

Next steps

Article 21 of the 2009 FAO Agreement addresses the special requirements of developing States. It recognizes the need to ensure that all parties, irrespective of their geographic location or development status, have the human and material means to implement the Agreement. This is a primary concern because capacity-poor States could inhibit regional efforts to implement the 2009 FAO Agreement in a harmonized manner.

To give effect, in part, to Article 21 FAO will mount a series of regional capacity-development activities, in collaboration with regional partners. The activities will be tailored to specific regional needs and designed to implement the 2009 FAO Agreement in a focused and comprehensive manner. They will build on FAO's past capacity-development work on port State measures.

The objective of the capacity-development activities will be to strengthen national capacity and promote regional coordination so that countries will be better placed to enhance and harmonize the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement.

Funding

The capacity-development activities will be funded from extrabudgetary resources.

Further information

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FAO Port State Measures Agreement

Human resource development



Port State measures: some milestones

2001

FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) adopted the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, including port State measures.

2004

FAO Technical Consultation to Review Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing identified the need for human resource development to implement port State measures and developed, as minimum standards, a FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

2005

COFI endorsed the outputs of the 2004 Technical Consultation and encouraged follow-up work to operationalize the FAO Model Scheme.

2007

COFI endorsed a timetable for FAO to develop, as minimum standards, a legally-binding instrument on port State measures.

2007

FAO Expert Consultation to Draft a Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures prepared a draft text for a Technical Consultation on port State measures.

2008

FAO Technical Consultation to Draft a Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was convened: the Consultation met in four negotiating sessions from June 2008 to August 2009.

2009

FAO Conference adopted resolution 12/2009 approving the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, urging Members to sign and ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Agreement as soon as possible.

2009

United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/72 on sustainable fisheries welcomed the 2009 FAO Agreement and urged States to cooperate to adopt all necessary port State measures consistent with international law.

2010

United Nations Review Conference on the 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement encouraged States to become parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement with a view to its early entry into force.



Human resource development

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is fuelled and supported by IUU fishers transshipping, landing and laundering their illicit catches. It continues to be a profitable activity. Profitability will not diminish until it becomes more difficult for IUU fishers to move their catches ashore and sell them. Blocking catch flows to markets will require harmonized regional cooperation to implement port State measures.

Initial steps

In 2006 FAO initiated a programme of capacity development and awareness-raising relating to port State measures to support the implementation of the FAO Model Scheme. Between 2006 and 2009 eight regional capacity-development workshops were held. In total 195 persons (18 percent women) from 84 countries received training to enhance ongoing national and regional activities. All of the workshops were conducted in conjunction with regional partners. The programme was the first systematic effort towards human capacity development at the regional level for strengthening the implementation of port State measures to combat IUU fishing. The programme provided a firm foundation for follow-up efforts to implement the 2009 FAO Agreement.