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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**

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PART 6 WORKING
GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON
PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE
ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING**

Report of the
FOURTH MEETING OF THE PART 6 WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE PARTIES TO THE
AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL,
UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING
Rome, 4 April 2023

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report of the fourth meeting of the Part 6 Working Group established by the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which was held in Rome, Italy, on 4 April 2023.

ABSTRACT

This document contains the report of the fourth meeting of the Part 6 Working Group established by the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement or the PSMA), held in Rome, Italy, on 4 April 2023. The 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 also 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 contributions to FAO for specific project(s) and programme(s); (ii) contributions to the multilateral partner PSMA Part 6 Trust Fund administered by FAO.

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OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The fourth meeting of the Part 6 Working Group established by the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement or the PSMA) was held in Rome, Italy, on 4 April 2023. The meeting was attended by 130 participants from 54 Parties to the Agreement, 40 participants from other FAO Members, nine inter-governmental, five international non-governmental organizations and one specialized agency from the United Nations (UN). A list of Parties and observers is attached as Appendix 2.
2. Mr Manuel Barange, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO, delivered opening remarks (Appendix 3).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

3. The meeting adopted the agenda without modification (Appendix 1).
4. Mr Benedict Kiilu from Kenya and Ms Bernice Carol Boupana Bola Epse Igaboughi from Gabon were elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively.

REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

5. The Secretariat introduced document PSMA_Part6WG4/2023/2, noting the growing number of developing States Parties to the PSMA since the last meeting of the Part 6 Working Group was held (Santiago, Chile, 7 June 2019).
6. The Secretariat reported on the increasing number of requests that FAO receives from developing States for assistance to strengthen capacities to implement port State measures consistent with the PSMA and complementary instruments and tools to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
7. Developing States expressed appreciation for the assistance and expertise that FAO has provided, in particular in areas such as needs assessments, strengthening of policy and legislation, training and capacity development of relevant authorities of different institutions and agencies involved in the implementation of the PSMA, and information exchange.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FUNDING MECHANISMS UNDER PART 6 OF THE PSMA

8. The Secretariat presented document PSMA_Part6WG4/2023/3 on the implementation of the Terms of Reference for the Funding Mechanisms under Part 6 of the PSMA, and in particular the status of the Assistance Fund established by the Parties for the purpose of assisting developing States Parties in the implementation of the Agreement (the Part 6 Assistance Fund).
9. The meeting acknowledged the generous financial contributions provided within the framework of Part 6 of the PSMA by the European Union, Germany, Iceland, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America for specific projects under FAO's PSMA global capacity development programme, which cumulatively amount to USD 21.9 million. The European Union confirmed its intention to continue supporting the Programme.
10. The Part 6 Working Group stressed the importance of making financial contributions also to the multilateral partner PSMA Part 6 Trust Fund established by the Parties and administered by FAO, which remains unfunded.
11. The Secretariat noted that, notwithstanding the sizeable amount of extrabudgetary funding made available by donors to FAO's PSMA global capacity development programme, FAO is not in the position

to address the increasing number of requests it receives from developing States to assist in the implementation of the PSMA.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The Part 6 Working Group established by the Parties to the PSMA adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

- a. To further advance in the implementation of the PSMA, continued awareness raising at national, regional, and global levels on the benefits of, and requirements for, the implementation of the PSMA is required.
- b. FAO should continue to take a leading role in delivering capacity development and training to developing States within the framework of Part 6 of the PSMA, alongside other initiatives and activities of bilateral cooperation, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and specialized and recognized training institutions.
- c. Capacity development and training should be provided in a comprehensive and holistic manner, comprising the different concerned national institutions and agencies. It should cover policy and legal frameworks, institutional arrangements; and operational capacity and systems for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). Capacity development and training should also include aspects related to information exchange and take into consideration the evolving requirements of developing States.
- d. The Parties emphasized the need for developing and delivering in-country level trainings and for the “training of trainers”.
- e. Training and capacity development should also be provided through knowledge exchange and sharing of experiences, training courses and best practices, South-South Cooperation (SSC) and/or regional level initiatives.
- f. Improved coordination between concerned entities, complementary projects, and donors providing support to combat IUU fishing, including possibly through the Global Portal for Capacity Development to combat IUU fishing hosted by FAO.
- g. The Parties to the PSMA should seek a broader involvement of RFMOs in which they are a member to support in their implementation of the PSMA.
- h. On the implementation of the Terms of Reference for the Funding Mechanisms under Part 6 of the PSMA, there was consensus on the need to increase funding to assist developing States in the implementation of the Agreement through, among others: (i) voluntary contributions to FAO for specific project(s) and programme(s), (ii) voluntary contributions to the multilateral partner PSMA Part 6 Trust Fund administered by FAO, which remains unfunded.
- i. The date and venue of the next meeting may be considered and agreed by the Meeting of the Parties and will be held possibly back-to-back with other PSMA statutory meetings.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

13. The date and venue of the next meeting will be held possibly back-to-back with other PSMA statutory meetings, as this may be considered and agreed by the Meeting of the Parties.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

14. The meeting thanked Mr Benedict Kiilu and Ms Bernice Carol Boupana Bola Epse Igaboughi for their efficient chairing of the meeting, and expressed gratitude to the European Union, Norway and the United

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their generous financial support towards the costs of the meeting. The meeting was closed at 19.05 hours CEST on 4 April 2023.

ADVANCE COPY

APPENDIX 1**AGENDA AND TIMETABLE****Tuesday 4 April***Evening 17:00 – 19.30*

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
3. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements of the meeting
4. Requirements of developing States
 - 4.1. Developing States Parties to the PSMA
 - 4.2. Recalling decisions of the third meeting of the Part 6 Working Group
 - 4.3. Requests for assistance
 - 4.4. Relevant outcomes of the Regional Coordination Meetings on the implementation of the PSMA
5. Implementation of the Terms of Reference for the Funding Mechanisms under Part 6 of the PSMA
 - 5.1. FAO global capacity development programme in support of the PSMA, complementary instruments and tools
 - 5.2. Trust Fund
6. Conclusions and recommendations
7. Date and venue of next meeting
8. Closure of the meeting

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ADVANCE COPY

APPENDIX 3

**OPENING REMARKS
BY
MR MANUEL BARANGE
DIRECTOR, FAO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DIVISION**

Distinguished delegates and guests,

In opening the Fourth Meeting of the PSMA Part 6 Working Group, I would like to renew our gratitude to the European Union, Norway, and the United Kingdom for their generous financial contributions towards the statutory meetings of the FAO Agreement on Port States Measures.

The fight against Illegal, as well as unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of the priorities for FAO Members. The I and the two U's combined, are among the greatest threats to ensuring sustainable fisheries.

In recent years, international standards and requirements specifically addressing IUU fishing have evolved and grown. The 2009 FAO Conference approved the Agreement on Port State Measures as the first binding instrument targeting IUU fishing, the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear, and the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment have been developed and endorsed under the auspices of FAO and its Committee of Fisheries. Together with other relevant binding and non-binding fisheries instruments, nobody can say that we do not have the necessary international legal framework to effectively address IUU fishing.

Our monitoring of SDG indicator 14.6.1 indicates that since 2018 the degree of implementation of international instruments to combat IUU fishing has improved across the world¹, and States are making good overall progress. This has been achieved also thanks to technical assistance provided by FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, bilateral aid, and non-governmental organizations.

Despite these achievements, IUU fishing continues to be a serious issue in most areas, highlighting the need for intensifying efforts at the national, regional and global levels in the coming years. If we do so we will eliminate illegal fishing, and ensure all fisheries are regulated and catches effectively reported. These are essential elements of the second objective of FAO's Blue Transformation initiative, which is to ensure that 100% of global fisheries, both in marine and inland waters, are placed under effective management, because managed fisheries are sustainable fisheries.

I will highlight in particular developing States, which constitute the majority of the Parties to the PSMA, for their pivotal role in the fight against IUU fishing.

Many developing States still lack the capacity to implement port State measures consistent with the Agreement, and there is a need to bolster assistance, either directly or through FAO, other specialized agencies and appropriate international organizations and bodies, including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

¹ As measured by the SDG Indicator 14.6.1: Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

In 2019, the Parties to the PSMA established an Assistance Fund for the purpose of assisting developing State Parties in the implementation of the Agreement (the PSMA Part 6 Assistance Fund).

The PSMA Part 6 Assistance Fund is administered by FAO and includes earmarked contributions for specific projects and programmes. Contributions to the Programme amount to 22 million USD, with funding from the European Union, Germany, Iceland, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United States of America.

These contributions have enabled FAO to reach out to more than 50 countries, as well as support several global and regional processes and tools on the regulation, management and control of fisheries.

However, this is not enough, and our work is far from complete. The PSMA Part 6 Trust Fund remains underfunded to address the assistance requirements of developing States in the implementation of the Agreement.

The discussions of the Fourth Meeting of the PSMA Part 6 Working Group will be crucial in continuing to inform the Meeting of the Parties of the special requirements of developing States; in making recommendations on priorities for the use of the funding mechanism, and; in making recommendations on the mobilization of resources towards the Part 6 Assistance Fund.

As we gather for the Fourth Meeting of the PSMA Part 6 Working Group, the First Meeting of the PSMA Strategy ad hoc Working Group is also discussing in parallel. Let us keep in mind that our collective efforts will shape the future of our global fisheries, and your discussions may also prove beneficial to the ongoing discussion on the development of a strategy to enhance the effectiveness of the PSMA.

Thank you, I wish you the best in your endeavors and look forward to the outcomes of the meeting.