



COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

Eighteenth Session

Written Correspondence Procedure: 8 April to 8 May 2022

Virtual Plenary sessions: 7, 8, 9 and 20 June 2022

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: SCOPING PAPER AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Executive Summary

This document presents the scoping paper requested by Members during the 17th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI:FT) and the proposed roadmap for developing the work of FAO on social responsibility. The scoping paper provides information on social responsibility in the context of the fisheries and aquaculture value chain. It includes the FAO mandate, background information, the significant challenges the sector faces, key stakeholders, identification of relevant existing international instruments and tools, and other ongoing work and processes.

Suggested action by the Sub-Committee

- Share national experiences and ongoing projects of relevance to social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, including the main challenges and the benefits of implementing better social practices by Members;
- Provide suggestions and recommendations on the development of the FAO Guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain;
- Present comments or adjustments to the proposed roadmap for the development of the FAO Guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, including alternative timeframes; and
- Consider the provision of financial support to FAO to continue the development of the FAO Guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, considering its relevance for gender and small-scale fisheries.

INTRODUCTION

1. In 2017, during the 16th Session of COFI:FT in Busan, the Republic of Korea, a specific agenda item on social sustainability allowed Members to recognize the complexity and importance of addressing social issues in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, with an emphasis on the cognizance and protection of human and labour rights at both national and international levels.¹

2. One year later, during the 33rd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI),² the development of guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain was requested by Members. The guidance would aim to promote decent work and the recognition of human and labour rights in the sector and be developed in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.

3. In 2019, at the 17th Session of COFI:FT³ in Vigo, Spain, FAO submitted a first working document on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain,⁴ presenting the process and development of the FAO Guidance. Members recommended that FAO continue the work in close consultation with Members, providing specific information about the main challenges faced by the fisheries and aquaculture sector and identifying relevant existing international instruments, tools, key stakeholders, and other ongoing work and associated processes.

4. In 2021, at its 34th Session, COFI called for FAO to continue the work on the development of a practical guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, in cooperation with relevant specialized agencies and stakeholders, within the basic principles of being specific, voluntary, non-binding and based on existing international instruments and guidelines.

5. During that Session, Members endorsed the COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture⁵ (the COFI Declaration), reiterating the commitments towards the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). The declaration emphasizes the effective implementation of relevant binding and non-binding fisheries and aquaculture international tools and instruments elaborated since the CCRF adoption.

6. Furthermore, the COFI Declaration promotes inclusive and comprehensive attainment of safe, healthy and fair working conditions, supports efforts to prevent and halt forced labour and measures to improve safety at sea, fosters the facilitation of access to social protection programmes for fishers and aquaculture producers and their communities, and works towards enhancing living standards. The COFI Declaration also aims to promote and strengthen policies to support and recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, stressing the importance of the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and the need to ensure women's empowerment.

7. By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Members have committed to leaving no one behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of particular relevance to social responsibility are:

- SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries;

¹ [fao.org/3/a-i8157t.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/a-i8157t.pdf)

² [fao.org/3/ca5184en/ca5184en.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/ca5184en/ca5184en.pdf)

³ [fao.org/3/ca8665t/CA8665T.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/ca8665t/CA8665T.pdf)

⁴ [fao.org/3/nb389en/nb389en.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/nb389en/nb389en.pdf)

⁵ [fao.org/3/nc472en/nc472en.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/nc472en/nc472en.pdf)

- SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE SECTOR

8. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), working in the fisheries sector is one of the three most hazardous occupations.^{6,7} Therefore, having decent working conditions along the fisheries and aquaculture value chain is critical to mitigating risks for the numerous people relying on the sector for their income, livelihood or employment.

9. However, human and labour rights remain a challenge in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Cases of human and labour rights abuses have been found along the value chain, mainly in fish harvesting, farming and processing stages.⁸ Unsustainable practices may trigger different social problems at the various stages of the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, especially for vulnerable people, such as migrant workers, women and children. Additionally, the lack of enforcement of relevant labour legislation is still a major problem in the sector in many countries.

10. The ineffectiveness or absence of social protection, social security or healthcare, the inexistence of formal working relationships (such as work contracts), and inadequate working conditions are all structural problems that are present throughout the fisheries and aquaculture value chain in many regions. As an example, in IUU fishing, migrant workers are more exposed to modern slavery, bondage, forced labour and other abuses.⁹

11. In addition, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has added new health hazards to employment conditions.¹⁰ Disruptions in trade flows have reduced incomes, threatening the livelihoods of many fisheries and aquaculture workers, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in developing countries, including women.¹¹

12. Promoting decent work in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is critical to address these structural and persistent problems while improving trade opportunities, livelihoods and food security.

13. Various international conventions, guidelines and instruments cover human and labour rights to ensure equitable social practices. However, their complexity and diversity create implementation challenges for the sector.

⁶ [ilo.org/global/industries-and-sectors/shipping-ports-fisheries-inland-waterways/fisheries/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/industries-and-sectors/shipping-ports-fisheries-inland-waterways/fisheries/lang--en/index.htm)

⁷ The most hazardous work areas, according to ILO, are construction, mining, and agriculture. Fisheries is included within the agriculture sector. [ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/hazardous-work/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/hazardous-work/lang--en/index.htm)

⁸ doi.org/10.4060/cb5009en

⁹ See the Joint Statement by UN Agencies calling on all Governments to immediately recognize seafarers as key workers, and take swift and effective action to eliminate obstacles to crew changes, so as to address the humanitarian crises faced by the shipping sector, ensure maritime safety and facilitate economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. (2020). [ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/statement/wcms_759938.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/statement/wcms_759938.pdf)

¹⁰ For more information about the implication of the COVID-19 pandemic regarding social issues in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains, see doi.org/10.4060/cb5009en

¹¹ doi.org/10.4060/cb5009en

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

14. Social responsibility throughout the fisheries and aquaculture value chain encompasses all stakeholders in the sector, from small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to industrial ones, from individuals organized in cooperatives to large corporations, international organizations, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs),¹² among others¹³.

15. Some of the leading international organizations with direct or indirect linkages with social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain are:

ORGANIZATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)	The HLPF is the leading United Nations (UN) platform on sustainable development with a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.
International Labour Organization (ILO)	The ILO promotes social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights by setting labour standards, developing policies and devising programmes promoting decent work for all. ILO is the only tripartite UN agency, bringing together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States since its establishment in 1919.
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	The IMO is a specialized agency of the UN responsible for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping by creating a fair and effective regulatory framework, universally adopted and implemented.
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	The IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization promoting since 1951 humane and orderly migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. It plays a pivotal role in supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through different areas of intervention that connect both humanitarian assistance and sustainable development.
Organization for Economic, Co-operation and Development (OECD)	The OECD aims to stimulate economic progress and world trade by shaping policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all. It works on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges in cooperation with governments, policymakers and citizens.
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	UNCTAD supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively, equipping countries to deal with the potential drawbacks of greater economic integration. UNCTAD provides analysis, facilitates consensus-building, and offers technical assistance so that countries can use trade, investment, finance, and technology as vehicles for inclusive and sustainable development.
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime, promoting peace and sustainable well-being, health, security and justice for all as deterrents to these threats.
UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR)	OHCHR is the leading UN entity on human rights, representing the world's commitment to promoting and protecting the full range of human rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has a unique role to promote and protect all human rights, help empower people, assist governments and inject a human rights perspective into all UN programmes.

¹² RFMOs have mandates to adopt international legally binding conservation and management measures concerning fishing operations and associated activities based on scientific evidence. The regional dimension is key to international fisheries management policy in order to encourage sustainable practices, and improved management and governance.

¹³ There are other key stakeholders worldwide involved in the fishers and aquaculture sectors and others that are not directly in the sector but are also relevant. For more information, please see COFI:FT/XVIII/2022/Inf.6.

ORGANIZATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
UN Global Compact	UN Global Compact is a non-binding United Nations pact to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and report on their implementation by mobilizing a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders. The UN Global Compact supports companies to do business responsibly by aligning their strategies and operations with its ten principles ¹⁴ and taking strategic actions to advance broader societal goals, such as the SDGs, emphasizing collaboration and innovation. The UN Global Compact Ten Principles address human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption;
The World Bank Group	The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries, committed to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity and promoting sustainable development.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS

16. There are many relevant international instruments for enhancing socially responsible practices throughout the fisheries and aquaculture value chain. These include:¹⁵

ORGANIZATION	NAME
UN	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
	UNCLOS – United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
ILO	C188 – Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)
	Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended ¹⁶
	R199 - Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199)
	Guidelines on flag State inspection of working and living conditions on board fishing vessels
	Guidelines for Port State Control Officers Carrying out Inspections under the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No.188)
	Guidelines for implementing the occupational safety and health provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
	Guidelines on the training of ships' cooks
	Guidelines on training in the port sector
	Guidelines for flag State inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
	Guidelines for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
	The flexibility clauses of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) (working paper)
	Code of Practice - Safety and health in ports

¹⁴ unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles

¹⁵ There are also other international tools and instruments crucial to this work. For more information, please see COFI:FT/XVIII/2022/Inf.6.

¹⁶ This Convention applies to all ships, whether publicly or privately owned, ordinarily engaged in commercial activities, other than ships engaged in fishing or in similar pursuits and ships of traditional build such as dhows and junks. Of particular relevance are fish carriers, processing vessels and support vessels.

ORGANIZATION	NAME
IMO	STCW-F Convention – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Personnel
	Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1993
	Cape Town Agreement, 2012
	SOLAS - International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
FAO	CCRF - Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
	VGSSF - Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
	PSMA – Agreement on Port State Measures
	CDS – Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes
	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security
FAO/ILO/IMO	Safety Recommendations for Decked Fishing Vessels of Less than 12 meters in Length and Undecked Fishing Vessels
	Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels
	Code of safety for fishermen and fishing vessels. Part A, “Safety and health practices for skippers and crews” and Part B, “Safety and health requirements for the construction and equipment of fishing vessels
	Implementation Guidelines on Part B of the Code, the Voluntary Guidelines and the Safety Recommendations
	Joining forces to shape the fishery sector of tomorrow Promoting safety and decent work in fisheries through the application of international standards.
FAO/ILO	Guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – ONGOING WORK AND PROCESSES

17. There are many international, regional and national initiatives promoting improvement of social and labour conditions in the sector. These include:¹⁷

Name	Short Description
Sustainable Oceans Project	Sustainable Oceans is a global project initiated in 2018 and led by the Danish Institute of Human Rights (DIHR) to promote human rights and sustainability in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, particularly involving small-scale fishers and fish workers.
Social Benchmark Tool	In 2018, the Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) of the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) announced its collaboration with the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) to provide a benchmark and recognition tool for social compliance in the fisheries sector. The social benchmark tool will consider the specificities of the fisheries sector and the unique nature of work in food harvesting.

¹⁷ There are also ongoing initiatives and projects at regional and national levels. These have not been included in the document, as the intention is to provide a global overview.

Name	Short Description
Responsible Tuna Fishing (APR) Certification	The Responsible Tuna Fishing (or APR) Certification – Chain of Custody guarantees that traceability is fulfilled under the UNE 195006 Standard and it operates under a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) identified as comprehensive by the Fishery Progress organization.
Seafood Ethics Action Alliance (SEA Alliance)	The Seafood Ethics Action Alliance (SEA Alliance) has been established by seafood businesses, and it is part of the SeaFish activities. It provides a platform for the industry to agree on best practice solutions in response to ethical issues in the supply chain and enable pre-competitive action. In addition, SeaFish is also associated with the Seafood Ethics Common Language Group, Fishermen’s Welfare Alliance and the development of tools such as the Responsible Fishing Scheme, Responsible Fishing Ports Scheme and the tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing (TESS).
The Pillars of the Sea: Joint Action of the European Social Partners in the Fishing Sector	The project consists of partially implementing the work programme of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Sea Fishing, which deals with improving health, working conditions and safety at sea of fishers.
The Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability (SALT)	SALT is a global community of governments, the seafood industry, and non-governmental organizations working together to share ideas and collaborate on legal and sustainable seafood solutions, focusing on traceability through supply chains. SALT is a public-private partnership.
RISE - Decent work for all workers in seafood supply chains	RISE is a free online resource created by FishWise to help companies navigate challenges and create the conditions for decent work across the seafood industry. RISE includes industry-specific and actionable guidance, relevant tools and resources, and access to a community of human and labour rights experts.
SeaBoS Initiative: The Keystone dialogue	SeaBOS is a collaboration between scientists and leading seafood companies across capture fishing, aquaculture and feed production sectors, seeking a global transformation towards sustainable seafood production and healthy oceans.
Human Rights at Sea Arbitration	It aims to provide victims of human rights abuses at sea with the ability to enforce their rights through an international arbitration-based mechanism of recourse, which provides access to an effective remedy and combat impunity.
The MarinTrust Standard	The MarinTrust Programme (formerly the Global Standard for Responsible Supply – IFFO RS) is an initiative of the Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd certifying plants complying with social regulations and instruments set by ILO, where social and welfare rights of employees in marine ingredient producing factories are protected.
Sustainability Incubator	Sustainability Incubator provides a risk-based due diligence framework and works with companies to prevent losses and protect gains by reducing current risks and threats, focusing on operations. It provides supply chain maps to ensure that products are safe, legally compliant and that providers fulfil human and women’s rights and sustainability requirements in their facilities.
Too Big To Ignore Project	Too Big To Ignore is a global research network and knowledge mobilization partnership that focuses on addressing issues and concerns affecting the viability and sustainability of small-scale fisheries. Its objectives are to understand the importance of small-scale fisheries to livelihoods, poverty alleviations and food security; explore the contribution of small-scale fisheries to economic development, sustainability and community viability; improve associated policy discussions and decision-making; strengthen knowledge on small-scale fisheries, build capacity in research and governance, and advance the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

Name	Short Description
Seafood Task Force	The Seafood Task Force (formerly the Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Task Force) comprises seafood processors, feed producers, buyers, retailers, government representatives and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to address issues surrounding labour and illegal fishing, currently focusing on the seas around Thailand. It promotes the common interests of its members through the application of social and environmental related standards within Thailand's seafood supply chain.
EU IUU Fishing Coalition	The Coalition assists the European Union and its Member States with improving measures to prevent seafood products originated from IUU fishing from entering markets and works to strengthen the EU's external fleet regulatory framework.
The FISH Standard	The FISH Standard provides a voluntary, independent and accredited third-party certification program for labour practices on vessels of wild-capture fisheries around the globe.
FiTI Standard	The FiTI Standard provides governments, the fishing industry, and civil society with a comprehensive way to achieve and maintain high levels of transparency on the management of the marine fisheries sector and the activities of fishers and fishing companies, including labour standards.

FAO WORK ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN¹⁸

18. Since the mandate on social sustainability conferred by Members in 2017, FAO has been working on developing practical guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain. During the development process, FAO conducted several multi-stakeholder consultations worldwide to identify the gaps and needs of the sector. Representatives from the industry, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trade unions, international organizations, and academia, among others, attended these consultations. These consultations were instrumental for FAO to draft a proposal to develop the guidance.¹⁹

19. In 2021, FAO organized a series of informal virtual regional consultations with Members to present and discuss the ongoing work associated with the FAO Guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain.²⁰ The informal consultations were attended by 148 experts and representatives from 66 Members, including the ILO, IMO and UNCTAD.

20. At the end of the series of informal consultations, common conclusions were identified:²¹

- 1) The main challenges faced by the fisheries and aquaculture sector are (i) precarious and unsafe labour conditions, such as low salaries, long working hours, marginalization, and abuse of vulnerable people; (ii) the lack of enforcement and compliance with existing policies and standards; and (iii) the high competitiveness and complexity of the value chains;
- 2) The FAO Guidance can be a helpful tool serving the private sector and supporting governments.

¹⁸ For more information about other work on social responsibility by FAO, please see COFI:FT/XVIII/2022/Inf.6.

¹⁹ fao.org/3/ca8665t/CA8665T.pdf

²⁰ FAO organised 8 informal regional consultations from June to August 2021 – Europe, Central Asia, Africa, Near East and North Africa, South America, Caribbean/Brazil/United States of America and Canada, Mesoamerica and Asia/Oceania. The consultations were conducted in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese, as well as the documents shared with participants were translated into the six UN official languages.

²¹ For more detail information about the outcome, see the COFI:FT/XVIII/2022/Inf.6.

- 3) The nature of the FAO Guidance should be comprehensive, risk-based, practical, voluntary, user-friendly and written in simple language, covering human and labour rights with a due diligence approach. The FAO Guidance should also consider the entire fish value chain, including aquaculture, and be built only on existing international instruments and standards. The FAO Guidance is not introducing new obligations but only consolidating existing requirements for a practical application in the sector.

World Fisheries Day

21. Every November since 2011, FAO and the Holy See celebrate World Fisheries Day with a specific event to reiterate the importance of improving and ensuring decent work in the fisheries sector. In 2021, it was focused on decent work and other human rights within the context of the social challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The event brings together panellists from different countries to explore ways forward and identify areas for cooperation towards achieving this end.

Regional Technical Seminars on IUU Fishing

22. FAO and the Apostleship of the Sea/Stella Maris (in collaboration with Regional Fishery Bodies, ILO, IMO, International Transport Federation (ITF), International Union of Food Workers (IUF), International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), and Pew Trusts), following recommendations from the 3rd Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing and Related Matters (JWG)²² and a specific call during the celebration of the 2016 World Fisheries Day, set a series of three regional technical seminars to promote better working and living conditions in the fisheries sector, through developing joint approaches dealing with safety, decent work and the fight against IUU fishing.

23. The first regional technical seminar was held in Manila, the Philippines in (March 2018)²³, Mahé, Seychelles (May 2019)²⁴ and Accra, Ghana (October 2019)²⁵. Participants included different government agencies (fisheries, labour, maritime), trade unions, employer representatives, national human rights institutions, faith-based organizations and small-scale fishers' organizations. The events addressed international legal instruments on safety, working conditions, responsible fisheries, and identifying priority areas for each region, including the adoption of calls for action.

24. FAO is also initiating work on the role of RFMOs and Regional Fisheries Agreement (RFAs) to promote and ensure safety and decent working conditions within the fleets under their management regimes to increase awareness and build the necessary capacity to develop an integrated framework.

The Blue Forum

25. The Blue Forum is a hub to engage public and private stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to address the challenge of sustainability, including labour protection and decent work throughout the value chain.

26. In 2021, the Vigo Dialogue addressing the social dimension in the sector merged with the Blue Forum, which is part of the Blue Ports Initiative²⁶. Since 2014, FAO has organized the Vigo Dialogue annually as a multi-stakeholder consultation process to identify the sector's main social problems and challenges to suggest priority actions.

²² [fao.org/iuu-fishing/tools-and-initiatives/joint-working-group-on-iuu-fishing/en/](https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/tools-and-initiatives/joint-working-group-on-iuu-fishing/en/)

²³ [fao.org/3/ca2511en/CA2511EN.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/ca2511en/CA2511EN.pdf)

²⁴ [fao.org/3/ca9214en/ca9214en.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/ca9214en/ca9214en.pdf)

²⁵ [fao.org/3/cb1588en/CB1588EN.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/cb1588en/CB1588EN.pdf)

²⁶ Please refer to COFI:FT/XVIII/2022/Inf.8.

International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAF 2022)

27. FAO is the lead agency for the IYAF 2022, in collaboration with Members and other relevant organizations and bodies of the UN system. The objective of celebrating IYAF 2022 is to focus world attention on the role that small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers play in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and sustainable natural resource use, increasing global understanding and action to support them.

PROPOSED FUTURE WORK

28. In accordance with the mandate conferred by COFI, FAO proposes the continuation of the development of the FAO Guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, in collaboration with Members, other relevant UN Agencies, particularly with ILO and IMO, and other stakeholders. All the inputs received in multiple events since 2019 have only reinforced the importance and benefits of having such guidance.

29. The continuation of this FAO work to draft the Guidance will encompass different stages of the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, compiling existing relevant international instruments and tools to support and inform the industry. The Guidance will be voluntary in nature, non-binding, practical, risk-based, focused on the private sector and adopt human and labour rights due diligence approach to foster equitable social practices. The Guidance can also serve as a relevant tool for other stakeholders interested in supporting and ensuring social responsibility compliance in fisheries and aquaculture supply chains.

30. To carry out this work, FAO is proposing the following roadmap:

2022	COFI:FT June	Presentation of a Working Document containing the scoping paper requested by Members in the last COFI:FT Session and the overall work plan for the topic development in FAO, including inputs received. Discussion of the scoping paper within COFI:FT, including general principles and boundaries of the work. Possible endorsement of the roadmap.
		Consultation with COFI Bureau Members to present and discuss the results of COFI:FT.
	COFI 35 September	Presentation of a Working Document reporting the results of the COFI:FT Session, including the general principles to be followed in the development of the guidance, its voluntary nature, the focus on the private sector, and the boundaries to be observed.
2022–2024		Organization of consultations to develop the FAO Guidance (the central part of the Guidance, including the principles), with the possibility of expert consultation(s). Organization of technical consultation to discuss with Members the draft FAO Guidance (possible endorsement). Development of the six appendices encompassing the entire fish value chain by the COFI:FT Secretariat, in consultation with experts.
2023	COFI:FT (date to be determined)	Presentation of a Working Document to COFI:FT with the current stage of development, including the results of the consultations.
2024	COFI 36	Presentation of a Working Document to COFI informing all the processes carried out to drafting the guidance with the draft guidance for endorsement.