Transparency and implementation mechanisms to support fish subsidies and NTMs reform

Introduction of background note
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7 April 2022
Public fisheries support continues to grow and can even grow more with energy and commodities price peaks in a post COVID-19 and under the current conflicts' scenario.
A WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement can be close.

Massive political efforts and high-level discussions
- Political and technical “acquis”

Main pillars of the negotiation process
- IUU fishing
- Overfishing and overfished stocks
- Overcapacity

WTO Members pledged to conclude negotiations
- WTO Ministerial Conference (week of 13 June 2022)

Second UN Oceans Conference
- Portugal
- 27 June – 1 July 2022
- Progress assessment
A Possible Joint FAO-UNCTAD Support Programme

Support to obligations of not doing it
- IUU fishing
- Overfishing and overfished stocks
- Overcapacity
  - Implementing systems (laws, regulations, administrative procedures, transparency mechanisms, notifications)

Support to obligations of doing it
- Country assessments based on demands & specific requests
- Special & differential treatment special clauses

Transparency
- Expand and increase Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)

Provide linkages to complementary initiatives
- Oceans Economy and Trade UNCTAD
- Blue Transformation and Sustainable Food Systems FAO
- Integrated approach: UNCTAD, FAO, UNEP, and IFAD

Engage relevant UN agencies
Tariffs Fisheries sector

Average tariff by fisheries’ subsectors (2018)

Source: UNCTAD calculations based on WITS, TRAINS data.
Incidence and prevalence of NTMs in marine fisheries by chapter

Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD TRAINS data.
Incidence of NTMs on seafood processed products by chapter

(a) Incidence of NTMs, by chapter

(b) Prevalence of NTMs, by chapter

Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD TRAINS data.
Welcome to TRAINS Portal

One-stop shop for importers/exporters, policymakers, and researchers to access data on trade regulations, Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs), as well as some practical information on target markets.
Some suggestions in the way forward for the 4th Oceans Forum and 2022 Ocean Conference

• Expand the monitoring of economic and trade trends on ocean-based sectors including evolution of tariffs and non-tariff measures in a Post COVID-19 recovery phase

• Welcome progress in the WTO negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies and call for strengthening cooperation with United Nations in its implementation, taking fully into account United Nations’ acquis on trade, fisheries, environmental and Law of the Sea agreements and considering target 6 of SDG 14

• Support national and regional fish subsidies reform in terms of objectives, targets, volumes, and modalities so resources can be channeled towards stocks management, the fight against IUU fishing and the development of sustainable ocean-based sectors

• Explore options to support small scale fishers and other small marine based producers to comply and overcome tariff and non-tariff measures

• Options for action could include creating economies of scale, join eco-labeling and branding, supporting the application of risks assessment and best sanitary practices, facilitating testing and recognition of third country sanitary authorities, conducting NTMs requirements assessments, and providing capacity building
Thank you!

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