



LDAC PROPOSALS FOR THE 2014 UNGA RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

State: approved by the Executive Committee

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Original drafting language: English

BACKGROUND, EXPLANATION:

As outcome of the technical meeting on the 2014 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries, held in Brussels on 9th July, and organized by the EC, the representatives of the European Commission encouraged the LDAC members to send by writing the proposals raised during the meeting.

The proposals were agreed by all the LDAC members, and the deadline the EC gave us for sending them is 14th August, since after that date, the UNGA won't accept more proposals.

As requested by the EC, the proposals are ranked as follows:

- 1. LDAC Proposal for the 2014 UNGA Resolution on Fisheries – Support FAO works towards a global register of fishing vessels.**

BACKGROUND

In order to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing¹, FAO adopted a "Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance". Since 2010, the theme of World Record was raised in the COFI, and also it was recognized a need of a unique vessel identifier as a key component for the Global Registry to identify and track vessels.

The Global Registry of vessels will provide certified information on the fishing vessels. Also it can validate and verify this information, so it will help to improve the detection of illegal

¹ Vid. legislation against IUU fishing; CTOI Resolutions and the 31st COFI meeting reports: COFI/2014/4.2/Rev.1; COFI/2014/Inf.12/Rev.1 and COFI/2014/SBD.2

operations, support fleet-capacity, security, and management and improve the readability. It will definitely improve oceans governance.

THE PROPOSAL:

"Support the work of FAO in the implementation of the global record of fishing vessels, in order to identify undeclared activities. Recognise it is an important tool for transparency, promotion of good governance and the fight against IUU fishing, as the lack of data is one of the weaknesses to address for eradicating illegal catches and locating vessels that do not comply with the regulations"

2. LDAC Proposal for the 2014 UNGA Resolution on Fisheries - Support to the implementation of the FAO guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries (VGSSF),

BACKGROUND

Small scale fishing are crucially important in many coastal countries, (including third countries with which the EU is engaged in a dialogue to support sustainable fisheries, through development cooperation, SFPAs, etc). The implementation of the FAO guidelines will be a useful tool for maximizing future small scale fisheries contribution to food security, job creation and the maintenance of the social fabric in coastal communities.

In that context, the participation of stakeholders, particularly those who depend on small scale fishing activities for their livelihoods, is important for the implementation of the VGSS.

It is proposed that the EU should welcome the work done by FAO, and:

- support the creation of national level platforms with cross-sectoral representation and with strong representation of CSOs to oversee implementation of SSF Guidelines (See paragraph 13.5 of the guidelines), and to that end, request the FAO to monitor the implementation of the Guidelines and to make the information available to all parties;

- request Committee on World Food Security to monitor the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, especially those sections dealing with tenure reforms and food security (paragraphs 5.1; 5.2; 5.4; 5.6; 5.9; 5.12; 10.2; 11.3; and 13.2).

3. LDAC Proposal for the 2014 UNGA Resolution on Fisheries – Support of the RFMOs work towards a coherent fishing governance

BACKGROUND:

RFMOs have an important role at preventing overfishing, maintaining healthy fish stocks and deterring and eliminating illegal, unregulated and undeclared fishing. In fact, they coordinate measures against bad practices and can urge identified States to rectify such behaviour. They also can adopt rules and market-related measures to combat the unsustainability of activities.

RFMOs are international bodies responsible for managing high seas fisheries, and it is important for stakeholders to continue to work with them and their member governments to strengthen and improve decision-making to ensure long term sustainability of fishing activities.

It is very important to highlight the relevance of RFMOs, facing the need to manage fishery resources in line with the principles set by the Convention on the Law of the Sea (United Nations), the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fishing (FAO), the New York Agreement (United Nations) or the Fish Stock Agreement (United Nations). In fact, the RFOs are the backbone of a growing fishery resources regulation, being key forums for the conservation and management of stocks of shared and migratory species, showing a constant concern in the implementation of conservation and management measures and also they are an instrument for establishing measures applicable to the contracting parties and dissuasive measures against non-contracting.

THE PROPOSAL:

“The work of RFMOs towards establishing and implementing coherent governance for fishing activities in high seas is essential and needs to be supported. In fact, the conservation and management measures established by RFMOs are relevant for all States, including those that are not members of the relevant RFMO. Furthermore, the roles of RFMOs include precautionary approach and the compatibility of conservation and management measures. Stakeholders’ participation, including coastal and fishing states, is a key element for ensuring the sustainability of the high seas fishing activities, and RFMOs are appropriate to ensure such participation”.