



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  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

**E**

# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-fourth Session

1–5 February 2021

### 2021 COFI DECLARATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE - EXPLANATORY NOTE

#### Addendum

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

Mr Manuel Barange

Director

Fisheries Division

Email: [Manuel.Barange@fao.org](mailto:Manuel.Barange@fao.org)

1. The *COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture* has been formally submitted for endorsement at the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 34), in the context of the High-Level event to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries on Monday, 1 February 2021.
2. The *COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture* is the result of an extensive consultative process led by the COFI Bureau, including periodic consultations with Members and key partners during the period of November 2019 to January 2021. The process was facilitated by Ms Renée Sauv e, the Canadian delegate to COFI Bureau, appointed to the task by the COFI34 Chair, Mr Sidi Dicko.
3. The *Declaration's* version 0 (November 2019), version 1 (December 2019), version 2 (March 2020), version 3 (May 2020) and version 4 (October 2020) were discussed under the auspices of the COFI Bureau and their Regional group meetings. On 16 July 2020, FAO organized a dedicated event seeking FAO Members' formal statements in response to version 3 of the Declaration (<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/cofi34-virtual-dialogues/en/>). Version 5 in the 6 UN official languages was circulated to all FAO Members through the FAO gateway in November 2020, and all comments were considered in preparing the final draft.
4. At the COFI Bureau meeting of 15 January 2021 it was agreed that a small number of contentious issues could not be resolved through the above consultation process, and a "Friends of the Chair" mechanism was invoked to negotiate the contentious paragraphs. Twenty-nine interested delegations met virtually on 20 January 2021 and agreed on text for all but one such items. The outstanding paragraph was negotiated by email and virtually until language was agreed on 25 January.
5. The *Declaration* is intended to be collectively endorsed as a statement by the FAO Committee on Fisheries, and not by individual Members. If endorsed, the *Declaration* will then be considered by the FAO Governing Bodies for any programmatic implications, and by the FAO Council, as part of the COFI34 Report, for endorsement.
6. The *Declaration* has two objectives: a) to acknowledge the achievements of the fisheries and aquaculture sector since the endorsement of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 25 years ago, and b) to gather collective momentum in tackling the challenges and opportunities to secure the long-term sustainability of the sector, as we celebrate this milestone.
7. FAO Members will be invited to express their support to the Declaration under agenda item 4 of COFI34, on either side of the High Level Event to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Code.