

COFI 34 – WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

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| DOCUMENT | COFI/2020/4 |
| Agenda Item | Agenda Item 6 |
| FAO MEMBER | United States of America |
| FAO SECRETARIAT REPLY | <p>The Secretariat acknowledges the endorsement by the US of the report of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.</p> <p>The Secretariat duly notes the statement of the US about the importance of fisheries and aquaculture statistics collection and timely information dissemination, particularly involving the COVID-19 pandemic impacts.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the support by the US on expanding the analysis of Article 11 of the CCRF questionnaire in order to receive inputs on trends and identify potential trade-related areas of work for the Sub-Committee. It informs that the current CCRF Article 11 questions are under review, which will better fit the suggested purpose.</p> <p>The Secretariat takes full note of the recommendation from the US regarding the terminology utilization of “seafood”. It informs that a more precise term to refer to “fisheries and aquaculture products” will be widely implemented to avoid misinterpretations, particularly when translating it to other languages.</p> <p>The Secretariat recognizes the US positive assessment of the collaboration between FAO and other international organizations, particularly when leading to reduced data reporting burden to Members.</p> <p>The US requested specific follow-up developments after the last Session of COFI:FT on the topics of trade in fisheries-related services and regional and preferential trade agreements. Based on Members’ inputs, both topics are under development and will be reported to the next COFI:FT.</p> <p>The Secretariat values the recognition of the US for the specific work carried out in fisheries and aquaculture in support of countries during 2020.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the support from the US regarding the current development of the work on social responsibility. The Secretariat takes full note of the specific considerations and recommendations presented involving the drafting of the guidance, including its focus on supporting the sector to better understand existing instruments and associated implementation issues and the importance of the guidance non-binding principle.</p> |

*For any additional clarification regarding these comments,
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