

COFI 35 – WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

A – BASIC INFORMATION

Document Number	COFI/2022/9
Document Title	Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture
Commenting Member	Sri Lanka
Referred paragraph numbers (if applicable)	-

B – COMMENT RECEIVED FROM THE MEMBER

Sri Lanka congratulates the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO) for organizing the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

On agenda Item No. 11, Sri Lanka appreciates FAO in flagging important global issues. In the case of curbing IUU fishing, a strong regional mechanism is necessary. Such a mechanism can be built on reciprocity and trust developed through information and knowledge. The regional bodies should coordinate with each other and avoid duplication of work. The key areas where regional bodies should include together are ecosystem management, management of transboundary stocks, areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), knowledge exchange and capacity building, etc.

The regional bodies should pay special attention to the need of the small-scale fisheries sector. There is a need to build the resilience of the sector and cross-regional learning may hasten our understanding. Sri Lanka has developed SLNPOA-IUU to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in line with FAO IPOA-IUU and it is being implemented. If FAO/BOBP-IGO or any other relevant authority can assist to develop a regional plan of action to combat IUU fishing in the Bay of Bengal region, it will be very effective to strengthen combating IUU fishing at the national level as well as at the regional level. Therefore, the FAO may consider the development of Regional Plans to curb IUU fishing. Accordingly, the concerned agency can be strengthened with assistance from FAO. The RSN should play a key role in this context.

On the issues of Safety at Sea and decent work, Sri Lanka appreciates the guidelines, manuals and other documents published by FAO. In this regard, the FAO may consider working with regional fishery bodies. In the Bay of Bengal, the cooperation between the FAO and the BOBP-IGO was found to be very productive and should be strengthened.

Suggestions of action point to enable the Governments to include decent working conditions in fisheries regulations for possible consideration of FAO are as under:

- Formulation of a model insurance scheme for climate risk mitigation in the marine fisheries sector.
- Development of regional and national plans on safety and decent work in fisheries.
- Training programmes on international fishing labour norms
- Guidelines, awareness materials and advocacy for the institution of the social security net.