Session 2

Building a Sustainable Ocean for Development

Toward the SDG Summit 2023:
High-impact trade initiatives for accelerating the SDGs

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1) State of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

2) The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

3) Social Sustainability in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains
State of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

Source: FAO SOFIA 2020
State of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

State of Fish Stocks 2019

Source: FAO SOFIA 2020
The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

3 pillars covered by the Agreement:

- IUU Fishing
- ABNJ and RFMOs
- Overfished stocks

Not covered but under negotiation:

- Overfishing
- Overcapacity
Implementation of the WTO Agreement

Technical assistance
Capacity building to Members and WTO Secretariat
WTO Agreement has a specific reference to FAO in the implementation – article 7
Social Sustainability in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains

Fisheries: one of the most hazardous occupations.

Lack of respect for human and labour rights in the sector – abuses and violations throughout the entire value chains.

Numerous and complex international instruments, and the lack of their implementation.

Photos by Mariana Toussaint
Since 2017, FAO mandate on social responsibility – address social challenges, and promote and respect human rights in the sector.

Under development: FAO Guidance on Social Responsibility in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains

Close collaboration with other UN Agencies, mainly IMO, ILO, UNCTAD and OECD

Since 2019, several multistakeholder consultations worldwide with governments, industry, trade unions, CSOs, NGOs, academia.

FAO COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture calls for the promotion of safe, healthy and fair working conditions for all in the sector.
Recommendations

Ratify and implement the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
Implement comprehensive and transparent regulations and policies to fight IUU fishing.
Promote decent work in the fisheries and aquaculture sector
Active collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders to implement and enforce better social practices at a national, regional and international level.
The importance of the FAO Guidance on Social Responsibility in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Value chains.
Recognize and acknowledge the role of women in the sector, including the small-scale sector.