

COFI 34 – WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

DOCUMENT	COFI/2020/4
Agenda Item	Agenda Item 6
FAO MEMBER	Iceland
FAO SECRETARIAT REPLY	<p>The Secretariat acknowledges the endorsement by Iceland of the report of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.</p> <p>The Secretariat duly notes Iceland's position on the need for a transparent, rule-based, and non-discriminating trade system, which is even more critical in the fisheries sector due to its contributions to economic, social, and nutritional development, and the positive interlinkages towards gender and food security.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes Iceland's statement in highlighting the Sub-Committee as the only global forum to discuss trade issues on fisheries and aquaculture. It is duly noted that the capacity of the Sub-Committee to support the Committee should be strengthened.</p> <p>The Secretariat values Iceland's appreciation for FAO providing technical expertise, capacity-building, and analytical work on trade-related issues of fisheries and aquaculture products.</p> <p>The Secretariat highly appreciates the importance of FAO instruments being recognized by Iceland in supporting WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations. It duly notes the Icelandic position on the topic.</p> <p>The Secretariat values Iceland's acknowledgment for the carried-out work in fisheries and aquaculture on quality and safety, fraud, and traceability, including technical assistance to developing countries.</p> <p>The Secretariat duly notes the importance mentioned by Iceland of having inclusive participation on deliberations and decisions on traceability and CDS measures. It welcomes the statement that FAO is the right venue for such discussions.</p> <p>The Secretariat acknowledges Iceland reinforcing that FAO is the main UN body in fisheries and aquaculture, particularly in mainstreaming biodiversity and providing advice to associated multilateral agreements and <i>fora</i>. The Secretariat values the Icelandic support of having a decision-making approach based on scientific evidence, in cooperation with CITES and IUCN. It is duly noted the need for better communication concerning the status and associated implementation measures of aquatic resources.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the Iceland reiteration that the current work on social responsibility shall be fisheries specific, non-binding, practical, voluntary, covering only existing instruments and guidelines, and in close cooperation with other agencies.</p>

*For any additional clarification regarding these comments,
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