

Philippine Intervention

Agenda Item 8: Supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries

34th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, 1-5 February 2021

The Philippines would like to thank the Secretariat for the progress report on the promotion and application of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and related developments.

We wish to highlight that, as mentioned in the report (paragraph 9), the Philippines is one of the countries where SSF Guidelines implementation processes are being initiated. In particular, we appreciate the ongoing FAO project in the Philippines on adopting the SSF Guidelines towards an integrated approach to improving the food security, socio-economic status and nutrition situation of fisherfolk in selected coastal areas of the country. This project is being implemented in partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Local Government Units (LGUs) in the country.

The project focuses on four (4) areas of improvement where the SSF Guidelines can be applied, namely, (1) local governance, (2) social protection, (3) livelihoods and (4) adaptation to climate change and disaster risks. Likewise, it is envisioned that through the evidence-based information that will be gathered from this project, the National Government will include the SSF guidelines in the Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan (CNFIDP).

Finally, we join in reiterating the importance of enhancing the contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to global, regional and national efforts to eradicate hunger and eliminate poverty, including in the context of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022, and in noting progress by FAO and partners in the effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Thank you.