



Comments of Chile to the document COFI/2020/12 (Item 14)

Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Fisheries: Report on the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW for 2018-2021 and the MYPOW project for 2020-23

1. Chile considers that there have been important progresses in the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work 2018-2021. One of the most relevant is the report on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2018 and 2020. There is no doubt that it is necessary to always have updated information about the existing situation in order to take the necessary and adequate measures, as required.
2. Also, we highlight the completion of the FAO questionnaire on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and also the focus that was given when contemplating complementary questions for the presentation of information on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In this regard, we value to make COFI work more efficient, avoiding duplicate work, and in this sense, we stress that the relationship with other technical committees has been intensified, such as the Forestry Committee (COFO), the Agriculture Committee (COAG) and the Commodity Problems Committee (CPPB), under the supervision of the Bureau and the senior management of the Organization.
3. In relation to the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Fisheries for 2020-2023, we highlight that within the general objective of the Committee is to undertake periodic general reviews of the status of the world fisheries and aquaculture and of international fisheries problems, and evaluate possible solutions towards concerted actions by Members, FAO and other intergovernmental organisations. In this regard, we believe that FAO has already made an accurate diagnosis of the most urgent situations to deal with this regard, where at least part of these objectives has already been achieved. Additionally, we support the idea of evaluating and studying the convenience of preparing and submitting Member States an international agreement, in accordance with Article XIV of the Constitution, with the ultimate goal of achieving concrete international collaboration and consultation in fisheries and aquaculture at a global scale.



4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we consider that it should be relevant to evaluate the process for the determination of this multi-year programme, since we note with concern that this programme does not include a clear mechanism for monitoring and evaluating compliance. From Chile, we believe that it is very important that this tool can be structured from a coherent evaluation of the substantial advances that might be developed in previous periods of each one of the topics. In this respect, we call to analyse the possibility that, in a parallel implementation of this 2020-23 multi-year programme, a monitoring and tracking tool based on targets and indicators can be developed.
5. We believe that COFI would deeply benefit from a more detailed plan, that incorporates initiatives planned for the period 2020-23, such as the convening of the expert consultations, developing of guidelines, organizing reunions and/or conferences. We consider of the highest relevance that COFI Members are previously informed on this type of initiatives to encourage transparency and consider the appropriate involvement of Members.
6. Finally, we would like to outline the importance that this program emphasizes those issues that we consider to be the major future challenges for fisheries and aquaculture, for example, the adaptation to climate change and the regulation of transshipments in order to avoid illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Santiago, Chile, January 2021.