



Comments of Chile to the document COFI/2020/Inf.3.3 (Item 13.1)

Mandate of the International Platform for Food and Digital Agriculture

1. Chile appreciates the effort made by the FAO Committee in endorsing the proposal that FAO host the International Platform for Food and Digital Agriculture, in order to contribute to new technologies and the development of initiatives for the “Roadmap for digital cooperation”.
2. The document states that in number III Mission in a) and c) that “the digital gap will be reduced” and “it will contribute to the implementation of digital technology” respectively. This involves generating capacities to voluntary users in the use of digital technologies in a practical manner or rather it will act as an educational, discussion, analysis, consultative platform.
3. Although Chile agrees with the operating mechanism propose of the International Platform, it believes that it is necessary to contemplate a familiarization and induction phase with users, the foregoing recognising that there are users with low level of digitalization in fisheries and aquaculture. It should be considered as a key activity in the successful use of the Platform.
4. Chile advocates in the terms that indicate this Platform as a flexible, simple, and consensus-based coordination mechanism that will have the support of FAO, and whose participation will be voluntary. The establishment of the Platform is in line with current times and trends towards digitalization, consistent with the strategy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in terms of new technologies, which encourages multi-stakeholder dialogue.
5. Chile appreciates that this multi-stakeholder interaction and convergence mechanism should be driven in order to promote the dialogue on digitalization of the food sectors, especially the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and emphasising its role in the food security framework. Contributing effectively in the progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. National participation should not only be ensured in the Intergovernmental Representative Group framework, but also in the online multi-stakeholder Forum, which seeks to ensure the inclusion and adoption of the bottom-up approach and in which all relevant stakeholders, farmers organisations, the industry, civil society and knowledge society, and will consist of facilitated online discussions. In this regard, it is considered essential that each country is responsible for promoting the participation by non-governmental entities, even guidelines for the participation of stakeholders in the platform can be provided by FAO.