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## COUNCIL

### Hundred and Sixtieth Session

Rome, 3-7 December 2018

### Margarita Lizárraga Medal

#### Executive Summary

The Margarita Lizárraga Medal is awarded biennially to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) by the Director-General upon a proposal by the Council. The Selection Committee for the Margarita Lizárraga Medal 2018-2019 met in Rome on 12 July 2018 and unanimously agreed that the Award be given to the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen in Norway.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to:

- endorse the nomination of the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen and recommend that the Medal be presented by the Director-General at an award ceremony to be held before 31 December 2019.

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

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1. At its 29<sup>th</sup> Session in November 1997, the FAO Conference, by Resolution 18/97, instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal. The Medal is awarded biennially by the Director-General, upon a proposal of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Medal pays tribute to the late Dr Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior FAO Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code, for her work in the field of fisheries for almost forty years, and for her strong commitment to fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries.

2. The Selection Committee for the award, composed of the Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and the Bureau of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries, met in Rome on 12 July 2018. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Director-General (Climate and Natural Resources), representing the Director-General.

The Selection Committee reviewed the three nominations for the 2018-2019 biennium, proposed by the *ad hoc* Screening Committee, taking into consideration that the nominee must have demonstrated:

- an outstanding, practical and hands-on contribution to the application of the Code;
- tangible output;
- results achieved were a sustained effort and not a one-off initiative; and
- results achieved have the potential for a snow-ball/catalytic effect.

3. The Committee unanimously agreed that the 2018-2019 Award be given to the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen in Norway.

4. The research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen was selected in recognition of its activities to strengthen regional and country-specific efforts to reduce poverty, enhance knowledge and create conditions to assist in the achievement of food security through the development of sustainable fisheries management regimes and specifically through the application of the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries (EAF), one of the essential underlying aims of the Code. For over 40 years, the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen has assisted developing countries in fisheries research and management, with the latest state-of-the-art vessel inaugurated in 2017. The vessel has been pivotal in building cooperation and trust in fisheries research and management among concerned countries, and has had a catalytic effect on other regional and international activities in support of responsible fisheries. Unique within the sphere of international development, it operates at the forefront of fisheries and marine ecosystem research, and has forged crucial links between science and decision-making - demonstrating that the latter must always be guided and informed by quality research. It has been acclaimed as a unique mechanism for cooperation, knowledge generation and exchange in developing regions, particularly in Africa. The contribution of the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen to the application of the Code is therefore outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic.