	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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<b>WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)</b>
<b>SEVENTEENTH SESSION</b>
<b>Miami, United States of America, 15-18 July 2019</b>
<b>Methodology for the reporting on SDG (selected Targets): WECAFC ( Fisheries) – related SDG Indicators under FAO custodianship</b>

#### Suggested Action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- Note FAO's progress as custodian agency of four SDG14 indicators in developing methodologies, implementing monitoring and reporting frameworks, as well as training capacities;
- Acknowledge the current capacity gaps across countries in reporting SDG indicators,
- Note that RFBs and RFMOs are key players to achieve the SDGs through their many roles, and that Cooperation with these bodies can play a fundamental role in fostering consistency and comparability on countries approach towards their monitoring and reporting frameworks.
- Encourage WECAFC members:
  - to work together and collaborate with FAO and other relevant custodian agencies for reporting on the SDG indicators, and increasing the precision of their results.
  - to be actively engaged in capacity building practices for methodologies and reporting

## **I. ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA – INDICATORS AND THE ROLE OF BLUE GROWTH**

1. The 2030 Agenda<sup>1</sup> and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a vision of a fairer, more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world in which no one is left behind, whilst enjoying rights-based, equitable and inclusive growth. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as well as full and productive employment and decent work for all, are also promoted.

2. FAO's work is generally well harmonized with the 2030 Agenda and a range of SDGs (in particular SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17) and in contributing guidance and advice to countries on relevant policy and capacity development, including mainstreaming and fisheries and aquaculture programming<sup>2</sup>. The strategic importance of the SDGs for aquaculture, fisheries and fish value chains is increasingly being recognized in fora such as the FAO COFI Sub-Committees on Aquaculture and Fish Trade. FAO also contributed significantly to SDG Reports<sup>3</sup> and to major events in recent years such as the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Oceans Conference and the 4th Our Ocean Conference in Malta. Blue Economy/Growth were recognized at these meetings as important approaches for achieving Goal 14, and in particular target 14.7.<sup>4</sup>

3. There is general agreement that available international guidance – such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF), the Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and others such as FAO's Blue Growth – when and where implemented, will undoubtedly contribute to the implementation and monitoring of many SDG targets.

## **II. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS FOR SELECTED SDG TARGETS**

4. Agenda 2030 is a country-owned and country-led framework. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal (IAEG-SDG) and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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<sup>1</sup> UN. 2015. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>

<sup>2</sup> FAO. 2018. Transforming Food and Agriculture to achieve the SDGs -20 interconnected actions to guide decision-makers. Rome, FAO. 2018. 71 p. <http://www.fao.org/3/I9900EN/i9900en.pdf>. And the longer version: <http://www.fao.org/3/CA1647EN/ca1647en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> UNSG. 2017. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals – Report of the Secretary-General. High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. E/2017/66. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2017/secretary-general-sdg-report-2017--EN.pdf>; Statistical annex: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2017/secretary-general-sdg-report-2017--Statistical-Annex.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26843>

(HLG-PCCB) are the expert groups mandated to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Both groups are composed of Member States and include regional and international agencies as observers. Certain international agencies have been designated as custodians of particular indicators, with the responsibility of enabling proper national, regional and global SDG reporting.

5. FAO is the custodian of 21 SDG indicators, out of a total 230 for 169 targets, across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and is a contributing agency to four more. Custodianship carries the responsibility of enabling proper national, regional and global SDG reporting. Monitoring is part of FAO's overall support to Member States in integrating the SDGs into national development plans to implement food security schemes, social safety nets and research and development programmes.

6. In that context, FAO's role is to: i) lead methodological development and documentation of the indicators; ii) support statistical capacity of countries to generate and disseminate national data; iii) collect data from national sources, ensure their comparability and consistency; and iv) disseminate them at global level and contribute to monitor progress at the global, regional and national levels. Under Goal 14 "Life below water", FAO is custodian of four indicators: 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1. FAO is also a contributing agency for SDG indicator 14.c.1, providing methodological support for certain data elements.

7. A major feature of the SDG Agenda is its integrated and indivisible nature, which requires that results from related indicators be jointly evaluated to allow a comprehensive analysis of the impacts and trade-offs between different development paths. The four SDG 14 targets whose indicators are under the custodianship of FAO are closely interrelated, and will require integrated policies and measures for their achievement, despite having different target deadlines.

8. Tier classification system<sup>5</sup>. All indicators are equally important, however, to facilitate the implementation of the global indicator framework, indicators are classified by the IAEG-SDGs into three tiers based on their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level. Among the four indicators of SDG 14, two indicators (14.6.1 and 14.7.1) are under tier I because conceptually clear and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries. Whereas, indicators 14.6.1 and 14.b.1 are classified as Tier II because conceptually clear, with an internationally established methodology, but data are not regularly produced by countries.

9. The SDGs indicators methodologies, results and scores will be made available on the FAO SDG indicator platform<sup>6</sup> and in the global SDG database maintained by UNSD<sup>7</sup>.

#### **A. SDG Indicator 14.4.1 – Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels**

10. This Tier I indicator measures progress toward Target 14.4 – *by 2020 restoring fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY)*. It provides a means of monitoring progress and changes in the exploitation and management of global fishery resources as a direct measure of sustainability.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

11. The MSY-based indicator is used by FAO since 1974 and released each biennium in SOFIA. Due to data and technical capacity limits it is estimated at regional and global levels and therefore not providing a complete overview for all countries. Regional analyses for reference year 2015 (FAO, 2018)<sup>8</sup> reveal that the fraction of world marine fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels has declined from 90% in 1974 to 66.9% in 2015.

12. However, the assessment principles and methodologies underpinning indicator estimates are equally applicable at national level. Indeed, a number of countries, either independently or within RFBs context, already assess the status of their fish stocks and are therefore likely to be able to produce national estimates of SDG Indicator 14.4.1 without much difficulty. However, other countries may face various challenges in the production of the indicator due to data and capacity limitations.

13. FAO plans to scale-up countries experience and foster national uptake of indicator 14.4.1 by providing, upon availability of funding and where possible in collaboration with RFBs, training on methodologies applicable in data-limited situations and in stock status determination, and capacity development in data collection on catch, effort and biological data which in the medium term will contribute to improve stock assessments.

14. FAO will publish in mid-2019 an e-learning course which includes Reporting and Monitoring Guidelines for indicator 14.4.1 describing: i) the institutional set-up at national level, ii) the selection criteria to establish a reference list of national stocks, iii) a selection of methodologies and approaches of stock assessment, and iv) calculation of the indicator and the reporting process.

15. FAO will also dispatch soon the questionnaire to countries in order to report the indicator to FAO. Countries are expected to include in the indicator calculations national stocks and shared stocks but not straddling stocks (i.e. those found in EEZ waters and on the High Seas in areas beyond national jurisdictions). National submissions and the supporting information at stock level will not be disseminated by FAO as custodian agency in its general website<sup>9</sup>, but used to establish regional and global estimates of the indicator. To ensure regional and global completeness, FAO will consult RFBs and other institutions concerned in assessment of the highly migratory and straddling fish stocks, as well as shared stocks, which the RFBs have been mandated to assess and manage together with their contracting parties.

16. In order to promote transparency in the calculation of the indicator, FAO will produce and publish a unique identifier<sup>10</sup> for each stock listed in national reference list of stocks, following international standards and as part of the Global Record of Stock and Fisheries<sup>11</sup>. Once available, these unique identifiers will be integrated into the reporting template sent by FAO to countries. Countries will also be encouraged to integrate these unique identifiers in their National Reporting Platform and in their subsequent reports to FAO.

17. Upon agreement with the reporting country, FAO offers to host and disseminate this information on the status of individual stocks through the platform Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS), which will designate each stock with a unique identifier for the purposes of easy

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<sup>8</sup> SOFIA 2018: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I9540EN>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1441/en/>

<sup>10</sup> The Unique Identifier is a digital code which uniquely identifies any single stock. It is produced by FAO in two forms: 1) a machine readable identifier and 2) a semantic identifier readable by humans and codified according to international statistical standards.

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/FIRMS/FIRMS\\_FSC11/5e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/FIRMS/FIRMS_FSC11/5e.pdf)

identification of stock assessment unit, reporting, aggregated status summaries, and authoritative references for general public including responsible seafood consumers.

18. Beyond the e-learning material which will be published, FAO will initiate in 2019 capacity building on the indicator's overall monitoring and reporting process, including training on data-limited methods for stock assessment. This will proceed through regional or local workshops jointly organized with Partners. Should demand emanate from the WECAFC region, such training workshops could be planned under principle of joint organization and co-funding agreements with partners.

## **B. SDG indicator 14.7.1 – Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in Small Island developing States, least developed countries and all countries**

19. This indicator was reclassified and upgraded to Tier I at the 9th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs which met in March 2019. The methodological development was extensive and provided a conceptually clear and cost-effective framework for monitoring countries' progress towards target 14.7.1.

20. Taking into consideration the importance of this indicator to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (and LDCs), FAO conducted a series of regional workshops for the islands in the Pacific, the Caribbean, Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and the South China Sea in 2017-2018.

21. The workshops were used to consult with stakeholders on the work that is being undertaken in relation to the development of a methodology to report on SDG 14.7.1, to validate the proposed approach and identify countries for implementing nationally the methodology in the context of pilot countries.

22. The contribution of fisheries to the GDP implies several challenges, particularly taking into consideration that the value for fisheries products is only registered at the production level, usually based on ex-vessel prices. Therefore, it does not consider the total economic contribution of the value chain as a whole, particularly in additional stages (processing, transport, and commercialization), neither social contributions (producers and employee's incomes) or any payment to national authorities (payment for right access, licenses and penalties). In this regard, a comprehensive indicator should measure the contribution of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism, including derived secondary and tertiary activities.

23. Notwithstanding, the currently available indicator for SDG 14.7.1 measures the value added of sustainable marine capture fisheries as a proportion of GDP. It includes the value of fish harvested from marine stocks, minus the value of goods and services that are used in the production process (such as raw materials and utilities). In this regard, it includes activities that are normally integrated into the process of production and occur at sea, such as fishing vessels which process or preserve their catch on board. However, it does not include the processing or preserving of fish when it occurs in land-based facilities.

24. In addition, since the vast majority of countries report only aggregated data in their national accounts for value added for the fisheries and aquaculture sector, it was necessary to separate the value added for marine capture fisheries. In this regard, the quantity of marine capture fisheries as a proportion of total production was used as a proxy to calculate the proportion of value added in the absence of specific value data.

25. The second points of sustainability of fisheries builds on the existing FAO global process for determining stock status. FAO has been periodically analyzing and compiling the status of marine fish stocks combining the results of formal stock assessments available, including the assessments carried out at the regional level and at a finer scale by national institutions and scientific working groups. The information from various sources is analyzed and synthesized to classify the exploitation status of fish stocks.

26. The sustainability multiplier, which is a component of the indicator and by which the value added of marine capture fisheries is adjusted, is based on an assessment of fish stock sustainability within FAO Fishing Areas, adjusted by the proportion of the quantity of marine capture for each respective fishing area in which the country performs fishing activities. Developments regarding SDG14.4.1 might allow in the future to utilize more tailored sustainability multipliers at country and FAO area level.

27. While SDG indicator 14.7.1 is completely constructed on data already provided by countries to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Regarding WECAFC member countries, proportion of fisheries and aquaculture to GDP was available for 23 countries in 2015 according the SDG 14.7.1 methodology. Countries are invited to collaborate with FAO to increase the availability and/or precision of their data, by providing otherwise unavailable inputs for the calculation of the indicator.

28. According to the results, higher contribution from sustainable marine capture fisheries in least developed and SIDS countries are evident; in particular for SIDS countries, the ratio increased from 6.69% in 2011 to 13.68% in 2015, taking into consideration that fishing activities prevail with more relevance from the social, economic and environmental perspective to the local communities and indigenous people in those countries. For other regions of the world, the share has been overall increasing as a result of improved management from governments and relevant fishing bureaus.

### **C. SDG indicator 14.6.1 – Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

29. This Tier II indicator underlines the importance of the fight against IUU fishing which can undermine efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks and prevent achieving long-term sustainability. Different international instruments have been developed over the years to efficiently curb IUU fishing by focusing on the responsibilities of States for their implementation.

30. The questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the 1995 FAO CCRF and related instruments includes sections that measure biennial progress in the implementation of relevant international instruments to combat IUU fishing:

- Adherence and implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Adherence and implementation of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)
- Development and implementation of a national plan of action (NPOA) to combat IUU fishing in line with the IPOA-IUU
- Adherence and implementation of the 2009 FAO PSMA, a binding Agreement to curb IUU fishing. Since its adoption, 59 States and the EU, on behalf of its 28 Member States, have become Party

- Implementation of Flag State Responsibilities in the context of the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance

31. This indicator is based on a country's self-assessed degree of implementation of these instruments. Depending on a country's responses to the relevant sections of the CCRF questionnaire, countries will score an indicator value that will be converted into five bands between 1 and 5 (i.e. The bands 3 to 5, correspond to medium, high and very high respectively)<sup>12</sup> Each instrument is given a weighting, which takes into consideration the importance of the instrument in combating IUU fishing as well as the overlap between the instruments.

32. FAO piloted the methodology for the 14.6.1 indicator as part of workshops for the implementation of the PSMA and related instruments. This ensured that the final indicator methodology, which relies fully on the CCRF questionnaire, and which was approved by the IAEG-SDG, provided accurate scores for a State.

33. First sets of country data have been collected with the launch of the 2018 CCRF questionnaire. National scores for the indicator 14.6.1 will set the baseline for national, regional and global monitoring towards the achievement of SDG target 14.6.

34. The results of the 2018 CCRF show that, globally (Figure 1), a medium level of implementation international instruments applicable to combatting IUU fishing has been reached (i.e. score=3). Most countries have taken measures to combat IUU fishing, however over 30 percent of countries still show very low to medium level of implementation of these instruments.

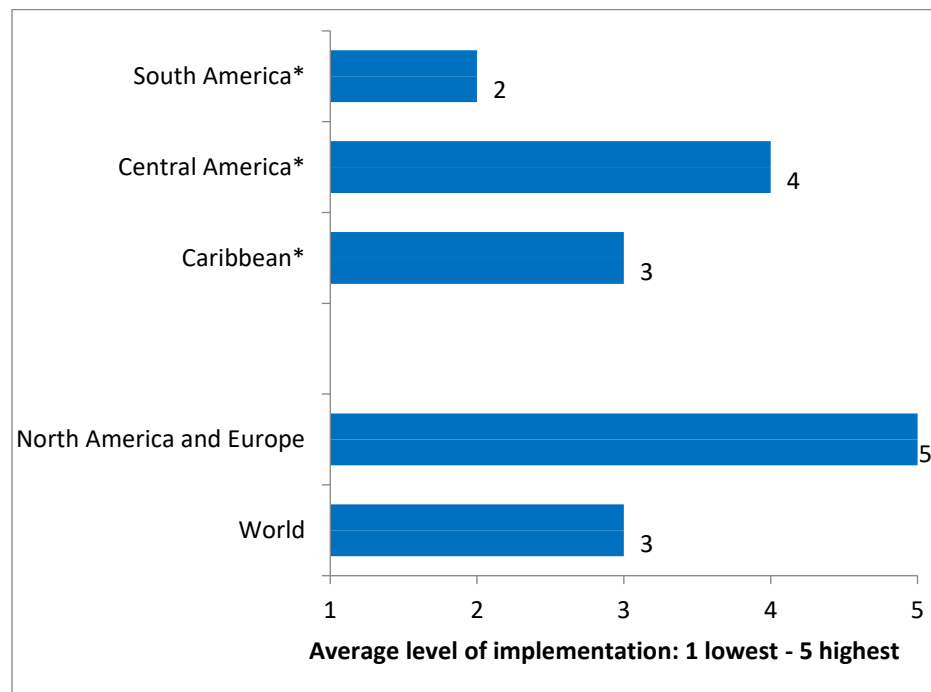
35. Regionally, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), faced with particular challenges in fully implementing these instruments due to their large amounts of waters under their jurisdiction, also registered a medium level of implementation. WECAFC members in Central America, registered in average the highest level of implementation of these instruments (i.e. score=4) (Figure 1). Conversely, the lowest level average of implementation (i.e. score=2) was recorded by members of South America. Members in Caribbean reported a medium level implementation.

36. Further efforts are needed to make progress in implementing these instruments. A concerted effort and clear political will from countries are required to make advances in the implementation of instruments to combat IUU fishing.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1461/en/>

Figure 1: Average level of implementation of IUU instruments in 2018.



(\*) SDG indicator aggregations are only representative of FAO Member States, Member to WECAFC, for which an indicator score was calculated and validated from their responses to the 2018 edition of the CCRF questionnaire.

#### **D. SDG indicator 14.b.1 – Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries**

37. This Tier II indicator is meant to track progress against SDG target 14.b - *Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*. This target is specific to small-scale fisheries and confirms the global recognition of the fundamental role of small-scale fisheries in food security and poverty eradication<sup>13</sup>. In order to guarantee secure access, an enabling environment is necessary which recognizes and protects small-scale fisheries rights. Such an enabling environment has three key features:

- 1) Appropriate legal, regulatory and policy frameworks
- 2) Specific initiatives to support small-scale fisheries
- 3) Related institutional mechanisms which allow for the participation of small-scale fisheries organizations in relevant processes

38. FAO is the custodian agency for the indicator which is based on questions included in the CCRF Questionnaire. Depending on a country's responses to the relevant sections of the CCRF questionnaire, countries will score an indicator, which will be converted into one of five bands

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/14b1/en/>



between 1 and 5. Bands are illustrated in the methodology document<sup>14</sup>.

39. In the context of supporting member countries in achieving and reporting on SDG 14.b, FAO has developed an e-learning course<sup>15</sup> and organized workshops on exploring the indicator and its target SDG 14.b. Workshops focused on exploration of the indicator methodology and related issues on data and information sources.

40. Likewise indicator 14.6.1, also the national scores for Indicator 14.b.1 have been collected with the release of the CCRF 2018 questionnaire. However in the case of indicator 14.b.1, the indicator baseline derives from CCRF 2016, when for the first time the subset of questions related with the small scale fisheries has been integrated.

41. According to the responses to the 2018 CCRF on average small-scale fisheries were reported to account for more than half of members' total production, both in terms of quantity and value. Globally, a medium implementation of instruments has been reached (i.e. score = 3) (Figure, 2). Countries reported that up to seventy percent of the people in the fisheries sector are involved in small-scale fisheries, mostly in fishing activities and to a lesser extent in post-harvest and other related activities.

42. Small-scale fisheries are legally defined by slightly less than half of the countries, while a third of the remaining members have an informal definition of small-scale fisheries. More than half of those members that have a legal or informal definition intend to review it through a multi-stakeholder process as indicated in paragraph 2.4 of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)<sup>16</sup>.

43. Although information on gender distribution of people involved in small-scale fisheries is generally scarce, reporting showed that there is a higher percentage of men engaged in full-time employment globally, except for post-harvest activities, in which a higher percentage of women are engaged in full-time employment in Africa, Asia and, Latin America and the Caribbean.

44. In Caribbean and South America, WECAFC members that submitted the 2018 CCRF reported, in average, a high level of implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets (i.e. Score = 4). Whereas, the average score of members in Central America was higher (i.e. Score=5) (Figure 2).

45. It is highly relevant for SDG 14.b that these mainly include the support to resources management-related activities and the enhancement of value chains, post-harvest operations and trade. The most prominent constraints encountered by members in implementing such initiatives is the lack of financial resources and organizational structures among small-scale fishers and fish workers. Additional hindering factors include limited public awareness of the importance of small-scale fisheries and insufficient coordination with other related administrations.

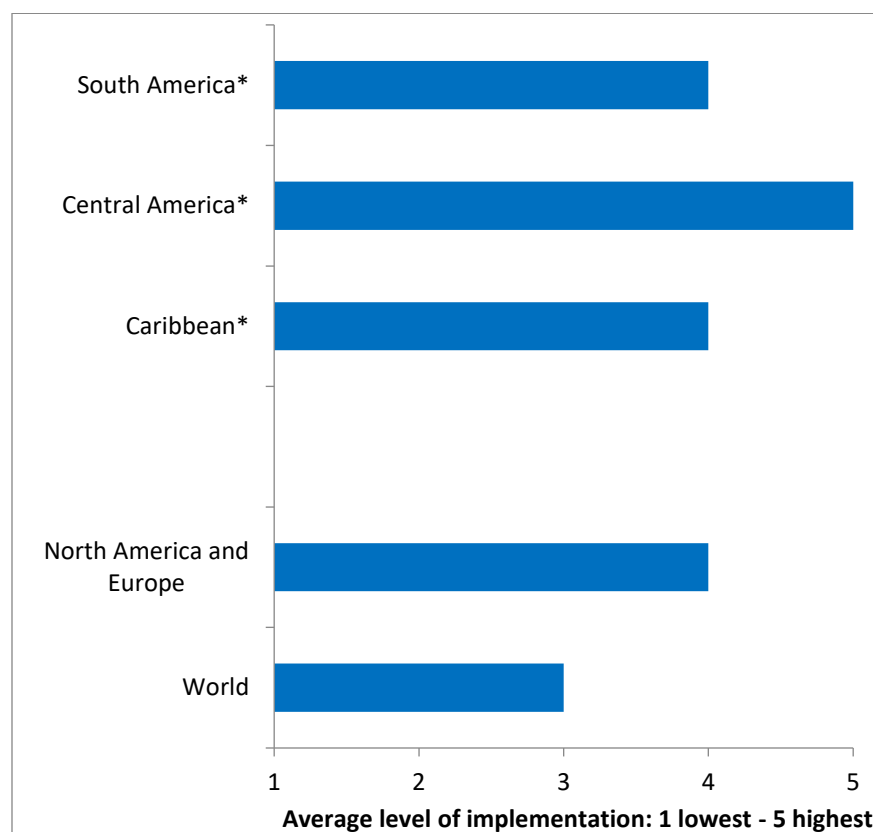
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<sup>14</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-14-0b-01.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=348>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I4356EN>

Figure 2: Average level of implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries in 2018.



(\*) SDG indicator aggregations are only representative of FAO Member States, Members to WECAFC, for which an indicator score was calculated and validated from their responses to the 2018 edition of the CCRF questionnaire.

### III. FAO capacity development initiatives for SDG indicators

46. FAO capacity development work aims primarily to enable countries to produce and report on these indicators according to internationally agreed methodologies and standards. To this end, FAO organizes global and regional training workshops, and is providing guidance for national monitoring through guidelines and e-learning courses, the identification of reporting systems, including software (CCRF questionnaires, Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries), by using existing partnerships (e.g. FIRMS) and through innovative technologies. These activities are being supported through various funding sources including a catalytic Multi-disciplinary fund for the biennium 2018-19.

47. For the future, FAO is establishing a Multi-Donor Umbrella Programme to fill capacity gaps in National Statistical Systems and to enable countries to produce and use SDG indicators effectively. The Programme will help countries monitor progress for SDG targets related to hunger and food security, sustainable agriculture and management of natural resources, through improved monitoring based on higher quality and granular data. Partner countries will produce and disseminate more comprehensive and comparable data on SDG indicators, enabling them to design effective evidence-based national policies and strategies to meet SDG targets.