

# COFI 35 – WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

## RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

### A – BASIC INFORMATION

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| <b>Document Number</b>                               | COFI/2022/9  |
| <b>Document Title</b>                                | Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture |
| <b>Commenting Member</b>                             | India  |
| <b>Referred paragraph numbers</b><br>(if applicable) | -  |

### B – COMMENT RECEIVED FROM THE MEMBER

On agenda Item No. 11, INDIA appreciates FAO in flagging important global issues. In case of curbing IUU fishing a strong regional mechanism is necessary. Such 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. India observes with concern that a majority of the RFABs and RFMOs do not have necessary instruments to curb IUU fishing. FAO should facilitate in development of Regional Plans to curb IUU fishing. The RSN should play a key role in this context.

On the issues of Safety at Sea and decent work, India appreciates the guidelines, manuals and other documents published by FAO jointly with BOBP-IGO.

Given the above context, INDIA urges the FAO and its members to consider and include the following actions in their work programmes:

- **Regional and national plans on safety and decent work in fisheries**, to provide guidance to the national authorities to ensure safety and decent work in fisheries.
- **Guidelines and regional consultation on building sturdy fishing vessels** fit for longer voyage and have better on-board working condition.
- **Preparation of an illustrated guide and conduct of training programmes** to educate the fishers about the rules of vessel navigation and international sea routes, which often pass through the fishing ground.
- **Guidelines for development of social security net including insurance** to improve social security of the fishers.
- **Study on the status of migrant workers** including the possibility of their social exclusion and its mitigation.
- **Building evidence on relation amongst stock status, safety at sea, working condition** and the fisheries management regime to develop holistic measures.
- **Training programme and awareness building** of the Government officials and social workers on decent working conditions in fisheries; **Translation of important manual and guidelines in vernacular languages** to ensure the last mile connectivity of key messages.