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**Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the
Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate
Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**

8-12 May 2023

Bali, Indonesia

STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT AND INTERSESIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Parties are invited to:

- Note the status of the Agreement on Port State Measures and discuss ways on promoting the benefits of the Agreement to increase the number of Parties.
- Note the outcomes of the Third Meeting of the PSMA Open-ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange.
- Note the outcomes of the First Meeting of the PSMA ad hoc Strategy Working Group.
- Note the outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the PSMA Part 6 Working Group.
- Note the advancements made in the development of the PSMA Global Information Exchange System.
- Note the status of the FAO Global Programme to support the PSMA and complementary international instruments to combat IUU fishing (the Programme) including the capacity development activities delivered and results achieved under this Programme.
- Comment on the effectiveness of the Programme and make recommendations for further support to be provided by FAO.
- Note the outcomes of the four PSMA Regional Coordination Meetings.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides an update on the status of the Agreement on Port State Measures, including on the increase in number of Parties and the current regional and global coverage where the Agreement is in force.
2. Furthermore, it reports on the intersessional activities since the Third Meeting of the Parties, namely the meetings of the three working groups established by the Parties, the four PSMA Regional Coordination Meetings, the development of the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) and related actions, as well as the implementation of the FAO Global Programme to support the PSMA and complementary international instruments to combat IUU fishing.

II. STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT

3. The 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was approved by the FAO Conference on 22 November 2009 and open for signature from 22 November 2009 until 21 November 2010 by all States and regional economic integration organizations. In that period, 23 States and the European Union signed the Agreement. The Agreement entered into force on 5 June 2016.
4. As of early April 2023, there were 74 Parties¹ to the Agreement, including the European Union as one Party representing its 27 member States². Five new Parties have deposited instruments of adherence³ to the Agreement since the Third Meeting of the Parties held virtually (hosted by the European Union) from 31 May to 4 June 2021. The Agreement has so far displayed the highest rate of adherence of all international fisheries and ocean instruments, with 74 Parties since its adoption in 2009.
5. From a global perspective, the percentage of coastal States where the Agreement is in force is 59% and the percentage of total States where the Agreement is in force is 51% (see Annex 1).
6. From a regional perspective, the percentage of coastal States where the Agreement is in force is lowest in the Near East (29%) and Southwest Pacific (38%), medium in Latin America and the Caribbean (52%) and Asia (58%), and highest in Africa (73%), Europe (73%) and North America (100%). The percentage of total States where the Agreement is in force is lowest in the Near East (24%), Southwest Pacific (38%), and medium in Asia (46%), Latin America and the Caribbean (49%) and Africa (49%), and highest in Europe (69%) and North America (100%) (see Annex 1).
7. Parties are invited to continue supporting bilateral, sub-regional, regional and global efforts to increase the number of Parties.
8. Non-parties may wish to provide information at the present meeting on their intentions to adhere to the Agreement and on the status of their internal processes to do so, as appropriate.

III. MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED BY THE PARTIES

Third Meeting of the PSMA Open-ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE)

9. The Third Meeting of the Open-ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE) was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 13 to 14 December 2022. The meeting was attended by 225 experts from 53 Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures

¹ Timor Leste deposited its instrument of accession but the Agreement is not yet in force at the time of writing this document.

² The full list of Parties to the Agreement is available at <https://www.fao.org/port-state-measures/background/parties-psma/en/>.

³ The term instruments of adherence is used to include instruments of acceptance, ratification, approval and accession.

(PSMA/Agreement), 33 other FAO Members, 10 inter-governmental and 5 international non-governmental organizations. The meeting was convened with the financial support of the European Union, Iceland, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

10. The TWG-IE reviewed the status of affairs of national contact points and designated ports, together with the development of the Global Information Exchange System (GIES). It discussed technical and operational aspects of the GIES and drew up recommendations for its implementation, it also addressed the role of the regional fisheries bodies in data exchange together with the requirements of developing States in using the GIES. The TWG-IE recognized the need for Terms of Reference for the functioning of the TWG-IE. The report of the Third Meeting of the TWG-IE is available as PSMA/2023/Inf.6.

First Meeting of the PSMA Strategy ad hoc Working Group (SWG)

11. Following the decision by the Third Meeting of the Parties (MOP3) to establish the PSMA Strategy ad hoc Working Group and to convene its first meeting to develop a strategy to improve the effectiveness of the Agreement prior to the Fourth Meeting of the Parties (MOP4), the Secretariat made every effort to secure the hosting of the meeting by one of the Parties along with the necessary funding, including to support the participation of developing countries. In the absence of a hosting Party, the Secretariat managed to make arrangements, in consultation with the chairperson and vice-chairpersons of the Meetings of the Parties, to convene the meeting at the FAO headquarters in Rome from 3 to 7 April 2023 with the support of funding from the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom. The meeting was attended by 212 participants, 132 participants from 55 Parties to the PSMA, 80 participants from other FAO Members, 11 inter-governmental organizations, five international non-governmental organizations and one specialized agency from the United Nations (UN).

12. The SWG finalized a draft strategy to improve the effectiveness of the PSMA for consideration by the Parties at the current Meeting of Parties (MOP4). The report of the First Meeting of the PSMA Strategy ad hoc Working Group is available as PSMA/2023/Inf.4.

Fourth Meeting of the PSMA Part 6 Working Group

13. Since the Third Meeting of the Parties (MOP3), the Part 6 Working Group has met once, at the Fourth Meeting of the Part 6 Working Group, held in Rome, Italy, on 4 April 2023, back to back with the First Meeting of the PSMA Strategy ad hoc Working Group. The meeting was attended by 122 participants from 54 Parties to the PSMA, 71 participants from other FAO Members, 10 inter-governmental organizations, five international non-governmental organizations and one specialized agency from the United Nations (UN).

14. The Fourth Meeting of the PSMA Part 6 Working Group discussed the requirements of developing States in the implementation of the PSMA, and made concrete recommendations on priority areas for technical assistance and capacity development. The Part 6 Working Group discussed the status of implementation of the Terms of Reference for the Funding Mechanisms under Part 6 of the PSMA, and noted the need to increase funding to assist developing States in the implementation of the Agreement through, among others: (i) earmarked voluntary financial contributions to FAO for specific project(s) and programme(s); (ii) voluntary financial contributions to the multilateral partner PSMA Part 6 Trust Fund administered by FAO. The report of the Fourth Meeting of the Part 6 WG is available as PSMA/2023/Inf.5.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM

15. The prototype of the GIES was developed following guidance received by Parties through relevant meetings, containing the main features required to exchange information as outlined by the Agreement. The prototype of the GIES was presented to the Parties through a series of regional webinars, as well as a demonstration during MOP3 in June 2021. After presentation of the GIES to MOP3, the system formally entered its pilot phase on 15 December 2021, where it has and continues

to receive feedback from participating users (Parties) to aid in the finalization of its development. The Third Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE3), held on the 13 and 14 December 2022, made recommendations to prioritise the refinement of the current features of the system and the operationalisation of the GIES in 2023, subject to the approval of Parties at their Fourth Meeting. The development of the GIES up until this stage has been largely supported through the funding provided by Iceland with some contributions by the European Union.

16. Since the TWG-IE3, the Secretariat has been active in making the refinements to the GIES following the recommendations made at that meeting. An update to the system was released in early April 2023 covering a variety of aspects, most notably:

- Reviewed reference list for regional fisheries bodies, in relation to vessel identifiers;
- An option for free text entry in all fields related to ports;
- Removal of list of 'Actions taken' within the inspection result module, and replaced with free text entry;
- Removal of the previously included data field 'evidence of IUU fishing';
- Modified user interface layout, to improve user friendliness so that there is more parallelism between the draft and view modes of a report;
- Improved security measures, such as further encryption of file attachments within the system;
- Fixes to bugs and other improvements within the system.

17. Work has also been conducted on the advancement of implementation specifications for other changes and refinements requested by the TWG-IE3. These will be released in subsequent updates of the GIES.

18. With work on refinement of existing features being close to completion, the Parties are invited to consider the operationalization of the system. In parallel, the Parties are also invited to provide guidance on the development of additional features within the GIES. Such features once developed could be piloted by Parties in a separate environment, therefore not risking or affecting the status of the current pilot phase or the eventual production environment. As such, the Parties are invited to consider the prioritisation of the following list of future features recommended by the TWG-IE3:

- The voluntary advance request for port entry (ARPE) feature, noting that this development should take into account normal use cases whereby such requests are supplied directly by non-State actors.
- Support countries to have systems able to provide data to the GIES, where necessary.
- The inclusion of features to facilitate risk analysis, such as the receipt of summary compliance information to port States for the vessel for which it has received an ARPE or in another manner. The TWG-IE, however, noted that a decision on which summary fields should be included would need to be considered by the Parties.
- The inclusion of advanced user management, allowing a Party's PSMA National Contact Point to be able to approve or define additional user accounts for their State, including the rights of such accounts.
- A feedback mechanism whereby the flag State National Focal Point (NFP) for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) would be notified when a vessel entered in the GIES is not in the Global Record, or the information on a vessel is outdated.
- A unified search, to serve as a single-access point to search any information contained in the GIES.
- Dynamic dashboard.

V. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

19. As set forth in the Terms of Reference for the funding mechanisms under Part 6 of the Agreement, voluntary financial contributions to the Part 6 Assistance Fund may be provided through:

- a. contributions for a specific project(s) and programme(s) supporting the implementation of the Agreement in one or more developing States Parties as well as in a particular region(s), in accordance with the objectives of the project(s) and programme(s) agreed with the donor.⁴
- b. contributions to a trust fund(s) to be established and administered by FAO and supporting the purposes listed in paragraph 17 of the Terms of Reference for the funding mechanisms under Part 6 of the Agreement.⁵

20. Contributions for specific project(s) and programme(s) are administered and implemented by FAO through a global programme in support of the implementation of the PSMA and complementary international instruments to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (PGM/MUL/2016-2021/PSMA, hereinafter referred to as the Programme) .

21. The Programme is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 of the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular SDG 14.4 which calls for ending overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices by 2020 through, inter alia, capacity building and support for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), compliance and enforcement systems.

22. Since the Programme was launched, in 2017, the European Union, Germany, Iceland, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America have committed over USD 27.7 for the implementation of the Programme through 21 projects, of which nine are currently ongoing. As of 31 December 2022, total delivery under the Programme amounts to USD 15.2 million. Further details are provided in Annex 2.

Table 1. PGM/MUL/2016-2021/PSMA: Commitments, Contributions and Delivery as at 31 December 2022 (USD)^{[1],[2]}

Resource Partner	Commitments^[3] 2017-2022	Contributions^[4] 2017-2022	Delivery 2017-2022
European Union	7 110 749	5 702 353	4 476 637
Germany	4 743 698	1 062 534	839 180
Iceland	800 000	800 000	652 942
Republic of Korea	3 755 227	3 073 301	1 776 282
Norway	4 376 293	4 363 456	2 793 084
Spain	233 414	233 414	233 414
Sweden	5 800 600	5 807 688	3 505 098
United States of America	903 369	903 369	903 369
Total^[6]	27 723 350	21 946 114	15 180 005

23. The Programme addresses the capacity development needs outlined in Part 6 of the Agreement, including complementary international instruments, guidelines and tools, and relevant regional mechanisms to combat IUU fishing, extending also to non-Parties to the Agreement.

24. As of March 2023, the Programme provided: (i) assistance to 47 countries in assessing needs to strengthen national legislation, institutional set up, and MCS systems and operations with respect to

⁴ Refer to paragraph 12 of Terms of Reference for the funding mechanisms under Part 6 of the PSMA.

⁵ Refer to paragraph 11 of Terms of Reference for the funding mechanisms under Part 6 of the PSMA.

port, flag, coastal, and market states responsibilities, including the drafting of national strategies and roadmaps to implement necessary measures; (ii) support to 25 countries in reviewing fisheries legal frameworks to implement the PSMA and complementary international instruments and regional mechanisms to combat IUU fishing; (iii) support to 18 countries in drafting laws and regulations to implement the PSMA and the alignment of national laws with international law; (iv) support to 16 countries to review MCS institutions, systems and operations; (v) assistance to 12 countries in strengthening inter-agency cooperation for effective implementation of the PSMA; (vi) assistance to 11 countries in developing/updating MCS-related standard operating procedures (SOPs); (vii) assistance to 4 countries in developing/updating national control plan; (viii) assistance to 5 countries in developing/updating national inspection plan.

25. The Programme also supports trainings that enhance national legal, MCS, inspections, enforcement and prosecution capacities to strengthen relevant fisheries policies, laws and regulations and their enforcement that lead to improving compliance with the PSMA and other relevant international instruments, strengthen national MCS expertise and inspection/enforcement capacities and strengthen of interagency coordination mechanisms for the effective implementation of the PSMA. Specifically, the Programme has delivered the following trainings: (i) international fisheries law training for 23 countries; (ii) international inspection training for 7 countries; (iii) in-country judicial training for 2 countries; (iv) in-country port inspection training for 2 countries; (v) in-country MCS-related training for 14 countries; (vi) in-country flag State performance related training for 6 countries.

26. Details of the national level PSMA capacity development support provided under the Programme are included in Annex 3. A summary is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary national level PSMA capacity development support (as of 02/03/2023)

Recipient	Area			
	Gap assessment workshop/ National strategy and roadmap	Technical assistance (legal and policy)	Technical assistance (MCS and operational aspects)	International training
Parties	40	21	13	17
Non-Parties	7	4	3	6

27. The Programme additionally supports activities and processes aimed at promoting an improved global and regional environment for combating IUU fishing; the development of knowledge products, training and operational materials; the development of global information systems in support of the implementation of the PSMA; and assists concerned States with travel costs to participate in the meetings of the Parties to the PSMA and working groups, as well as in other relevant international and regional meetings.

28. In terms of promoting an improved global and regional environment for combating IUU fishing, the Programme has financed the undertaking of studies and processes leading to the development and endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, including the Expert Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (virtual, 11 - 15 October 2021) and the Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (Rome, 30 May–3 June and 7 July 2022). The Programme is also currently contributing to a number of regional workshops on the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, as well as to work on strengthening the collaboration between the FAO, International Labour Organization (ILO) and, International Maritime Organization (IMO) in the context of the Ad hoc FAO/ILO/IMO Joint Working Group on IUU Fishing and Related Matters.

29. Over the years, the Programme has financed the development of a number of knowledge products, resources, training and operational materials, to support the implementation of the PSMA and complementary international instruments and regional mechanisms to combat IUU fishing, including:

- a. technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing.⁶
- b. a consolidated checklist of coastal, flag and port State responsibilities to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated IUU fishing.⁷
- c. a legal checklist of the main duties and responsibilities of coastal, flag and port States, and internationally agreed market-related measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.⁸
- d. a guide for national authorities implementing catch documentation schemes.⁹
- e. a fully-fledged training programme and related material for national and international trainings in support of the implementation of international fisheries instruments.¹⁰ An overview of the modules offered under the training programme, including a detailed description of each module, its corresponding lectures and expected learning outcomes is available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4867en>.

30. Programme activities concerning global information systems in support of the implementation of the PSMA include: (a) the further development and implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (the Global Record); (b) the development of the Global information Exchange System for the transmittal, electronic exchange and publication of information under the PSMA; (c) the launch and maintenance of the PSMA Global Capacity Development Portal;¹¹ (d) the development and maintenance of the PSMA applications for designated ports and contact point; (e) the revision of FAO's global database on PSMs - Portlex.¹²

31. Travel support to concerned States to participate in meetings relevant to the PSMA since the Third Meeting of the Part 6 Working Group (Santiago, Chile, 7 June 2019) relate to the following:

- PSMA Regional Coordination Meeting for the South West and East Pacific, 2-6 May 2022, Nadi, Fiji
- PSMA Regional Coordination Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, 20-24 June 2022, Panama City, Panama
- PSMA Regional Coordination Meeting for Asia, 11-15 July 2022, Seoul, Korea
- PSMA Regional Coordination Meeting for Africa, Near East, and Europe, 3-7 October 2022, Dakar, Senegal
- Third Meeting of the PSMA Technical Working Group – Information Exchange (TWG-IE), Rome, Italy, 13-14 December 2022
- Sixth Meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group, Rome, Italy, 12 December 2022
- First Meeting of the PSMA Strategy ad hoc Working Group Rome, Italy, 3-7 April 2023
- Fourth Meeting of the Part 6 Working Group Rome, Italy, 4 April 2023
- Regional Workshops on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, Latin America, the Caribbean and North America, Bridgetown, Barbados, 7-10 March 2023

⁶ See: www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/tools-and-initiatives/iuu-fishing-estimation-and-studies/en/.

⁷ See: www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/resources/detail/en/c/1419027/.

⁸ See: www.fao.org/port-state-measures/resources/detail/en/c/1419027/.

⁹ See: www.fao.org/documents/card/fr/c/cb8243en/.

¹⁰ FAO. 2023. Prospectus – FAO fisheries training programme in support of the implementation of international instruments. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4867en>.

¹¹ See: www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/capacity-development/en/.

¹² Portlex provides access to legal provisions adopted by States and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) to implement the Port State Measures Agreement to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. See: <https://portlex.fao.org/>.

32. Growing demands from developing States, in addition to the kind of technical assistance and support currently provided under the Programme, include:

- further technical assistance to improve capacity to conduct risk assessment with respect to Advance Request for Port Entry (ARPE) and inspections, and how to use global tools and systems like Global Record and GIES for risk assessment.
- recurrent training to inspectors to strengthen their technical and operational capacities and establishment of regional training hubs with certification.
- Support for enhancing collaboration with regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) with respect to facilitating information sharing.
- technical assistance for implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.
- Support for regional coordination meetings to coordinate and prepare their participation in the PSMA Meeting of Parties

33. Parties are invited to further contribute to the FAO global capacity development programme in support of the PSMA, complementary instruments and tools.

VI. OUTCOME OF THE FOUR PSMA REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETINGS

34. The First Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA (Oslo, Norway, 29-31 May 2017) agreed on the importance of convening regional meetings, in advance of meetings of the Parties, where concerned States can coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Agreement. At their second meeting (Santiago, Chile, 3-6 June 2019), the Parties noted that the effective implementation of the PSMA requires further uptake, and called on additional States to adhere to the Agreement. The Third Meeting of the Parties (virtual meeting hosted by the European Union, 31 May-4 June 2021) requested that discussions around developing a strategy to improve the effectiveness of the PSMA be deferred to an ad hoc working group, the PSMA Strategy Ad Hoc Working Group, and that regional and/or sub-regional discussions in support of this ad hoc working group be considered.

35. In the light of these recommendations, the Secretariat convened four PSMA Regional Coordination Meetings throughout 2022 namely in (1) the South West and East Pacific region (Nadi, Fiji, 2-6 May); (2) Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama City, Panama, 20-24 June); (3) Asia (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 11-15 July) and (4) the region Africa, the Near East and the Mediterranean (Dakar, Senegal, 3-7 October). Eighty FAO Member countries and the European Union participated in the four meetings, of which two-thirds (53) were Parties and one-third (28) non-Parties. Eight regional fishery bodies (RFBs), five regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and three Regional Fishery Advisory Bodies, also participated. A total of 235 participants attended the four meetings. The meetings were held with financial support of Germany and Norway.

36. The objectives of the four meetings were to take stock of the status of the PSMA and its application in the respective regions, to address general and region-specific achievements and challenges in the implementation of the PSMA, to discuss regional port State measures implementation strategies, including through Regional Fishery Bodies, and to coordinate preparations in relation to the PSMA *ad hoc* Working Group on Strategy as well as the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA (MOP4). Participants viewed the meeting as a useful and valuable exercise which, in addition to achieving the objective of identifying implementation challenges and suggesting solutions to inform the PSMA *ad hoc* Working Group on Strategy, offered a forum for representatives from States within a region, both Parties and non-Parties, to exchange experiences, share information, discuss common challenges, learn about those that others were facing, and find ways to approach implementation challenges individually and together.

37. Information-sharing and cooperation between Parties as well as with other relevant States and RFMOs were considered as major challenges in most regions, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the PSMA. This challenge was often exacerbated if relevant flag States were not Parties to the PSMA. Many States reported difficulties in carrying out risk assessments during the advance request for entry into port (AREP) process because of insufficient information. The process of transmitting inspection results for relevant States is also considered burdensome and difficult in many States. To

improve information-sharing and cooperation, participants strongly encouraged Parties to designate national focal points to be published in FAO's PSMA Application, to upload information on the global information exchange tools including the Global Record and the Global Information Exchange System (GIES), to actively use these tools, to engage in the information-sharing mechanisms of relevant RFMOs. There was broad agreement that many of the challenges could be overcome after the introduction of the GIES, which should be linked to regional systems. Some States raised concerns with confidentiality safeguards. FAO was encouraged to provide technical assistance and training for States to use the GIES effectively.

38. Many States reported to have achieved some level of interagency cooperation to effectively implement port State measures, including through the integration into the broader system of port State control. However, this cooperation was rarely formalized through an interagency mechanism or supported by standard operation procedures with clear roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved. Participants emphasized the need to establish formalized interagency mechanisms, including relevant standard operation procedures, for all relevant agencies involved in the implementation of the PSMA with clear objectives as well as roles and responsibilities of agencies.

39. Many States reported having difficulties in implementing the PSMA due to the absence of policy, legal, and institutional frameworks, insufficient number of qualified inspectors, absence of standard operating procedures in line with the requirements of the PSMA, insufficient coordination among inspection teams, inadequate infrastructure and equipment, low standards of inspection reports and difficulties in handling specific situations due to language barriers. There was a general understanding that the PSMA would only achieve its ultimate objective if all port States effectively implement the Agreement. Article 21 of the PSMA gives full recognition to the special requirements of developing State Parties in this regard. Many participating States reported that technical assistance provided by the FAO, RFMOs, non-governmental organizations or through bilateral projects had contributed to developing capacity in this regard. However, many States still lack the capacity to effectively implement the Agreement and require further technical assistance to reform their policy and legal frameworks, establish institutional arrangements, develop operational procedures, and improve monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems. Participants also considered a sufficient number of qualified inspectors as a key to the effective implementation of the PSMA and emphasized the importance of continued training for inspectors. It was further recommended to strengthen the bilateral or regional exchange of experiences and to establish regional or sub-regional training hubs with appropriate certificates.

40. Participants highlighted the critical role of RFBs in achieving the broad and effective implementation of port State measures consistent with the PSMA. Among the RFBs, RFMOs have a crucial role in providing capacity development, facilitating the sharing of information and cooperation among States, and setting up compliance mechanisms for the effective implementation of adopted port State measures. Participants also noted the role of other RFBs that encourage information-sharing and cooperation, especially on MCS, or can document positive case studies and benefits of effectively implemented port State measures. It was further recommended that all States become Parties to relevant RFMOs, actively engage in RFMO meetings and processes and effectively implement conservation and management measures.

41. Many States reported that they are committed to fulfilling the obligations as flag States under the Agreement. They reported requiring their flagged vessels to cooperate with port States as outlined in Article 20 of the PSMA and encourage their vessels to use ports strictly implementing port State measures consistent with the PSMA. While some States reported not have achieved the requirements of the PSMA related to the role of flag States yet, these States also expressed the commitment to prioritize their obligations as a flag State under the PSMA as a matter of priority.

42. While most States reported having procedures in place for port State action following inspections in cases there were clear grounds for believing that a vessel had engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of such fishing, the practice of taking port State action was often problematic. The most prominent challenges reported were difficulties in communication with

flag States as well as decisions on how and when to take a specific action. States also mentioned challenges with the denial of the use of the port due to insufficient interagency coordination or the absence of protocols on costs and custody of the cargo in the sanctioning process. In this context, the development of standard operating procedures of the port State action was requested.

43. Many States recommended that a compliance monitoring mechanism be set up by the Parties to ensure that the provisions of the Agreement are effectively being implemented. Improvement of the PSMA questionnaire for the review and assessment of the effectiveness of the Agreement was also recommended.

44. Most participants emphasized the need to not only focus on foreign fishing vessels engaged in fishing activities but also on those engaged in fishing related activities, including on container vessels carrying fish not previously landed. Most participants also emphasized the challenge of clearly identifying a case of force majeure and distress.

ANNEX 1.

Status of Parties

Region	No. of States (FAO Members)	No. of coastal states (FAO Members)	No. of Parties	No. of States (where Agreement in force)	Percentage of total states in force (%)	Percentage of coastal States in force (%)
Africa	49	33	24	24	49	73
Asia	24	19	11	11	46	58
Europe	49	40	10	34	69	73
Latin America and the Caribbean	33	31	16	16	49	52
Near East	21	17	5	5	24	29
North America	2	2	2	2	100	100
South West Pacific	16	16	6	6	38	38
Global	194	158	74	98	51	59

ANNEX 2

**PGM/MUL/2016-2021/PSMA: FAO Global Capacity Development Programme to support
the implementation of the PSMA.**

Commitments, Contributions and Delivery as at 31 December 2022 (USD)^{[1],[2]}

Resource Partner	Commitments ^[3] 2017-2022	Contributions ^[4]							Delivery 2017-2022
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	
European Union	7 110 749		1 803 617	816 149	910 709	790 020	1 381 857	5 702 353	4 476 637
Germany	4 743 698					31 545	1 030 990	1 062 534	839 180
Iceland	800 000			400 000			400 000	800 000	652 942
Republic of Korea	3 755 227		737 927	43 500	1 100 243	1 191 631		3 073 301	1 776 282
Norway	4 376 293	1 219 875		1 137 482	649 928	715 852	640 319	4 363 456	2 793 084
Spain	233 414			57 078	115 361	60 976		233 414	233 414
Sweden	5 800 600		5 807 688 ^[5]					5 807 688	3 505 098
United States of America	903 369		973 741				-70 373	903 369	903 369
Total^[6]	27 723 350	1 219 875	9 322 973	2 454 209	2 776 241	2 790 023	3 382 793	21 946 114	15 180 005

^[1] All data and information is provided for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon for any other use. In particular, it is not intended for financial reporting which is governed by the relevant agreements between FAO and the concerned Resource Partners.

^[2] Net of interests accrued.

^[3] As stipulated in formal agreements between FAO and relevant Resource Partners.

^[4] Contributions received by FAO. The difference between Commitments and Contributions relate to commitments paid or to be paid in instalments.

^[5] Higher contribution than commitment is due to exchange rate gain.

^[6] Totals may not add up due to rounding.

			Technical assistance (legal and policy)				Technical assistance (MCS and operational aspects)										International training	
Country	Gap assessment workshop	National strategy and roadmap	Legal review	Legal drafting	Regulations	Judicial training	MCS review	Interagency mechanism	SOPs	National control plan	National inspection plan	CDS	Port inspection/enforcement training	MCS training	FSP support/training	VMS training	International fisheries law	Port inspection
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	1	1					1									1	
São Tome and Principe*	1	1																
Senegal	1	1																
Sierra Leone	1	1	1				1	1										
Solomon Islands																	1	
Somalia	1	1				1							1					
South Africa	1	1																
Sri Lanka	1	1	1	1		1											1	
Sudan	1	1			1				1								1	
Suriname	1	1	1	1				1						1				
Thailand	1	1										1						
Tonga	1	1																
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	1		1		1		1	1	1			1	1			

			Technical assistance (legal and policy)				Technical assistance (MCS and operational aspects)										International training	
Country	Gap assessment workshop	National strategy and roadmap	Legal review	Legal drafting	Regulations	Judicial training	MCS review	Interagency mechanism	SOPs	National control plan	National inspection plan	CDS	Port inspection/enforcement training	MCS training	FSP support/training	VMS training	International fisheries law	Port inspection
Uruguay	1	1															1	
Vanuatu	1	1															1	
TOTAL	47	47	25	11	7	2	16	12	11	4	5	5	2	5	6	4	23	7

	Non-Parties
	Parties