

## **Statement by Director General**

### **FAO Conference (Thirty second Session)**

**Rome, Italy, 29 November 2003 – 10 December 2003**

At its Twenty-Ninth Session in November 1997, the FAO Conference instituted the Margarita Lizárraga medal , upon the proposal of the Council, to be awarded every two years to a person or Organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The medal pays tribute to Dr. Margarita Lizárraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost forty years, great dedication to FAO and her strong commitment towards fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries.

For the 2002-2003 biennium, the Secretariat short-listed three nominations on the basis of criteria agreed upon by the Selection Committee.

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), an international Non-Governmental Organization based in Chennai, India, has, by its comprehensive, sustainable and catalytic initiatives through workshops, outreach and advocacy activities, mobilized grassroots support and enhanced human capacity building for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The dissemination of information undertaken by ICFS through its widely circulated flagship magazine, Samudra, has increased awareness about the Code and contributed to national fishery policy

formulation and implementation in accordance with the Code's principles and articles.

May I now call on the Representative of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers to come to the podium to receive the award.