



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI:FT)

Seventeenth Session

Vigo, Spain

25-29 November 2019

UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP Side event

The Inter-Agency Joint Plan of Action (IAPoA) for achieving the trade related targets of SDG 14

28 November 2019 / to be announced

A side-event will be held during the **FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade** in Vigo (Spain) on 28 November 2019 at Hotel Bahía de Vigo, to provide interested parties with a better understanding on the proposed functioning, activities, and outcomes of the IAPoA. The side-event will provide an opportunity for the three agencies to respond to questions on relevance, scope, content and proposed benefits of the IAPoA, and gather feedback.

Programme

Overview of the SDG 14 IAPoA and benefits for developing countries

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Video of the IAPoA by UNCTAD, FAO and UNEP

Q&A Session

This side event will be restricted to delegates and observers registered for COFI:FT

Background

Fish and fish products are some of the most traded food commodities. In 2017, around 38 per cent of global fisheries production was traded internationally generating US\$ 152 billion. Over 58 per cent of this trade in volume originates in developing countries where net trade income (exports minus imports) was valued at US\$ 37 billion in 2016.

Unfortunately, the unsustainable overexploitation of living aquatic resources during recent decades has led to overfishing and the degradation of fish stocks, habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity. Currently, about one-third of global fish stocks are fished at biologically unsustainable levels, causing an economic loss estimated at US\$ 83 billion per year.

New opportunities to address these and other oceans-related concerns have arisen with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular SDG 14, which seeks to: “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

At the UN Ocean Conference of June 2017, UNCTAD, FAO and UN Environment jointly deposited a set of voluntary commitments to support member countries with technical assistance, capacity building and information dissemination on the trade-related issues associated with SDG 14.

At the Second United Nations Oceans Forum on Trade-related aspects of SDG 14, July 2018, UNCTAD, FAO and UN Environment were requested by Member States and other stakeholders to prepare a draft Inter Agency Plan of Action to accelerate the implementation of SDG 14 through trade.

Objective

Together with the support and guidance from Member States, the three agencies are now presenting a draft SDG 14 Trade-related Inter Agency Plan of Action (IAPoA) to “accelerate the achievement of trade-related targets of SDG 14 (namely targets 4, 6, 7 and b) through improved trade policies that safeguard food security and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, living marine resources and livelihoods”.

Outcomes and activities

The objective of the IAPoA will be achieved by intervening in three outcome areas: 1) promoting multilateral oceans and trade-related reforms through dialogue, cooperation and consensus building; 2) strengthening national and regional capacities on policy frameworks for sustainable fish and fish products trade and the development of other oceans based sectors; and 3) enhancing awareness, knowledge and capacity to implement effective governance and sustainable fish and fish products trade and other oceans based sectors (see figure below).

The time framework for the IAPoA will be 2020-2025 in the short and medium term, and 2025-2030 for its final implementation. A pamphlet summarising key aspects of the IAPoA is available at:

<https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ditc-ted-14062019-oceans-JPoA-Pamphlet.pdf>

Outcome 1: Dialogue, cooperation and consensus are enhanced towards multilateral reforms in support of SDG 14

Activities: annual Oceans Forum, policy briefs, technical advice on fish subsidies notifications and seafood Non-Tariff-Measures (NTM) mapping

Outcome 2: National and regional capacity are strengthened to design and implement supportive policy frameworks for sustainable seafood trade

Activities: Targetted Blue economy reviews, capacity building to support national fisheries policy reform, fishery improvement programmes and mapping trade in fisheries services

Outcome 3: Market leaders, government officials, scientists and civil society have enhanced awareness, knowledge and capacity to implement practices and tools for effective governance & sustainable fish trade

Activities: Activities: Development of best practices for sustainable seafood trade, best practices training for small scale fisheries, regional capacity building workshops, communication campaign & resources dissemination

The three agencies are seeking support for the IAPoA, being currently the only inter agency platform for implementation to harness sustainable use and sustainable trade in fisheries and other oceans-based sectors, as a critical endeavour for accelerating implementation of trade related SDG 14.