



SWIOFC/WPCCTF/19/5 E

## **SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION**

### **Ninth Working Party on Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries**

**Maldives, 29 September 2019**

### **UPDATE ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE FAO PORT STATE MEASURES AGREEMENT (PSMA) BY SWIOFC MEMBER COUNTRIES**

The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) entered into force on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016. As at June 2019, instruments to adhere to the (PSMA) had been deposited by 61 States and one Member Organization (European Union). Among them, nine are SWIOFC Member Countries. Only three SWIOFC Member Countries (Comoros, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen) have not yet ratified the Agreement. The three Members were requested by the Secretariat to provide an update on the ratification status of the PSMA in their country.

#### **Comoros**

There is no fishing port for industrial vessels in the Comoros. The country is engaged in the process of combating IUU fishing and follows the PSMA indications. In order to initiate the process to ratify the Agreement, Comoros requested technical support for the elaboration of the document to be submitted to the National Assembly. The request of Comoros was transmitted by the SWIOFC Secretariat to the Fishing Operations and Technology Branch, which is in charge of the PSMA and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing at the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

#### **United Republic of Tanzania**

The United Republic of Tanzania is at the final stage of the PSMA ratification. All preparatory processes have been completed and it is expected that the Agreement will be presented to the Parliament for ratification around February 2020.

#### **Yemen**

No information was provided by Yemen about the status of PSMA ratification in the country.

For the PSMA and complementary instruments to be effective, Member Countries need to move ahead with developing implementation strategies, supported by sound policy, legal and institutional frameworks, as well as operational mechanisms sustained by sufficient human and financial resources. The FAO Global Programme to Support the Implementation of the PSMA and Complimentary Instruments and Tools was set up to provide technical assistance and training to up to 40 developing countries and SIDS over the period 2017-2023.

The assistance is delivered on the basis of a needs' assessments. Technical assistance and training include: i) support to implement the PSMA and complementary instruments and tools, including flag, coastal, and market States responsibilities – policy, legal, institutional and operational; ii) investments to develop and implement global information systems in support of the implementation of the PSMA; and iii) travel support to relevant PSMA meetings.

Currently 10 projects are operational for a total of USD 15 million provided by the European Union, Iceland, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the USA. In SWIOFC countries the following activities have been implemented:

### **Madagascar**

- November 2018, National Workshop facilitated by FAO for a National Strategy and Action Plan

### **Mozambique**

- March 2017, National Workshop facilitated by FAO for a National Strategy and Action Plan
- June 2019, Meeting organized by FAO and Stop Illegal Fishing to update and validate Mozambique's National Strategy and Action Plan

### **South Africa**

- July 2018, National Workshop facilitated by FAO for a National Strategy and Action Plan

In order to maintain co-ordination and collaboration among regional organizations in the fight against IUU, the SWIOFC Secretary attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Consultative Workshop for the EA-SA-IO region organized by SADC, with the support of SWIOFish1 and WWF, in Livingstone, Zambia, 1-4 September 2019. The meeting this year focused in particular on the issue of transparency in fisheries, and it was also an opportunity to present and discuss FAO's international instruments and tools to combat IUU Fishing (e.g. PSMA, Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes, and Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear).

For further information, please consult the FAO websites on combatting IUU fishing <http://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/en/>