

COFI 34. Agenda item 6 - Decisions and recommendations of the Seventeenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Vigo, Spain, 25–29 November 2019

We thank Spain for hosting the 17th session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and we support the report.¹ We also thank the secretariat for presenting us with the document COFI/2020/4 where the report is summarized and work undertaken during 2020 is highlighted,

Referring to part II of document COFI/2020/4:

Norway supports that the FAO provides scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius Commission when it comes to fisheries-related issues. Scientifically based measures which rely on risk management systems are important. FAOs role in providing technical assistance for capacity building in food control systems is essential in order for developing countries to continue to take part in seafood trade.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SFF Guidelines) is an important tool for developing countries, and Norway will continue to encourage support for their implementation.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes are of great importance. Norway supports FAO to complete a practical guidance document to provide an in-depth explanation of key technical and practical aspects of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS Guidelines). We see this work as relevant for the future as it was when the guidelines were agreed and established a few year ago. We greatly appreciate an update on the current work.

Norway fully recognizes the important role that FAO plays in providing technical expertise in relation to listing of species in the CITES appendices. It is of the highest importance that the listing of species is based on sound scientific advice and that the process is transparent. Unjustified listing in CITES appendices may result in unnecessary barriers to trade. We strongly support the continued collaboration between FAO, CITES and IUCN.

Referring to part III of document COFI/2020/4:

We recognise that the FAO has undertaken important work related to the situation during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also take the opportunity to highlight the issues and work related to Food Loss and Waste in Fish and Aquaculture Value Chains, Food Safety, the Publication on HS Codes for fish and seafood as well as the statistical work and information contained in the OECD-FAO Food and Agricultural outlook 2020-2019 and the Statistical yearbook for fisheries and aquaculture of 2018.

Norway continues supporting a more focused and seafood trade-oriented agenda for the future sessions of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. As stated from our side in the meeting in Vigo late November 2019, we see the need for further work to keep the work in the Sub Committee relevant and updated. In this respect, Norway also welcome the opportunity to take actively part in the preparations for the agenda for the 18th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.

¹ [Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee on Fisheries. Vigo, Spain, 25–29 November 2019/ Rapport de la dix-septième session du Sous-Comité du Commerce du Poisson, Vigo, Espagne, 25-29 novembre 2019/ Informe de la 17.a reunión del Subcomité de Comercio Pesquero, Vigo \(España\), 25-29 de noviembre de 2019 \(fao.org\)](#)