

## SE13: Milestones in advancing the right to food through sustainable small-scale fisheries and resilient aquatic food systems

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**Organized by:** Government of Norway; Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland; Aquatic Blue Food Coalition; Global Action Network Foods from the Oceans and Inland Waters for FSN, UN Decade of Action on Nutrition; FAO; UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; CSIPM; Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions; World Bank; WorldFish; Environmental Defense Fund; Oceana; CGIAR

### Description

2024 marks significant milestones in global efforts to protect the right to food, build resilient aquatic food systems, and support sustainable small-scale fisheries. It has been twenty years since the FAO council adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food Guidelines (RtF Guidelines), and ten years since CFS Members endorsed policy recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition. Additionally it has been a decade since members of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).

The RtF Guidelines emphasize the State's responsibility to ensure that all individuals have access to adequate food. The CFS policy recommendations affirmed the central position of the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture as fundamental for food security and nutrition and the SSF Guidelines call for action by States and non-State actors to secure all aspects of socioeconomic and environmental sustainability in small-scale fisheries based on the human rights-based approach, ensuring participatory and inclusive processes.

It is now time to assess progress made since adopting these guidelines and recommendations, and the opportunities for advancing the global agenda for strengthened protection of the right to food, resilient aquatic food systems, and sustainable small-scale fisheries. This event seeks to commemorate these milestones by bringing together stakeholders to reflect on past achievements, share lessons learned, and develop strategies for effectively integrating the RtF Guidelines and the SSF Guidelines, into national and regional policies, programmes, projects, as well as reviewing the policy recommendations, contributing to the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work.

