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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
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للأمم المتحدة

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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-fourth Session

1–5 February 2021¹

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Executive Summary

- Delegates are kindly invited to note that the provisional timetable provides information on the session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), which will be held in virtual format.
- In light of the decision to hold the 34th Session of COFI in virtual mode, substantive consideration of the below five agenda items will be undertaken by a written correspondence procedure:
 - Item 5 - Decisions and recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Trondheim, Norway, 23–27 August 2019;
 - Item 6 - Decisions and recommendations of the Seventeenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Vigo, Spain, 25–29 November 2019;
 - Item 13.1 - Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture;
 - Item 14 - Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee;
 - Item 17.1 - Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of COFI: for information.
- Details of "Special Procedures for a Virtual Meeting of COFI exceptional to its 34th Session", including the written correspondence procedure, are set out in the Annex to this document.

¹ Rescheduled from 13–17 July 2020.

Monday, 1 February 2021

Morning: 9:30-12:30 hours

1. Opening of the Session (*COFI/2020/Inf.18, COFI/2020/Inf.3*)
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session (*COFI/2020/1, COFI/2020/Inf.1, COFI/2020/Inf.4, COFI/2020/Inf.19*)
3. Designation of Drafting Committee
4. Status, trends, emerging issues and innovative responses to ensure responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture: Building back better (*COFI/2020/2, COFI/2020/2.1, COFI/2020/2.2, COFI/2020/2.3, COFI/2020/10, COFI/2020/11, COFI/2020/Inf.7, COFI/2020/Inf.3.1, COFI/2020/Inf.3.2*)

Afternoon: 14:30-16:30 hours

A High-level Special Event celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (*COFI/2020/2.3, COFI/2020/Inf.3.1*)]

Afternoon: 16:30-17:30 hours (or later if required)

4. Continued

Tuesday, 2 February 2021

Morning: 9:00-12:00 hours

4. Continued
5. Decisions and recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Trondheim, Norway, 23–27 August 2019 (*COFI/2020/3, COFI/2020/Inf.9, COFI/2020/Inf.9.1, COFI/2020/Inf.9.2*) [WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE]
(“Progress report on the implementation of FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2016-2020, and the proposal for a new FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025” will be discussed under this item)
6. Decisions and recommendations of the Seventeenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Vigo, Spain, 25–29 November 2019 (*COFI/2020/4, COFI/2020/Inf.10*) [WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE]

Afternoon: 14:30-17:30 hours (or later if required)

7. Contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (*COFI/2020/5, COFI/2020/Inf.11.1, COFI/2020/Inf.11.2*)
(“Vision and Strategy for FAO’s Work in Nutrition” will be discussed under this item)
8. Supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries (*COFI/2020/6, COFI/2020/Inf.12, COFI/2020/Inf.12.1, COFI/2020/Inf.12.2*)
9. Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing (*COFI/2020/7, COFI/2020/Inf.13*)

Wednesday, 3 February 2021*Morning: 9:00-12:00 hours*

10. Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture (COFI/2020/8, COFI/2020/Inf.14, COFI/2020/Inf.14.1, COFI/2020/Inf.14.2)
11. Addressing climate change and other environment-related matters in fisheries and aquaculture (COFI/2020/9, COFI/2020/Inf.15.2, COFI/2020/Inf.15.4)
 - 11.1 Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across fisheries and aquaculture (“Draft 2021–23 Action Plan of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors” will be discussed under this item) (COFI/2020/9.1, COFI/2020/Inf.15.3)

Afternoon: 14:30-17:30 (or later if required)

12. Enhancing COFI discussions on fisheries management: Proposal for a new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (COFI/2020/10)

Thursday, 4 February 2021*Morning: 9:00-12:00 hours*

13. FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework (COFI/2020/11, COFI/2020/Inf.5, COFI/2020/Inf.6, COFI/2020/Inf.3.1, COFI/2020/Inf.3.2)
 - 13.1 Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture (COFI/2020/Inf.3.3) [WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE]
14. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee (COFI/2020/12) [WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE]

Afternoon: 14:30-17:30 hours

15. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 35th Session of COFI
16. Date and place of the 35th Session of COFI
17. Any Other Matters
 - 17.1 Developments in *fora* of importance for the mandate of COFI: *for information* (COFI/2020/Inf.16) [WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE]

Friday, 5 February 2021

18. Adoption of the Report (time to be announced)

ANNEX

NOTE ON SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES EXCEPTIONAL TO ITS 34TH SESSION

1. The procedures outlined in this Annex apply on an exceptional basis for the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in light of the measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting virtual modality of this Session. The adoption of such procedures shall not create a precedent for the working methods of COFI for any of its future Sessions.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COFI

2. The functions of the Committee as laid down in Rule XXX of the General Rules of the Organization include the following:

- review the programmes of work of the Organization in the field of fisheries and their implementation;
- conduct periodic general reviews of fishery problems of an international character and appraise such problems and their possible solutions with a view to concerted action by nations, by FAO and by other intergovernmental bodies;
- similarly review specific matters relating to fisheries referred to the Committee by the Council or the Director-General, or placed by the Committee on its agenda at the request of a Member Nation in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, and make recommendations as may be appropriate;
- consider the desirability of preparing and submitting to Member Nations an international convention under Article XIV of the Constitution to ensure effective international cooperation and consultation in fisheries on a world scale;
- report to the Council or tender advice to the Director-General, as appropriate, on matters considered by the Committee.

3. The virtual modality of the 34th Session of COFI does not alter any of the functions of the Committee on Fisheries outlined in the Basic Texts.

CONDUCT OF DEBATE

4. All plenary meetings of the 34th Session of COFI will be conducted through the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Please refer to the Zoom Meetings Guidelines for Participants with regard to the technical guidance on how the participants should join the meeting. Members and Observers of COFI will be granted equal accessibility and capability inside the Zoom meeting platform, ensuring their ability to be seen and to view who is in attendance in the virtual meeting. However, priority is given to Members' interventions and the Chairperson may pass the floor to Observers to intervene if time allows.

5. Simultaneous interpretation in all six languages of the Organization will be provided for all virtual meetings of the 34th Session of the COFI.

6. Given the virtual modality of the 34th Session of COFI and the need to streamline the proceedings to ensure sufficient time during the Session to complete all Agenda items, a number of time management provisions shall be implemented. This includes limiting the time available for individual Member interventions from the floor to three minutes, and multi-Member interventions on behalf of each Regional Group to five minutes. Statements on behalf of each Regional Group are particularly encouraged to maximise the efficiency of the proceedings.

7. To facilitate parallel consultations among participants, including regional groups, breakout rooms will be made available in the Zoom platform, upon request to the Secretariat at FAO-COFI@fao.org, clearly indicating “break out room request” in the subject line of the e-mails. Interpretation will not be provided to the breakout virtual rooms.
8. In line with established practice, the Chairperson will make a summary of the conclusions and recommendations emerging from the debate at the end of the following debate on the next agenda item.
9. The Chairperson’s conclusions will be displayed to all Members and Observers of the 34th Session of COFI through the ‘share screen’ function on the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Any adjustments to the draft conclusions will be made on the screen in real time, unless otherwise specifically agreed by the Committee.
10. The meetings of the Drafting Committee of the 34th Session of COFI will be held on the Zoom videoconferencing platform, in a separate meeting from the plenary meetings of the Committee, in order to confirm, adjust and refine, if necessary, the text agreed in the plenary. The ‘share screen’ function on the Zoom platform will be used to facilitate any adjustments to the text. The Drafting Committee Members are nominated by the Chairpersons of the OECD Group and the G77 & China Group in accordance with established practice.

AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

11. All documents for the session are prepared and disseminated by the Secretariat as per established practice, in all six languages of the Organization.
12. The meetings of the 34th Session of COFI will be scheduled in line with established practice, from 9:30 to 12:30 in the morning on Monday and from 9:00 to 12:00 on Tuesday-Thursday, and from 14.30 to 17.30 in the afternoon on Monday-Thursday, or later if necessary. The schedule on Friday is to be confirmed according to the proceeding of the session.
13. The Drafting Committee of the 34th Session of COFI will convene its meeting(s) after the conclusion of the afternoon sessions of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (2, 3 and 4 February 2021).
14. The time zone applicable to the 34th Session of COFI will be Central European Time (GMT +1). This is the time zone of the headquarters of the Organization, and the location of the meeting as if it were held as a physical meeting.
15. All COFI main documents for the session will be made available on the Committee’s website at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/en/>.
16. Brief oral introductions to Agenda items, other than those subject to the written correspondence procedure, may also be delivered in the virtual plenary at the opening of any agenda item, including on any new developments since the publication of the meeting documents, if required and/or necessary.
17. A further time saving measure to be applied to 34th Session of COFI shall be to forego the oral delivery of general statements by Members or Observers in the opening segment of the Session. General statements, usually held during the opening of COFI Sessions, may be submitted in written format to FAO-COFI@fao.org by Wednesday, 27 January 2021, clearly indicating “general statements” in the subject line of the e-mails. These written statements will be webposted on the COFI website and made available to all, in the original languages.
18. All other working methods of the Committee in relation to its Agenda, Timetable and documentation will be applied to the 34th Session of COFI in accordance with established practice.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

19. In light of the exceptional procedures in place for the virtual meeting of the 34th Session of COFI, a selected number of items on the Agenda (items 5, 6, 13.1, 14 and 17.1) will be addressed through a written correspondence procedure. This procedure is a time management measure with the aim to provide sufficient time during the virtual plenary meetings of the 34th Session of COFI to be able to conclude all items on its Agenda.

20. With the view to save time in the running of the sessions, written introductions/presentations will replace the oral presentations usually made at the beginning of each Agenda item in plenary, for the Agenda items subject to the written correspondence procedure. These written introductions/presentations shall be made publicly available on the Committee's website by Monday, 18 January 2021).

21. Once the written introductions/presentations to the agenda items are made available, Members are invited to submit written inputs, including any comments and questions, on the selected items, by Wednesday, 27 January 2021. Members may submit these written inputs to the Secretariat via email at FAO-COFI@fao.org, clearly indicating "comments on WCP agenda" in the subject line of the e-mails. All written inputs by Members will be posted on the dedicated webpage on the website of the 34th Session of COFI along with an English translation, if not originally provided in English.

22. The Secretariat shall then provide written responses to Members inputs, as applicable, and these shall also be webposted on the dedicated website alongside Members' written inputs prior to the session. Secretariat responses shall be translated in all six languages of the Organization.

23. Following this written exchange, the Chairperson's conclusions on relevant item will be discussed in the virtual plenary in line with the Timetable of the Session.

24. At the start of the Agenda item in the virtual plenary meeting, the Chairperson shall present the draft conclusions on the basis of the main points raised through the written exchange and invite Members to provide their comments. The endorsed conclusions will also be addressed by the Drafting Committee at its meetings, in line with the procedure outlined in paragraph 10 of this Note and in the same manner as all the other Agenda items.

WRITTEN INPUTS ON ITEMS NOT ADDRESSED IN THE WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

25. As a further time management measure, it is encouraged that Members and Observers submit, in advance, written statements on items that are addressed in their entirety in plenary. These should be addressed to the Secretariat via email to FAO-COFI@fao.org by Wednesday, 27 January 2021, clearly indicating "comments on other agenda items" in the subject line of the e-mails and shall be published on a dedicated webpage on the website of the 34th Session of COFI.

26. These written statements may be made either in lieu of, or in parallel to, oral delivery in virtual plenary. Written statements under this modality may be consulted for the purpose of preparing the Chairperson's draft conclusions, and be treated in the same way as any other oral intervention.

REPORTS AND RECORDS

27. The Draft Report for Adoption will be prepared by the Drafting Committee of the 34th Session of COFI, and will be circulated to the Members of COFI as soon as possible before the Adoption of the Report, in accordance with established practice.

28. The Report of the 34th Session of COFI will be communicated in accordance with Rule VI.2 of the Rules of Procedure of COFI.

29. The Report of the 34th Session of COFI will record the Committee's consensus on the amended modalities for the Session, adopted on an exceptional basis, outlined in this Note.

30. All other working methods of the Committee in relation to Reports and records of the meeting will be applied to the 34th Session of COFI, in line with established practice.

VOTING PROCEDURES

31. The decisions of the Committee shall be ascertained by the Chairperson and are normally taken by consensus. If resorting to a vote is necessary, under virtual meeting conditions such a vote would necessarily take place by roll call.

32. In case a decision shall be taken by roll call vote in a virtual setting, such a vote would be conducted through the following procedure. The Chairperson reads the question that is subject to a vote, the Chairperson or Secretary reads the names of Members in English alphabetical order (starting from a country drawn by lot) and waits for the reply of each Member. Members must clearly pronounce "Yes", "No" or "Abstention". The Member representative voting must enable his/her video function on the Zoom platform during the vote. Members of the Secretariat take note of the replies and count the votes. Following a pause, the results are announced by the Chairperson.