

FAO RESPONSE

The FAO Secretariat thanks the European Union and its Members for their endorsement and support to the report of the tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture held in Trondheim, Norway, from 23 to 27 August 2019.

FAO acknowledges the importance of exchanging best practices and providing technical assistance in promoting sustainable development of aquaculture, and welcomes the European Union's emphasis on developing Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines (GSA) consolidating all tools and best practices available as a necessary step in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the area of aquaculture. FAO recognizes the European Union's recommendation for more involvement of all FAO Members in the process of the preparation of these Guidelines, as well as its ongoing work on new Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of European Union aquaculture, and appreciates the European Union's offer to contribute to elaboration of the Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines. The FAO Secretariat is pleased to provide here an update on previous and planned involvement of FAO Members.

Regional GSA consultations included a presential meeting in the Africa region over two consecutive days in Bamako, Mali, in 2019 and during three hours sessions in three consecutive days in a virtual format in two subsequent meetings in Asia and in Latin America in 2020:

- The African Regional Consultation on Development of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture was held in Bamako, Mali from 29 to 30 November 2019. The meeting report is available online;¹
- The Asian Regional Consultation on Development of the GSA was held virtually from 30 November to 2 December 2020. The meeting report is under preparation;
- The Latin American Regional Consultation on the Development of GSA was held virtually from 9 to 11 December 2020. The meeting report is under preparation.

Based on consultations so far, the forthcoming activities are planned:²

- The Pacific and Caribbean Regional Consultation on Development of GSA from 23 to 25 February 2021;
- The Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation on Development of GSA from 16 to 18 March 2021;
- The Europe Regional Consultation on Development of GSA in March 2021;
- The Central Asia Regional Consultation on Development of GSA in March 2021;
- The North America Regional Consultation on Development of GSA in April 2021.

FAO values the European Union's recognition of the significance of the next Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture hosted by Mexico, as well as the Global Aquaculture Conference

¹ FAO. 2020. Report of Regional Consultation on the development of Guidelines of Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA), Bamako, Mali, 29-30 November 2019. Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1319. Rome. www.fao.org/3/cb0280en/CB0280EN.pdf

² Please note that dates for the virtual regional consultations are tentative and subject to agreement with the Regions.

hosted by the People's Republic of China, as important opportunities to send a strong signal and show commitment to the sustainable development of global aquaculture.

The European Union's recommendation is recognized for FAO to work on guidance for concrete action for the adaptation of the sector to climate change but also on how aquaculture development can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

FAO recognizes the importance of biosecurity in aquaculture and appreciates the support of the European Union in the work on the Progressive Management Pathway for Aquaculture Biosecurity.

FAO duly notes the value of collaboration with Regional Commissions, UNEP and Regional Seas Conventions on relevant topics.

FAO appreciates the European Union's recognition of FAO's role in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, recognition of the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2016-2020, and support to the FAO Action Plan on AMR for 2021-2025 that follows the One Health Approach. FAO duly notes the context of these efforts within the WHO/OIE/FAO Tripartite and the Global Leaders Group on AMR and the role of research in finding alternatives to antimicrobials and the potential of global AMR monitoring systems.