measures such as enhanced partnerships across the UN system and with relevant organizations;
- consider and provide guidance on the unique role that RFBs/RFMOs play fisheries and aquaculture governance and, as appropriate, aquaculture development, advise on the actions and measures that may be taken to promote their further strengthening, and review their performance and accountability (*COFI/2016/Inf.16*, *COFI/2016/SBD.16*);
- consider encouraging its Members to make contributions to the Part VII Assistance Fund, including through supporting specific projects within the framework of the Terms of Reference;
- consider and provide guidance on possible ideas and options for the participation of FAO and RFMOs at the next Preparatory Committee on the BBNJ; as well as on the submission of an information document to the Chair of the Preparatory Committee on the BBNJ providing the existing activities and potential implications of each element of the “2011 package” on fisheries instruments and institutions;

- consider the suitability of a possible funding model/mechanism for the biennial event of the FAO CITES Expert Panel;
- consider and comment on the FAO corporate climate change strategy and its relevance to the fishery and aquaculture sector (*COFI/2016/Inf.17*);
- consider and advise on the draft 2017-2020 FAO strategy for fisheries, aquaculture and climate change, particularly regarding its relevance to the needs of COFI Members (*COFI/2016/Inf.18*);
- consider and advise on ongoing processes related to Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (*COFI/2016/Inf.20*);
- consider the outcomes of the expert meeting on "Aichi Target 6: Improving progress reporting and working towards implementation" (*COFI/2016/SBD.6*), its recommendations regarding collaborating with the CBD on reporting on the sustainability of fisheries, and using the CCRF questionnaire as a possible tool;
- comment on FAO work on disaster relief and resilience with particular reference to the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and any support that FAO can provide in this regard through further development of policy assistance and capacity development;
- consider the recommendations from the Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear and provide guidance on further work in light of the Consultation conclusions (*COFI/2016/Inf.19*, *COFI/2016/SBD.3*); and
- consider and advise on strengthening the linkages between COFI and UNGA, where appropriate.

11. FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework

- The relevant document (*COFI/2016/9*) provides an overview of FAO's achievements in fisheries and aquaculture in the 2014-2015 biennium and a perspective on FAO's work in the fisheries and aquaculture sector during 2016-17, in the context of the Strategic Framework. In addition, global developments and trends that are likely to influence FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture are presented in order to provide guidance on priority areas of to be taken into account in the quadrennial review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21.
- Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of COFI 31 (*COFI/2016/Inf.5*, *COFI/2015/Inf.6*) is also available as information papers for Members' consideration.
- Implication of the SDGs into the programme could be addressed under this Agenda item.
- A review on the global fisheries statistics database will be also addressed under this Agenda item (*COFI/2016/Inf.21*).

The Committee is invited to:

- Advise on the global and sectoral developments and trends identified; and
- Provide guidance on the main priorities for FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture to be taken into account in the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21.

12. Proposal of the Republic of Korea for the establishment of an FAO World Fisheries University

- The proposal on FAO World Fisheries University is addressed under this Agenda item.

13. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee

- Progress report of MYPOW 2014-17 and a draft MYPOW 2016-2019 (*COFI/2016/11*) and matters related to the work of the Committee including coordination and collaboration with COFO, COAG, CCP, CGRFA and CFS, and follow-up to the Independent Review such as clarification of the Bureaus mandates could be addressed under this Agenda item.

The Committee is expected to:

- examine this Progress Report, in accordance with its overall objectives and mandate and proposed results, work planning and methods, outlined in the approved MYPOW 2014-2017; and
- approve the proposed MYPOW 2016-2019, as set out in the Appendix of *COFI/2016/11*.

14. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Thirty-third Session of COFI

- The Committee is required to elect the office bearers for the thirty-third session of COFI in accordance with Rule I (1) of its Rules of Procedure.

15. Other matters

15.1 Development in fora of importance for the mandate of COFI: for information

- The relevant document (*COFI/2016/Inf.22*) informs the Committee of developments in other fora of importance, both in and outside FAO, for the mandate of the Committee. It covers the decisions and recommendations by other Governing Bodies in FAO, such as the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conferences and other Technical Committees as well as an international forum outside FAO.

15.2 Any other matters

- The Committee is invited to address any other matters proposed by Member States under Item 2.

16. Date and place of the next Session

- The Committee is invited to decide the date and place of the thirty-third session of COFI.

17. Adoption of the Report

Procedural.

