

# **32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI)**

**Rome, 11-15 July 2016**

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its 32nd Session in Rome from 11 to 15 July 2016. The session was attended by 113 Members of the Committee and one Associated Member, by observers from 9 other FAO member countries, by representatives from 9 specialized agencies of the United Nations and by observers from 39 intergovernmental and 26 international non-governmental organizations. The CIPS was represented by its President, Mr. Ferenc Szalay.

On the Agenda figured 17 points.

The Session was opened by Mr Fabio Hazin, Chairperson of the 32nd Session of COFI, and Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, inaugurated the session. He reminded the participants of the key importance for fisheries and aquaculture in developing countries : one in ten people depend upon fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods, and we shouldn't forget that women are key to the 2030 Agenda in fisheries – he underlined.

## **- State of world fisheries and aquaculture**

The discussions on this point were concentrated by the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (a document of the COFI, adopted in 2005 and updated almost in every conference). In particular by introducing the electronic system, the rate of responses by Members and Observers of the Committee to the FAO Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries has been drastically improved.

Never before has so much fish been eaten by so many. As reported in the recently released State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, global consumption has surpassed 20 kg per capita.

## **- Decisions and recommendations of the 15th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade**

Concerning this point, the COFI highlighted the role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and nutrition and welcomed the efforts of FAO to better integrate fisheries and aquaculture in food security and nutrition strategies and programmes.

## **- Decisions and recommendations of the 8th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture**

On this point it was underlined the need for enhancing youth and women employment, capacity development in aquaculture, and requested the assistance of FAO in these

areas. It was highlighted as well the inadequate data on aquaculture production and its effects on employment and poverty alleviation, and called for enhanced collaboration between FAO and relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate better data collection, information and knowledge dissemination.

### **- Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

The 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) was an important step from this point of view, and the COFI encouraged the non-Parties to join the Agreement, and underlines the importance to convene an inception meeting as soon as possible, to address various aspects of the implementation of the PSMA and to establish the ad hoc working group about contact for reporting and electronic exchange of information. Comments reflected the belief that countries are working positively together in a spirit of international collaboration to put an end to IUU fishing, a practice that damages not only conservation efforts, but also the economies of many countries and the livelihoods of their small-scale fishing communities. As well an informal drop-by session entitled 'Meet the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture technical officers' were scheduled and for a half-hour session following sessions FAO officers made themselves available to discuss a variety of topics with COFI32 delegates who dropped by. The wide range of topics included IUU fishing, nutrition, Blue Growth, aquaculture, inland fisheries, trade, ecosystem approach to fisheries, and post-harvest losses.

### **- International Year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture**

The Committee supported the proposal for the Declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, taking into account the existing FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of international years.

### **- FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework**

The Committee considered FAO's programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework and appreciated the achievements in 2014–2015, which contributed to the accomplishment of the FAO Strategic Objectives.

### **- Proposal of the Republic of Korea for the establishment of an FAO World Fisheries University**

The proposal is to establish an international post-graduate education and research institution hosted by the Republic of Korea and mandated to deliver, *inter alia*, post graduate degree and diploma programmes in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture.

This item will be discussed on the next Conference.

### **- Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee**

It was decided a programme of work for the years 2016-2019.

See details in: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/en/>

