

Informal open-ended technical meeting to review draft terms of reference for the ad hoc working group referred to in paragraph 6 of Article 21 of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (the Agreement) and draft terms of reference for an appropriate funding mechanism referred to in Article 21 of the Agreement to assist developing States implement the Agreement

**FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy
21-24 November 2011**

At the twenty-ninth session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI):¹

“33. The Committee supported the statement concerning the Agreement by the Africa Group that requested the Committee to support the rapid implementation and entry into force of the Agreement. The Committee requested FAO to form an open-ended working group or similar mechanism to draft terms of reference for the ad hoc working group envisioned in Article 21 of the Agreement. This group would also assess capacity needs and explore funding mechanisms.”

To give effect to this COFI decision an informal open-ended technical meeting will be convened to:

- assess capacity-development needs to implement the Agreement and the exploration of funding mechanisms;
- review draft terms of reference for the ad hoc working group referred to in paragraph 6 of Article 21 of the Agreement, and
- review draft terms of reference for an appropriate funding mechanism referred to in Article 21 of the Agreement to assist developing States implement the Agreement,

The technical meeting is informal and open-ended. It will be convened at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 21 to 24 November 2011. All FAO Members are invited to participate.

As it is an informal and open-ended meeting, no decisions will be made. Any recommendations arising from the meeting will be referred to the thirtieth session of COFI in 2012 for possible review and decision.

The informal open-ended technical meeting will be held in Philippines Room. It will be an English only meeting.

The provisional agenda for the informal open-ended technical meeting as well as additional information can be obtained from Dr David J Doulman (david.doulman@fao.org) (phone: +3906 5705 6752) and from the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department Website at: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/39976/en>

¹ FAO. Report of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries. Rome, 31 January – 4 February 2011. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 973. Rome, FAO. 2011. 59p.