

1st Meeting of the FAO-COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

(15-18 January 2024)

EU intervention

Item 4: [Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries management in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

1. The EU reaffirms its commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework including its goals and targets to be achieved by 2030.
2. Existing EU legislation and the political commitments of the EU Member States are a step towards achieving the objectives of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
3. We encourage FAO members to implement effective measures to achieve these goals, both in national legislation and through international cooperation in the regional fisheries management organisations, where the protection of sensitive species from extinction, the maintenance of functioning ecosystems and the implementation of effective monitoring and control of environmental impacts need to be further promoted.
4. We invite FAO to get actively involved in the Global Biodiversity Framework implementation, particularly on areas that offer opportunities to further mainstream biodiversity and support the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries in an equitable and inclusive way.
5. We look forward to FAO's continued involvement and support on measuring progress in delivery of the Global Biodiversity Framework; on helping members on the implementation and report on progress, and on revising the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
6. The EU takes this opportunity to welcome the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement and its potential contribution to the protection of the ocean and seas including through area-based management tools, including to deliver on the Global Biodiversity Framework and the target to conserve at least 30 percent of marine and coastal areas by 2030 through marine protected areas and other effective conservation measures.
7. We encourage FAO members to become parties to the new agreement and to promote its objectives in RFMO/As in which they are contracting parties, to ensure consistency in the efforts to protect marine biodiversity. We invite FAO and RFMOs to consider its possible implications for fisheries, including in terms of consultation, cooperation and coordination.
8. We note the work of FAO to support the implementation and the publication of practical guidance on OECMs in the marine fisheries sector and we welcome the work carried out in NEAFC and NAFO in this respect.
9. We call on further discussions on the benefits of area-based management measures in RFMO/As, as well as the need for such measures to be based on the best available scientific information and in line with existing guidance.
10. The EU calls on FAO to enhance the sharing of information on protected areas and management measures, including through centralisation of information across RFMOs and other international organisations, and to develop tools and best practices in RFMOs and with environmental treaty

instruments, to improve cross sectoral cooperation.

11. FAO should liaise proactively with RFMOs, notably by attending their annual meetings and submitting documents for information of the Contracting Parties, to increase awareness.
12. While mainstreaming biodiversity in the fisheries sector, FAO should continue to engage with relevant international organisations and processes to highlight the important and positive contribution of sustainable fisheries to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.
13. The EU also reiterates its call for promoting a holistic approach to cumulative impacts when envisaging biodiversity conservation, thus not only looking at the impact of fisheries activities, but also at other human activities.