

FAO RESPONSE

The FAO Secretariat thanks the Government of the People's Republic of China for the comments provided on agenda item 5.

The FAO Secretariat appreciates that China, as the world's largest aquaculture producer, identifies the strategic role of aquatic genetic resources in aquaculture and their important contribution to global food security and aquatic food supply. It further notes China's view that cooperation in this area should be based on legality, science and mutual benefit, recognizing the need to comply with relevant national laws and regulations on the conservation, sustainable use and development of aquatic genetic resources. In this regard, FAO is developing a global information system on aquatic genetic resources that is designed to underpin measures to implement elements of the proposed draft Global Plan of Action. This information system will contain information on aquatic genetic resources, including on gene banks, primarily on a national basis, and all data entered into the information system will be validated by National Focal Points prior to publication which will provide an opportunity to verify compliance with national instruments.

FAO duly notes China's comments regarding intensification of aquaculture and associated increasing occurrence of epidemics and the abuse of antibiotics, the need for prevention, and the achievements in monitoring antimicrobial resistance for many years with sound results. The FAO Secretariat further notes the areas of cooperation with relevant international organizations such as WHO and OIE that China has identified under the FAO Action Plan on AMR, including capacity building for monitoring and improved identification of drug resistance criteria as well as technical training for prudent use of drugs and control of AMR. The long-standing partnership of FAO, OIE and WHO is embedded in a Memorandum of Understanding signed in May 2018, where there is a renewed focus on tackling AMR.