



Summary of the 2nd meeting: Global Action Network Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition

The meeting took place at FAO, Rome, October 18th, 2018 (in conjunction with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) meeting). It was a follow up of the 1st meeting "From Healthy Waters to Healthy People" July 5th, 2018. The objectives of the meeting were to provide guidance for concrete actions and future work of the Global Action Network. Member Countries were invited to make some decisions. However, in the spirit of CFS, the meeting was open to other stakeholders. Members who were not able to attend were invited to provide comments in writing. 22 representatives from ministries and governmental institutions of Iceland, Canada, Croatia, Ireland, Angola, Russia and Norway as well as other organizations: WHO, FAO, UNSCN, WorldFish, World Bank and Nordic Food Policy Lab, participated in the meeting.

The participants expressed a general support for the Global Action Network. It was suggested to highlight the work of the network at relevant arenas, such as the Global Fishery Forum. Delegates expressed their interest in the direction of the network, how to join and contribute. Furthermore, the participants shared important challenges and opportunities they have experienced regarding sustainable use of the oceans and inland waters, sustainable harvesting and production, moreover aquatic food, in relation to diet, nutrition and health. Examples mentioned were IUU fishing (illegal, unreported and unregulated), overfishing, post-harvest challenges, cooling systems, food loss and waste, lack of attention of the role of fish as food not just economic commodity, small-scale fisheries, low seafood consumption in the diet, opportunities in mariculture, nutritious small fish, health benefits of fish etc. Success stories of developing programs as well as those that did not end successfully were shared, to exchange lessons learned and to emphasise difficulties. For instance, establishing a sustainable fish industry, improving landing sites and export, increases fish volume and country income. However, this might also threaten food security of poor people, depending on the fish, as a source of important nutrients.

Representatives from the secretariat of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (WHO and FAO), shared information about the Decade of Action on Nutrition, and other network initiatives (e.g. school feeding, nutrition labelling and regional initiatives), and that the Global Action Network initiative on Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition has been conveyed to the General Assembly of the United Nations. Reports about the Network's achievement will follow. It was also expressed that the actions in the network should consist of more than one large meeting each year. Norway, as network initiator, mentioned some of the suggested actions, but underscored the need for cooperative development of the network and repeated the need for other Network Members to step up and partake actively. The achievement of this network will depend on the contributions of all the Network Members. Other Network Members are welcomed to join a "task force" and take an active role, together with Norway, in the planning and preparation of network activities.

The draft documents put forward to the meeting were discussed, some just briefly due to the time available. Based on the many valuable comments and suggestions put forward, the Mission Statement, the Concept Document and the Action Plan will be revised. It was decided that other stakeholders may join the network and participate, thus all the participants at the meeting are welcome to comment. The documents will be sent for comments electronically to the participants, before being published on the Network Website.