



Rome, 1 July 2013

Subject: Request for FAO inputs in relation to paragraph 168 of resolution 67/79 entitled "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 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, and related instruments"

Dear Mr Tarassenko,

With reference to your letter of 11 January 2013 regarding the above mentioned subject, I am very pleased to attach FAO response.

Please do not hesitate to revert to me if you require any clarification.

Yours sincerely,

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**FAO INPUTS IN RELATION TO RESOLUTION A/RES/67/L.22
CONCERNING “SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, INCLUDING THROUGH THE 1995 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, AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS”**

01 JULY 2013

Achieving sustainable fisheries (Part I)

Fish as food

(operative paragraph 3)

In this respect, FAO has undertaken several activities to meet this challenge. It has refined and expanded on the “Fish as food” Chapter of the FAO/OECD 2012-2013 Agricultural Outlook. The inclusion of this chapter was initiated in 2011 and has gained increasing interest from Decision makers in governments, civil society and the donor community.

FAO has organized a High level Symposium on the theme of “Alleviating Poverty and Hunger: making a difference with fish” at the Yeosu Exposition in August 2012. The symposium featured speeches by very high level speakers from Governments and Academia. The main outcome was a series of recommendations that were used as the basis for the highlighting Fish as Food in the Yeosu Declaration.

FAO provided technical assistance for the organization of the “Asia Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue growth: ACOFB 2013)” in June 2013, with FAO presentations addressing the potential for fisheries and aquaculture to contribute Fish as Food. The ACOFB main recommendations, including the Declaration, will be used to feed into “the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth” to be held early 2014 in the Hague, Netherlands. The Summit is being prepared with technical assistance of FAO and will bring together a diversity of actors who will contribute to the needed change of ocean health. The Summit will host the first official assembly of Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) partners including over 125 Governments, civil society organizations, private sector companies and associations, research institutions, UN agencies, multilateral banks and foundations. One of the three components of the GPO deals with sustainable seafood and livelihoods from fisheries and aquaculture.

The new FAO strategic planning framework has set 5 priority strategic objectives SOs, of which SO1 addresses the contribution to the eradication hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. This SO1 features prominently the role fisheries and aquaculture can play in this regard and concrete actions to be undertaken at the national and community level during 2014-2015 are being developed.

The High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on Global Food Security CFS is undertaking a study on the role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition to be presented at the CFS plenary in 2014. FAO has disseminated the information and encouraged global participation to the consultative process leading to this process and made a contribution highlighting the issues and making recommendations on how to address these issues, including the FAO potential contribution.

FAO contributed a chapter to the book that is coming out of the December 2010 FAO international symposium on the food-based approaches for improving diets and raising levels of nutrition. The chapter title is “Food-based Approaches for Improving Diets and Raising Levels of Nutrition: *The Fish Story*”.

Impact of global climate change and ocean acidification

(operative paragraph 5)

Greenhouse gas emissions

In line with the suggestion from the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its 29th session, FAO should provide Members with information on possible fishing industry contributions to climate change, and on ways to reduce the sector’s reliance on, and consumption of, fossil fuels, respecting the principles embodied within UNFCCC. FI conducted two related expert workshops. The first workshop’s (23 to 25 January 2012) aim was to develop and progress an agreed methods framework to assess Greenhouse

Gases (GHG) emissions and the implications of different methods in the quantification of GHG from different seafood production systems.¹ The second workshop (4 to 5 March 2013) discussed the potential for reducing GHG emissions through changes in technology and practices and the impacts such changes may have on the system. Follow-up activities in supporting GHG mitigation efforts with capture fisheries and aquaculture are underway and include the 2012 publication of a fuel savings manual for small scale fishing vessels.²

Climate change and fisheries and aquaculture

In line with the FAO Adapt Programme, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department's Climate Change Strategy and the Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA) Strategic Framework³, the Department is giving priority to identifying and reducing the vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture systems through improving the resilience and adaptability of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to shocks, climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters. These activities will support calls from recent sessions of regional bodies to 1) support policy, legal and implementation frameworks at local, national and regional levels to mainstream climate change into fisheries and aquaculture; 2) reinforce capacity of regional and national agencies and institutions to address climate change issues; 3) plan for adaptation and mitigation within Members' fisheries and aquaculture sectors; and 4) integrate fisheries and aquaculture into national climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and enabling financial mechanisms, such as through the National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (NAPA) and the supporting adaptation funds.

Therefore, the FAO and partners have been working to identify climate change implications, vulnerabilities and context-specific adaptation and disaster risk management strategies to improve the resilience of vulnerable aquatic ecosystems and their dependent communities, and that provide shoreline and riverine protection, food and nutrition security, maintenance of water quality, income and livelihoods services. Examples of related activities include 13 workshops⁴ around the globe, bringing together climate change experts with fisheries and aquaculture experts to review current scientific knowledge and define priorities activities to guide actions and investments in the near future. FAO has initiated NAPA and UNFCCC National Communication fisheries and aquaculture implementation assistance in 10 countries/regions⁵. Further, in its efforts to support regional bodies and their work on climate change, the FAO provided related technical inputs into the 1st First Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) in September, 2010 and the 16th Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) in November, 2010 as well as supporting a series of stakeholder meetings to develop the NEPAD-FAO Fisheries Programme for Africa targeting the need to develop and integrate disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) plans into fisheries and aquaculture strategies – and vice versa - at community, national and regional levels as one of the Programme's three main components. Similar efforts to support FAO Regional Conferences around the globe have been made.

In collaboration with NEPAD, a special session on climate change implications for African fisheries and Aquaculture was organized during the UNFCCC COP 17 Oceans Day in Durban, South Africa; during which the Durban Declaration on Climate Change and African Fisheries was presented. The FAO continues to support the UNFCCC LDC Expert Group and the development of National Adaptation Plans.

Recent meetings include:

April 2013 - FAO/NEPAD workshop on climate change, disasters and crises in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Southern and Eastern Africa

¹ FAO. 2012. Report of the Expert Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Strategies and Methods in Seafood. Rome, 23–25 January 2012. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. (also available at 1011www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3062e/i3062e.pdf).

² Gulbrandsen, O. 2012. Fuel savings for small fishing vessels - a manual. Rome, FAO. 57 pp. see

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2461e/i2461e.pdf>

³ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/am434e/am434e.pdf>

⁴ For proceedings of a Near East/North Africa workshop, see <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2146e/i2146e.pdf>. For the Asia/Pacific workshop see <http://www.apfic.org/uploads/2011-17.pdf>

⁵ For a review of the sector in NAPA, see FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1064

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2173e/i2173e.pdf>

April 2013 - FAO/PaCFA Expert Workshop on Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Available Methodologies and their Relevance for the Sector

April 2013 - FAO/BCC Regional Workshop on Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Benguela Current region

December 2012 - FAO/CRFM/CDEMA/CCCC Regional Workshop on Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region

November 2012 - FAO/NEPAD workshop on climate change, disasters and crises in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in West and Central Africa

October 2012 – 2nd Meeting of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem Climate Change Working Group

2012-2013 publications include:

Priority adaptations to climate change for Pacific fisheries and aquaculture - reducing risks and capitalizing on opportunities. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 28. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3159e/i3159e.pdf>

Social-ecological vulnerability of coral reef fisheries to climatic shocks. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular C1082. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/ap972e/ap972e.pdf>

Vulnerability assessment methodologies: an annotated bibliography for climate change and the fisheries and aquaculture sector. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular 1083. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3315e/i3315e.pdf>

Climate change implications for fisheries of the Benguela current region - Making the best of change. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 27. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3053e/i3053e.pdf>

Climate change implications for fishing communities in the Lake Chad Basin - What have we learned and what can we do better? FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 25. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3037e/i3037e.pdf>

Fuel savings for small fishing vessels - a manual.FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2461e/i2461e.pdf>

Building resilience for adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector. FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3084e/i3084e.pdf>
Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook. FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3325e/i3325e.pdf>

Cambio climático, pesca y acuicultura en América Latina - potenciales impactos y desafíos para la adaptación. FAO Actas de Pesca y Acuicultura No 29.

Gap analysis of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture priorities and initiatives in Western and Central Africa in respect to climate change and disasters.

Gap analysis of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture priorities and initiatives in Southern and Eastern Africa in respect to climate change and disasters.

Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings.

Possible options and approaches to promote international cooperation and coordination

FAO is chairing the Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA), a voluntary global level initiative among more than 20 international organizations and sector bodies with a common concern

for climate change interactions with global waters and living resources and their social and economic consequences. PaCFA members share a commitment to raising awareness of the vital importance of these issues, developing effective tools and management approaches to address them, and building international development support to implement change and bring about lasting positive outcomes. 2012-2013 activities under PaCFA include co-organizations of workshops and symposia, joint report writing, joint project development, supporting and UNFCCC processes.

Ocean acidification

In line with the request from COFI 30th session (paragraph 50) to “examine the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change”, the FAO has undertaken the following activities relating specifically to ocean acidification and its impacts on food and livelihoods security:

- Contributing to IAEA Marine Laboratory led international workshops on Ocean Acidification impacts on fisheries and aquaculture. Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 11-13 November 2012
- Monitoring Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PacFA) OA-related activities
- OA has been included in FAO’s work in understanding ocean acidification, climate variability and change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation priorities within the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Recent regional workshops have taken place in Latin America, Benguela Current, Pacific SIDS, Caribbean SIDS, Lake Chad Basin and Vietnam.

The general recommendations stemming from the November, 2012, workshop are:

- Mitigate the effects of ocean acidification by reducing emissions of atmospheric CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.
- Support research on economically important species of finfish, shellfish, shrimp and other crustaceans in high CO₂ conditions, especially egg and larval stages and associated food webs, to enable socio-economic assessment of impacts on livelihoods and food security.
- Establish ad hoc coastal monitoring networks for standardized measurement of ocean acidification.
- Implement best practices and adaptive management of fisheries resources and aquaculture operations by addressing overfishing; discouraging illegal, unregulated, unreported fishing; and encouraging polyculture and selective breeding.
- Increase the adaptive capacity of fishing communities through education concerning ocean acidification impacts on marine resources and by training to diversify livelihoods.
- Improve multi-stakeholder communication among parties (coastal communities, business owners, researchers, decision-makers, management organizations, and international agencies) and exchange of information for multi-sectoral, transdisciplinary solutions.
- Apply lessons learned from the United States northwest coast oyster hatchery experience to the aquaculture industry, and the risk to early life stages of bivalves and other species in open circulating systems.

During the 14th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (17-20 June 2013, UNHQ, New York) FAO participated in a panel discussion at a CBD Secretariat-IOC/UNESCO side event entitled “The Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity”. The event focused on the preliminary result of preparing a systematic review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions where FAO presented key points on known effects of ocean acidification on fisheries and aquaculture and potential impacts and consequences.

Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments (operative paragraphs 8, 10, 12, 25, 44 and 45)

FAO has continued to support the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments in a variety of ways, including through regular and field programme activities, and has undertaken activities and proposed mechanisms to improve long-term access to, and sharing of, essential information to support the Code’s implementation.

FAO has developed a web-based electronic questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related International Plans of Action and Strategies, which will be released in September 2013. The specific questionnaires for Members, Regional Fisheries Bodies and International Non-Governmental Organizations shall be accessible through a dedicated portal on the FAO domain using unique credentials.

In 2012, Technical Guidelines relating to recreational fisheries, were produced.

Precautionary approach and ecosystem approach
(operative paragraphs 8-11)

Consistent with recurring recommendations by the FAO Committee on Fisheries, and in line with the Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, FAO's Fisheries Department continues to support the practical implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) through normative activities as well as on the ground assistance to member countries. Some of the activities carried out more recently include:

- Management plans consistent with the principles of EAF (including the precautionary approach) finalized for fisheries in several African coastal countries.
- Pilot case studies on developing EAF management plans for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries carried out in six South American countries as part of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project.
- Two workshops held to develop regional and national management plans for the shared small pelagic resources off North West Africa, as part of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem project (CCLME).
- Training organized on EAFM by the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project.
- Collaborations with Universities in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean developed to plan for integration of EAF courses in university curricula.
- A management plan for fisheries and aquaculture activities in the Estero Real (Nicaragua) completed, consistent with the principles of EAF and EAA (Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture).
- A workshop organized for countries in Central America on EAF/EAA, in collaboration with OSPESCA (Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano) on EAF/EAA related to shrimp and groundfish resources.
- A training course organized for selected Mediterranean countries in the context of the Mediterranean LME project "Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea".
- A study on the institutional implications of applying EAF in Southern Africa has been completed in collaboration with the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) and will be discussed with BCC countries in July 2013.
- A toolbox for the practical implementation of the EAF published and also available on the web (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/eaf-net/topic/166272/en>).
- Through the operations of the RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, and as part the Norway funded EAF Nansen Project, important data and information are being collected on marine resources and the marine environment in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

In most EAF activities strong partnerships have been established with relevant regional and national institutions/programmes, including for follow up and implementation of the fisheries management plans.

FAO plays a leading role in the EU/FP7 funded iMarine initiative which develops a data-infrastructure enabling new forms of scientific data sharing and multidisciplinary collaborative science in support to policy development and implementation towards goals of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management and conservation of living marine resources. By interconnecting all concerned actors operating in different domains around common data, information and multidisciplinary knowledge, this initiative is expected to foster the emergence of global partnerships and related community of practices.

Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of capture fisheries
(operative paragraph 9)

FAO continued to support the implementation of the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of capture fisheries (STF) through the extra budgetary funded FAO FishCode STF project and other GCP or TCP funds. Major emphasis was given to improvement of information from the small scale sector and on capacity building. All activities were implemented in collaboration with Regional Fisheries Organisations and presently most of the field activities are concentrated in West and East Africa. FAO is concerned about the decreasing amount of core extra-budgetary funding supporting STF.

In order to enhance national capacity of data collection on social and economic aspects of small scale operations of both fisheries and aquaculture, FAO is promoting to integrate fishery module and aquaculture module in satellite surveys of World Agriculture Census as a part of implementation of Global Strategy of Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The Field Guideline of fisheries and aquaculture modules is currently under development.

Fisheries by-catch and discards
(operative paragraphs 11, 12; and Part VIII)

Following endorsement of the FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards, FAO has carried out the following activities using a combination of regular programme and extra budgetary funds:

- A regional workshop on bycatch management and low impact fishing was conducted in Kuwait in December 2012 involving all RECOFI Members. A draft plan of action was agreed by participants and the results of the workshop were presented at RECOFI in May 2013. Implementation of the plan of action requires decisions by RECOFI members with respect to financing.
- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) have provided financing in support of a suite of bycatch related projects. A regional Project on bycatch management in SE Asia (REBYC II - CTI) is underway involving Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, SEAFDEC and the fishing industry and NGOs. FAO is co-implementing agency (FAO-UNDP) for a GEF project to strengthen governance in SIDS Oceanic Fisheries national governance which includes bycatch as a component and which involves FFA, SPC, national fisheries authorities, the private sector and NGOs. Bycatch is also a major element of the global FAO-GEF project "Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) which involves t-RFMOs, their Members, the private sector and NGOs. FAO is also contributing staff resources to address bycatch in the MED-LME and CLME projects.
- Projects under development include a regional bycatch management project in the Latin America & Caribbean Region (REBYC II - LAC). The project involves Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and their respective fishing industries. Co-financing partners include partner countries, NOAA, WWF-Mexico the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and universities.

FAO notes with respect to paragraph 93 the importance of bycatch in relation to Fish Aggregation Devices and concerns that have been raised by various FAO Member States and others with respect to the need for more effective FAD management in order to address a range of impacts on juvenile tunas, sharks and other marine megafauna.

Fishery Resources Monitoring System
(operative paragraph 14)

The Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) is a formal information sharing Partnership Arrangement established in 2004 with FAO and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs). FIRMS operates within the Strategy-STF framework and is expected to provide, through a cooperative process, a long-term response to the challenge of sustained information flows for monitoring trends of the state of world marine fishery resources and their management with up-to-date and authoritative sources.

FIRMS current developments aim at enhancing the quality and coverage of information in sustainable ways, through expansion of its membership, extension of the scope and depth of information to be

reported by each partner, and enhancement of efficiency and capacity of the Secretariat and Steering Committee.

The current FIRMS membership amounts to thirteen international partners, representing 18 RFBs. FIRMS registered a very good rate of attendance at its last two Steering Committee meetings (December 2011, February 2013), and the participation of five new Observer organizations (BCC, NAMMCO, NASCO, RECOFI, SPRFMO) provides good prospects for growth of the partnership. In January 2013, the marine resources inventory counted 1250 resources/stocks, with a coverage extended in new areas (CECAF, RECOFI, SWIOFC) or with new species (e.g. sharks for ICCAT, deep seas species for ICES, billfish for IATTC, various species for GFCM). The inventory of fisheries, launched more recently, shows a rapid increase and reaches 650 fisheries in January 2013, with reports on fishing activity and fisheries management information (NEAFC, NAFO, SEAFO, CECAF, RECOFI). The web-site has been enriched with dynamic mapping features and with tuna and deep seas thematic pages, which increased usage intensity.

IPOA-Sharks

(operative paragraphs 16-19)

A report on the “Review of the Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks” was completed and made available to COFI participants in July 2012.

International Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

(operative paragraphs 21, 22 and 151)

The *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (SSF Guidelines)* seek to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and economic growth. They support the empowerment of small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women and vulnerable and marginalized groups, to participate in decision-making, receive and benefit from rights and assume responsibilities for sustainable resource utilization and livelihoods development.

Acting on to the recommendations of the 29th and 30th sessions of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, FAO hosted a technical consultation to develop the SSF Guidelines, from May 20-24. The meeting was attended by 66 member states, 36 Civil Society Representatives, numerous international organizations, and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mr. Olivier de Schutter. The occasion marked a significant step towards the recognition of the contributions of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty alleviation and exemplified the efforts to undertake a global exercise to collaboratively improve the sustainability of the sector.

While the Technical Consultation did not complete negotiations on the draft text, several key issues were agreed upon. Among other results, the meeting gave prominence to social issues in an international fisheries instrument. In addition, member states, international organizations and civil society organizations all sought to establish small-scale fisheries policy as a key element in the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and promoted a holistic, and integrated approach to the subsector. The Technical Consultation will gather again for a resumed session in early 2014 in order to complete the Guidelines and present them for approval at the 31st session of the Committee on Fisheries. The SSF Guidelines have been developed through a widespread comprehensive and participatory process that saw the participation of more than 4000 stakeholders and a fruitful collaboration with the Civil Society and other developmental partners. The FAO calls upon its Members to continue their active participation and support of the SSF Guideline development process and their subsequent implementation.

Impact of industrial fishing activities on species corresponding to low trophic levels

(operative paragraph 24)

A desk study, based on available literature and relevant research results, has been initiated. If funds become available, a more comprehensive assessment will also be undertaken based on case studies from developing countries, and an expert meeting to provide a synthesis and produce guidance to Member Nations on the management of small pelagic will be convened.

Implementation of the 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement (Part II)

Part VII Assistance Fund

(operative paragraphs 34-36)

The Assistance Fund has continued to be administered by FAO in accordance with the Fund's Terms of Reference and FAO's Financial Regulations as well as other applicable Rules. Information about the existence and purpose of the Assistance Fund has been disseminated widely by the United Nations and FAO, including through electronic means, international meetings and contacts with relevant regional fisheries bodies. In 2012, 34 applications for support were received out of which 30 were approved and processed.

Collection and dissemination of data on fishing in the high seas

(operative paragraph 40)

FAO has collected and disseminated the data on vessels that are authorized to operate in the high seas, regardless of the existence of regional and sub-regional management arrangements, on the basis of the 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Compliance Agreement). Thirty eight countries and one economic entity (European Union) have accepted the Agreement. A totally renovated HSVAR website (<http://www.fao.org/figis/vrmf/hsvar/>) with enhanced functionalities, dynamic summary tables, and data uploading and downloading functions through web, was released by FAO in March 2012. The FAO HSVAR designated web site currently disseminates information on 6,298 vessels reported from 44 countries. The access to the information is limited to members who have accepted the Compliance Agreement.

FAO has been integrating publically-available vessel information and developing a web portal to enable global search of such information; the Fishing Vessels Finder (FVF) portal (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/collection/fvf/en>) was publicly released in October 2012. Simultaneously, FAO has collaborated with five tuna management organizations to assist in enhancing their consolidated list of active vessels (CLAV) following the recommendation of the Third Joint Meeting of the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (Kobe III) held in July 2011.

Revision of FAO global fisheries statistics

(operative paragraph 41)

FAO's statistics programme was established to monitor the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and other socio-economic factors, whilst the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement indicates clearly (Annex I of Article 7) that compilation and dissemination of data for stock assessment and management should be done principally through RFMOs that are responsible for the management of the relevant stocks. The FAO has disseminated integrated catch and effort data by gears and location of catch, collected by five tuna management organizations, through the Atlas of Tuna and Billfish Catches, <http://www.fao.org/figis/geoserver/tunaatlas/>. The FAO has also continued its efforts to develop a tool to allow users to access integrated information from multiple sources; this tool is currently under final review.

Related Fisheries Instruments (Part III)

Effective implementation of the Compliance Agreement

(operative paragraph 42-43)

The FAO web page (HSVAR) which displays the records of fishing vessels reported by each Party in accordance with Article IV of the Compliance Agreement <http://www.fao.org/figis/vrmf/hsvar/> was upgraded in March 2012. The new HSVAR web page provides access to data, nearly real-time reflection of reported data, as well as functions to allow each member to access and report data directly through the web.

Only a limited number of members (44 members) have reported the records of vessels and their modifications regularly; this largely undermines the effectiveness of the Agreement. The FAO urges all parties to the Agreement to promptly provide updated information whenever the reported information is modified. The date of the last update by each member is listed at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/collection/hsvar/2/en>.

Honduras and Sierra Leone have provided to FAO the list of vessels authorized to operate in the high seas even though these countries have not accepted the Compliance Agreement.

Safety at Sea

(operative paragraphs 46)

In 2012, the thirtieth session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) welcomed the FAO/ILO/IMO collaboration relating to safety-at-sea in the fisheries sector, noting that it should be continued. The Committee also expressed satisfaction that a new safety standard for small fishing vessel had been completed and was being published and that new FAO/ILO/IMO guidelines to assist competent authorities in the implementation of voluntary instruments on the design, construction and equipment of all fishing vessels of all types and sizes (Implementation Guidelines) had been completed. The three organizations have signed a co-publishing agreement and it is envisaged that the Implementation Guidelines would be published in the near future.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Part IV)

IPOA - IUU

(operative paragraphs 48-49)

FAO continues to promote actively the implementation of the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) which provides the framework for countries to take coherent and consistent action to combat IUU fishing.

Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance

(operative paragraphs 54 and 70)

The Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 May 2011, and resumed from 5 to 9 March 2012 and from 4 to 8 February 2013. In accordance with the request given by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) the Technical Consultation resumed negotiations on the basis of a draft document with the following structure: statement of purpose and principles; scope of application; performance assessment criteria; procedure for carrying out assessments; cooperation between flag States and coastal States; encouraging compliance and deterring non-compliance by flag States; cooperation with, and assistance to, developing countries with a view to capacity development, and the role of FAO. The Technical Consultation came to a close at the second resumed session with agreement being reached on "Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance". The Guidelines will be presented to the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 31st Session for consideration.

FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

(operative paragraphs 59-61)

The FAO Conference on 22 November 2009 approved the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Port State Measures Agreement). 23 FAO Members signed the Agreement. As at 01 July 2013, seven FAO Members (including the European Union) had become Parties to the Agreement. In addition, at the thirtieth session (2012) of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), 26 Members indicated their ongoing national processes to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Port State Measures Agreement. The Port State Measures Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date of deposit with the Director-General of FAO of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession.

Responsible fish trade

(operative paragraphs 65-66)

FAO continues to monitor developments and trends in international fish trade, in particular those regarding market access for developing country producers and exporters. Relevant studies are published on a regular basis, including through the GLOBEFISH project, the FAO Food Outlook and the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook. The role of nutrition and the many benefits of fish consumption have taken on an increased importance in FAO's work, as has the role of processing, distribution and trade in the creation of economic value in the sector.

The FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade is the only international forum where governments discuss and decide issues of relevance for international fish trade. The XIV Session of the Sub-Committee will take place in February 2014 in Bergen, Norway. Among the areas of discussion are quality and safety requirements in international fish trade, traceability, ecolabelling and environmental labeling and the role of small-scale fisheries in international trade and markets.

FAO continues its efforts of improving standard classifications of fish and fishery commodities in trade. The Harmonized System Classification entered into force on 1 January 2012, HS2012, reflects the work done by FAO with World Custom Organizations (WCO) to have an improved specification for species and products forms. At present, FAO is actively continuing its collaboration with WCO for HS2017, with main focus on improving the breakdown of sharks, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates. The proposal is currently under discussion at WCO.

In 2013, FAO will co-organize the World Congress on Whitefish, the World Tilapia Conference and the World Seafood Congress.

In the area of trade, FAO continues to benefit from an excellent relationship with other international organizations such as the WTO (trade rules), the WHO (quality and safety standards), the OECD and the World Bank.

Private standards and ecolabelling

(operative paragraph 67)

As requested by the 30th Session of COFI, the Organization continues to monitor private standards and eco-labels in seafood trade, including applications of the draft Evaluation Framework of the FAO Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and Compliance and Enforcement (Part V)

Global Record of fishing vessels

(operative paragraphs 62 and 73)

The following activities using mainly extra budgetary funds have been or are being carried out:

- FAO is working on the development of a prototype version of the Global Record aiming towards having it demonstrated at a side event at COFI 31. In this regard, FAO is mindful of some Members' concern that the Global Record needs to be cost-effective (paragraph 56(a)).
- FAO is working with IMO on amending IMO Assembly resolution A.600 (15) to allow the non-mandatory application of the IMO Ship Identification Numbering Scheme (which would provide the UVI) to fishing vessels of 100 gross tonnage and above. A proposal, cosponsored by FAO, to include fishing vessels in the IMO Ship Identification Numbering Scheme was approved by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee in June 2013 and will be considered by the IMO Assembly in November 2013 with the view to adopt the necessary amendment to resolution A.600(15). Furthermore, in this regard, FAO has launched a global campaign to raise awareness on the Global Record and the usefulness of the UVI (paragraph 56(b) and (c)).
- A regional expert workshop on the development of the Global Record is scheduled to be held in collaboration with RPOA-IUU in the Philippines in June 2013 following the workshop held with OSPESCA in Honduras in March 2012. A follow-up workshop is planned for the Central America

region in near future. These workshops are focusing on capacity building for the national and regional vessel registers/records (paragraph 56(d) and (e)).

In Summary, progress has been made towards addressing issues raised in COFI. Delivery could be enhanced when vacant professional posts can be filled and when additional EBF funds can be found.

MCS Network

(operative paragraphs 79-80)

FAO has supported the International MCS Network and will participate in its Fourth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop to be held in Costa Rica in February 2014. The focus will be put on the special needs and challenges of developing countries in MCS. Currently FAO is assisting with launching a number of new innovative ideas, including the first Stop IUU Fishing Award, encouraging innovations in MCS.

Fishing Overcapacity (Part VI)

Progress in the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

(operative paragraph 83)

Progress in the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity) varies widely among countries, but there is growing recognition of both the biological and economic benefits of addressing overcapacity and overexploitation. At the regional level, draft text is being developed by Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia for the Lake Tanganyika Regional Plan of Action for Managing Fishing Capacity, and Vietnam is similarly developing its National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity. Capacity management continues to be challenging as not only fishery resources but also social and economic issues are at stake.

The European Union, together with Iceland and Norway, have succeeded in effectively reducing its fleet capacity in terms of number of vessels, tonnage and power. In some countries, including Republic of Korea and Japan, while the number of vessels has decreased, combined power has increased, reflecting the conflict in capacity reduction between the industrial sector and the small scale sector. Data from some countries indicate a continuous expansion of fleets, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka; some of these cases may be a result of improved monitoring and registration of the national fleet. China's 2003 - 2010 marine fishing vessel reduction plan proved to be successful up to 2008, but thereafter, both the number of vessels and total combined power started to increase again.

Subregional and regional cooperation (Part IX)

(operative paragraphs 103-128)

Regional Fishery Bodies and Arrangements (RFBs) are the primary organizational mechanism through which States work together to ensure the long-term sustainability of shared fishery resources. The number and diversity of RFBs continues to expand so that the term "RFB" is now a generic term for organizations and bilateral arrangements with a fisheries mandate in a specific region, or for a specific species. RFBs exist for marine capture, inland capture and aquaculture bodies. In addition, FAO also recognises and works with several science RFBs which exist to further the science of fisheries data collection and sustainable management of fish stocks. The term "RFB" also applies to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or RFMOs which are those RFBs that have the capacity to establish binding conservation and management measures. Finally, there is also a RFB which is dedicated to the protection of albatrosses and petrels (seabirds that are victims of fishing bycatch), plus two RFBs which focus on the management of marine mammals.

In the furtherance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/79 and its primary focus on high seas fish stocks, it should be noted that many RFBs have zones of competence comprising solely or partly the high seas or areas beyond national jurisdiction.

RFBs established under the FAO framework

There are eleven RFBs which have been constructed under the auspices of the FAO. These bodies can be categorised into Article VI (1) or (2) bodies or Article XIV bodies. Article VI (1) bodies are fishery commissions to advise on the formulation and implementation of fisheries policy. Article VI (2) bodies are working parties or committees which study and report on matters pertaining to the purposes of the Organization. Article XIV bodies have the competence to manage and regulate fisheries.

The eleven FAO bodies, their year of establishment and their status are listed below:

Year of Establishment	FAO Regional Fishery Body	Status
1948	Asia Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)	Article XIV
1949	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	Article XIV
1957	European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)	Article VI(1)
1967	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)	Article VI(2)
1971	Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA)	Article VI(1)
1973	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)	Article VI(1)
1976	Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC)	Article VI(1)
1993	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Article XIV
1999	Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI)	Article XIV
2004	South West Indian Ocean Commission for Fisheries (SWIOFC)	Article VI(1)
2009	Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)	Article XIV

From the 2012 COFI30 report, paragraph 72 requested FAO to initiate a performance review of the RFBs which are under its auspices. This analysis is currently underway, and a report will be presented to COFI31.

The broad RFB community

Liaison with the broader RFB community (i.e. both FAO and non-FAO RFBs) occurs in three ways.

First through the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN). The RSN meets biennially adjacent to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI). FAO acts as the facilitator of the meetings, providing a venue and secretariat services. The RSN provides RFBs with the opportunity to exchange views and information. FAO administers a RSN website, and since 2011 the organisation has produced a quarterly RSN newsletter which is circulated to all RFB secretaries, to UNDOALOS, and within FAO. The RSN Secretary compiles stories submitted by RFBs as being of particular interest or importance to other RFBs and therefore worth sharing. The intention is to increase cooperation and develop collaborations between the bodies.

Second, there is liaison between FAO and the RFB community through the Regional Fishery Bodies Task Force (RFBTF). This task force was established in October 2012 and is comprised of an inter-disciplinary team of specialists from all areas of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture department. Through the task force, FAO will mutually cooperate and collaborate with all RFBs towards the goal of achieving global food security. The task force promotes both FAO and United Nations Organization fisheries policies and instruments which are post the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (post UNCED). In addition, the task force promotes FAO policies and programs as stated and endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

The third area of liaison between FAO and the broad RFB community can be seen in collaborative work, such as the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) projects which deal with Tuna and the five tuna RFBs, or the Deep Seas and the five Deep Sea RFBs. Additionally, there is cooperative work on (inter alia) climate change, small scale fisheries, emergency work (such as piracy in the horn of Africa), fishing capacity, fish trade, and workshops to promote instruments and systems of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance.

Assistance to IOTC

(operative paragraph 114)

FAO continues providing the necessary assistance to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), which is one of the RFBs established based on Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.

Performance Reviews of RFBs

(operative paragraph 124)

Many RFBs⁶ have been conducted performance reviews and FAO has supported such reviews, as requested. FAO also prepared a report on performance reviews of RFBs⁷.

Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem (Part X)

Aquaculture

(operative paragraph 133)

Contribution to monitoring and assessment of aquaculture sector performance at global, regional and national levels

A user-friendly tool was developed to facilitate data compilation and analysis, and generate and disseminate quantitative information needed to monitor and assess the aquaculture sector performance at national, regional and global levels, including its socioeconomic and environment impacts. The tool allows the user to also understand, monitor and improve the status and trend of the sector development.

Medium and long-term fish demand and supply were estimated at national, regional and global levels. Results indicated that, driven by rapid population and economic growth, primarily in developing countries, future fish demand will increasingly put pressure on global fisheries resources. They also showed that aquaculture production would need to grow faster than its current trend if this pressure is to be alleviated.

Information and knowledge sharing

The role of FAO as a knowledge organization is to establish appropriate mechanisms that will stimulate Member Countries to share and disseminate data related to aquaculture activities in order to facilitate cooperation on planning for sustainable aquaculture development at national, regional and global levels. For this purpose, FAO has continuously supported the establishment of regional aquaculture networks (e.g. Network of Aquaculture Centres in Eastern Europe or NACEE; GFCM Sub-Committee on Aquaculture for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea; Aquaculture Network for Africa or ANAF; RECOFI-Working Group on Aquaculture in the Gulf Region) along with technical assistance for the development of associated information systems (e.g. SIPAM Web site; NACEE Web site; Regional Aquaculture Information System or RAIS; ANAF Web site).

FAO aims at further consolidating partnership with all existing regional aquaculture networks in order to facilitate the flow of aquaculture information at national and regional levels for the mutual benefit of the Organization itself and its Members countries.

Use of fish resources as feed for aquaculture

FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines, No. 5, Suppl. 5. Use of wild fish as feed in aquaculture has been published in 2011. The objectives of the guidelines are to contribute towards the development of aquaculture and the sustainable utilization of feed-fish stocks. Since its publication, it has have been widely distributed to the member countries and to different stakeholders. To reach to the wider audience, Chinese translation of these guidelines have been published in 2012 and an Arabic translation is planned in early 2013. FAO in collaboration with NACA, has implemented a regional TCP in four countries of Asia (i.e., China, Indonesia,

⁶ Those already conducted performance reviews include CCAMLR, CCSBT, ICCAT, NEAFC, NAFO, NASCO, SEAFO, WCPFC. Some of the RFBs established within the FAO framework, such as CECAF, CIFAA, GFCM, IOTC, RECOFI, SWIOFC, also conducted their performance reviews. FAO is now in the process of reviewing all those performance reviews, in particular by the RFBs within the FAO Framework and report the outcome to the next session of COFI in June 2014.

⁷ Ceo.M.; Fragnai, S.; Swan, J.; Tamada, K.; and Watanabe H. *Performance Reviews by Regional Fishery Bodies: Introduction, summaries, synthesis and best practice, Volume I: CCAMLR, CCSBT, ICCAT, IOTC, NAFO, NASCO, NEAFC*. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular. No.1072. Rome, FAO. 2012. 92pp.

Thailand and Viet Nam) with an objective to make a comparative assessment on the use of low-value fish and pellets as feed for marine cage culture and to identify suitable policy and technical guidelines to assist this sector and to reduce the dependence of wild fish as feed. Further, to support the implementation of the guidelines, FAO has published related technical papers and extension materials (including posters) and organized expert/stakeholders workshops in this thematic area.

Promotion of regional cooperation with emphasis for the least aquaculture developed countries and the SIDS:

In Central Asian and the Caucasian countries

To promote regional cooperation in Central Asian and the Caucasian countries, FAO has organized a Scoping Workshop on Regional Cooperation Programme for Responsible Aquaculture and Fisheries Development in the Central Asian and Caucasian countries in Urumqi, Xinjiang, China, 4-8 June 2012. Participated by government representatives from Central Asian, Caucasian and selected Asian countries, Turkey and China and representatives from development partners and donors, the workshop has prepared a regional fisheries and aquaculture development strategy for central Asia and the Caucasian region. It is expected that the strategy will promote cooperation among the countries in the region and will serve as a package for seeking support from donors and development partners towards responsible and sustainable aquaculture and fisheries for Central Asian, Caucasian and other Asian countries.

In the Pacific

FAO engaged the governments of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories and other development partners active in the region in a dialogue which assessed the regional needs and mapped out a coordinating strategy and actions on aquaculture development for governments, major regional/international agencies and other relevant stakeholders. This dialogue developed a Pacific Aquaculture Regional Cooperative Programme with an agreed vision and 6 priority programme areas: biosecurity, capacity building, feasibility assessment, statistics and data, markets and trade and technology transfer and improvement. A sub-regional cooperation arrangement, Micronesian Association for Sustainable Aquaculture (or MASA) was initiated and may serve as a sub-regional cooperation arrangement that can be used in promoting aquaculture and implementing the cooperative programme.

As requested during the 5th and 6th Sessions of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, FAO/FI is collaborating with SPC on the issue of aquatic biosecurity to support sustainable aquaculture development in the Pacific Countries and Territories region. This encompasses activities on (i) aquatic animal health and (ii) introductions and management of introduced species. A joint FAO/SPC Workshop with PICTs members on aquatic biosecurity and data and statistics is planned for October 2012 in Nadi, Fiji. The workshop will also provide a forum for selected PICTs under the umbrella of the newly formed aquaculture association MASA to advance the aquaculture development programme in the region.

In the Caribbean

In view of the declining outputs from capture fisheries in the Caribbean Region and the growing demand of seafood that currently exceeds supply, the FAO has supported a regional initiative to discuss the limitation of technical expertise, infrastructure, capital investment and human resources, within any one country of the region, as major stumbling blocks to the development of the aquaculture sector. The Caribbean experts participating in this dialogue agreed that the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the provision of seed material and technical advice would assist the development of the industry.

Support to sea cucumber fisheries management and aquaculture

The depletion of sea cucumber resources with its impacts to the marine ecosystems and coastal communities globally has led FAO to respond to the urgent need for improved management. A number of projects have been initiated around the world supporting the development of improved management plans for sea cucumber fisheries through a multifaceted programme. Outputs from the programme have included technical manuals on the ecosystem approach to managing sea cucumber fisheries that provides a "roadmap" for developing and implementing better management of sea cucumber fisheries; a major review on the status of sea cucumber fisheries and aquaculture; and a series of regional technical and capacity-building workshops for fishery managers.

Aquatic animal health

FAO provides technical assistance in biosecurity governance at various levels, e.g. in national aquatic animal health (AAH) strategy development and implementation including compliance with international standards on AAH, emergency response to transboundary aquatic animal disease outbreaks and capacity development in areas, e.g. disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and contingency plan, disease outbreak investigation, farm-level biosecurity and application of risk analysis to aquaculture so that threats from new and expanding species and from different risk sectors can be assessed, managed and communicated in a timely manner. Technical guidelines in support of the FAO CCRF, disease diagnostic guides, extension materials, workshop reports and proceedings, biosecurity factsheets, AAH information systems, etc. are generated from both normative and field programmes and provide further guidance to members.

Aquaculture Certification Guidelines

FAO Aquaculture Certification Guidelines has been approved by COFI-29 and the FAO/FI is currently assisting the members, on request, for implementing the guidelines at national levels. Responding to a request by COFI/AQ and COFI, FAO/FI is currently developing a framework for assessing conformity of private and public aquaculture certification schemes against FAO Guidelines. This work is supported by the European Commission and an Expert Workshop to discuss the issue is being planned to be held in November 2012.

Deep-sea fisheries

(operative paragraphs 134-141)

The FAO is continuing and expanding its program in support of the implementation of the Deep-sea High Seas Guidelines. Continuing activities include: the development of deep-sea species identification guides; guidance for impact assessments, encounter protocols and better collaboration among scientists/managers/and industry; assistance with stock assessments including for Alfonsino; an updated worldwide review of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas; and the development of a database on vulnerable marine ecosystems. A full scale programme under the GEF for deep-sea fisheries in the high seas has now been approved and will be developed over the course of the next year.

VME database

(operative paragraph 142)

The development of the Global VME database has been initiated in 2011 through the support of extra-budgetary funding (France, Norway, and Japan). A first VMEs Requirements gathering workshop was organized in Rome in December 2011. This workshop has produced a road map to support the development of the database, including the development of the web-based system, commitments for provision of information by some RFMOs, and the development of a VME network of contributors. In June 2012, a web-based Discussion Group (Dgroup) was launched with moderator capacity. Mock-ups / prototypes of the database have been presented and discussed at various VME regional workshops: Indian Ocean (Mauritius, July 2012), and South East Atlantic (Swakopmund, April 2013), The first release to the public of the VME database, although experiencing some delays, is expected to take place before the end of 2013. The extent of future developments will keep relying upon the availability of extra-budgetary funding.

Marine Protected Areas

(operative paragraph 143)

FAO has developed Technical Guidelines on marine protected areas and fisheries (available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2090e/i2090e00.htm>) as well as reviews at the national level of management regimes for spatial management measures in the marine realm.

Capacity building (Part XI)

FAO 2009 Port State Measures Agreement

FAO has continued to develop its programme to support the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (Port State Measures Agreement); enhance fisheries management and governance; promote long-term sustainability; and improve global

food security. The programme activities aim to facilitate the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement and its implementation. In addition, they contribute to the development of national capacity to maximize the benefits available through the effective use of the Port State Measures Agreement and promote bilateral, subregional and/or regional coordination.

At its 30th Session, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), in July 2012, COFI appreciated FAO's efforts in initiating a global series of regional capacity-development workshops to prepare for the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement. COFI encouraged FAO to convene additional regional workshops which aim to: (a) sensitize developing countries about the purpose and importance of the Port State Measures Agreement, and to encourage them to become parties to it and (b) to explain to fisheries professionals from developing countries how the Port State Measures Agreement operates, and what national measures must be taken in order to meet implementation requirements. In response to COFI's request, FAO contributed to a regional workshop for 19 African States on IUU fishing which focused in particular on the development of port State controls. Furthermore, FAO is co-organizing a capacity development workshop on port State measures for 18 south Pacific States in the third quarter of 2013. Plans are in place to hold workshops in other regions subject to the availability of funds.

Cooperation within the United Nations System (Part XII)

Cooperative arrangements with United Nations agencies

(operative paragraph 165)

FAO has taken a leading role in setting global standards of data collection and statistics with special relevance of fishery and aquaculture. The 2013 UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) accepted the modifications of Central Product Classification (CPC) to enhance details in biological grouping as comparable level as WCO HS2012 as well as to disaggregate the products produced from aquaculture and those directly harvested from the wild, based on the proposal developed by FAO.

FAO actively participated in development of the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework that was adopted by the 2013 UNSC as the global standard to monitor sustainable use of natural resources. Overall concepts utilized in asset account of aquatic biological resources were developed in a coherent way as much as possible with those in UNCLOS and FAO Code of Conducts and land use classification was modified to incorporate the utilization of water bodies including coastal marine waters. FAO is currently in a process of developing an implementation guideline of SEEA in fishery and aquaculture context as well as use-case scenarios of SEEA data to support sustainable management of fishery and aquaculture sectors.