



LDAC recommendations for the EU position on FAO COFI 2016
Preparatory Meeting with DG MARE
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1. The implementation of the FAO 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

- The LDAC believes that it is important to promote the development and implementation of international standards for safe, healthy, decent and fair working and living conditions (as per art 6.17 of the Code). UNFSA resumed review Conference agreed in New York in May 2016 to include in its recommendations, under the duties of the flag State, those in relation to labour conditions onboard fishing vessels, including encouraging flag States to become parties to the ILO Work in Fishing Convention No 188 - C188. The EU should seek to promote such ratification at COFI.

- Transparency is recognized as key element for sound fisheries management (as per art 7.1.9 of the Code). The EU should promote transparency, in particular when it comes to the publication of fishing agreements, recognizing EU's efforts to promote transparency through SFPAs.

2. Report of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade

- Trade in Fisheries Services

The EU should support the Sub-Committee request that the development of a framework for trade in fisheries services by FAO should take into account environmental, socio-economic, food security, human rights and democratic aspects of access arrangements.

- Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on sustainable small scale fisheries

The EU should support the Sub-Committee view about the need to ensure the actual implementation of the SSF Guidelines, and for the FAO to provide assistance in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the national level, including on social aspects, value addition, market development, trade policy, infrastructure improvement and stakeholder organization.

It is also positive that the Sub-Committee noted that the extent of regional trade is often underestimated especially in Africa, and would welcome better documentation of the nature, extent and importance of this trade.



3. Catch documentation Schemes: the LDAC fully supports the EU approach to have a robust, efficient, non-discriminatory catch certificate.
- Concerning the proposal made by some FAO members to automatically replace national catch certificates by regional/multilateral ones: although we recognize the need to avoid duplication of certification, we are of the opinion that the replacement of a national catch certificate by a regional/multilateral one should not be made in an automatic manner and should only be done if there is equivalence of provisions between the national and regional/multilateral catch certificate, to avoid a lowering of standards.
 - Concerning the proposal made by some FAO members that the validation of catch certificates could be done by flag states and coastal states (so to enable easier certification of the catches from chartered vessels operations), we feel it is important to stress that it is the flag states which bear the responsibility of monitoring their vessels (in line with ITLOS recent decision) and therefore should be the ones validating the catch certificates.
 - We fully support the position of the EU promoting the FAO Global Record of Fishing vessels as well as the need for a Unique Identifier Vessel through application for an IMO Number.
 - The LDAC is very much in favour of electronic catch documentation schemes (AIS, ERS, and including e-catch certificates) insofar as possible.
 - The LDAC is in favour of the use of the Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in those fleets where it is possible to do so, and supports the drafting of FAO international guidelines or standards for the EMS, including CCTV systems used there.
4. Role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Follow-up: Nutrition-related implications for fisheries and aquaculture, including loss and waste of food

EU should promote the work undertaken by DG DEVCO (Cooperation for Development) to highlight the importance of fish for food security, including through the study on the importance of small pelagics for food security in West Africa. This study points out the importance to address post-harvest losses in artisanal fisheries, as well as the need to promote sustainable regional management of these resources, in order to promote food security.



5. Item 9. Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

The EU should promote the implementation of the VGSSF at national level, through a participative approach which involves men and women from artisanal fishing communities.

In that context, the EU can highlight the financial support it provides to the African Union/IBAR through its fisheries governance project, dedicated to develop a reform strategy for AU members fisheries and aquaculture policies. In that context, the AU is supporting efforts by fishing communities, men and women, to get involved in the reform, see for example: <http://www.au-ibar.org/home/415-en/media/press-releases/fish/929-press-releases-workshop-on-women-s-rights-and-the-fisheries-reforms-in-africa-and-celebration-of-international-woman-day>

6. Item 10. On Global and Regional processes

- We welcome the recommendations of the 3rd UNFSA Conference Review as it takes into account several of our concerns. The key issues for the LDAC, presented in our position on UNFSA, should also be raised at COFI, such as the ‘no transshipment at sea’ principle, or the ‘no data no fish’ principle.

LDAC position on UNFSA (May 2016): <http://ldac.eu/download-doc/105223>

- We welcome the entry into force in 5 June 2016 of the FAO Port State Control Measures Agreement as a decisive tool for improving MCS of fishing activities and contributing to the fight against IUU fishing. However, it is also important to set in place a clear protocol to verify its effective implementation, with periodic reviews and measurement of performance indicators to be sure that the port states that are signatory parties are fulfilling their legal obligations.
- On RFMOS:
 - o We support the EU position to promote a better international fisheries governance through the reinforcement and efficiency of regional fisheries advisory bodies, particularly in relation to CECAF for small pelagics in West Africa, so that key shared resources for food security can be sustainably managed.
 - o We would like to reiterate our support for transparency regarding fishing agreements, as recommended by several RFMOs; and the coordination of the work of the RFMOs in this and other horizontal issues as a continuation of the “Kobe process”.



- We would like that COFI actively promotes the compliance of RFMOs, setting a review process of the levels of compliance at each RFMO. This might allow to identify the reasons for the lack of compliance and set up a Plan of Action for improving compliance of Member States that are contracting parties in the RFMOs.
 - We would like to see enhanced stakeholders' involvement through the decision-making processes and in consultation procedures, in line with the principles of good governance set in article 3 of the CFP Regulation 1380/2013, which on its Preamble seeks coherence between the internal and the external dimension of the EU Common Fisheries Policy.
- On ghost fishing:

Recognizing the urgency of action required, we call on all UN Member States to agree at the 32th COFI meeting in July 2016 to:

- Elevate the issue of ghost fishing gear reduction in relevant UN resolutions and discussions, and support the development and implementation of a global programme of action to achieve a significant reduction of Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), as per Sustainable Development Goal target 14.1 of UNDP 2030 Agenda.
- Call on the FAO, and other relevant international organisations such as UNEP, International Maritime Organization (IMO), GGGI, etc. to develop a plan of action for the accelerated implementation of paragraphs 77 to 81 of UNGA resolution 60/31 of 29 November 2005 with a focus on developing international best management practices (as per par 78 of UNGA Resolution 60/31).
- Endorse the recommendations resulting from the FAO Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear, and support the further development of the Draft Guidelines for the Implementation of a System for the Marking of Fishing Gear via a Technical Consultation.

END