

## 43rd Session of the Conference

### **Introduction to Item 15.3: Evaluation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

When the United Nations General Assembly declared 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022), a unique window opened to focus the world's attention on the important role of small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish-workers in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and sustainable use of natural resources.

Under the lead of FAO, and in close collaboration with other UN agencies, FAO Members and partners, the Year provided a successful platform for collective action with over 260 events organized in 68 countries, underpinned by a strong awareness-raising campaign.

Guided by the International Steering Committee, chaired by the Government of Peru and three regional committees, it was a truly global movement to promote and support small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish-workers and their livelihoods.

The success of the year is thanks to the dedication of all who took initiative, including the 61 official IYAFA 2022 partners, from small-scale fisheries organizations to governments.

To close the year, regional partners gathered in Tunisia, in North Africa, for an in-person closing event; a virtual closing event was organized by FAO's office for Africa in December 2022; in February 2023, the Department of Fisheries of Thailand hosted a hybrid regional IYAFA closing event for the Year, jointly with the Too Big To Ignore Partnership and INFOFISH, and the three IYAFA 2022 committees in the Latin America and the Caribbean region joined forces for a shared regional closing event in March 2023.

Many of the IYAFA 2022 activities can be found on the official IYAFA 2022 webpage, including the important outcome documents of these meetings which provide important guidance for all and are part of the legacy of the International Year.

Many of the materials produced to promote the Year remain very relevant and can be found on the IYAFA 2022 webpage.

Norway, Sweden and the European Union provided important financial support to FAO, primarily through existing projects, as this Year was celebrated without a dedicated trust fund.

The end of IYAFA 2022 marks a new era of support for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture; the Year's final report provides eight key areas for follow-up action and confirmed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication as an agreed framework for all to enable small-scale fisheries to remain stewards of valuable ecosystems and heirs to longstanding traditions and cultures.

Sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are vital to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and essential to realizing FAO's vision of Blue Transformation to change the way the world manages, uses and conserves its aquatic resources to end hunger and poverty.

**Related documents:**

FAO Conference document C2023/29: <https://www.fao.org/3/nl847en/nl847en.pdf>

FAO IYafa 2022 home page: <https://www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/home/en/>

FAO IYafa 2022 final Report: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5034en>

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