

November 2010



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  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON FLAG STATE PERFORMANCE

Rome, Italy, 2–6 May 2011

### PROSPECTUS

#### BACKGROUND

In 2007 at the twenty-seventh session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) a number of Members spoke about irresponsible flag States. Many Members suggested the need to develop Criteria for assessing the performance of flag States as well as to examine possible actions against vessels flying the flags of States not meeting such Criteria. An expert consultation was proposed. Subject to the availability of funds, FAO was requested to further consider this possibility.

The issue was addressed again at the twenty-eighth session of COFI in 2009. Some Members noted, with appreciation, the preliminary work on the development of Flag State Performance Criteria, through a workshop held in Canada in March 2008, which also encompassed assessing flag State performance and taking action if Criteria were not met. COFI's report stated that "As agreed in paragraph 71 of the Report of the twenty-seventh session of COFI, an Expert Consultation will be held (June 2009). The Committee agreed that this meeting should be followed by a Technical Consultation on "flag State performance".

A highly successful Expert Consultation on Flag State Performance was held at FAO Headquarters from 23 to 26 June 2009. The task assigned to the Experts was quite ambitious. They used, as a starting point and general reference, a number of technical papers relating to the issues to be discussed as well as the outcomes of the Canadian Expert Workshop. In their deliberations, they considered and made recommendations on Criteria for assessing the performance of flag States; possible actions against vessels flying the flags of States not meeting the Criteria identified; the role of national governments, regional fisheries management organizations, international institutions, international instruments and civil society in implementing the Criteria and actions for flag State performance, and assistance to developing countries to assist them in meeting the Criteria, taking actions and fulfilling their respective roles as appropriate.

The Expert Consultation agreed to recommend to a Technical Consultation that international guidelines on Criteria for assessing the performance of flag States and possible actions against vessels flying the flags of States not meeting such Criteria be developed.<sup>1</sup> An assessment process would be an important part of such guidelines. Noting the basis provided by international law for such assessments, the Expert Consultation agreed on the need for two processes: one for self-assessment and another for international or multilateral assessment. The latter assessment should be undertaken in a spirit of international cooperation, consistent with the 1982 United Nations

<sup>1</sup> FAO. 2009. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No 918. Report of the Expert Consultation on Flag State Performance. FAO. Rome. 94p.

Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Consultation further agreed upon draft Criteria for flag State performance, processes for conducting assessments, post-assessment actions and assistance to developing countries to improve their performance as flag States. The experts considered that these Criteria and actions should form an appropriate framework for review by a Technical Consultation.

### **LOCATION AND DATES**

The Technical Consultation will be held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 May 2011.

### **PARTICIPATION AND ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION**

The Technical Consultation will be open to all FAO Members.

Delegates are requested kindly to register electronically prior to the Technical Consultation. Online registration will be accessible through the password-protected FAO Permanent Representatives Website (PRWS) at <http://permreps.fao.org/>. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the PRWS. Please note that online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Observer delegates are advised to register in advance of the meeting by completing the Registration Form available on <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/39660/en> and forwarding it to [FI-Registration@fao.org](mailto:FI-Registration@fao.org), together with a recent passport-size digital photograph. Photograph requirements are as follows:

- Photo must be in colour, featuring a frontal view of head and shoulders, similar to a passport photo
- Photo must have a light or neutral background and show very little of the background above and on either side of the head
- No hats, sunglasses or accessories that obscure your face
- Photo must be in digital JPEG (.jpg or .jpeg) format
- Photos should also have a width to height ratio of approximately 3:4. In other words, a photo that is 2 cm wide should be approximately 2.5 cm high

### **OUTPUT**

The expected output of the Technical Consultation are expected to be guidelines relating to Criteria for assessing flag State performance and possible actions against vessels flying the flags of States not meeting such Criteria.

The report of the Technical Consultation will be transmitted to the thirtieth session of COFI for its consideration.

### **DOCUMENTS**

All documents for the Technical Consultation can be downloaded from FAO's website at the following address: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/39660/en>.

In keeping with FAO's policy on the distribution of meeting documents, delegates attending the Technical Consultation are reminded and urged to download documents from the website prior to the meeting and to bring them to the Technical Consultation as they will not be made available at the session.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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