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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

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FAO'S CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The progress and challenges in this regard are discussed, emphasising FAO's role in methodology formulation, monitoring and supporting capacity development. It also updates on the work on sustainable aquaculture development and the status of the Blue Growth Initiative.

The potential of fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition is emphasised in the Strategy and Vision for FAO's work in Nutrition addressed under this Agenda item. Additional information on the Strategy and Vision for FAO's work in Nutrition may be found in the accompanying information paper (COFI/2020/Inf.11.1)

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- Underline the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to achieving the 2030 Agenda, including synergies with goals beyond those addressed under SDG 14;
- note the key role played by the FAO in monitoring indicators under SDG 14, and in providing inputs for publication in international fora such as the Global SDG progress report;
- acknowledge current capacity gaps across countries in reporting SDG indicators, and associated capacity development being undertaken;
- support initiatives to develop reporting and monitoring capacity in fisheries and aquaculture, including the promotion of discussion for additional non-traditional and unconventional funding from extra-budgetary sources and information sources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
- acknowledge and endorse FAO's proposed plans for expanding the reporting and monitoring of indicators by countries, especially for indicators under SDG 14, and support

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

initiatives that will lead countries towards the achievement of targets under the 2030 Agenda;

- appreciate the draft of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition and provide guidance from the perspective of fisheries and aquaculture, and ensure the potential of fisheries and aquaculture to enhance healthy diets and prevent all forms of malnutrition, and its relevance in fulfilling FAO's mandate and furthering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda;
- note the call for more integrated and collaborative action in order to achieve the SDGs. Identify actions in capacity building along fisheries and aquaculture value chains that target poverty reduction, food security and nutrition and resources management, as well as how these may be further developed;
- acknowledge and appreciate progress and actions taken on mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for sustainable aquaculture development; and
- share experience including success stories on blue growth approaches and investments in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving fisheries-related SDG targets.

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

Mr Audun Lem
Deputy Director
Fisheries Division
Email: Audun.Lem@fao.org

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development continues to shape the strategies of countries, international organizations and civil society, striving for a fair, prosperous and sustainable world in which no one is left behind. The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which form the 2030 Agenda are central to the achievement of inclusive, sustainable economic growth that encompasses environmental, economic and social concerns.
2. The application of the 2030 Agenda is universal, being equally relevant to developed and developing nations. The interconnected nature of the SDGs makes them indivisible by nature, with progress in one area assisting progress in another. It also places a strong emphasis on integrated approaches to development and requires that results from related indicators be jointly evaluated to allow a comprehensive analysis of the impacts and trade-offs between different development paths. The SDGs are ambitious and call for comprehensive and participatory approaches, aimed at ending poverty and hunger while sustainably managing natural resources.
3. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) are the expert groups mandated to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Both groups are composed of Members and include regional and international agencies as observers.
4. FAO provides overall support to Members in integrating the SDGs into national development plans. Food and agriculture are key to sustainable development and FAO continues to support policymaking, partnership-building, capacity development and project implementation built on 3-dimensional sustainability. Both the SDGs and FAO's Strategic Framework are geared towards tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind. In this regard, it fulfils many roles, including through compiling data and information, setting standards and working towards generating advice in support of decision to countries.
5. Also, certain international agencies have been designated as custodians for specific indicators, with the responsibility of enabling proper national, regional and global SDG reporting. FAO has been chosen as the custodian organization for 21 SDG indicators and a contributing agency to another five indicators, spanning SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 12, 14, and 15.
6. As one of the main food production systems, proper management of fisheries and aquaculture resources are central to the achievement of development that safeguards food security, livelihoods, human dignity and natural resources, a fact that is increasingly recognised in international fora such as FAO COFI as well as its two Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and on Aquaculture. In this context, the FAO Fisheries Division (NFI) coordinates work on four SDG indicators under SDG 14, namely SDG 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1 and contributes to SDG 14.c.1, providing methodological support for certain data elements.
7. In addition to its key role on **SDG14 - Life Below Water**, the programme of work of FAO in fisheries and aquaculture contributes to progress in a wide range of SDGs, including the following:



- **SDG14 Life Below Water:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Enhanced fisheries and aquaculture management, policy, practices and technologies are central in providing food security, nutrition and livelihoods, while ensuring that practices are ethical and sustainable.



- **SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities:** Fisheries and aquaculture related activities support the livelihoods of more than 120 million people worldwide, the majority of them living in developing countries. Ensuring responsible and sustainable value chains will benefit the poorest and most vulnerable in society, further enabling fisheries to provide economic resilience.



- **SDG 2 Zero Hunger:** Fisheries and aquaculture are crucial in the fight against hunger and are important enablers of food security and nutrition. Fish consumption continues to rise, providing nutritious food for the world's growing population. Among these, 3.3 billion people consume almost 20 percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein from fish and fish products. Fisheries and aquaculture present unique opportunities to fulfil the pillars of food security as the world's population continues to expand.



- **SDG 5 Gender Equality:** Women engage in all stages of the fisheries value chain and make up around fifty percent of those employed in the marketing and post-harvest processing of fish. Efforts to empower women by enhancing full access to and equal opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector may serve as a catalyst for combating systemic gender inequalities and achieving greater inclusiveness.



- **SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production:** Fish offer opportunities for sustainable food systems, with a lower carbon footprint than alternative animal source foods. The implementation of appropriate policies that foster sustainable consumption and production practices in fisheries and aquaculture will support the move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production and achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.



- **SDG 13 Climate Action:** Changing climate and ocean conditions, in particular warming water temperatures, deoxygenation, and acidification in aquatic environments, are already impacting the distribution and abundance of fish stocks in many regions and will provide significant challenges to the sustainability of many fisheries, as well as to aquaculture. Urgent, innovative, effective and adaptive fisheries management measures, monitoring and policy action are central for ensuring the sustainability of fish stocks. Sustainable fisheries will ensure that future generations are able to reap the many benefits that fish can provide.



- **SDG 17 Partnerships:** Targets and goals can only be achieved by working together. This includes partnerships between the private and public sector, with academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) but also across national borders and through multilateral efforts and solutions. It also foresees international cooperation in fisheries management, in regional fisheries bodies to promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its associated guidelines, plans of action and agreements.

8. This document focuses on achievements in relation to SDG14 as facilitated by the workplan of NFI. It provides a summary of monitoring and reporting, existing challenges and capacity building needs and progress towards targets within this SDG. It also provides a summary of two selected initiatives of FAO in which the Division is involved and that are particularly relevant for addressing a number of SDGs; the *Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition, Sustainable Aquaculture development, and the Blue growth initiative*, and highlights some examples of relevant practical advances facilitated by the Division in relation to all SDGs.

II. PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN RELATION TO MONITORING, REPORTING AND ADDRESSING SDG14 INDICATORS AND TARGETS

9. It is generally acknowledged that international guidance – such as provided by FAO through the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), the Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and others form key elements in implementing change and monitoring progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

10. FAO as custodian and coordinator of SDG 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1, has the direct responsibility to:



- i. Lead methodological development and documentation of indicators.
- ii. Support statistical capacity of countries to generate and disseminate national data.
- iii. Collect data from national sources and ensure their comparability and consistency.
- iv. Disseminate the data to enable monitoring of progress at the global, regional and national levels.
- v. Contribute to the annual global SDG progress report for the High-Level Political Forum.

11. These indicators were previously classified as Tier 3¹, but following the Committee's 33rd Session in 2018, FAO has continued working on developing and refining methodologies for monitoring these indicators. These methodologies have now been successfully approved, leading to all indicators under SDG 14 for which FAO is the custodian agency being upgraded to Tier 1.

¹ SDG Indicators are classified in Tiers based on available data/methods for its estimation as follows: Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant. Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries. Tier 3: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

12. Below is a summary by target and indicator on monitoring progress, a brief assessment of trends in the indicators, on the basis of the analysis performed by FAO², and a summary of further actions required to progress towards the targets.


SDG Indicator 14.4.1 – *Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels*

	Target
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.
Indicator	
	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

13. This indicator³ measures progress toward target 14.4 – *by 2020 restoring fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY)*. It emphasises the fundamental importance of maintaining stocks at levels which allow them to fully replenish under current conditions, thus ensuring that present harvesting levels do not compromise future returns.

14. Implementation of 14.4.1 has strong positive implications for achieving SDG 2 Zero hunger, SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production, and SDG 13 Climate action. Sustainable stocks are central to the future of sustainable food systems, where fish are able to continue to play their vital role in food and nutrition security as they do today for generations to come.

15. FAO has previously released data from stock assessments at regional and global levels in various reports, such as the *State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*, and coverage is being extended to the national level. A number of countries, either independently or as part of regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), have already carried out assessment on the status of their fish stocks at a national level. However, national assessment faces various challenges due to limitations in data availability and technical capacity in many developing countries.



16. **Trend assessment:**  *Slight deterioration since the baseline year.* While global marine fish landings have remained relatively stable at around 90 million tonnes since 1995, the sustainability of world fishery resources has continued to decline. The proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels decreased from 90 percent in 1974 to 65.8 percent in 2017, 0.82 percentage points lower than in 2015. Despite the continuous deterioration, the rate of decline has slowed down over the past decade. While encouraging, this will not be enough to turn around the tide to meet the SDG target and more efforts are needed to restore stocks to biologically sustainable levels through the implementation of effective management measures.

² FAO 2020. Tracking progress on food and agriculture-related SDG indicators 2020. A report on the indicators under FAO custodianship. www.fao.org/sdg-progress-report/en/

³ www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1441/en/

17. **Actions to progress towards this indicator:** Stock assessment is a technically demanding process which requires rigorous data collection. New methodologies for conducting stock assessment in situations where data or technical capacity is limited, while remaining reliable and universally applicable, were selected for inclusion in the e-learning course, and further methodological improvements are under development in conjunction with external institutions. Capacity building for data collection on catch, effort and biological data are being conducted in various regions (Caribbean, Gulf of Guinea, East-Africa) in conjunction with relevant RFB networks and initiatives, such as Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS), to support dissemination and monitoring of stock status. Also, FAO has released an e-learning course covering guidelines for national reporting on indicator 14.4.1⁴ and a Virtual Research Environment (VRE)⁵ to support teaching of stock assessment data limited methods and thus facilitate country level reporting. Two regional training workshops for building national capacities on the reporting methodology were conducted in partnerships (Bangkok, October 2019 for South East Asia, Zanzibar, March 2020 for East Africa). Other workshops are planned to be carried out in 2021-22. A first questionnaire was dispatched in November 2019 to 165 countries with marine coastal façade to facilitate their reporting. As the result, ninety-seven countries expressed interest in the indicator (57%), of which 82 responded with completed questionnaires, 11 countries stated that they could not report due to lack of data or time, one responded with some catch data, and three countries reported their indicator separately.

SDG indicator 14.6.1 – Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

	Target
	14.6
	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to 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 (WTO) fisheries subsidies negotiation
	Indicator
	14.6.1
	Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

18. IUU fishing has many negative implications for the sustainability of the fish stocks, and thus on the livelihoods of those that rely on these resources. By reducing the prevalence of IUU fishing through the implementation of appropriate governance there will be progress not only on this indicator, but also in other areas of the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth, SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production, and SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.

19. This indicator⁶ focuses on the effort to combat IUU fishing through the effective implementation of key international instruments and is therefore based on a country's self-assessed degree of implementation of instruments to combat IUU, weighted by their relative importance and

⁴ SDG Indicator 14.4.1 - Fish stocks sustainability <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=502>

⁵ <https://bluebridge.d4science.org/web/sdg-indicator14.4.1>

⁶ www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1461/en/



eventual overlaps. The methodology for this indicator was piloted through a series of workshops under the FAO PSMA capacity building programme in order to ensure its accuracy and national applicability.

20. The indicator measures national progress in the implementation of five principal international instruments which together provide a strong framework for combatting IUU fishing. The level of implementation is assessed through responses to specific questions, carried in various sections of the questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the CCRF and related instruments (CCRF questionnaire), relating to the following instruments (the percentage in brackets refers to their respective weightings applied in the assessment):

- Adherence and implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (10 percent)
- Adherence and implementation of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)⁷ (10 percent)
- Development and implementation of a national plan of action (NPOA) to combat IUU fishing in line with the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) (30 percent)
- Adherence and implementation of the 2009 FAO PSMA (30 percent)
- Implementation of Flag State Responsibilities in the context of the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and FAO 2015 Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (20 percent)

21. The 2018 CCRF questionnaire enabled this indicator to be calculated from country responses for the first time. The 2018 indicator scores validated by the respective countries were published by United Nations Statistics Division and constitute a baseline for this indicator for national, regional and global monitoring towards the achievement of SDG target 14.6.

22. It should be noted that at the time of writing this document, the negotiations within the WTO on fisheries subsidies are still ongoing. Furthermore, the indicator is also relevant to SDG target 14.4 which, amongst others, aims to end IUU fishing.

23. **Trend assessment:**  *Slight improvement* /  *Very close to the target*. Countries have made progress in combatting IUU fishing, with close to 75 percent of them scoring highly in their degree of implementation of relevant international instruments in 2020, compared to 70 percent in 2018. This progress was also reflected with the average score for this indicator rising from 3/5 to 4/5 over this period. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), faced with particular challenges in fully implementing these instruments, registered a medium level of implementation both in 2018 and in 2020.

24. **Actions to progress towards this indicator:** The implementation of the PSMA and complementary instruments, in particular in developing countries, is expected to be achieved principally through the;



- strengthening of national policy and legislative frameworks to combat IUU fishing;
- strengthening of monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement capacities;
- enhancement of national institutions' capacity to improve flag State performance;

⁷ Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

- further development and implementation of traceability and market measures;
- enhancement of coordination and cooperation at national, regional and global level, including inter-agency cooperation; and
- the ongoing development and use of global information exchange systems, namely through the PSMA Global Information Exchange System and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.

25. Further to the implementation of these instruments, the development of guidelines on best practices for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment could further support global efforts in combatting IUU fishing. Additional information on the activities conducted by FAO to support efforts to combat IUU fishing can be found in document COFI/2020/7 addressing IUU fishing, as well as in COFI/2020/inf.13 and COFI/2020/SBD.9 covering the study conducted by FAO on transshipment. Other relevant documents include reports of PSMA meetings and other technical meetings available in COFI/2020/SBD.5, COFI/2020/SBD.10, COFI/2020/SBD.11 and COFI/2020/SBD.21.

SDG indicator 14.7.1 – Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries

	Target
	14.7
	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
	Indicator
	14.7.1
	Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries

26. Comprehensive and integrated indicators encompassing economic growth elements and sustainability are important *per se* to analyse the economic benefits of specific sectors from an environment sustainability angle. Due to the pandemic, such indicators and associated targets became even more important when they address the maximization of economic benefits in a sustainable way by 2030, which is the case of target 14.7.

27. In addition, the multifaceted character of this indicator⁸ allows positive spill overs that can be particularly relevant in supporting other areas of the 2030 Agenda, including minimizing the negative effects of COVID-19, especially involving SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production patterns). For this indicator, long-term improvements can be emphasised and boosted by monitoring directly quantifiable benefits, namely the GDP, and linking any outcomes to sustainable practices.


28. Calculation of this indicator is built on internationally recognised standards and statistics, including:

⁸ www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1471/en/

- Value-added of fisheries and aquaculture
- Biological sustainability of fish stocks
- Gross domestic product



29. The information used for this indicator is taken exclusively from data already published by National Statistics Offices or international agencies. Due to this characteristic, this methodology is able to give consistent current and historical coverage without creating an additional reporting burden for countries. Nevertheless, adequate national reporting capacity is still necessary.

30. The methodology for this indicator was approved at the Ninth Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, held in March 2019. The indicator was considered conceptually clear, with an internationally established methodology, available standards, and data regularly produced. The formulation of this methodology came following a process of international collaboration, including an expert consultation and three regional workshops with SIDS.

31. **Trend assessment:**  *Slight improvement.* In recent years, the contribution of sustainable fisheries to global GDP has remained fairly stable at around 0.1 percent a year, reflecting the interplay of two opposing trends: a consistently rising value-added component of the fisheries sector and a continued decline in the sustainability of global fish stocks. Sustainable marine capture fisheries make a substantial contribution to the GDPs of SIDS in Oceania and of LDCs, where fishing activities are vital to local communities and indigenous people. The share of sustainable fisheries in the GDP is highest in Oceania (excl. Australia and New Zealand) at 1.34 percent and in LDCs at 1.06 percent, although this share has decreased in both regions since 2015.

32. **Actions to progress towards this indicator:** Effective fisheries management, supportive and transparent government initiatives, better access to information and the implementation of new technologies are critical to increasing the contribution of sustainable fisheries to GDP, particularly in countries where fisheries are central for local economies, food security and vulnerable communities.

SDG indicator 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

	<p>Target</p> <p>14.b</p> <p>Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets</p>
	<p>Indicator</p> <p>14.b.1</p> <p>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</p>

33. This indicator⁹ tracks progress towards target 14.b - Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. In order to guarantee secure access, an enabling environment

⁹ www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/14b1/en/

is necessary which recognises and protects small-scale fisheries rights. The principles of such an enabling environment are:

- i. Appropriate legal, regulatory and policy frameworks.
- ii. Specific initiatives to support small-scale fisheries.
- iii. Related institutional mechanisms which allow for the participation of small-scale fisheries organisations in relevant processes.



34. Small-scale fisheries, which account for more than half of the total capture fisheries production in developing countries, play a fundamental role in food security and poverty eradication, underpinning the livelihoods of those who are often most vulnerable in society. Supporting their access rights has parallel efficiencies for SDG 1 No poverty, SDG 2 Zero hunger, SDG 5 Gender equality, and SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.

35. At the same time, these small-scale food producers fulfil a vital role to nourish those depending on the sector and local communities in the current COVID-19 pandemic. It is more important than ever for countries to support small-scale fishers as key contributors to sustainable food systems.

36. Progress is measured in a range of areas relevant to safeguarding access-rights for small-scale fisheries. This is assessed through responses provided by countries in the CCRF questionnaire in the following sections:

- Existence of laws, regulations, policies, plans or strategies that specifically target or address the small-scale fisheries sector.
- Ongoing specific initiatives to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).
- Existence of mechanisms through which small-scale fishers and fish workers contribute to decision-making processes.

37. The baseline for this indicator derives from the 2016 CCRF, when the questions for evaluating the above principles of an enabling environment for small scale fisheries were first integrated.

38. **Trend assessment:**  *Slight improvement* /  *Very close to the target*. The average global score for this SDG indicator 14.b.1 has moved from 3/5 in 2018 to 4/5 in 2020. In particular, Northern Africa and Western Asia reflect this increase, while Central and Southern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean reduced their regional score from 3/5 to 2/5 and from 4/5 to 3/5 respectively, highlighting the need for strengthening their implementation efforts. The other regions remained stable at a score of 4/5. However, among the main constituents of the composite score for SDG indicator 14.b.1 reflects the lowest commitment by countries, despite their ability to guide actions to protect small-scale fisheries, particularly in the current circumstances. Only about half the countries in the world have adopted specific initiatives to implement the SSF Guidelines.

39. **Actions to progress towards this indicator:** Expanded support for small-scale fishers is critical, in particular in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the sector, and in line with the objectives of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022¹⁰. In addition, more financial non-traditional and unconventional funding and resources in support of small-scale fishers are required, compounded with increased public awareness of the importance of small-scale fisheries and stronger inter-institutional coordination. In the context of supporting Members in achieving and reporting on SDGs, FAO has developed an e-learning course for data collection,

¹⁰ www.fao.org/3/ca6973en/CA6973EN.pdf

analysis and reporting on SDG 14.b.1¹¹. In addition, FAO has organised and conducted two¹² workshops on ‘Exploring SDG 14.b and its Indicator 14.b.1’, which were held in Nadi, Fiji from April to May 2019 and Gaeta, Italy in November 2017.

REPORTING CHALLENGES AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

40. Robust, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated monitoring and reporting frameworks will help countries to maximize and track progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in order to ensure that no one is left behind.

41. A critical aspect in measuring progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda is to ensure the availability of high-quality official statistical information. Through improved coverage and availability of accurate information and advice, policymakers and other actors may better analyse the interconnected nature of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, ensuring appropriate allocation of resources, and promoting the sustainable and fair use of natural resources. Substantial efforts have already been made in this regard, but more will be needed to ensure that sufficient human and institutional capacities are regularly available for such monitoring and reporting.

42. Data for fisheries is often produced by line ministries, such as the ministry for fisheries or agriculture, and so is often managed outside of National Statistical Systems, presenting specific challenges for ensuring consistency and comparability. Data and scientific information may be scarce, as experienced in attempts to run robust stock assessment methodologies at country level. Partnerships with RFBs and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) play a key role in data availability, monitoring and reporting, both through direct reporting but also through the technical and scientific support they lend to their member countries.

43. Encouraging and enabling participation of countries in SDG monitoring and reporting may increase ownership and buy-in, enabling virtuous cycles of improved data and progression of objectives. Additional, non-traditional and unconventional funding and information sources need to be explored, such as government budget re-allocation, private sector contributions, including corporate business reporting, or civil society and philanthropic initiatives.

44. The main challenges faced by countries in implementing frameworks for data collection, processing, monitoring and dissemination have been identified as follows:

- I. Lack of technical expertise, in particular for implementing efficient information systems and in analysis.
- II. Difficulty mobilising technical support
- III. Monitoring not properly reflected in budgeting
- IV. Transparency in reporting

45. In addressing these challenges, the following measures to strengthen national statistical capacity should be prioritised:

- I. Clarification of institutional ownership on data and monitoring for SDGs
- II. Tackle institutional and regulatory barriers

¹¹ <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=348>

¹² www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7753en and www.fao.org/3/ca0140en/CA0140EN.pdf

- III. Use of technology to improve data collection, analysis, and accessibility, in fully integrated systems
- IV. Involving stakeholders in data collection, including women and youth, and empower them with services that improve their livelihoods and facilitate ownership
- V. Identification of new data sources and technologies such as remote sensing, to guide SDG implementation
- VI. Mobilizing support through partnerships
- VII. Continued cooperation with RFBs and RFMOs

46. In addition to the above, the COVID-19 pandemic is intensifying data scarcity problems when timely reliable information has become even more essential for immediate policy responses and for monitoring national and international capacity agendas.

47. To combat the impact of the pandemic on both data collection and livelihood of people, in terms of food insecurity and disruptions to the food systems, FAO is providing technical assistance and capacity support in a number of areas, including in fisheries and aquaculture¹³.

48. FAO capacity development work aims primarily to enable countries to improve the sustainability of the management of their resources, including by accurate monitoring of resources and fishing activities, estimation of adequate indicators and preparation of scientific and technical advice according to internationally agreed methodologies and standards, both for the country's internal use and for reporting to relevant international fora, as discussed in this document.

49. In particular for the indicators described, FAO has organised global and regional training workshops and is providing guidance for national monitoring, through guidelines and e-learning courses, the identification of reporting systems, including standard data collection frameworks, software (CCRF questionnaires, Calipseo), by using existing partnerships (e.g. FIRMS) and through innovative technologies (e.g. Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries, SDG14.4.1 Stock Monitoring Tool).

50. For this purpose, FAO has established a Multi-Donor Umbrella Programme to fill capacity gaps in National Statistical Systems and enable countries to produce and use SDG indicators effectively. The Programme will help countries monitor progress for SDG targets related to hunger and food security, sustainable agriculture and management of natural resources, through improved monitoring based on higher quality and granular data. Partner countries will produce and disseminate more comprehensive and comparable data on SDG indicators, enabling them to design effective evidence-based national policies and strategies to meet SDG targets. Cooperation with regional fisheries management organizations and regional seas convention can play a fundamental role in fostering consistency and comparability of country approaches towards monitoring and reporting frameworks.

III. SELECT STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING TO THE 2030 AGENDA

A. VISION AND STRATEGY FOR FAO'S WORK IN NUTRITION

51. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development challenges countries to eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition. Better nutrition offers one of the greatest developmental opportunities in the world today. Good nutrition is crucial for resilience and health and for the body to defend itself or recover from disease. Good nutrition is also critical to reduce the risk of overweight, obesity, and non-

¹³ www.fao.org/fishery/covid19/en

communicable disease (NCD). Nutrition plays a major role in advancing the attainment of goals throughout the SDGs, such as ending hunger (2.1), advancing sustainable agriculture (2.3-2.5), reducing premature death from NCDs (3.4) and child and maternal mortality (3.1, 3.2), tackling poverty (1.1 and 1.2), reducing climate change, biodiversity and soil loss (14 and 15), and advancing gender equality (5) and inclusive economic growth (8).

52. Healthy diets are the cornerstone of good nutrition for today and for future generations. Part of the mandate of FAO is to raise levels of nutrition and the organization has a clear leadership role in ensuring healthy diets are available, affordable, and accessible to all.

53. The expertise of FAO in nutrition, fisheries and aquaculture is critical to fulfilling this leadership role. A healthy diet must include sufficient protein, essential fatty acids (EPA/DHA), vitamins and minerals. Fish and other aquatic foods are a rich source of these nutrients and therefore have the potential to address issues with hidden hunger – micronutrient deficiencies that exist in undernourished and over-nourished populations – affecting two billion people globally. Consumption of fish in the first 1,000 days of life is associated with positive outcomes for neurocognitive development and decreased stunting in children. However, fish consumption should be encouraged throughout the whole life cycle.

54. In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the environmental impact of food production as the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one-quarter of the entire burden of disease could be avoided through improved ecosystem management. In this regard, the EAT-Lancet planetary health guidelines promote consumption of sustainably-produced animal proteins such as fish, however leaving questions around trade-offs between different animal source foods and how fisheries and aquaculture can meet growing demand, especially in nutritionally vulnerable populations. Dietary guidelines targeting different populations in different countries can be adapted based on culture and food supply in order to provide specific recommendations on which types of fish and aquatic foods are beneficial to eat for each population group and which types should be consumed in moderation or avoided.

55. Aquaculture has grown in response to the increasing demand for fish, and FAO data show that supply of fish for human consumption from aquaculture now has surpassed that from capture fisheries. Information on consumer preferences and affordability of different fish species can better inform fish production for nutritionally vulnerable populations. In addition, both small and large-scale fisheries can be important enablers of food security and nutrition in developing countries, in particular when their activity is oriented towards the production and commercialization of inexpensive, easily stored and transported (e.g., dried, cured, smoked and canned) fish for local or regional markets.

56. The world is now in a critical moment for nutrition. Hunger is on the rise and countries are still struggling to overcome the challenge of undernutrition while simultaneously overweight and obesity are becoming one of the most serious threats to global public health. Moreover, climate pressure may have a disproportional impact on vulnerable groups, exacerbating and possibly even deepening malnutrition, but fisheries and aquaculture can play a large role, in particular in ensuring that vulnerable populations continue to have access to fish in their diets.

57. Furthermore, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is at its mid-point and the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development leading to the 2030 deadline to deliver on SDGs has begun. For this reason, in April 2019, the FAO Council approved the development of an updated Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition (hereafter referred to as "the Strategy") to be informed by the Evaluation of FAO's Work on nutrition and responsive to the new global context. The Strategy will frame FAO's work to ensure that its direct and indirect impact on diet and nutrition are better understood and reflected in FAO's provision of policy and regulatory guidance to Members on issues related to its mandate including fisheries and aquaculture.

58. The Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN) of FAO is leading the process to update the Strategy. An annotated outline was presented to the Programme Committee (PC) at its 127th session where it was appreciated. The PC recommended to continue with an inclusive consultation process with Members, including a discussion of a draft of the updated Strategy at the 2020 sessions of all FAO Technical Committees, which it considered crucial to its further development.

59. The Strategy has been developed based on inputs and comments gathered through multiple meetings of the Strategy Core Writing Team and wider consultations with an agency-wide Nutrition Strategy Technical Task Team that consists of representatives from all technical divisions and departments based in headquarters and from decentralized offices. The draft of the Strategy (COFI/2020/Inf.11.1) provides the background, scope, guiding principles, vision and mission, outcomes and activities of the Strategy, and outlines its implementation plan.

60. Recognizing the importance of fisheries and aquaculture for healthy diets, and in line with the proposed Strategy, the following points should be considered for inclusion in the Strategy:

- Encourage the consumption of fish and other aquatic foods derived from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, produced in accordance with applicable conservation and management measures, recognizing they are among the most nutrient-rich foods on the planet.
- Include fish and other aquatic foods in sustainable food systems policies and actions given its potential to address malnutrition in all its forms and ensure that aquatic foods are reaching those that need them most.
- Promote policies that support and recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in food security, nutrition, employment and income.
- Improve data collection and analysis on aquatic food consumption, nutrient composition and contaminant analysis.
- Support capacity of governments, institutions and communities, including women and disadvantaged groups, to develop, policies and innovations that enhance the contribution of fish and other aquatic foods to food security and nutrition.

B. MAINSTREAMING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

61. Following recent discussions^{14,15} of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (SC:AQ) FAO has strengthened work and partnerships for sustainable aquaculture development and the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda in aquaculture policies and practices¹⁶.

62. FAO launched regional consultative processes on the development of Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture based on deliberations of SC:AQ Members¹⁷ and the 2019 expert consultation¹⁸ on the development of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture, focusing on best practices, success stories

¹⁴ FAO. 2019. Report of the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Trondheim, Norway, 23–27 August 2019. www.fao.org/3/ca7417t/CA7417T.pdf;

¹⁵ FAO. 2018. Report of the ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. Rome, Italy, 24–27 October 2017. www.fao.org/3/I8886T/I8886t.pdf;

¹⁶ FAO. 2017. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: The challenge for aquaculture development and management. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1141, Rome, Italy. www.fao.org/3/a-i7808e.pdf

¹⁷ FAO. 2019. Special event on better management practices and guidelines for sustainable aquaculture development; Trondheim, Norway, 23–27 August 2019. <http://www.fao.org/3/na137en/na137en.pdf>

¹⁸ FAO. 2019. Expert consultation on the development of sustainable aquaculture guidelines. Rome, Italy, 17–20 June 2019 www.fao.org/3/na410en/na410en.pdf

and regional case studies of aquaculture. The first regional consultation¹⁹ covered aquaculture in Africa, with similar consultations to follow in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

63. To realize the maximum contributions of the aquaculture sector towards achieving the targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030²⁰, coordinated and accelerated actions are required²¹. Recognizing the critical need to generate and exchange reliable information on sustainable aquaculture development, FAO, at the request of its Members, collaborating with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, are organizing the Global Conference²² on Aquaculture Millennium+20, scheduled for September 2021, in Shanghai, China. Governments, business, academia and civil society will discuss the theme "Aquaculture for Food and Sustainable Development".

64. Ongoing activities in support of the Conference include the development of:

- Six regional aquaculture reviews and a global synthesis of aquaculture development²³;
- Thematic working papers for conference panel sessions covering aquaculture systems and innovations, transforming aquaculture to achieve SDGs, feeds and feeding, aquatic genetic resources and seed supply, biosecurity and aquatic animal health management, aquaculture policies, planning and sectoral governance, social and human dimensions, value chains and market access for aquaculture products;
- The Shanghai Declaration – a key Conference output which will represent a road map to optimize the role that aquaculture will play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and meet the pledge of *leaving no one behind*.

C. BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE SUPPORT FOR ACHIEVING AGENDA 2030

65. The Blue Growth Initiative is an innovative, integrated and multi-sectoral approach to the management and use of aquatic resources. It aims to restore the productive potential of the oceans and inland waters by strengthening policy, responsible management regimes and practices to reconcile economic growth and food security with the conservation of natural ecosystems that support that productive potential. Blue Growth as a critical pathway for countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by shared synergies with the objectives and precepts of the 2030 Agenda, further implementation of the Blue Growth Initiative will aid in monitoring and progressing the SDGs. This is through application of binding and non-binding FAO instruments, to establish the necessary mechanisms and procedures to monitor and report on Members' progress towards achieving the SDGs.

66. Through incorporation of instruments such as the PSMA and the SSF Guidelines, as well as the Bangkok Declaration²⁴ and the Phuket Consensus²⁵ on sustainable aquaculture development, the Blue Growth Initiative incorporates fisheries and aquaculture into Blue Economy programmes in Members,

¹⁹ FAO. 2020. Report of Regional Consultation on the development of Guidelines of Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA), Bamako, Mali, 29–30 November 2019. *Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1319*. Rome. www.fao.org/3/cb0280en/CB0280EN.pdf

²⁰ FAO. 2017. Aquaculture, the sustainable development goals (SDGs)/Agenda 2030 and FAO's Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. Rome, 24–27 October 2017. www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fira/COFI-SAC/documents/Doc5/MU416_COFI_AQ_IX_2017_5_en.pdf

²¹ FAO. 2018. Transforming Food and Agriculture to achieve the SDGs -20 interconnected actions to guide decision-makers. www.fao.org/3/I9900EN/i9900en.pdf

²² GCA 2020, originally planned for October 2020 had to be postponed to 22-27 September 2021; see www.aquaculture2020.org

²³ FAO. 2020. Path to the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium +20. Presentation of the draft Regional Aquaculture Reviews and State of World Aquaculture 2020. Webinars 26 – 29 October 2020; for video recordings see: www.aquaculture2020.org

²⁴ www.fao.org/3/ab980e/ab980e00.htm

²⁵ www.fao.org/3/a-ad351e.pdf

and ensures the sector actively contributes towards achieving the various goals under the 2030 Agenda.

67. A Blue Growth Initiative example was the development of a Blue Growth Charter and Strategy in Cabo Verde with the support of the African Development Bank, that integrates fisheries and aquaculture into the decision/making process. Stakeholders from all economic sectors associated with the ocean participated in this process, which aims to make better use of ocean resources and ensure social, economic and environmental sustainability. A similar approach exists in Sao Tome and Principe.

68. The Blue Hope in the Mediterranean Sea is another Blue Growth Initiative project that pursues integrated multi-sectoral programmes through a Blue Growth lens. Turkey, Algeria and Tunisia participate in the project, which seeks intersectoral and interdisciplinary dialogue to reduce conflicts, impacts and inefficiencies to generate synergies between sectors and institutions. The project is also developing inclusive investment plans to ensure long-term viability of fisheries.

69. Other Blue Growth projects to help Members achieve the SDGs include the Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Blue Growth in the Western Indian Ocean funded by the Kingdom of Sweden, and the GEF funded project to Enhance Blue Economy through Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem.

70. As part of its work on the Blue Growth Initiative, FAO has proposed the development of guidance on international best practices for Blue ports; that is fishing ports aiming to transition to blue growth models. The implementation of a Blue Growth framework in the operations of fishing ports would contribute to their long-term sustainability and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Blue Ports is envisioned as a multi-UN initiative with the involvement of agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), WTO, World Customs Organization (WCO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

71. As key arteries in the seafood value chain, appropriate policy implementation for ports may catalyse the implementation of holistic approaches that emphasise environmental sustainability, while also furthering fair economic growth.

72. In the interest of further defining the role of Blue ports and their contribution to the 2030 Agenda, a meeting with industry and government stakeholders was held in Vigo in November 2019²⁶. Outputs from this meeting may be further developed through the identification of areas of port operations and management that may best make use of existing international instruments and approaches related to social, economic and environmental sustainability. As a follow-up, a dedicated webinar was organized in September 2020²⁷.

73. To support stakeholder involvement and participation, a Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture Platform (SFAP) is proposed as a hub to generate public and private sectors collaboration to solve sustainability challenges in fisheries and aquaculture. The Platform would be a meeting point for public and private stakeholders to address global challenges and propose global responses using the implementation of Agenda 2030 as a roadmap.

74. Finally, to further support stakeholders, governments and institutions on the transition to Blue Growth, FAO has published a series of Blue Finance guidance notes. The notes cover subjects such as

²⁶ www.unioviado.es/blueports2019/

²⁷ www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/news-events/details-events/en/c/1311051/

blue bonds²⁸, blended finance²⁹, impact investment³⁰, micro-finance for small-scale fisheries³¹, insurance for small-scale fisheries³², and aquaculture insurance for small producers³³. The guidance notes attempt to clarify critical investments gaps required for fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

²⁸ FAO 2020. Blue finance guidance notes. Blue bonds. Rome, Italy. 10p.
www.fao.org/3/ca8745en/ca8745en.pdf

²⁹ FAO 2020. Blue finance guidance notes. Blended finance. Rome, Italy. 10p.
www.fao.org/3/ca8744en/CA8744EN.pdf

³⁰ FAO 2020. Blue finance guidance notes. Impact investment. Rome, Italy. 10p
www.fao.org/3/ca8740en/CA8740EN.pdf

³¹ FAO 2020. Blue finance guidance notes. Microfinance for small-scale fisheries. Rome, Italy. 14p.
www.fao.org/3/ca8645en/CA8645EN.pdf

³² FAO 2020. Blue finance guidance notes. Insurance for small-scale fisheries. Rome, Italy. 12p.
www.fao.org/3/ca8646en/CA8646EN.pdf

³³ FAO 2020. Blue finance guidance notes. Aquaculture insurance for small-scale producers. Rome, Italy. 10p.
www.fao.org/3/ca8663en/CA8663EN.pdf

Annex 1

SELECT EXAMPLES OF FAO'S WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE CONTRIBUTING TO SDGs

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger



FAO and partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America are working to develop nutrition-sensitive fish agri-food systems to ensure fisheries and aquaculture programmes are able to premeditate, measure, and monitor and evaluate the nutritional impacts of such food system activities.

SDG 1 and 3 - No Poverty, Good Health and Well-Being



FTT-Thiaroye³⁴ ovens were developed by FAO and partners, and introduced in 2014 in Côte d'Ivoire as a simple, but efficient, alternative to traditional fish smoking. The ovens burn cleaner and require less wood for smoking with multiple benefits for women: healthier working environment, lower instances of respiratory problems, better quality of products that also fetch higher prices, and extra time to attend literacy classes.

SDG 5 - Gender Equality



A Norwegian-funded component of an FAO fisheries programme in Somalia focused on the need to build better and safer vessels, replacing the unsafe boats used by the majority of small-scale coastal fishers. The new vessels, built to FAO safety standards, are constructed by Somalis including women who were selected to learn valuable vessel building skills.

“Doing aquaculture as business” project helped youth, women in Africa for jobs in hatchery, grow out farming, and value chain. In Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania, thousands of jobs were created through aquaculture so as to improve income, nutrition and wellbeing.

SDG 6 and 15 - Clean Water and Sanitation and Life on Land



In Algeria, Egypt and Oman water is a challenge along with shortages of good quality soil; however, integrated agri-aquaculture (IAA) is a solution for producing vegetables, fruits and other food. IAA can produce locally grown food rich in protein and minerals, without intensive water use. Through FAO-organized farmer-to-farmer study tours, Algerian, Egyptian and Omani farmers visited 15 IAA farms, learning new tips and techniques from each other.

³⁴ www.fao.org/gender/insights/detail/en/c/458484/



SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

Adopted in 2015, Cabo Verde's Blue Growth Charter prioritizes environmental, economic and social development of ocean related priorities. These priorities include climate change research, conservation of sharks, developing marine protected areas, strengthening fisheries communities, improving the quality of fish products, empowering women's groups to market their fish directly to restaurants, improving marine transport networks for tourism, and creating jobs for young people who are often forced to seek work abroad.



SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Building back the Filipino fishing fleet following the 2013 typhoon that damaged 30000 boats, resulted in a hybrid banca vessel, a more efficient and safer one that remains faithful to traditional designs. This new vessel, which local workers were trained to build, is constructed with a fibreglass keel to full FAO safety standards rather than the traditional wooden structure. Innovation that minimizes resource use still appealed to tradition and gained acceptance by the local fishing communities.



SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean is working with six countries to reduce bycatch and promote more responsible fisheries practices. The project also addresses reducing food losses and encourages sustainable livelihoods by improving the management of bycatch and minimizing discards and sea-bed damage. In this way, the project can transform bottom trawl fisheries into responsible fisheries.



SDG 13 - Climate Action

FAO focused attention on reducing fuel use with links to greenhouse gas mitigation from capture fisheries in Thailand to provide multiple economic and environmental benefits. Interviews with the captains showed limited understanding of the important role these can play in lowering fuel consumption, and how practices in Thai trawl fishing vessels can help the industry decrease greenhouse gas emissions, thereby lowering their carbon footprint.



SDG 14 - Life Below Water

SDG 14 encompasses more than ocean conservation by focusing on people and coastal communities who rely on marine resources. As such, FAO's blue growth activities under SDG 14 reach across the SDGs in order to establish and address linkages of SDG 14 with other 2030 Agenda targets,

particularly SDG 1, no poverty, SDG 2, zero hunger, and SDG 8, decent work and economic growth.

The Blue Growth Initiative supports countries with information on optimum levels of fishing, aquaculture expansion, fair and secure access to living aquatic resources and markets for sustainable development. Further, the Blue Growth Initiative supports capacity building for implementing binding and non-binding instruments negotiated with Members that can help achieve the objectives of SDG 14, including the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, and eco-labelling guidelines.



SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

The Nansen Programme, a partnership between the Norway Institute of Marine Research and FAO, provides a platform for many developing countries that lack the proper infrastructure to conduct marine research independently and to obtain critical information key to their reporting on SDG 14 achievements. A Triangular cooperation project initiated by FAO, the Netherlands and China aims to improve the capacity of the FAO reference center for aquaculture and inland fisheries and support the aquaculture value chain in Ethiopia. Private sector dialogue with the other stakeholders is key to achieving Agenda 2030 and FAO hopes to engage the sector by establishing the Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture Platform (SFAP).