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Organization of the  
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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

## COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

### Thirty-second Session

Rome, 11-15 July 2016

### DEVELOPMENTS IN FORA OF IMPORTANCE FOR THE MANDATE OF COFI

#### Executive Summary

This document informs the Committee of developments in other fora of importance, both in and outside FAO, for the mandate of the Committee. The document covers the decisions and recommendations by other Governing Bodies in FAO, such as the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conference and other Technical Committees as well as an international forum outside FAO.

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## I. FAO CONFERENCE

1. At its Thirty-ninth Session, held in Rome from 6 to 13 June 2015, the FAO Conference<sup>1</sup>: endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and in particular:

- (a) expressed support for the work of FAO on fisheries and aquaculture based on FAO's Strategic Objectives, highlighting the Blue Growth Initiative, implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management;
- (b) welcomed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and the Global Assistance Programme to support their implementation;
- (c) welcomed the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance;
- (d) underlined the importance of development of sustainable marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture as a contribution to achieving food security, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, stable markets and increased resilience; and
- (e) supported FAO's effort in capacity development in the areas of data collection and analysis, stock assessment, management, aquaculture, post-harvesting and policy development.

## II. FAO COUNCIL

2. At its Hundred and Fifty Session, held in Rome from 1 to 5 December 2014, the FAO Council<sup>2</sup>:

- (a) endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries and in particular:
  - i) welcomed FAO's Strategic Objectives as the basis for focusing the Organization's work in fisheries and aquaculture on food security, poverty reduction and sustainable management of natural resources;
  - ii) welcomed the Blue Growth Initiative and encouraged its further enhancement in pursuing the Strategic Objectives;
  - iii) underlined the importance of FAO's continued work in support of effective implementation of Port State Measures, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management, as well as development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
  - iv) welcomed the proposal for a Global Assistance Programme (GAP) to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines);

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<sup>1</sup> C 2015/REP

<sup>2</sup> CL 150/REP

- v) welcomed the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, which will contribute to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- vi) acknowledged the importance of inland fisheries as a means towards meeting the strategic objectives on food security, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, stable markets and increased resilience; and
- vii) encouraged FAO to support capacity development in the areas of data collection and analysis, stock assessment, management, post-harvesting and policy development.
- (b) welcomed the acknowledgement by FAO of countries which had achieved the targets of the World Food Summit (WFS) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), noting that the reorientation of the Organization's action over the past three years had given new impetus to the fight against hunger, notably through the promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.
- (c) approved the Report of the 99th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and approved the Amended Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

3. At its Hundred and Fifty-third Session, held in Rome, from 30 November to 4 December 2015, the FAO Council<sup>3</sup>:

- (a) approved the report of the 101st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and approved the amended Statutes of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA);
- (b) appreciated a presentation made on outcomes of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Vigo, Spain, 7-8 October 2015); and
- (c) informed of and welcomed the proposal by the Republic of Korea to establish a World Fisheries University in the Republic of Korea and noted that the proposal would be further discussed by relevant Governing Bodies in 2016 with a view to its submission to the FAO Conference in 2017;

### III. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

4. At its Thirty-fourth Session, held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 29 February to 3 March 2016, The FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC)<sup>4</sup>:

- (a) took note that, despite current over-exploitation of the region's fishery resources, it was possible to increase fishery sector production and its contribution to food security, income and livelihoods by investing in regional fisheries management and aquaculture development;
- (b) acknowledged the improvements in the functioning and performance of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and its increased collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA). It also took note of the potential benefits for the region if WECAFC were to be transformed into a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO), and agreed that an RFMO could develop very positive synergies among members to boost effective regional cooperation in fisheries. It requested that the sixteenth session of WECAFC consider the possibility of providing

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<sup>3</sup> CL 153/REP

<sup>4</sup> LARC/16/REP

adequate resources to support the process of transforming WECAFC into an RFMO, should members so desire;

(c) noted that, to varying degrees, virtually every country in the region engaged in inland fishing and aquaculture, which played a key role in food and nutrition security, poverty eradication, job creation and boosting territorial economies; and

(d) endorsed the recommendations of the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC) to boost cooperation with countries in preparing and implementing fishery and aquaculture policies with a view to strengthening rural territorial development, including these sectors in the Food Security and Nutrition Plan of the Latin American and Caribbean States Community (CELAC FSN Plan). It supported efforts to disseminate both the voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries and FAO guidelines for aquaculture in countries of the region. It further supported assistance with implementing the guidelines, coupled with strengthening aquaculture and fishery extension services and partnering and organization of fishers and fish farmers. Finally, it agreed to prioritize support for strengthening: health and safety systems for fishery and aquaculture products; monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms to ensure sustainable use of resources; and instruments to increase the resilience of fishing and fish-farming communities to climate change impacts. It also agreed to prioritize the development of national and regional strategies to increase fish and seafood consumption, with an emphasis on including these products in school feeding and public procurement programmes.

5. At its Thirty-third Session, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 7 to 11 March 2016, the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC)<sup>5</sup>:

(a) considered the Blue Growth initiative, a holistic approach for the sustainable management and efficient utilization of natural resources for food security, nutrition and economic growth in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) noted that healthy marine ecosystems are crucial to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and was concerned about the negative effects of environmental changes such as climate, land and water use and pollution;

(c) noted the critical need for accelerated and concerted actions to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, reduce overexploitation of fish and other aquatic resources, minimize habitat damage, pollution and other factors that reduce the contribution made by capture fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition and economic growth;

(d) noted that the potential of fisheries and aquaculture could be significantly enhanced through professionalization of the fisheries and aquaculture workforce making it more inclusive of gender, youth and indigenous peoples;

(e) recognized the high degree of synergy between the new guiding document for coastal fisheries management in the Pacific - The New Song for Coastal Fisheries: Pathways to Change and FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;

(f) recognized that the five interlinked strategies of the Blue Growth Initiative, which combine policy and institutional reform with on-the-ground action, offer long-term prospects for driving sustainable resource management of the fishery and aquaculture sectors, allowing economic growth and food security to be reconciled with conservation of aquatic resources;

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<sup>5</sup> APRC/16/REP

- (g) acknowledged that pathways to implementing the Blue Growth Initiative were context specific and should be tailored to the social, environmental, cultural and economic characteristics of each subregion;
- (h) emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and cooperation between FAO and other regional partners to enhance synergies and avoid duplication in the implementation of Blue Growth activities and initiatives;
- (i) recommended that FAO's Blue Growth Initiative be expanded to cover marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia and Pacific subregions;
- (j) noted the comparative advantage of FAO in fisheries matters and the importance of FAO providing expert advice at relevant international fora upon request; and
- (k) requested FAO to strengthen support to Members by assisting in:
- i) resilience proofing fisheries and aquaculture production systems;
  - ii) effective management of small-scale coastal fisheries through empowerment of small-scale and subsistence fishers as reflected in FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;
  - iii) building capacity to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;
  - iv) developing cost-effective aquaculture production systems, including sustainable and affordable feed for aquaculture production;
  - v) building capacity to support effective implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, aquatic biosecurity and disease prevention measures;
  - vi) improving the management of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in collaboration with the Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), among others.

6. At its Twenty-ninth Session, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 4 to 8 April 2016, the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)<sup>6</sup>:

- (a) stressed the importance of resilience building to address risks associated with climate change and other factors, including (i) for sustainable management of both inland and marine ecosystems to benefit all stakeholders; (ii) appropriate land and water control systems, and (iii) strong capacity to control of plant and animal pest and diseases; and
- (b) recommended FAO to support Member states to promote sound institutional and policy and regulatory frameworks, including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, fisheries, forestry in the context of national food security and transparent processes for selection of private partners and the projects that will be implemented in the framework of public private partnerships (PPPs).
- (c) The sub-regional consultation for Central Africa identified three priority areas and related actions to: (i) develop innovative value chains in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forests; (ii) support the sustainable development of natural resources; and (iii) strengthen the resilience of rural households to shocks and crises; (iv) effective actions for control and prevention of risks and threats related to human, animal diseases and zoonosis (e.g. Ebola, avian influenza, PPR, trypanosomiasis, anthrax, rabies, etc.).

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<sup>6</sup> ARC/16/REP

(d) The sub-regional consultation for East Africa identified five priority areas and related actions to: (i) promote sustainable use and management of natural resources to address the root causes and impact of drought and climate change; (ii) facilitate agricultural transformation, taking advantage of the youth dividend; (iii) increase agricultural production, productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries sectors; (iv) support the design and revision of sub-regional policies and frameworks; and (v) provide technical support for the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience Sustainability Initiative and the CAADP regional investment plan.

(e) Declaration by Civil Society Organizations called for FAO and the governments to rigorously pursue of human rights violations in the food and agriculture sector, with serious efforts to ensure corporate accountability, including punitive measures for violators. Relevant existing instruments include, but are not restricted to: the UN Declaration on Human Rights, International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), the UN Draft Declaration on Peasant Rights and Other People Working in Rural Areas, the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Land Tenure, Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries, the UN Draft Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights.

(f) At the end of the Conference, Ministers endorsed the Abidjan Ministerial Declaration on food security and the agricultural sectors in a changing climate.

7. At its Thirtieth Session, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 4 to 6 May 2016, the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)<sup>7</sup>:

(a) underlined the importance of agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their crucial role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as the need for climate-change adaptation and mitigation actions, and the responsibility of all actors along the food chain, including farmers, retailers and policy-makers;

(b) supported the adjustments to the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-17 biennium to bring greater focus to FAO's work on, *inter alia*, (i) Agrifood trade and market integration in Europe and Central Asia; as well as attention to strengthening food security and nutrition, natural resources management including fisheries and forestry, and control of animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety hazards; and

(c) underlined the importance of taking into consideration the trends and roles of the fisheries and forestry sectors, particularly their contribution to sustainable management of natural resources and the achievement of the SDGs.

(d) In response to the report made by the Chair of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), the Conference: (i) accepted the EIFAAC reports become an integral part of the Regional Conference; (ii) recognized EIFAAC as a good platform for research on topics such as fish migration in European inland waters, predators and invasive species; (iii) highlighted the importance of achieving higher attendance by Members in EIFAAC sessions, in particular in view of the goal 'to continue to develop the EIFAAC as the leading Pan-European organization for inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe'; and (iv) underscored the need to better link EIFAAC's work to important global issues such as food security and better align its mission and work plan with the SDGs.

(e) Declaration of the Civil Society Organizations, including the representatives from fishing communities and fish workers, also called several aspects, *inter alia*, to secure access to land, water, seeds, fish stocks and forests, by referring to the SSF Guidelines, to underscore the importance of Community Supported Fisheries and Farmers' Market, and to underscore the importance of the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture, in particular small-scale fisheries, as well as the roles of

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<sup>7</sup> C 2017/16

fishing communities and fish workers, to food security in relation to the outcome of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the SDGs.

8. At its Thirty-third Session, held in Rome, from 9 to 13 May 2016, the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC)<sup>8</sup>:
- (a) noted the importance of fisheries, aquaculture and fishing-related activities and the sustainable benefits derived from the oceans, seas, coastal areas and inland water bodies, with a focus on the role of marine fisheries to alleviate the pressure on other food production systems and with minimal use of fresh water resources;
  - (b) welcomed the efforts and actions undertaken by countries, FAO and partners on fisheries and aquaculture as the foundation for blue growth opportunities;
  - (c) endorsed the application of the FAO Blue Growth Initiative in the region and its components, including ecosystem services, economic growth, environmental benefits and social development, within the framework of the three Regional Initiatives;
  - (d) noted the offer of Kuwait to be a focus country for the Blue Growth Initiative and FAO technical assistance on fisheries and aquaculture sector, and also to promote value addition along the fish supply chain in the region;
  - (e) requested countries to accelerate efforts to address the effects of climate change and pollution on marine ecosystems of the region;
  - (f) urged countries to safeguard the interests of small-scale and traditional fishing communities in the face of multinational illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU); and
  - (g) called on member countries to sign the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
  - (h) requested FAO to: i) support member countries through organising knowledge and experience sharing events, and building capacity to develop sustainable and viable fishery and aquaculture industry in the region; ii) assist countries to assess fishery resources at both country and regional level, information sharing, compilation and dissemination by regional Fish Monitoring Centre, to be established as data and information repository; iii) develop guidelines to carry out environmental impact assessments for aquaculture projects; iv) promote the technical knowledge and capacities in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture, including through South-South Cooperation; and v) support countries in combating fish related diseases in the region.
  - (i) The Conference reviewed recent developments and deliberations of CFS and encouraged all stakeholders to implement the recommendations resulting from the policy roundtable, *inter alia*, on "Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition".
  - (j) noted the recommendations of, *inter alia*, the Eighth Session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) and requested member countries and FAO to implement the recommendations as appropriate.
  - (k) The Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organization emphasized the need to respect the rights and interest of, *inter alia*, fishers, in all aspects of agriculture development.
  - (l) In the Ministerial Declaration on "Food Security, Stability and Peace", the Ministers and Heads of Delegations reiterated the importance of inclusive and sustainable developments that fully encompass agriculture, fisheries, forestry and livestock and give equal employment and development

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<sup>8</sup> NERC/16/REP

opportunities to vulnerable people including youth and women, in the framework of promoting peace and stability in the region.

(m) The Ministerial Declaration on "Food Security and the Agricultural Sectors in a Changing Climate" was also adopted.

## IV. OTHER TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

### A. Committee on World Food Security

9. At its Forty-first session, held in Rome from 13 to 17 October 2014, CFS<sup>9</sup>:

(a) Welcomed the Report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) "Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition", and acknowledged its findings as an important contribution to the CFS recommendations;

(b) Recognized the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition, as a primary source of protein and essential nutrients, and as a provider of income and livelihoods;

(c) Recognized that the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture is a fundamental condition for food security and nutrition;

(d) Recommended the following actions by stakeholders to address the development, policy, management and enforcement challenges in order to maintain and enhance the contribution of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to nutrition and food security:

i) Give to fish the position it deserves in food security and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes

- Make fish a visible, integral element in food security and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes, with special regard to promoting fish as a source of good protein and micronutrients.
- Encourage consumption of fish, especially by pregnant and breastfeeding women, by children, including through school feeding, and by elderly people.
- Promote food safety as an important element in food security and nutrition.
- Support all efforts aimed at addressing overcapacity and overfishing in the context of food security and nutrition, in line with the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want".
- Support and promote initiatives to minimize fish discards and post-harvest losses and waste at all steps of the fish value chain.
- Strengthen international statistics and support research to improve knowledge on the impact of the production and consumption of fish on nutrition.
- Recognize the knowledge of local and indigenous fishing communities and promote its use regarding food security and nutrition.

ii) Promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies and management and design climate change adaptation strategies for food security and nutrition

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<sup>9</sup> C 2015/20



- Promote the implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) “Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries” to increase the contribution of fisheries to food security.
- Collect information and data to improve knowledge regarding the impacts of climate change on fish harvesting and farming, and monitor the impact of climate change on fisheries resources.
- Mainstream and integrate climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture policies, and include fisheries and aquaculture considerations in policies on climate change, as appropriate.
- Identify and promote policies, programmes and activities aimed at addressing the impact of land-based agriculture, including the management of pollutants, sediments and nutrients to receiving coastal and inland waters.

iii) Seize the opportunities and address the challenges of aquaculture development

- Promote and support research, innovation, and development initiatives that aim at enhancing the contribution of sustainable aquaculture to food security and nutrition with due consideration to improved feed efficiency and disease control.
- Promote the development and implementation of south-south as well as north-south cooperation, to encourage sharing and learning experiences in aquaculture.

iv) Recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries

- Recognize the specific contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition.
- Promote and support the implementation of the ‘Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication’ (VGSSF), with respect to food security and nutrition.
- Take into account the requirements of small-scale fisheries in the design and implementation of national and international policies and programmes related to fisheries, including investment plans, as appropriate.
- Support local organizations to foster the integration of small-scale fisheries into the decision-making processes.

v) Enhance fish market’s and trade’s contribution to food security and nutrition

- Promote the inclusion of food security and nutrition in the objectives of policies and mechanisms related to fish trade.
- Strive to develop, promote and facilitate fish trade in support of food security and nutrition, while avoiding creation of tariff and non-tariff barriers.
- Seek to avoid trade measures that may disadvantage small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture.
- Promote a fair return along the fish value chain and encourage direct trade linkages between fish producers and consumers with due consideration to food safety.

vi) Improve social protection and labour rights

- Strive to improve the working conditions of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including safety at sea, promoting decent work, eliminating forced and child labour and developing social protection systems.
- Explore ways to integrate the enforcement of fishing and labour regulations.

vii) Fully address the gender dimension of the fisheries and aquaculture sector

- Give high priority to the support of women in fisheries and aquaculture through adequate planning, legislation, recognition or allocation of rights and resources, and the promotion of their contribution to food security and nutrition.

- Promote gender equality and women's empowerment in fisheries and aquaculture, promoting their engagement and access to policies, investments, projects, and fishing and access rights systems.
- Promote access to gender-adapted training and collect appropriate gender-disaggregated data.
- Recognize the work and contribution of fisher women involved in inshore and inland harvesting, and secure the protection of their rights in this context.

viii) Integrate food security and nutrition concerns into fisheries and aquaculture-related policies and programmes

- Promote the implementation of the 'Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security' (VGGT), recognizing the particular relevance of article 8.3 on collectively used and managed land, fisheries and forests.
- Promote the participation of fishing communities and fish workers in all decisions that impact their livelihoods and enjoyment of the right to adequate food as defined by national laws.
- Promote the protection of existing rights and ongoing tenure over sites for food-insecure people, fishing communities and indigenous and tribal peoples, taking into account the VGGT.
- Consider the impact on food security and nutrition, of policies, interventions and investments affecting fisheries and aquaculture sector and their communities.
- Strengthen international cooperation to build the capacity of developing countries, to:
  - sustainably manage their living aquatic resources;
  - prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
  - promote and support the implementation of the VGSSF;
  - facilitate access to finance and markets especially for small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture; and
  - strengthen fishers and fish farmers associations;
- thereby increasing the contribution from fish to food security and nutrition.
- Take appropriate actions to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing in line with national law and relevant international instruments as applicable, recognizing the negative impacts of IUU fishing on local and global food security and nutrition.

ix) Furthermore the Committee invited FAO to:

- Take the lead in an effort to improve fish stock assessment tools and promote sustainable fisheries management approaches and aquaculture development for the improvement of the contribution of fish to food security and nutrition.
- Help facilitate improvement of fisheries-relevant policies and strategies, by promoting transparency and inclusiveness, especially effective participation of small-scale fisheries, and the integration of fisheries and aquaculture issues into the major international programmes and initiatives, and giving due consideration to food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation.
- Make explicit reference to fish resources fisheries and aquaculture as vital in combating hunger and securing nutritious food for everybody in all relevant documents on agriculture, food security and nutrition.

x) The Committee invited its members and participants, stakeholders and COFI to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition, in particular at the "Second International Conference on Nutrition" (ICN2), and towards the preparation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and disseminate the HLPE "Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition" report and CFS recommendations to international organizations and bodies.

10. At its Forty-second session, held in Rome from 12 to 15 October 2015, CFS<sup>10</sup>:
- (a) Endorsed the “Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) – Fourth Version (2015)” that includes the policy recommendations for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition and Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems that were endorsed at CFS 41 in 2014 as well as the statistical figures included in SOFI 2014.

## **B. Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters**

11. At its Ninety-ninth Session, held in Rome from 20 to 23 October 2014, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)<sup>11</sup> examined the proposal to amend the Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). The CCLM considered that the proposed amendments did not involve new obligations for the Contracting Parties, and it agreed to forward the Amended Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, set forth in Appendix 2 to its Report, to the Council for approval.

12. At its Hundred and First Session, held in Rome from 21 to 22 October 2015, CCLM<sup>12</sup> examined the amended Statutes of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) and agreed to transmit them to the Council for approval.

13. At its Hundred and Second Session, held in Rome from 14 to 16 March 2016, CCLM received and took note of information on the proposal made by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea for the establishment of a World Fisheries University (“WFU”).

## **C. Committee on Forestry**

14. At its Twenty-second Session, held in Rome from 23 to 27 June 2014, the Committee on Forestry (COFO)<sup>13</sup> encouraged countries to strengthen collaboration of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other land use sectors to promote the application of integrated approaches across the landscape and invited the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Fisheries to explore opportunities for collaboration with the Committee and stressed the benefits of including the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in these collaborative efforts.

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<sup>10</sup> CFS 2015/42 Report

<sup>11</sup> CL 150/2

<sup>12</sup> CL 153/2

<sup>13</sup> COFO 2014/REP

## **V. OTHER RELATED FAO MEETINGS**

### **A. Second International Conference on Nutrition**

15. The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN 2), held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, in its ROME DECLARATION ON NUTRITION<sup>14</sup> recognized that food and agriculture systems, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, need to be addressed comprehensively through coordinated public policies, taking into account the resources, investment, environment, people, institutions and processes with which food is produced, processed, stored, distributed, prepared and consumed.

## **VI. OTHER FORA**

### **A. Convention on Biological Diversity**

16. Despite the fact that the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 17 October 2014, "highlighted the importance of strategic actions to enhance national implementation in particular through mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity in the fishery sector as one of the main issues to be addressed at its thirteenth meeting (decision XII/31)", there was little specific mention of aquaculture or inland fisheries.

17. FAO reviewed the CBD Report "Strategic Scientific and Technical Issues Related to the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Biodiversity and Fisheries/Aquaculture"<sup>15</sup>, drafted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and proposed edits to include specific mention of aquaculture and small-scale and inland fisheries, where appropriate. Specifically, FAO proposed adding information on the growing importance of aquaculture as a source of fish for human consumption, its role in employment, and the interactions between aquaculture and the environment. It was proposed that reference be made to the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture which, among other things, is designed to help the sector minimise impacts on biodiversity and demands on ecosystem services.

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<sup>14</sup> SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION, Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference (December 2014)

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/6