



## Policy recommendations

## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

with a core focus on:



Contributes to SDG 5, 6, 8, 10, 13 & 15

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 41<sup>st</sup> Session, 2014, endorsed the following recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition<sup>1</sup>.

### The Committee:

**1** Welcomed the Report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) “Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition”, and acknowledged its findings as an important contribution to the CFS recommendations.

**2** Recognized the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition, as a primary source of protein and essential nutrients, and

as a provider of income and livelihoods.

**3** Recognized that the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture is a fundamental condition for food security and nutrition.

**4** Recommended the following actions by stakeholders to address the development, policy, management and enforcement challenges in order to maintain

and enhance the contribution of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to nutrition and food security:

**A** Give to fish the position it deserves in food security and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes

➤ Make fish a visible, integral element in food security and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes, with special regard

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from the **CFS 41 Final Report**



©FAO/ Tony Karumba



to promoting fish as a source of good protein and micronutrients.

- Encourage consumption of fish, especially by pregnant and breastfeeding women, by children, including through school feeding, and by elderly people.
- Promote food safety as an important element in food security and nutrition.
- Support all efforts aimed at addressing overcapacity and overfishing in the context of food security and nutrition, in line with the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”.
- Support and promote initiatives to minimize fish discards and post-harvest losses and waste at all steps of the fish value chain.
- Strengthen international statistics and support research to improve knowledge on the

impact of the production and consumption of fish on nutrition.

- Recognize the knowledge of local and indigenous fishing communities and promote its use regarding food security and nutrition.

**B Promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies and management and design climate change adaptation strategies for food security and nutrition**

- Promote the implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) “Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries” to increase the contribution of fisheries to food security.
- Collect information and data to improve knowledge regarding the impacts of climate change on fish harvesting and farming, and monitor the impact

of climate change on fisheries resources.

- Mainstream and integrate climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture policies, and include fisheries and aquaculture considerations in policies on climate change, as appropriate.
- Identify and promote policies, programmes and activities aimed at addressing the impact of land-based agriculture, including the management of pollutants, sediments and nutrients to receiving coastal and inland waters.

**C Seize the opportunities and address the challenges of aquaculture development**

- Promote and support research, innovation, and development initiatives that aim at enhancing the contribution of sustainable aquaculture to food



©FAO/Tamiru Legess

security and nutrition with due consideration to improved feed efficiency and disease control.

➤ Promote the development and implementation of south-south as well as north-south cooperation, to encourage sharing and learning experiences in aquaculture.

## **D** Recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries

➤ Recognize the specific contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition.

➤ Promote and support the implementation of the 'Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication' (VGSSF), with respect to food security and nutrition.

➤ Take into account the requirements of small-scale fisheries in the design and implementation of national

and international policies and programmes related to fisheries, including investment plans, as appropriate.

➤ Support local organizations to foster the integration of small-scale fisheries into the decision-making processes.





©FAO/Ines Gonsalves

### **E** Enhance fish market's and trade's contribution to food security and nutrition

- Promote the inclusion of food security and nutrition in the objectives of policies and mechanisms related to fish trade.
- Strive to develop, promote and facilitate fish trade in support of food security and nutrition, while avoiding creation of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

- Seek to avoid trade measures that may disadvantage small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture.
- Promote a fair return along the fish value chain and encourage direct trade linkages between fish producers and consumers with due consideration to food safety.

### **F** Improve social protection and labour rights

- Strive to improve the working conditions of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including safety at sea, promoting decent work, eliminating forced and child labour and developing social protection systems.
- Explore ways to integrate the enforcement of fishing and labour regulations.



©FAO/Tony Karumba

## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



### **G** Fully address the gender dimension of the fisheries and aquaculture sector

- Give high priority to the support of women in fisheries and aquaculture through adequate planning, legislation, recognition or allocation of rights and resources, and the promotion of their contribution to food security and nutrition.
- Promote gender equality and women's empowerment in fisheries and aquaculture, promoting their engagement and access to policies, investments, projects, and fishing and access rights systems.
- Promote access to gender-adapted training and collect appropriate gender-disaggregated data.
- Recognize the work and contribution of fisher women involved in inshore and inland harvesting, and secure the protection of their rights in this context.

### **H** Integrate food security and nutrition concerns into fisheries and aquaculture-related policies and programmes

- Promote the implementation of the 'Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security' (VGGT), recognizing the particular relevance of article 8.3 on collectively used and managed land, fisheries and forests.
- Promote the participation of fishing communities and fish workers in all decisions that impact their livelihoods and enjoyment of the right to adequate food as defined by national laws.
- Promote the protection of existing rights and ongoing tenure over sites for food-insecure people, fishing communities and indigenous and tribal peoples, taking into account the VGGT.

- Consider the impact on food security and nutrition, of policies, interventions and investments affecting fisheries and aquaculture sector and their communities.

- Strengthen international cooperation to build the capacity of developing countries, to:
  - sustainably manage their living aquatic resources;
  - prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
  - promote and support the implementation of the VGSSF;
  - facilitate access to finance and markets especially for small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture; and
  - strengthen fishers and fish farmers associations;

thereby increasing the contribution from fish to food security and nutrition.



©FAO/Tony Karumba

➤ Take appropriate actions to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing in line with national law and relevant international instruments as applicable, recognizing the negative impacts of IUU fishing on local and global food security and nutrition.

**Furthermore the  
Committee invited FAO to:**

➤ Take the lead in an effort to improve fish stock assessment tools and promote sustainable fisheries management approaches and aquaculture development for the improvement of the contribution of fish to food security and nutrition.

➤ Help facilitate improvement of fisheries-relevant policies and strategies, by promoting transparency and inclusiveness, especially effective participation of small-scale fisheries, and the integration of fisheries and aquaculture issues into the major international programmes and initiatives, and giving due consideration to food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation.





©FAO/Vyacheslav Oseledko

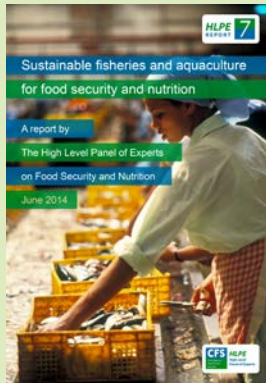
## THE COMMITTEE

Invited its members and participants, stakeholders and Committee on Fisheries to:

- ✔ Raise awareness of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition, in particular at the “Second International Conference on Nutrition” (ICN2), and towards the preparation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and disseminate the HLPE “Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition” report and CFS recommendations to international organizations and bodies.



FIND OUT  
MORE



**Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition**, by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

CFS is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all.



[fao.org/cfs](http://fao.org/cfs)



[cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org)



©FAO/Ines Conalves

The policy recommendations are part of the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)



Cover photo credits: ©FAO/ Hoang Dinh Nam