



**Building the capacities of Myanmar to upgrade and diversify its fish exports to meet international quality and safety standards**

*9-11 August 2016*

**Programme**

**Kandawgyi Palace Hotel/Parkroyal Hotel**

**Yangon/Nay Pyi Taw**

## **Background**

As part of the implementation of a project on building the capacities of selected countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports, UNCTAD is organizing a training and capacity building workshop in Myanmar from 9 to 11 August 2016.

Building on the policy lessons drawn from recently held workshops in African countries and Cambodia, this workshop will explore ways to upgrade and diversify Myanmar's fisheries exports. The workshop will address regional and global demand for fish, sustainability of supply, and the challenges and opportunities for Myanmar to tap its fisheries resources. It will also focus on international standards and various other requirements of importing markets. It will consider the human and institutional capacities that need to be built to overcome the challenges posed by weak supply capacities and complex international food safety requirements.

The workshop comprises two main segments: technical and policy. Each segment will itself consider four broad topics:

- i. How to sustainably tap into the potential of fisheries exports through diversification and structural transformation of the sector
- ii. The best practices and successful experiences from other developing countries on how to take advantage of growing global demand in fish, including through aquaculture
- iii. The necessary policies and strategies to enhance the role of the fisheries sector in the socioeconomic development of Myanmar
- iv. How to effectively address the challenges of meeting international fish quality and safety standards.

The meeting will also provide UNCTAD with the opportunity to validate and improve its draft manual on *Improving national standards in compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards*. This manual, prepared by UNCTAD, will serve as background document and a basis for discussions.

Myanmar is an LDC that has plenty of trade potential in its fisheries resources. The fisheries sector is currently significant both in terms of domestic consumption and in exports. Nevertheless, international standards related to food safety and food quality continue to present challenges to Myanmar's exporters. Myanmar already successfully exports fisheries products to a number of developed country markets, including in the European Union, however, due to the constant heightening of standards, it is important to appraise how to maintain access to these markets over time.

## **Workshop goals and participation**

### Segment I – Technical level sessions

The objective of this segment is to allow an in-depth technical discussion on the problems posed by weak supply capacities and complex international standards. Key participants will be technical people, from both private and public institutions dealing with the fisheries sector, including fishermen, experts in fish products, and exporters. These people will bring practical

and technical knowledge about trade, development policies and international standards pertaining to food quality and safety. Participants will be exposed to the most important challenges, opportunities and potential in fishery exports in Myanmar.

### Segment II – Policy level session

This segment will share policy relevant information and increase the understanding of key policymakers on issues related to formulating and implementing diversification policies and export promotion strategies with a focus on the fishery sector of the country. It will bring together a broad range of stakeholders (including representatives from academia, civil society, the private sector and government officials) to discuss the actions necessary to sustainably upgrade and diversify the fish exports of Myanmar, in part through increasing the industry's capacity to meet international standards. The policy level session will also explore ways to implement the UNCTAD manual on improving national standards in compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

## Segment I. Technical or expert level Session (9 August 2016), Kandawgyi Palace Hotel Yangon

*Note: Speakers marked <TBC> are provisional only and to be confirmed*

08:30-09:00     **Registration**

09:00-09:30     **Welcome and introduction**

*Dr. Htein Lynn, Director, Strategic Trade Promotion Division, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation, Ministry of Commerce*

*Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*

<b>Session I:</b>	<b>Export diversification and structural economic transformation in Myanmar's fisheries sector</b>
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09:30-10:00     **Challenges, opportunities and prospects for diversification and structural economic transformation: Policy implications for Myanmar**

*Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*

10:00-10:30     **Role of the fisheries sector, challenges facing the sector, and policy actions to address the challenges in Myanmar**

*Mr. Thet Naing, Deputy Director, Department of Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation*

10:30-11:00     **Coffee/Tea break**

11:00-11:30     **The implications of international standards on Myanmar's fish processors**

*Mrs. Toe Nandar Thin, Vice-Chairman, Myanmar Fisheries Federation*

11:30-12:00     **Interactive discussions and summing up**

12:00-14:00     **Lunch break**

<b>Session II:</b>	<b>Global demand and supply trends of fisheries export, the role of fisheries in socio-economic development</b>
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14:00-14:30 **Environmental challenges in the fisheries sector**

*Speaker from non-governmental organisation <TBC>*

14:30-15:00 **Policy lessons from other developing countries in tapping the potential of fisheries exports**

*Mr. Ben McCarthy, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*

15:00-15:30 **How product quality management in fisheries affects export prospects**

*Wai Yee Lin, Assistant Director, Commodity Testing and Quality Management Center, Ministry of Commerce*

15:30-16:00 **Coffee/Tea break**

16:00-17:00 **Interactive discussions and summing up**

**End of the first day of the technical session**

**Segment I Technical or expert level Session (10 August 2016), Kandawgyi Palace Hotel Yangon**

**Session III: The way forward: Significance of UNCTAD's manual to Myanmar and guidance on how to mainstream and incorporate it in national export development strategies**

**08:30-09:00 Scope, purpose and technical aspects of the manual**

*Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*

**09:00-09:30 Prospects and opportunities for upgrading aquaculture facilities in Myanmar**

*Mr. Khan Zaw Aung, EC, Myanmar Fisheries Federation*

**09:30-09:50 Coffee/Tea break**

**09:50-10:20 Fostering industrialization and the role of the fisheries sector**

*Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*

**10:45-11:30 Priority actions in meeting international quality and safety standards: the case of Myanmar. Roundtable discussions**

*Moderator: Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*

*Panelists:*

*Mr. Thet Naing, Deputy Director, Department of Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation*

*Mrs. Toe Nandar Thin, Vice-Chairman, Myanmar Fisheries Federation*

*Domestic non-government organisation or civil society representative <TBC>*

**11:30-12:00 Interactive discussions and summing up**

**End of segment I**

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## **Segment II. High Level Consultation (11 August 2016), Parkroyal Hotel Nay Pyi Taw**

*Note: Speakers marked <TBC> are provisional only and to be confirmed*

- 08:30-9:00      **Registration**
- 09:00-09:30    **Opening session**
- *Opening remarks: Mr. Aung Soe, Director General, Myanmar Trade Promotion Association*
  - *Report of segment I: Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*
- 09:30-10:00    **The current situation for fisheries in Myanmar**
- Dr. Htun Thein, Deputy Director, Department of Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation*
- 10:00-10:30    **Scope, purpose and coverage of UNCTAD's manual, and mainstreaming and incorporating it in national export development strategies: proposed implementation.**
- Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*
- 10:30-11:00    **Interactive discussions on policy solutions to overcome Myanmar's challenges**
- 11:00-11:15    **Coffee break**
- 11:15-11:45    **Interactive reflections and planning on priority actions to advance Myanmar's fisheries sector**
- 11:45-12:15    **Wrap up and closing remarks**
- Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*
- 12:15-13:30    **Lunch break and informal discussion**

**End of Segment II**

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