

34th Period of Sessions of the FAO Committee of Fisheries

Comments from Mexico

Item 5

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FAO SUBCOMMITTEE OF AQUACULTURE IN ITS 10TH MEETING

- On December the 30th, 2020, the National Agriculture and Rural Development Program 2020-2024, was published in the Official Journal of the Government of Mexico. It defines the policies that contribute to the rescue of the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors, aimed at achieving food production self-sufficiency and to guarantee the population's right to access quality, healthy and sufficient foods.

- Such a National Program sets priorities, objectives and lines of action to contribute to fight poverty in coastal and riparian communities. This will be done through new public policies to foster productivity and promote the sustainable use of natural resources, so that the fisheries and aquaculture sector becomes a protagonist in food security for the Mexican people.

- Fisheries and aquaculture are a key factor for food security, hence the Government of Mexico seeks to strengthen policy actions and programs to Foster production, particularly along coasts and inland waters; as well as in rural aquaculture communities on Southeastern Mexico.

- Mexico acknowledges the value and positive impact of aquaculture (aquaculture contributes 46% of the total national fish production and 53% of the national production of seafood). The fisheries and aquaculture sector follows the principles of the CCRF, aims at achieving the SDG and applies the EAF/EAA, among others.

- Mexico finds itself undergoing a government-led process to strengthen the fisheries and aquaculture sector in order to contribute to food security, population health and the overall wellbeing of the Mexican people. This is done through sustainable and competitive food production systems that promote decent employment and economic growth. We are certain that this can be realized applying FAO's guidelines and supporting its efforts, including those made through the FAO-SCA and therefore we are in agreement with the report of its 10th Session.

- Mexico recognizes the efforts made by FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (MARA), NACA as well as both the International Commissions of Organization and Program, in the preparation of the Global Conference of Aquaculture Millennium + 20, which, under the slogan "Aquaculture for Food and Sustainable

Development”, will certainly contribute to shape world sustainable aquaculture, through the global articulation of key actors of the sector, just as it has been the case with the three previous conferences: Kyoto, Japan, 1976; Bangkok, Thailand, 2020 and Phuket, Thailand, 2010.

- It is expected that the Consensus of Shanghai set both the principles and strategic paths to maximize the benefits of sustainable aquaculture practices, according to the SDG’s, with special emphasis on “leaving no one behind”; as well as the development and approval of the Integrated Global Sustainable Aquaculture Program (PMISA)

- Mexico recognizes the efforts made by FAO to lead and develop PIMSA, which will facilitate innovation, integration, capacity building, financial incentives, extension services, genetic improvement, prevention and control of diseases, among other aspects. All these through the implementation of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture together with inter-regional cooperation, all under FAO’s general mandate of achieving a world without hunger, malnutrition and poverty in a sustainable way.

- Mexico acknowledges the importance of biosecurity as a priority factor for aquaculture development and hence is in favor of supporting a global long-term project, financed by multiple donors, on aquaculture biosecurity.

- Mexico supports the great effort made by FAO to execute the plan of action regarding microbial resistance in aquaculture (2016-2020), thus pledging its continuity through the plan of action for MR 2021-2025.

- Mexico recognizes the work and member states in the integration and publication of the global report on “State of the World Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”, and we reiterate our willingness to collaborate, through our national focal point, in the formulation of the “Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” project.

- Even though the Government of Mexico has stated this through the Diplomatic channels, given the importance this represents for our country, we wish to reconfirm our offer to host the 11th Session of the SCA, for which we propose the city of Merida, Yucatan State, on November 15-18 2021, provided the conditions imposed by the COVID19 pandemic allow it. Again, this reconfirmation has been officially made to the FAO’s Director General.