

## Written Correspondence Procedure

### Written Introductory Note (FAO)

#### **Agenda item 5: Decisions and recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Trondheim, Norway, 23–27 August 2019**

The working document (*COFI/2020/3*) provides an overview of the topics discussed at the 10th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and makes reference to its main recommendations. The document provides supplementary information in the annexes on the preparation of a draft Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the development of a Global Integrated Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (GISAP), and the preparation of the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium+20. The Report is available as document *COFI/2020/Inf.9*.

The Committee is invited to:

- endorse the report of the 10th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture;
- provide guidance with regard to the work of FAO in the field of aquaculture, and in particular the preparation of the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium+20 and the Global Integrated Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (GISAP), including the development of a multi-donor assisted long-term component on aquaculture biosecurity;
- take note of the accomplishments of the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2016-2020 in aquaculture and provide guidance on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025; and
- welcome the publication of the report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and take note of the ongoing development of a draft Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

#### **Written input from Norway**

Norway is thankful for the opportunity to submit a written input regarding the decisions and recommendations of the Sub-committee on Aquaculture.

Firstly, we wish to thank the Secretariat for all help in making the event in Trondheim a success. We enjoyed hosting the event and wish to thank all participants for their contributions to the good discussions we had, both formally and informally.

Norway welcomes the continuation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance through 2025, as AMR is the greatest threat to global health in both animals, plants and humans of our time. It has truly highlighted the need for a One Health approach, and we encourage the continued collaboration between FAO, OIE and WHO.

As we have advocated over the years, biosecurity is of uttermost importance to secure the health in aquaculture. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the whole world has learned the basics of biosecurity – good hygiene, keeping distance and compartmentalization. The need for effective vaccines has also been highlighted. As we have pointed out before, Norway would not have a sustainable aquaculture industry if we haven't had effective vaccines against the most important bacterial diseases in salmon, and we hope that the work on salmon vaccines can be extended to other important aquaculture

species as shrimps and tilapia. Sustainable aquaculture with a minimum use of antibiotics is dependent on good biosecurity and effective vaccines.

We will further point out the important connection between the Action Plan on AMR and the *Progressive Management Pathway for Improving Aquaculture Biosecurity (PMP/AB)* in reaching the One Health goals. The PMP/AB highlights the importance of improved aquaculture biosecurity in reducing disease burden, improving health at farm and national levels, minimizing global spread of diseases, optimizing socio-economic benefits from aquaculture, attracting investment opportunities, and achieving One Health goals.

We welcome the development of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture as a tool towards further advancement of national policies for the aquaculture sector. It is important to compile best practices from the major aquaculture nation of different regions, and we ask the Secretariat for further information on the progress of the development of the GSAs, as advised by the Sub-committee.