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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirtieth Session

Rome, Italy, 9 - 13 July 2012

Annotations / Guide Notes on Agenda Items

Executive Summary

This document presents background information on the Provisional Agenda for the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI). Leaving aside purely procedural matters, the first substantial discussion is required for items 4, Adoption of the revised Rules of Procedure of the Committee and related changes in practice. Then items 5 through 12 permit the Committee to fulfil its two principal constitutional tasks: (a) to consider and further strengthen international cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture, and (b) to review the FAO Programme in fisheries and aquaculture and its implementation. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the next session of COFI is expected to be conducted at the end of session under item 13.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

As a transitional measure, the Chairperson (Islamic Rep. of Iran), First Vice-Chairperson (Norway) and other Vice-Chairpersons (Canada, Chile, India, Spain, Zimbabwe) of the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI will continue serving during the Thirtieth Session of COFI until the Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Thirty-first Session of COFI under Item 13. Therefore the current Chairperson will call the Session to order. He will inform delegates of the voting rights of the European Union and its Member States on each agenda item (*COFI/2012/Inf.10*).

After opening remarks by the current Chairperson, the Director-General of FAO or his representative will inaugurate the Session (*COFI/2012/Inf.3*).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

Procedural (*COFI/2012/1*, *COFI/2012/Inf.4*).

3. DESIGNATION OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Procedural

4. ADOPTION OF THE REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE AND RELATED CHANGES IN PRACTICE

According to the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA) and through a series of inter-sessional consultations between the COFI Bureau and the COFI Secretariat, Document *COFI/2012/9* presents a background and proposals for amendments to the Rules of Procedure of COFI and invites the Committee to review and adopt the proposed Amendments. The document also refers to some aspects of the functioning of the Committee that could be improved by adopting some related changes in practice.

The Committee is invited to:

- review and adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee;
- endorse the proposed changes in practice. In particular, the Committee is invited to endorse a change in the practice concerning the timing of the elections at the end of COFI sessions, including the present session (under item 13); and
- provide further guidance for improvement, as appropriate.

5. WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: STATUS, ISSUES AND NEEDS (INCLUDING PRESENTATION OF THE STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (SOFIA) 2012)

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012 (SOFIA 2012) will be presented as a scene-setting information document not subject to debate. Document *COFI/2012/2* will review the role of SOFIA, draws attention to some specific messages in SOFIA 2012 and point to some selected developments relating to the state of world fisheries and aquaculture. A general and broad discussion is expected on global and regional issues as a prelude for further deliberations in later stages of the session. Members are strongly encouraged to submit their general statements in writing prior to the session for general distribution and to focus their interventions primarily on main issues.

The Committee is invited to:

- comment on FAO's role in reporting on the status of world fisheries and aquaculture and how COFI can best contribute to this and benefit from it;
- comment on the extent to which the SOFIA publication serves this role and how it can be improved; and

- provide guidance for FAO's future work in this regard..

6. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION AND STRATEGIES, AND OTHER MATTERS

Article 4 of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) states, inter alia, that FAO will report to COFI concerning implementation of the Code. At its Twenty-second Session, in March 1997, the Committee agreed that a progress report on the implementation of the Code be presented every two years.

Document *COFI/2012/3* provides a summary of activities by FAO Members, regional fishery bodies (RFBs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Secretariat, intended to support the implementation of the Code and its related instruments since the last report to COFI in 2011. It is the eighth such report prepared for the Committee. FAO's action to promote the Code's implementation is addressed, activities and applications of the Code at national level are reviewed, the activities of RFBs and NGOs are examined and the role of FAO's FishCode Programme is considered.

As requested by the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI, FAO prepared a comprehensive review on the extent of the implementation of the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) and the challenges being faced by Members in implementing the instrument. A summary of the findings is available as Document *COFI/2012/3/Add.1*. The full report is also available as a background document.

The Committee is invited to:

- provide guidance on how to continue to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code;
- encourage Members to respond to the questionnaire for subsequent reports;
- advise, taking account of paragraphs 62 and 63, whether the system for electronic reporting should be enhanced further for the next COFI session;
- advise, taking account of paragraph 64, whether the system for electronic reporting should be expanded for RFBs and NGOs for the next COFI session;
- note that stock specific target reference points were often either being approached or exceeded giving rise to fully exploited or overexploited stocks;
- note that although bycatches and discards are widely recognized as a problem, formal monitoring schemes are absent and management measures to minimise them are frequently not implemented;
- note that national policy, legal and institutional frameworks need to be strengthened, especially in connection with aquaculture development; and
- note progress concerning safety at sea in the fisheries sector, welcome the FAO/International Labour Organization (ILO)/International Maritime Organization (IMO) Implementation Guidelines and recommend the early publication of this document.
- note the progress made on the implementation of IPOA-Sharks and provide further guidance on the issues raised in the review.

7. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE, HYDERABAD, INDIA, 20-24 FEBRUARY 2012

The Thirteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade was held in Hyderabad, India, from 20 to 24 February 2012 at the invitation of the Government of India.

Document *COFI/2012/4* contains highlights of the topics discussed at the Thirteenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and summarizes its main recommendations. The full report is available as Document *COFI/2012/Inf.7*.

The Committee is invited to:

- endorse the report of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade; and

- provide guidance on the issues raised in the report.

8. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 26-30 MARCH 2012

The Sixth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 26 to 30 March 2012 at the invitation of the Government of South Africa.

Document *COFI/2012/5* contains an overview of the topics discussed at the Sixth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and makes reference to its main recommendations. The full report is available as Document *COFI/2012/Inf.8*.

The Committee is invited to:

- endorse the report of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture; and
- provide further guidance, as appropriate, with regard to the work of the Department in the field of Aquaculture

9. OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND RELEVANT OUTCOMES FROM RIO +20

Oceans, seas and coastal areas are key to sustaining life on Earth. While they are a vital source of nutritious food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well-being for millions of people around the world, ocean resources, ecosystems and habitats are becoming increasingly degraded and used in an unsustainable manner. Rio+20 has prioritized oceans in its agenda and declaration. Document *COFI/2012/6 /Rev.1* provides a brief overview of the existing institutional and legal frameworks for ocean governance, identifies some of the key challenges in overcoming weaknesses and gaps, and reports on recent initiatives that have been taken to address them. It concludes with some suggestions how fisheries stakeholder interests could be more effectively represented in reformed and strengthened ocean governance arrangements.

The Committee is invited to:

- review the current institutional and legal arrangements for ocean governance and examine current challenges and gaps at global, regional and national levels;
- advise on the appropriate roles and functions FAO could be taking to strengthen ocean governance through measures such as enhanced partnership across the UN system and with organizations such as international financial institutions; and
- advise on the measures that need to be taken at national and regional levels to ensure a better representation of fisheries stakeholder interests in ocean governance mechanisms and the support FAO could be providing in this regard including through further development of the principles of fisheries governance, policy assistance and capacity.

10. RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE WORK IN SELECTED FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ACTIVITIES OF FAO (SINCE THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF COFI)

a) Update on the development of international guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

During its Twenty-ninth Session, COFI welcomed the conclusions and recommendations stemming from an extensive process of stakeholder consultations and approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the form of international guidelines ('Guidelines'). Document *COFI/2012/7* reports on the outcomes of the consultative processes that

have taken place since the last Committee Session. It also proposes the way forward in the development and implementation of the Guidelines.

The Committee is invited to:

- note the steps taken so far in the Guidelines development process and provide guidance on further consultations and the conduct and funding of the formal negotiation process;
- advise on the modalities of engagement by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the scheduled intergovernmental technical consultation taking note of the practices of the reformed Committee on Food Security (CFS) as applied in the recent negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure to Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG-Tenure);
- recommend how to facilitate the future implementation of the Guidelines including through the development of specific implementation strategies at various levels and the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources; and
- propose other activities to be undertaken by FAO and its development partners in relation to securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

b) Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

Document *COFI/2012/8* summarizes developments to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and related activities which have occurred since the Twenty-ninth session of COFI. It addresses the major global initiatives including port State measures, flag State performance and development of a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels.

The Committee is invited to:

- encourage Members to ratify, accept or approve the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to bring it into force as soon as possible, approve the draft terms of reference for the ad hoc working group referred to in Article 21 of the Agreement found in Appendix 1 of Document *COFI/2012/8*, and to make extra-budgetary contributions to support capacity-development activities to implement the Agreement;
- encourage Members to provide details of national contact points and a list of designated ports for inclusion in the FAO system, in accordance with the Agreement;
- encourage Members to advise the Secretariat if they require direct support to enhance information management capacity relevant to the implementation of the Agreement as well as those countries that wish to support such activities;
- note progress with the negotiation of the Criteria for Flag State Performance and to provide guidance, as appropriate, towards the finalization of the Criteria; and
- encourage members to support progress on the Global Record through technical cooperation with the Secretariat and provision of extra-budgetary contributions to support development and capacity building.

11. FAO's PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

This Agenda Item addresses a vision of the future of fisheries and aquaculture (*COFI/2012/11*) prepared in the context of the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the FAO Director-General in January 2012 to determine the future strategic direction of FAO, and to inform the review of the current Strategic Framework 2010-19, as described in detail in paper *COFI/2012/12.1*, with an emphasis on adapting its implications for fisheries and aquaculture as described in paper *COFI/2012/12.2*.

a) Vision of the future

Document *COFI/2012/11* presents a summary of two Vision Papers recently prepared by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department: 1) Capture Fisheries and 2) Aquaculture. The present situation and

future scenarios are presented along with the drivers that will influence fisheries and aquaculture to the year 2050.

The Committee is invited to:

- comment on the general vision and components of visions presented;
- comment on the validity of the drivers that will influence fisheries and aquaculture to the year 2050;
- comment on FAO's role in meeting the challenges of food production from aquaculture and fisheries to the year 2050; and
- provide advice on how to prioritize activities for FAO to the year 2050.

b) **Priorities in the programme of work and medium term plan (MTP)**

In January 2012, FAO launched a Strategic Thinking Process to determine the future strategic direction and priorities of the Organization. Its prime objective is to support the development of FAO's main strategy and programming documents, including revision of the Strategic Framework 2010-2019, preparation of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2014-2017 and further adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2012-2013. Document (*COFI/2012/12.1*) reviews the process undertaken and the major outcomes, including major trends, the main challenges and the five strategic objectives derived from this. The Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework considered by the 144th Session of the Council is hereby presented to the Committee on Fisheries as part of the dialogue with the Technical Committees foreseen by the Strategic Thinking Process, and in line with the guidance provided by the Council.

Document (*COFI/2012/12.2*) provides priorities in the PWB and MTP, in the light of the ongoing process of the Strategic Thinking. Based on issues, lessons learnt and the guidance provided by the last session of COFI, the Committee is expected to provide further guidance on the identification of areas for emphasis and de-emphasis in fisheries and aquaculture under the new set of Strategic Objectives with a view to ensuring the most effective utilization of available resources for complying with the global mandate and work of the Organization in the sector. Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI (*COFI/2012/Inf.5*) and Achievements of the Fisheries and Aquaculture programmes 2010-2011 as specified in the Programme Implementation Report 2010-2011 (*COFI/2012/inf.9*) are also available for consideration of the Committee.

The Committee is invited to:

- advice on the extent to which the main challenges and proposed Strategic Objectives identified in this document are consistent with the technical priorities within the mandate of COFI and in the context of FAO's Vision and Goals and the major global trends;
- provide suggestions on technical specificities that should be incorporated in each one of the identified main challenges and the proposed Strategic Objectives, and which should be taken into account in formulating action plans and programmes within the context of the reviewed Strategic Framework; and
- take the information presented in these documents into account in advising on alignment of FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture within the context of the Vision for the Future and the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

12. MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE

The IPA¹ stated that:

The Council, Programme and Finance Committees, CCLM, Regional Conferences and

Technical Committees will each:

- a) *prepare a multiyear programme of work of at least four years duration, once per biennium which will be reviewed by the Council and/or Conference (in accordance with their respective reporting lines);*
- b) *prepare a report of their progress against the Programme of Work once every two years also for review by the Council and/or Conference.*

This action was confirmed by the Conference at its 36th Session (November 2009) in endorsing the Report of the CoC-IEE to the FAO Conference on the IPA². A series of inter-sessional consultations on the preparation of a draft COFI Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-2015 were held between the COFI Bureau and the COFI Secretariat. Document *COFI/2012/10* provides a draft COFI MYPOW 2012-2015 for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee is invited to:

- review the draft COFI MYPOW 2012-2015 and make any amendments thereto as appropriate; and
- approve an agreed COFI MYPOW 2012-2015.

13. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF COFI

The Committee is required to elect the office bearers for the thirty-first session of COFI in accordance with Rule I (1) of its Rules of Procedure.

14. ANY OTHER MATTERS

15. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

The Committee is invited to decide the date and place of the next session.

16. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Procedural.

¹ C 2008/4 actions 2.70, 2.71, 2.72

² C 2009 REP CR 4/2009 and Annex D paragraph 72