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COUNCIL

Hundred and Sixty-sixth Session

26-30 April 2021

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 2020-2021, held on 15 January 2021, unanimously agreed that the Award be given to Ms Margaret Nakato of the Katosi Women Development Trust in Uganda.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to:

- endorse the nomination of Ms Margaret Nakato of the Katosi Women Development Trust and recommend that the Medal be presented by the Director-General at an awarding ceremony to be held before 31 December 2021.

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

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1. At its 29th 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 Director, Fisheries Division, and the Bureau of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, was held on 15 January 2021. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Director-General, representing the Director-General.

The Selection Committee reviewed the three nominations for the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 Award be given to Ms Margaret Nakato of the Katosi Women Development Trust in Uganda.

4. Ms Nakato was selected in recognition of her success in organizing women in fishing communities to work together, empowering them with knowledge and skills, access to training, markets and technology. The result: women have a greater voice and strengthened role where they are centrally placed as drivers of transformative initiatives and change with multiplier effects on the wider community. Her vision: empowering women food producers, not just to improve their own lives but the food production and nutrition of entire communities. Ms Nakato has been an early partner in the development and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). She is inspiring, positive and passionate, a mentor and strong example for young women in small-scale fisheries - all important characteristics of a leader who contributes to achieving responsible and sustainable fisheries. Ms Nakato's proactive and dedicated leadership in support of women and men in small-scale fisheries has led to effective, associated projects in partnership with a variety of stakeholders at local, regional and global level. Her eloquent and intelligible advocacy, combined with her openness in sharing knowledge and experiences, is a source of inspiration and motivation for developmental change and improvement. Therefore, her contribution to the application of the Code is outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable, as well as catalytic. Ms Nakato was also featured as an FAO "food hero" in the 2020 World Food Day celebrations, contributing to the visibility of the fisheries sector as an integral part of sustainable food systems.