

COFI 35 – WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE

RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

A – BASIC INFORMATION

Document Number	COFI/2022/12
Document Title	FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31
Commenting Member	Norway
Referred paragraph numbers (if applicable)	-

B – COMMENT RECEIVED FROM THE MEMBER

Norway wants to thank FAO for their efforts in the last biennium. Restructuring the organization according to the new FAO strategy has been both important and the right way to go. The Blue Transformation as described in the Road Map gives good directions on the way forward. However, it is not possible to do everything every where all the time, and thus priorities are needed.

SDG 14 is crucial for sustainable food systems and for achieving SDG 2 on food security by 2030. Actions for a healthy ocean are necessary for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to deliver sufficient, safe and nutritious food. A holistic aquatic food system approach is needed - from healthy waters to healthy animals to healthy people. Moreover, we need cross sectorial knowledge for action, to generate sufficient, safe and nutritious aquatic foods which meets dietary needs and food preferences - for everyone. In this regard it is important that the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division have sufficient resources to advance this important work.

Biosecurity is a cornerstone of resilient food systems as diseases are among the top limiting factor in fish farming globally. Preventive measures in fish health are a basic foundation in the development of sustainable aquaculture. We therefore encourage the continued development of the Progressive Management Pathway for Improving Aquaculture Biosecurity (PMP/AB) in collaboration with the partners of OIE (WOAH) and WHO. In this regards we like to highlight the FishVet Dialogue conducted last fall. Good effort was put into this Dialogue both from FAO and the participants. It proved to be a good meeting point to share and discuss Best Practices on biosecurity issues. Norway is looking forward to more of these dialogues. Regarding achievements in Aquaculture, Norway will also emphasize the work on biosecurity issues where the publication of FAOs new Action Plan on AMR for the years 2021 through 2025 is an important milestone.

Finally, we will like to mention the Global Action network for sustainable aquatic food systems that was initiated by Norway at the UN Ocean Conference in 2017. We are committed to continue this Global Action Network until 2030 - bridging the UN Nutrition Decade and the UN Decade of Ocean Science. We appreciate FAOs contribution to the work and invite more countries to actively partake.

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