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منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
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# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-second Session

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### AGENDA 2030, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

#### Executive Summary

This Information Paper provides additional information on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in support of the document COFI/2016/8 and COFI/2016/9.

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1. The 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Summit endorsed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, covering a comprehensive set of issues on technical, institutional and policy changes needed to achieve sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda applies to all countries, integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and guides Members, the UN and other intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and other institutions on forthcoming opportunities, challenges and needs for sustainable development in all sectors, with the ambitious aim of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Elements that form the very core of FAO's work – food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation in rural areas, and sustainable management and use of natural resources – are featured across the SDGs. FAO actively supported the inter-governmental post-2015 process which led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

2. The 2030 Agenda offers a vision of a fairer, more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world in which no one is left behind, as it strives for a world that is just, rights-based, equitable and inclusive<sup>2</sup>. The Agenda not only calls for an end to poverty, hunger and malnutrition and for universal access to health care – all with major emphasis on gender issues – but also demands the elimination of all forms of exclusion and inequality everywhere. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as well as full and productive employment and decent work for all, are to be promoted. The SDGs are truly transformative, and they are interlinked, calling for new approaches and combinations in the ways policies, programmes, partnerships and investments pull together to achieve the common goals.

3. The 2030 Agenda explicitly refers to two additional global frameworks adopted in 2015, complementing as well as strengthening the ambitions and the priorities identified in the 2030 Agenda: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda<sup>3</sup> supports, complements and helps to contextualize the 2030 Agenda's means of implementation targets. It relates to domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, and data, monitoring and follow-up. The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded with the historic adoption of the Paris Agreement<sup>4</sup>. Agriculture, including the forestry and fisheries sectors, needs to adapt to the impacts of climate change and improve the resilience of food production systems in order to sustain a growing population. These issues also need to be addressed as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, which calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change.

4. In agriculture and food – the way food is grown, produced, consumed, traded, transported, stored and marketed – lies the fundamental connection between people and the planet, and the path to inclusive and sustainable growth. In fact, the 2030 Agenda emphasizes people, planet, prosperity, peace

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<sup>1</sup> UN. 2015. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. A/RES/70/1.

[www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Dev](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf)

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<sup>2</sup> UNDG, 2016. *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Reference Guide to UN Country Teams (February 2016). United Nations Development Group. <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/UNDG-Mainstreaming-the-2030-Agenda-Reference-Guide-Final-1-February-2016.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. [www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2015. *Adoption of the Paris Agreement* [online].

CCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>;

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf>

and partnership. FAO has been highlighting<sup>5</sup> the fact that food and agriculture are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

5. A comprehensive analysis of the SDGs was conducted by FAO's Strategic Programmes teams to assess the degree of alignment between the FAO Strategic Objectives (SOs) and the SDGs targets. The results show a strong alignment of the SOs with the SDGs, with the Strategic Framework and its Vision<sup>6</sup> on Sustainable Food and Agriculture potentially contributing to integrated implementation of all 17 SDGs.

6. In fact, several SDGs are highly relevant to fisheries and aquaculture, and the sustainable development of the seafood sector in general. SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms) and SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) are well reflected in FAO's vision on poverty reduction, food security and sustainable agriculture.

7. Several targets of SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; also referred to as the Blue Goal) call for specific actions in fisheries *inter alia*: effectively regulate harvesting; end overfishing and IUU fishing; address fisheries subsidies; increase economic benefits from sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture; provide access for small-scale fishers to resources and markets; implement UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provisions. Other SDG14 targets cover marine pollution prevention and reduction, management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems all of which are also important priorities for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

8. A range of other SDGs is significant for the future of fisheries and aquaculture as well as for the FAO Blue Growth initiative. SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) calls for doubling the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, ensuring sustainable food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices. These calls should further contribute to encouraging and facilitating more incentives and more efforts in support of efficient and benefit-sharing aquaculture, fish processing and fishing operations. These calls should also help reduce aquatic pollution and habitat degradation resulting from agriculture and other land based activities. Other SDG 2 targets address investment, trade and food price volatility. The protection, restoration and management of inland water resources and ecosystems are addressed under SDGs 6 (water) and 15 (biodiversity). Goals for economic growth, employment and decent work (SDG 8), consumption and production (SDG 12), climate change (SDG 13) will also guide policy, planning and governance considerations for the sector, as will SDG 17 (means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development) which covers commitments on finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships and data, monitoring and accountability.

9. FAO is advising Members on SDG implementation policies and processes, including follow-up, monitoring and review, and collaborates with UN-Oceans, the UN Statistical Division, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG), the Inter-Agency Task Force on the follow up-to Financing for Development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda(IATF), and other partners. FAO is also contributing to the High-level Political Forum<sup>7</sup>, which is the main platform for SDG follow-up and review and which may draw on the work of other intergovernmental bodies and fora that review progress and discuss policies in specific areas, including the Committee on World Food Security and FAO's Technical Committees.

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<sup>5</sup> Food and Agriculture – Key to key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [www.fao.org/3/a-i5499e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5499e.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Building a Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. [www.fao.org/3/a-i3940e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3940e.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> HLPF: The UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which superseded the Commission on Sustainable Development, will have the central role in overseeing the follow-up and review processes at the global level: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

## Monitoring and review

10. In early 2015, the UN Statistical Commission established the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs<sup>8</sup>) to facilitate the development of an indicator framework for the monitoring of goals and targets of Agenda 2030 at the global level. The IAEG discussed the global reporting mechanism including the identification of entities responsible for compiling data for global reporting on individual indicators. FAO is also engaging with the “High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Post-2015 Monitoring”, and the “Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data”, both of which are working towards resource mobilization for global data and statistical capacity building.

11. FAO has been particularly involved in the IAEG process and supplied detailed methodological factsheets for selected indicator proposals for the envisaged goals and targets, including in particular those of SDG 2, SDG 14 and SDG 15. The final list of SDG indicators released by the IAEG was formally adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016 and covers 231 indicators for the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda. Some 25 SDG indicators across various Goals are directly relevant to FAO’s mandate. FAO has been identified as the custodian agency for 20 SDG indicators. FAO is expected to assist in the global monitoring of these indicators, four of which are specifically related to fisheries, as shown in below Table 1.

**Table 1. Fisheries-related indicators for SDG14 targets for which monitoring will be supported by FAO**

<b>SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</b>		
<b>SDG target</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Custodian agency identified by IAEG</b>
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	FAO
14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to	14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to	FAO

<sup>8</sup> Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals. <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>

overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation	combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	
14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	FAO
14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”.	14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources	UN-DOALOS, with support from FAO and other UN-Oceans agencies

12. FAO will be further involved in monitoring efforts related to other SDG14 targets (e.g. indicators for targets 14.1, 14.2 and 14.7<sup>9</sup>), by contributing technical advice where appropriate. Given that the agreed list of global SDG indicators will likely be supplemented with additional indicators for thematic and national monitoring, FAO has proposed an additional indicator which could support efforts

<sup>9</sup> 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

regarding target 14.6 by helping to monitor “Progress and coverage of multilateral, plurilateral or regional trade instruments that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing or that eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing”.

13. The indicators expected to help monitoring progress on above SDG targets 14.6, 14.b and the fisheries component of 14.c are composite indicators developed on the basis of the existing survey and reporting mechanism for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). Responses by Members to the biennial CCRF surveys will therefore be contributing to and supporting the reporting process for global monitoring of fisheries-related targets of Agenda 2030. Recently, response rates to CCRF surveys by Members have increased significantly, following the launching of the more accessible online CCRF reporting system.

### **Towards implementation**

14. Given the multidimensional nature of SDGs, as well as their interlinkages, effective coordination and strategic integration of policy and implementation efforts addressing multiple SDG targets will be required to achieve lasting and constructive changes in policies, institutions, participation and commitments to actions, at local, country and international levels.

15. Policy guidance and advice on normative and monitoring-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda is emerging as key support required by countries from the UN, resulting in strong demand and request for coordination and integrated advice on the different dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. The UNDG Sustainable Development Working Group, with active FAO participation, has developed the document *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Reference Guide*<sup>10</sup> to UN Country Teams (February 2016), providing key system guidance that gives greater scope to policy support as a direct result of FAO’s and other specialized agencies’ contributions. In addition, FAO has provided decentralized offices with targeted information and guidance on the 2030 Agenda, with additional training and capacity development activities being organized in the near future.

16. Some countries have already begun mapping their needs for the UN to assist in setting national priorities and targets, and FAO country offices will strengthen collaboration with UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in order to ensure integration of SDGs in national and regional planning. With funding mechanisms and means of implementation targeting partnerships and multiple sources of financing, South-South Cooperation, etc., FAO will focus on advocacy and technical support. As a specialized knowledge organization, FAO is expected to lead efforts on technical support that will include, among others, guidance for national targets establishment, strategy and policy development, good governance for better public investment/budgeting design and implementation. As FAO’s vision and approach address the needs of both the people and the planet, and given the strong priority assigned to food and agriculture in the 2030 Agenda, the support will cover targets across all SDGs.

17. Support to public investment also aims at providing an enabling environment for private investments. FAO's support to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) follow-up will be aligned and complement the work on SDGs, as presented in the new corporate “Strategy for Support to Investment in Food and Agriculture<sup>11</sup>”. The strategy is highly relevant to the implementation of both the 2030

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<sup>10</sup> *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Reference Guide to UN Country Teams*. <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/UNDG-Mainstreaming-the-2030-Agenda-Reference-Guide-Final-1-February-2016.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Strategy for Support to Investment in Food and Agriculture. [www.fao.org/investment-in-agriculture/en/](http://www.fao.org/investment-in-agriculture/en/) **LINK TO ACTUAL DOCUMENT TO BE ADDED WHEN AVAILABLE**

Agenda and the AAAA, setting the scene to help member countries in developing and implementing quality investments proposals and resource mobilization for the SDGs related to FAO's mandate. FAO will also build the capacity of country stakeholders to design and implement investments.

18. The 2030 Agenda is being discussed in the Technical and Governing Bodies of FAO. For example, FAO Regional Conferences with agenda items on SDGs are discussing ways for Members to prepare national priorities and plans for the 2030 Agenda. Three Technical Committees (COFO, COAG, COFI) have proposed a dedicated agenda item on the SDGs. FAO is also supporting the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), contributing to the Technical Task Team of the CFS's newly established Open-Ended Working Group on SDGs.

### **Agenda 2030 and Blue Growth**

19. Proper management of marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems, including habitats and resources, is imperative for ensuring sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture resources and the livelihoods of communities depending on fishing, fish farming and fish processing are at the heart of FAO's Blue Growth Initiative. FAO's Blue Growth activities emphasize the ecosystem approach to capture fisheries and aquaculture; the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for coastal fishing communities; recognition and support to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture development; and fair access to trade, markets, social protection and decent work conditions along the fish value chain.

20. It will be of paramount importance for governmental and non-governmental fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the 2030 Agenda and its multiple SDGs, and to further promote awareness and action towards their achievement. The 2030 Agenda guides and focuses efforts towards more integrated, better coordinated and targeted action to facilitate effective change and improvements in increasingly complex and challenging contexts of social and economic development and sustainable growth. In taking up and supporting the 2030 Agenda, local, national, regional and international measures and means to implement Blue Growth approaches will help achieve SDG targets relevant for fisheries and aquaculture in an integrated manner.

21. Building partnerships and strengthening stakeholder participation are key to progress and success to promote and effectively implement Blue Growth activities in support of specific as well as interlinked SDG targets. Examples include:

- the Global Partnership for Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture<sup>12</sup> (covering SDGs 2, 13 and 14);
- the promotion and implementation by local, national and international CSOs and governments of the Voluntary Guidelines<sup>13</sup> for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8 and 14);
- national inter-institutional cooperation and international inter-agency collaboration of IMO, FAO and ILO in the fight against IUU fishing and other crime associated with fishing through support to national and international Plans of Actions against IUU fishing, implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance<sup>14</sup>, development of the Global Record for

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<sup>12</sup> Global Partnership for Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA) [www.fao.org/pacfa/en/](http://www.fao.org/pacfa/en/)

<sup>13</sup> Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication [www.fao.org/3/a-i4356e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4356e.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance; [www.fao.org/fishery/topic/16159/en](http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/16159/en)

- Fishing Vessels<sup>15</sup>, and implementation of FAO's Port State Measures Agreement<sup>16</sup> and other instruments on safety at sea and decent work<sup>17</sup> in fisheries (SDGs 14, 8); and
- support to implementation, monitoring and review of SDG 14.c related efforts on UNCLOS and other relevant binding and voluntary oceans governance instruments through consultation and coordination within and beyond the UN Oceans<sup>18</sup> interagency collaboration mechanism (SDG 14, 17).

22. Some SDG 14 targets are expected to be achieved by 2020, indicating the need for urgent action. In the case of fisheries-related targets, the governance basis for action is already made up of existing instruments and global initiatives (such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, the Port State Measures Agreement and the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance). These instruments and initiatives need adequate political commitment and resources. The political momentum generated by the SDGs and the commitments made by countries provide opportunities to accelerate advocacy and support.

23. The 2030 Agenda places an emphasis on capacity development efforts, especially those strengthening the policy environment, institutional arrangements and collaborative processes that will help empower fishing and aquaculture communities, civil society organizations, seafood value chain actors and public entities. In many cases developing solutions to challenges in fisheries and aquaculture will require interactions and collaboration with and support from stakeholders and institutions outside the sector. The 2030 Agenda encourages such interactions and processes which will lead to more integrated, efficient, inclusive and better coordinated initiatives as they address multiple SDG targets. The Blue Growth Initiative recognizes the need and opportunities for engaging the private sector as well as for empowering communities, and aims at providing consultative and innovative platforms that will facilitate transformational processes at the levels of production, communities and value chains.

24. Overall, without eliminating hunger and malnutrition by 2030, the full range of SDGs cannot be achieved. At the same time, the implementation of all SDGs in a comprehensive and coherent manner will pave the way for ending hunger and extreme poverty. There is a need for strong political will and investment in the critical agents of change – smallholders, family farmers, rural women, fishworkers, indigenous communities, youth and other vulnerable or marginalized people. Measures promoting Blue Growth will contribute significantly to these efforts.

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<sup>15</sup> The Global Record of Fishing Vessels Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) [www.fao.org/fishery/global-record/en](http://www.fao.org/fishery/global-record/en)

<sup>16</sup> Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; [www.fao.org/3/a-i1644t.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i1644t.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> ILO Work in Fishing Convention 188; Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the implementation of the provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 (Cape Town Agreement); International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F 1995).

<sup>18</sup> UN Oceans – interagency collaboration mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the UN system. [www.unoceans.org/](http://www.unoceans.org/)