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**TECHNICAL CONSULTATION TO DRAFT A LEGALLY-BINDING
INSTRUMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT,
DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND
UNREGULATED FISHING**

Rome, Italy, 23 – 27 June 2008

PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

As reflected in paragraph 68 of the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)¹ (Rome, Italy, 5-9 March 2007), the purpose of the Technical Consultation is to elaborate a draft text of a legally-binding instrument on port State measures, based on the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the 2005 FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Model Scheme).

For this purpose and in accordance with the timetable that has been agreed by COFI, the Technical Consultation will have at its disposal, as the basis of its work, the text of a draft Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which was elaborated by the Expert Consultation to Draft a Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures that was held in Washington D.C., USA, from 4 to 8 September 2007.

Owing to time constraints, the Expert Consultation could not review the draft Preamble, Final Clauses and Annexes that had been prepared in advance by the FAO Secretariat. As a consequence, the Organization convened an informal technical working group consisting of external technical experts from the International Maritime Office (IMO) and

¹“68. Acknowledging the urgent need for a comprehensive suite of port State measures, the Committee took note of the strong support for the Norwegian proposal to develop a new legally binding instrument based on the Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing and the IPOA-IUU. The Committee endorsed the following timetable: an Expert Consultation to be convened during the latter half of 2007 to prepare a draft agreement and a Technical Consultation to finalize the instrument’s text during the first half of 2008 and present it to the Twenty-eighth COFI Session in 2009. Many Members stressed that the new instrument would represent minimum standards for port States, with flexibility to adopt more stringent measures and some Members also stressed that it should not detract from other previously agreed measures such as the need for capacity reduction. It was noted that Norway advised the Committee that it was prepared to contribute financially to the required process within FAO.”

the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) (both of whom had participated in the Expert Consultation) and senior FAO technical and legal officers to review the Annexes. Similarly, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Expert Consultation, the FAO Secretariat reviewed the Preamble and Final Clauses. These texts have been incorporated in the draft Agreement (document TC PSM/2008/2).

LOCATION AND DATES

The Technical Consultation will be held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 23 to 27 June 2008.

PARTICIPATION

The Technical Consultation will be open to all FAO Members.

OUTPUT

The expected output of the Technical Consultation should be a draft Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. With the concurrence of the Technical Consultation, this document will be transmitted to the Twenty-eighth session of COFI in February 2009 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/fi/shared/nemstrans.jsp?event_id=36383&xp_lang=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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