



# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-fifth Session

5–9 September 2022

## 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 hybrid modality.
- In light of the decision to hold the 35th Session of COFI in hybrid modality, substantive consideration of the below five agenda items will be undertaken by a written correspondence procedure:
  - Item 11 - Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture;
  - Item 12 - Decisions and recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, 24–27 May 2022;
  - Item 13 - Decisions and recommendations of the Eighteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, 8 April–8 May, 7–9 & 20 June 2022;
  - Item 14 - FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework; and
  - Item 15 - Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee.
- Details of "Special Procedures for a Hybrid Meeting of COFI exceptional to its 35th Session", including the written correspondence procedure, are set out in the Annex to this document.

### Monday, 5 September 2022

*Morning: 9:30-12:00 hours*

1. Opening of the Session<sup>1</sup> (*COFI/2022/INF/4, COFI/2022/INF/16*)
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session (*COFI/2022/1/Rev.2, COFI/2022/INF/1/Rev.1, COFI/2022/INF/2/Rev.1, COFI/2022/INF/5/Rev.1*)
3. Designation of Drafting Committee
4. State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the related instruments (*for information and discussion*) (*COFI/2022/2, COFI/2022/2.1, COFI/2022/INF/7*).

*Lunchtime: 12:30-14:00 hours*

#### High-level Special Event on the IYAFA 2022

*Afternoon: 14:30-17:00 hours*

4. Continued

*Evening: 17:30-20:00*

4. Continued

### Tuesday, 6 September 2022

*Morning: 9:30-12:00 hours*

5. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (*for information and discussion*) (*COFI/2022/3*)
6. Supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries, including in the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) (*for information and discussion*) (*COFI/2022/4, COFI/2022/4.1, COFI/2022/INF/9*)

*Afternoon: 14:00-16:30 hours<sup>2</sup>*

7. Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing (*for information, discussion and endorsement*) (*COFI/2022/5, COFI/2022/INF/10*)

<sup>1</sup> General statements by Ministers and Vice-Ministers will be made under this Agenda item.

<sup>2</sup> An evening session of the Plenary or the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Drafting Committee from 17:00 to 19:30.

**Wednesday, 7 September 2022**

*Morning: 9:30-12:00 hours*

8. Enhancing COFI discussions including recommendations of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (*for decision*) (COFI/2022/6)

*Afternoon: 14:00-16:30 hours<sup>3</sup>*

9. Addressing climate change in fisheries and aquaculture: reporting on progress and Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 (*for information and discussion*) (COFI/2022/7, COFI/2022/INF/11)
10. Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture (*for information and discussion*) (COFI/2022/8, COFI/2022/INF/12)
11. Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture (WCP)<sup>4</sup> (*for information and discussion*) (COFI/2022/9, COFI/2022/INF/8, COFI/2022/INF/13)

**Thursday, 8 September 2022**

*Morning: 9:30-12:00 hours*

12. Decisions and recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, 24-27 May 2022 (WCP) (*for information and endorsement*) (COFI/2022/10, COFI/2022/INF/14)
13. Decisions and recommendations of the Eighteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, 8 April–8 May, 7–9 & 20 June 2022 (WCP) (*for information and endorsement*) (COFI/2022/11, COFI/2022/INF/15)
14. FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework (WCP) (*for information and discussion*) (COFI/2022/12, COFI/2022/INF/6)
  - 14.1 Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25) (*for information and discussion*) (COFI/2022/12.1, COFI/2022/INF/16)
15. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee (WCP) (*for information and discussion*) (COFI/2022/13)

*Afternoon: 14:00-16:30 hours<sup>5</sup>*

16. Any other matters (*for information*)

---

<sup>3</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Drafting Committee from 17:00-19:30

<sup>4</sup> “WCP” means that the items are proposed to be subject to Written Correspondence Procedure.

<sup>5</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Drafting Committee from 17:00 to 19:30

- 16.1 Developments in the *fora* of importance for the mandate of COFI
- 16.2 Results of the World Fisheries University Pilot Programme
- 17. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 36th Session of COFI
- 18. Date and place of the 36th Session of COFI

**Friday, 9 September 2022**

*Morning: (to be announced)<sup>6</sup>*

*Afternoon: 14:00-16:30 hours (to be confirmed)*

- 19. Adoption of the Report

---

<sup>6</sup> If necessary, reserved for an extra session of the Drafting Committee and/or 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of COFI 36 Bureau (BM 1), as appropriate.

## ANNEX

### NOTE ON SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR A HYBRID MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES EXCEPTIONAL TO ITS 35TH SESSION

1. The special procedures outlined in this Annex apply on an exceptional basis for the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting virtual/hybrid modality, comprising both in-person and virtual elements of this COFI Session. The adoption of such procedures shall not create a precedent for the working methods of COFI for any of its future Sessions.

#### Function of the COFI

2. The hybrid modality of the 35th Session of COFI does not alter any of the functions of the Committee on Fisheries outlined in the Basic Texts.

#### Conduct of Debate

3. All plenary meetings of the 35th Session of COFI will be conducted in hybrid modality with both physical presence in FAO headquarters and participation through the Zoom videoconferencing platform. The Zoom meeting will be broadcast on a large screen inside the meeting room so that participants attending the Session physically will be able to see the participants attending the meeting virtually, and vice-versa.

4. Due to the restrictions in place for the containment of the COVID-19 pandemic, a limited number of individuals will attend the meeting in-person. Two representatives per Member of COFI, as well as the Chairperson of COFI will be invited to attend the meeting in physical modality in Plenary Hall, FAO headquarters. The Red and Green Rooms inside FAO headquarters will be available to additional delegates of Members as well as representatives of the Observers of COFI should they wish to follow the meeting in-person.

5. Members and Observers of COFI attending the meeting virtually 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, and address COFI. These participants will be able to request the floor using the "raise hand" function in the Zoom platform. According to the established practice of COFI, the priority is given to Members' interventions and the Chairperson may pass the floor to Observers to intervene if time allows.

6. Simultaneous interpretation in all six official languages of the Organization will be provided for all hybrid meetings of the 35th Session of the COFI.

7. Brief oral introductions to Agenda items, other than those subject to the written correspondence procedure, may also be delivered in the hybrid 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.

8. Given the hybrid modality of the 35th 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 two minutes, with the exception of Ministers and Vice-Ministers for the opening segment of the Session (under Agenda item 1) on Monday, 5 September 2022 (see paragraph 15 below) 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. Statements should focus on comments and questions rather than making general statements.

9. 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. The draft conclusion will be displayed to all Members and Observers of the 35th Session of COFI through the "share screen" function on the Zoom videoconferencing platform. The conclusions will also be visible on the large screen in the meeting room for participants attending the meeting in-person. Any adjustments to the draft conclusion will be made on the screen in real time.

10. The meeting of the Drafting Committee of the 35th Session of COFI will be held in hybrid modality in the same manner as its Plenary meetings. The Drafting Committee of the 35th Session of COFI will convene its meeting(s) after the conclusion of the afternoon sessions of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (6, 7 and 8 September 2022). However, on Tuesday, if necessary, the Plenary session will be continued in the evening. The "share screen" function on the Zoom platform will be used to facilitate any adjustments to the conclusions considered necessary.

11. 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](mailto: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.

### **Documentation and Timetable**

12. All documents for the session will be prepared by the Secretariat as per established practice, in all six languages of the Organization, and made available on the Committee's website at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/en/>.

13. The meetings of the 35th Session of COFI will be scheduled from 9.30 to 12.00 in the morning, from 14.00 to 16.30 in the afternoon, and from 17.00 to 19.30 in the evening. The time zone applicable to the 35th Session of COFI will be Central European Summer Time (UTC +2).

### **General Statements**

14. A further time saving measure to be applied to the 35th 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](mailto:FAO-COFI@fao.org) by Friday, 26 August 2022, clearly indicating "general statements" in the subject line of the e-mails. These written statements will be made available on the Committee's website and made available to all, in the original language.

15. Notwithstanding paragraph 14, Ministers and Vice-Ministers shall be allowed to make the oral delivery of the general statements in the opening segment of the Session (under Agenda item 1) on Monday, 5 September 2022, but the available time shall be limited to 3 minutes.

### **Written Correspondence Procedure**

16. In light of the exceptional procedures in place for the virtual meeting of the 35th Session of COFI, a selected number of items on the Agenda (items 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15) will be addressed through a written correspondence procedure. This procedure is a time management measure with the aim to provide sufficient time during the plenary meetings of the 35th Session of COFI to be able to conclude all items on its Agenda.

17. 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 will be made available on the Committee's website in all FAO official languages by Tuesday, 26 July 2022.

18. 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 Friday, 26 August 2022. Members and Observers may submit these written inputs to the Secretariat via email at [FAO-COFI@fao.org](mailto:FAO-COFI@fao.org), clearly indicating “comments on WCP agenda” in the subject line of the e-mails. All written inputs by Members<sup>7</sup> will be made available on the Committee's website along with an English translation, if not originally provided in English.

19. The Secretariat will then provide written responses to Members' inputs, as applicable, and these shall also be made available on the Committee's website alongside Members' written inputs no later than 01 September 2022. Secretariat responses will be translated in all six languages of the Organization.

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

21. At the start of the Agenda item in the plenary meeting, the Chairperson will present the draft conclusions based on the main points raised through the written exchange and invite Members<sup>8</sup> 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.

### **Reports and Records**

22. The Draft Report for Adoption will be prepared by the Drafting Committee of the 35th 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.

23. The Report of the 35th Session of COFI will be communicated in accordance with Rule VI.2 of the Rules of Procedure of COFI.

24. The Report of the 35th 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.

25. All other working methods of the Committee in relation to Reports and records of the meeting will be applied to the 35th Session of COFI, in line with established practice.

---

<sup>7</sup> At least those submitted by Members. We may not be able to do so for those submitted by Observers, while we open the opportunity for Observers to submit the comments.

<sup>8</sup> Since the comments are expected to be made only on the draft conclusion, no intervention by Observer is expected here.