

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	Cabo Verde, together with Angola, Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone speak on this agenda item on behalf of the Africa Regional Group
Referred paragraph numbers (if applicable)	-

B – COMMENT RECEIVED FROM THE MEMBER

Our Regional Group welcomes the information prepared about the Development in Global and Regional Processes related to Fisheries and Aquaculture as detailed in documents COFI/2022/9; COFI/2022/INF/8 and COFI/2022/INF/13. They are comprehensive documents that provide an overview of the progress made.

Despite the difficult situation caused by COVID19 we praise the achievements, and we commend COFI Bureau and FAO management's on their focus and hard work to implement the recommendations.

Our regional group takes good note of the extensive work and the progress made on the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the committee for 2020-2023 and the active role FAO played in several binding instruments, fora and conferences. We appreciate FAO's announcement during the United Nations Ocean Conference about the collective budget of more than 140 million USD to support members in achieving SDG14.

We congratulate FAO for publishing FAO manual on Safety in 16 languages and we recognize the efforts made for multilingualism in the translation of several documents, knowledge and information are crucial factors in leveraging knowledge to impact field work and to support sustainable development and achieving Agenda 2030.

We thus encourage FAO to continue to expand its efforts in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries through institutional training, dissemination/awareness actions and support in the preparation of manuals and/or dissemination materials and expand its agenda on Blue Transformation.

We reiterate the commitment of Africa's to strong cooperation and we exhort FAO to continue making available reliable data and statistics to support the development of fisheries and aquaculture sectors, in promoting safe and decent work in fisheries and aquaculture, in supporting regional fisheries body secretariat networks in their work to promote cooperation and dialogue, in liaising with relevant bodies in promoting safety at sea in the fisheries sector and encouraging partnerships with institutions linked to Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector.

We are concerned about the impacts of the main world scenario drivers in this sector, we would like to see a close follow-up of the situation, for despite all the challenges we face our goal is still to achieve the SDGs.

In our region, we seek to support Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF) to allow us to implement a Special Programme to promote Aquaculture, including mariculture and seaweed specially in SIDS. Scaling up aquaculture in our region can have important impacts in food security, economic development, and social cohesion, for such we exhort FAO to step up its support to members states leveraging its wealth of knowledge at the national level and working with public and private partners, South-South and Triangular Cooperation to bring about the financial resources needed to scale up and spreading out the successful experience in the small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.

We would like to be assured that Regional and Country Offices are adequately staffed to be able to answer countries' needs and demands, in closing, the African Regional Group, with these comments supports the work thus far developed.