

## COFI 34 – WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

<b>DOCUMENT</b>	COFI/2020/4
<b>Agenda Item</b>	Agenda Item 6
<b>FAO MEMBER</b>	Norway
<b>FAO SECRETARIAT COMMENTS</b>	<p>The Secretariat acknowledges Norway's support of the ongoing activities involving the scientific advice provided by FAO to CODEX, the reiteration of the importance of scientific-based measures, and the value of capacity building activities in food control systems.</p> <p>The Secretariat appreciates the Norwegian support to continue its work in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.</p> <p>Regarding the practical guidance on CDS, the document “Understanding and Implementing Catch Documentation Schemes for Detecting and Deterring IUU Fishing”, started its development in late 2019. The document has been discussed internally among different FAO units. It includes (i) the international legal and policy framework relating to Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS), (ii) CDS coverage, (iii) traceability and CDS, (iv) tracking and validation, (v) paper versus digital, (vi) catch tracking Key Data Elements (KDEs), (viii) product tracking KDEs, and (viii) opportunities for implementing CDS principles at the national level. The document also includes annexes with detailed analysis of (i) CDS fishing vessel KDEs, (ii) catch KDEs, (iii) transshipment KDEs, (iv) farming KDEs, and (v) landing KDEs. The document will be peer-reviewed by external experts by March. It will be published by July.</p> <p>The Secretariat recognizes the importance reiterated by Norway on providing technical expertise in species listing to CITES and the prominence of the scientific approach and transparency. The interlinkages of possible barriers to trade with unjustified CITES listing, and the support of the ongoing collaboration between FAO, CITES, and IUCN were duly noted.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes Norway's awareness of FAO work on trade-related topics performed during the COVID-19 pandemic and the publications and studies released during this time.</p> <p>The Secretariat values the Norwegian recognition of a more trade-oriented agenda in the last COFI:FT Session. It was duly noted the need for further work to keep COFI:FT updated and relevant and fostering an inclusive agenda preparation process towards its next Session.</p>

*For any additional clarification regarding these comments,  
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