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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-fifth Session

5-9 September 2022

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES: A PROGRESS REPORT OF MYPOW 2020-2023 AND A DRAFT MYPOW 2022-2025

Executive Summary

This document provides the progress report of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 2020-2023 and the draft MYPOW 2022-2025.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- examine this Progress Report, in accordance with its overall objectives and mandate and proposed results, work planning and methods as outlined in the approved MYPOW 2020-2023; and
- approve the proposed MYPOW 2022-2025, as set out in the Appendix.

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

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BACKGROUND

1. At its 34th Session in February 2021, the Committee approved the progress report on the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2018-2021 and draft MYPOW for 2020-2023.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK 2020-2023

A. RESULTS FOR 2020–2023

2. Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture

(a) The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2020 was presented at the 34th Session of COFI and provided a solid basis for its guidance and decisions.

(b) Clear, precise, and consensual recommendations based on the updated information on the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture were presented to the 166th Session of Council and the 42nd Session of the Conference.

(c) The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2022 was launched on 29 June 2022 at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

3. Strategy and Priority Setting and Budget Planning

(a) The decisions and recommendations of the 34th Session of COFI provided a solid basis for the 166th Session of the Council to make recommendations and decisions on strategy and priority setting as well as budget planning.

(b) The FAO Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including supplementary questions for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, was conducted.

(c) Decisions and recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture were provided for review and approval by the Committee.

(d) The programme of work and budget in fisheries and aquaculture was reviewed, and recommendations on the strategies and priorities were provided for formulating the programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

4. Advice on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

(a) The decisions and recommendations of the 34th Session of COFI provided a solid basis for the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference to make recommendations and decisions on global policy and regulatory matters.

(b) The status of relevant international instruments in areas of competence of the Committee and recommendations were made in order to facilitate the implementation of those instruments.

B. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI

5. The deliberations at the 34th Session of COFI enabled the formulation of a concise report, embodying specific action-oriented decisions and recommendations to be presented to the Council and Conference.

6. The report of 34th Session of COFI, prepared as a FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report, was published only in digital format and made available online¹.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8322en/cb8322en.pdf>

7. The Progress Report of the MYPOW 2018-2021 was endorsed and the draft MYPOW 2020-2023 was approved by the 34th Session of COFI.
8. The agenda for the 35th Session of COFI has been elaborated in close consultation with the Bureau of COFI.
9. Almost all COFI documents for the 35th Session of COFI, including SOFIA 2022, are available in all FAO languages four weeks before the session commences.
10. Ways to improve the conduct of sessions more effectively, including more efficient use of the time available and the elaboration of new intersessional working methods, have been considered in the meetings of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.
11. Liaison with the two Sub-Committees was further improved.

C. WORKING METHODS

12. Intersessional consultations have been facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau with support from the Secretary. Seven meetings of the Bureau have been organized by the Chairperson in order to follow up on the decisions and recommendations of the 34th Session of COFI as well as preparation for the 35th Session of COFI. In addition, six meetings of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management were held.

APPENDIX**DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES 2022–2025****I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMMITTEE**

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) shall²:
 - (a) review the programme of work of the Organization in the field of fisheries and aquaculture and their implementation;
 - (b) conduct periodic general reviews of the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture and fishery problems of an international character and appraise such problems and their possible solution with a view to concerted action by nations, FAO and other intergovernmental bodies;
 - (c) review specific matters relating to fisheries and aquaculture referred to the Committee by the FAO Conference, Council or the Director-General, or placed by the Committee on its agenda at the request of a Member in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, and make recommendations as may be appropriate;
 - (d) consider the desirability of preparing and submitting to Members an international convention under Article XIV of the Constitution to ensure effective international cooperation and consultation in fisheries and aquaculture on a world scale; and
 - (e) report to the Council or tender advice to the Director-General, as appropriate, on matters considered by the Committee.

II. RESULTS FOR 2022-2025**A. Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture**

2. Result:

The FAO Conference, Council, and the international community, as appropriate are provided with updated information and specific advice on the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture and in relation to the specific issues of significance addressed during the scheduled sessions.

3. Indicators and targets:

Clear, precise, and consensual recommendations that are based on updated information on the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture are presented to the Conference and Council as a solid basis for its guidance and decision.

4. Output:

Clear, precise and consensual recommendations are favourably considered by the Conference and the Council for its recommendations and decisions.

² Rule XXX.6, General Rules of the Organization.

5. Activities:

The Committee is informed of the current world situation in fisheries and aquaculture, including the report on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), and undertakes general discussions.

Specific issues of topical significance are addressed during the scheduled sessions.

6. Working methods:

SOFIA and the relevant documents are prepared in advance of the Session of the Committee, as a solid basis for discussion at the Committee.

B. Strategy and Priority Setting, and Budget Planning

7. Result:

The Committee's decisions and recommendations provide a solid basis for the Conference and Council's recommendations and decisions on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization.

8. Indicators and targets:

- (a) The Committee further promotes the FAO's Questionnaire on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) to solicit responses and reduce obstacles impeding responses.
- (b) Members respond to the FAO Questionnaire on the implementation of the Code and provide relevant information on fisheries and aquaculture for FAO via the Committee and its Sub-Committees.
- (c) Clear and specific recommendations are made by the Committee to the Council regarding the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget for fisheries and aquaculture.
- (d) The Committee's recommendations made on the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget are reflected in the Council Report.

9. Outputs:

The report of the Committee that provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the Council on sectoral strategies, priorities, programmes and budgets.

10. Activities:

- (a) Review decisions and recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub Committee on Aquaculture, statutory bodies and other relevant organs or institutions.
- (b) Review advice from the Regional Conferences in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.
- (c) Review the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries and aquaculture.
- (d) Formulate recommendations on the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

11. Working methods:

- (a) Close consultation with the Chairperson and other Bureau Members.
- (b) Close collaboration with relevant FAO Divisions, Centres and Offices.
- (c) Liaise with the Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture and other statutory bodies.
- (d) Liaise with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters.
- (e) Liaise with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters.
- (f) Report the outcome of the Committee on programme and budgetary matters to the Council appropriately.

C. Advice on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

12. Results

The Committee's decisions and recommendations provide a solid basis for the Conference's recommendations and decisions on global policy and regulatory matters.

13. Indicators and targets:

- (a) Members obtain value from the deliberations of the Committee, using the advice and recommendations to guide domestic actions and policies as reported by FAO.
- (b) Clear and specific recommendations are made by the Committee to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate.
- (c) The Committee's recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference Report.

14. Output:

The report of the Committee provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.

15. Activities:

- (a) Review the status of relevant international instruments in areas of competence for the Committee.
- (b) Consider possible solutions with a view to support concerted action by Members themselves or collectively through FAO and other relevant bodies in areas of competence for the Committee.

16. Working methods:

Report the outcome of the Committee on global policy and regulatory matters to the Conference appropriately.

III. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI

17. Result:

The Committee works effectively and efficiently in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

18. Indicators and targets:

- (a) The focused agendas are appropriately elaborated.
- (b) All COFI documents, including SOFIA, are to be made available in all FAO languages at least four weeks before the session commences.
- (c) The sessions are conducted in an efficient and effective manner.
- (d) MYPOW is appropriately implemented.
- (e) Reports are concise and contain specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.

19. Outputs:

- (a) Focused agendas and concise reports containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.
- (b) Report published only electronically.
- (c) COFI documents, including SOFIA, made available according to agreed schedules.

(d) Progress reports on MYPOW and draft MYPOWs prepared and made available for the following four years.

20. Activities:

- (a) Formulate focused agendas in close consultation with the Bureau in a timely manner.
- (b) Prepare results-oriented COFI documents, including SOFIA, and make them available in a timely manner.
- (c) Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions more efficiently and effectively, including more efficient use of the time available, and the elaboration of new intersessional working methods, as proposed by the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.
- (d) Recognizing the importance and usefulness of side events facilitate more focused and coordinated side events in line with key issues addressed in the main sessions.
- (e) Facilitate further coordination and collaboration with the Sub-Committees and other Technical Committees.
- (f) Pay continued attention to effective arrangements for drafting the final reports.

IV. WORKING METHODS

21. The Committee collaborates with statutory and other bodies under FAO auspices, liaises with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters, and with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters, as well as other relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

22. The Committee liaises with other international organizations active in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture.

23. The Committee undertakes regular intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau with support from the Secretariat. Liaison among the Bureaus of the Committee and the Sub-Committees is also further strengthened.

24. It encourages and facilitates the participation of observers, including civil society organizations.

25. The Chairperson liaises with FAO through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division.