

# **State of the world fisheries: Role of international agencies in fisheries management**

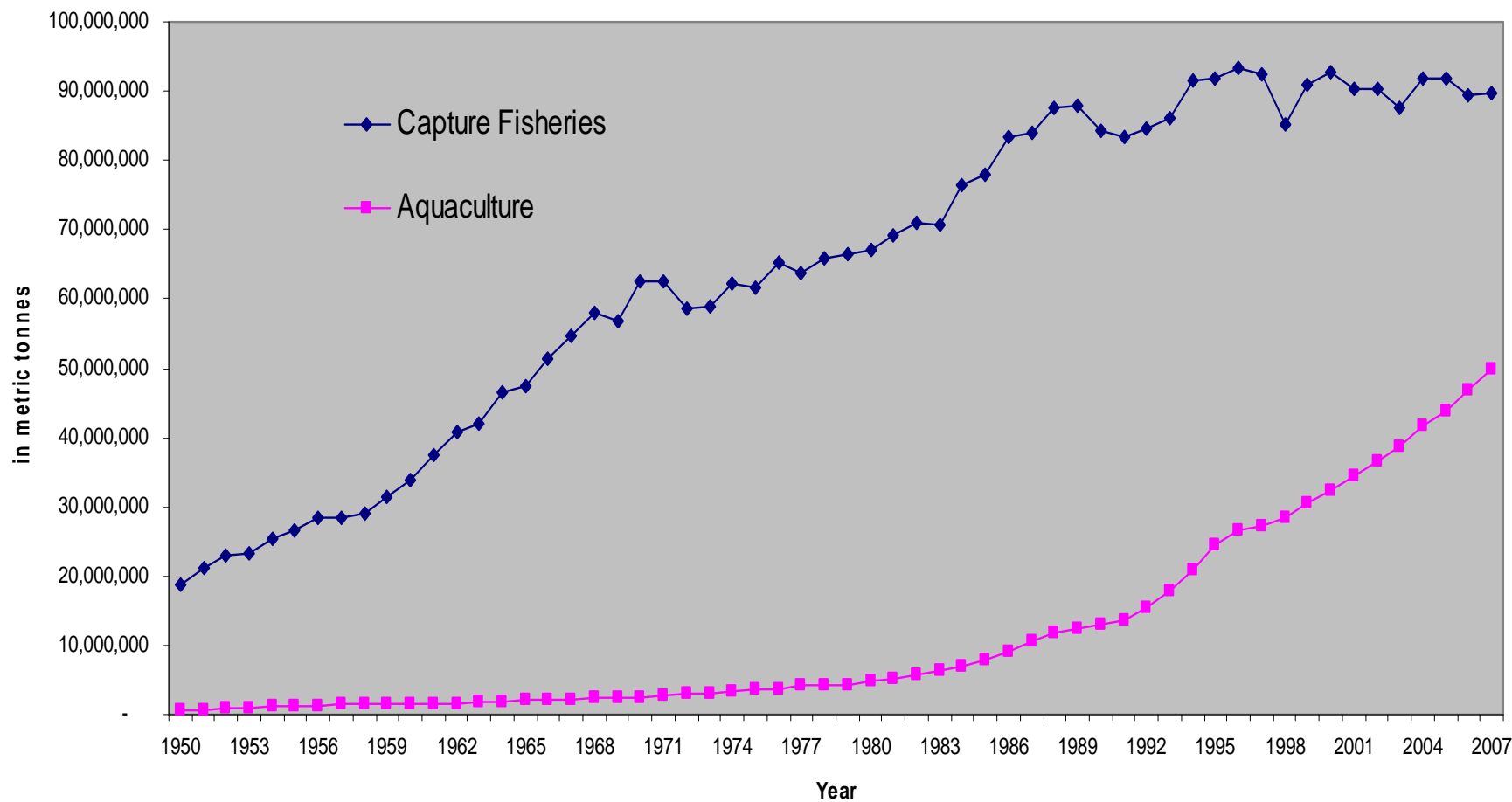
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International Collective in Support of  
Fishworkers (ICSF)

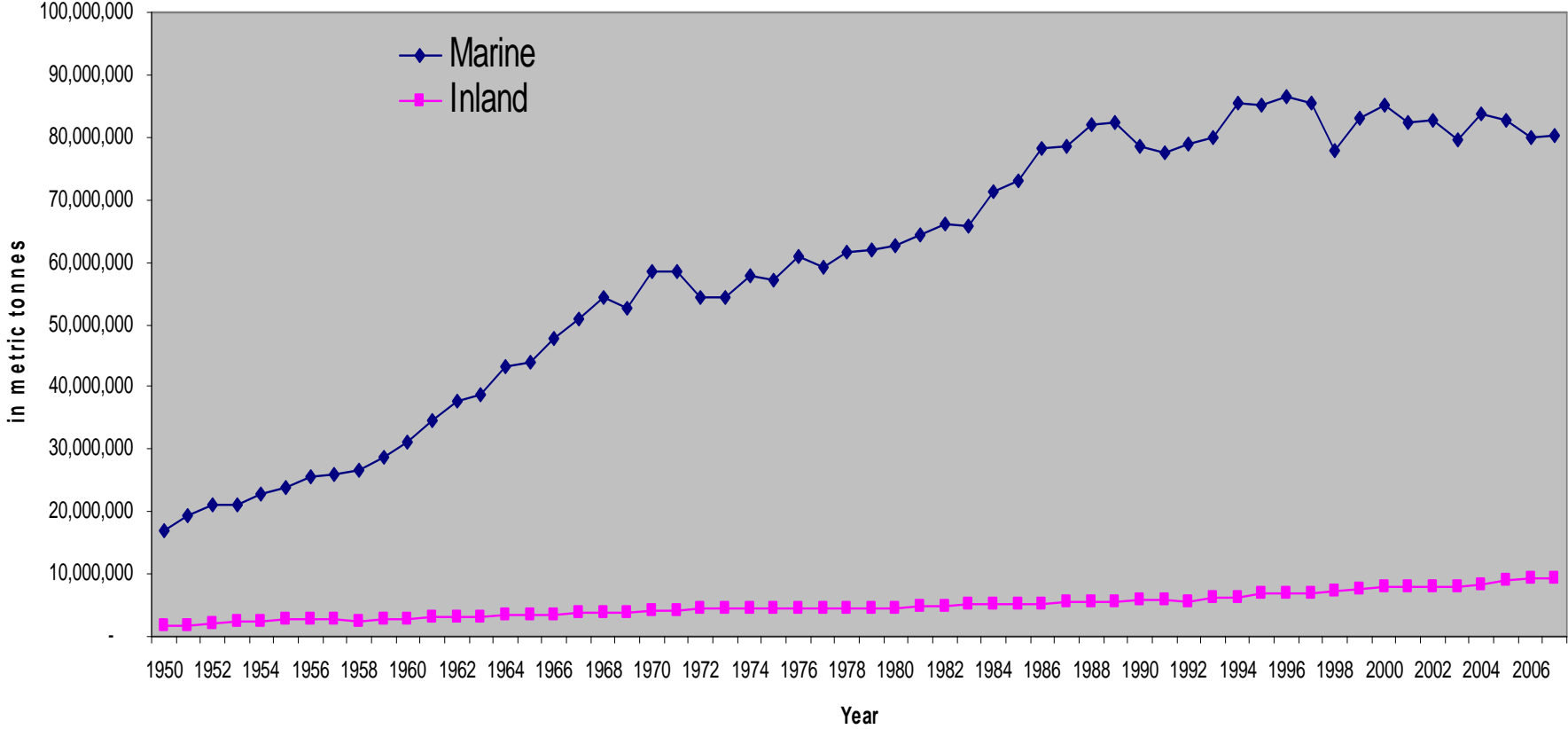
National Fisheries Dialogue

28-29 April 2009, Penang

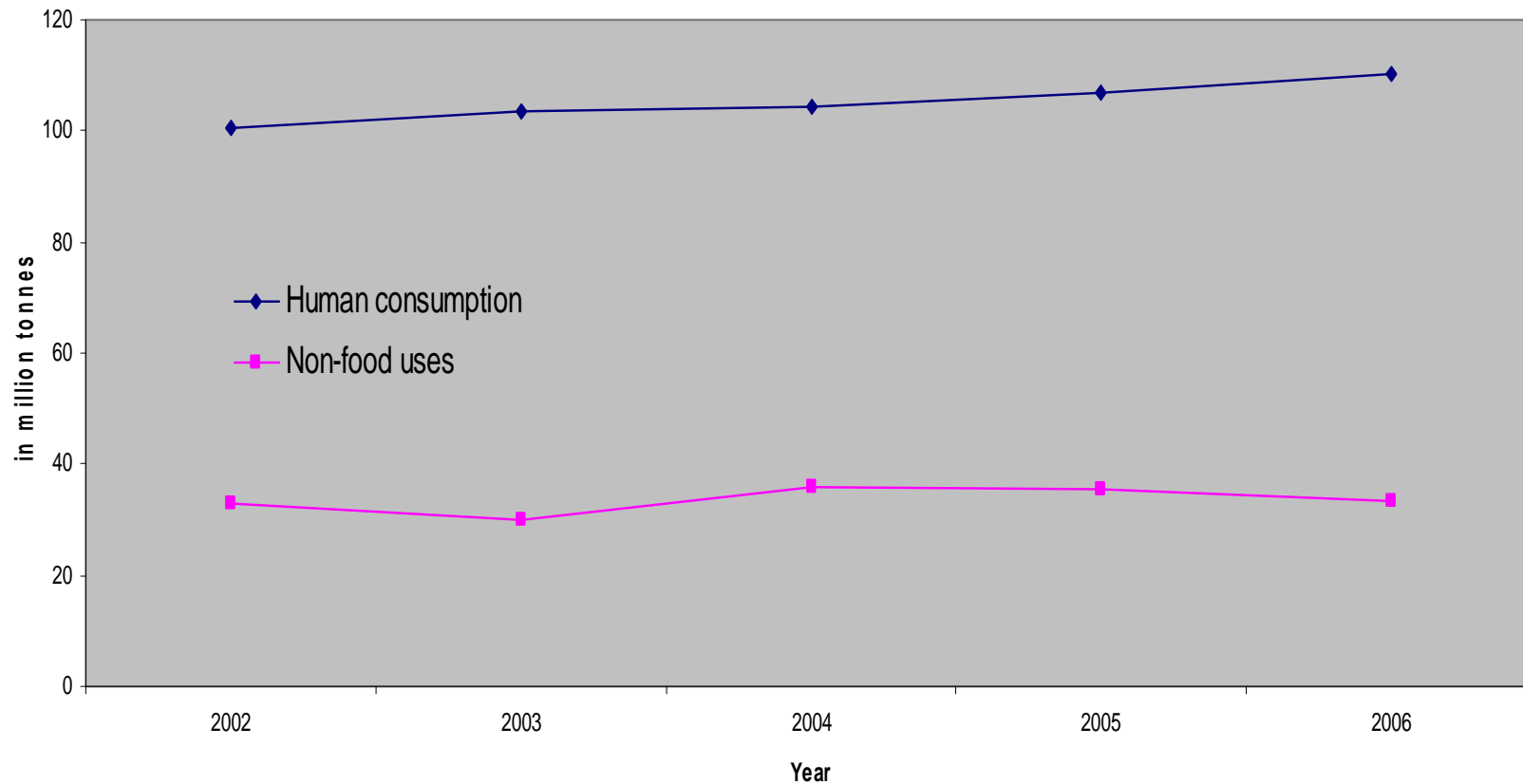
## World Total Fish Production: Capture and Culture (in metric tonnes)



# World Capture Fish Production: Marine and Inland (in metric tonnes)



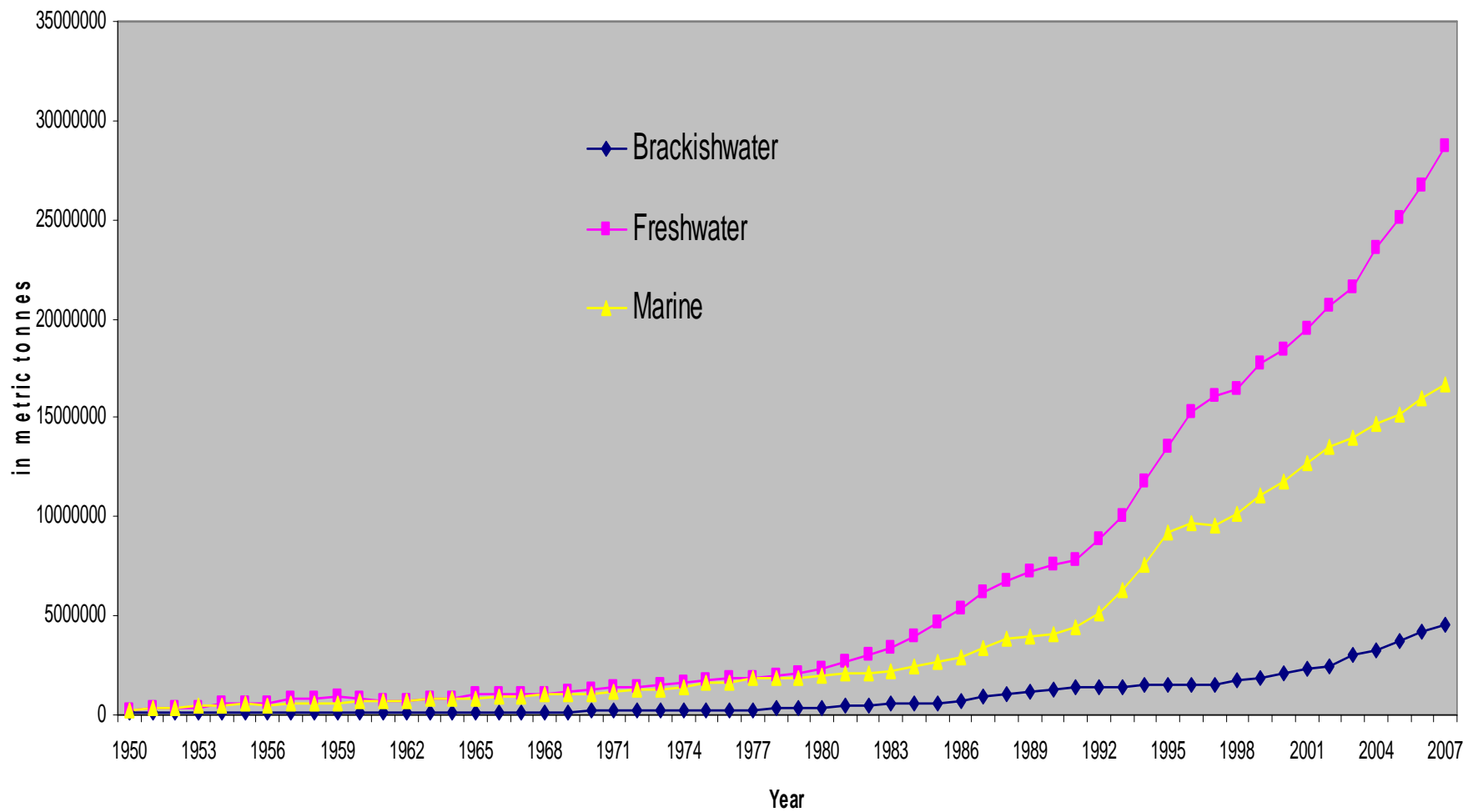
## Utilization of world fisheries and aquaculture production (in million tonnes)



In 2006, 33.3 mn tonnes were used for non-food purposes, mainly fishmeal (20 mn tonnes) and fish oil

Aquaculture contributed 47% of food fish

## World Aquaculture Production: Quantity (in metric tonnes)



# Fisheries: the human dimension

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- An estimated 43.5 mn full-time fishers and fish farmers in 2006—86% in Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and others)
- Small-scale fisheries employ over 90% of the world's fishers and support another approximate 84 mn people employed in jobs associated with fish processing, distribution and marketing.
- At least half of the people employed in small-scale fisheries are women (FAO 2009).
- High levels of poverty in SSF documented

# Status of fisheries resources

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- According to SOFIA 2008, in 2007, only 20% of stocks were moderately or under-exploited, while 27% were overexploited, depleted, or recovering, and 52% were fully exploited
- Evident need for improving fisheries management
- Key issues: Excess capacity, IUU fishing, bycatch and discards, destructive gear such as bottom-trawl fisheries,

# International instruments for fisheries management

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- 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)
- 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)
  - Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (only Philippines in SE Asia accepted)
  - IPOAs (seabirds, shark, capacity, IUU)



# Regional instruments for fisheries management

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- SEAFDEC Regional Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- The Regional Plan of Action for Responsible Fishing, 2007 (against IUU fishing)
- APEC Bali Plan of Action 2005 (for sustainable management of marine resources)

# International organizations

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- UN General Assembly (UNGA) and UN Informal Consultative Process On the Law Of the Sea
- International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and its Committee on Fisheries (COFI)
- At regional level, a number of regional fishery bodies (about 40 in all). In SE Asia IOTC, APFIC. Also SEAFDEC, NACA, APEC, ASEAN)

# International organizations

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- The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) has a mandate for conservation of biodiversity
- The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), established following UNCED, addresses fisheries matters.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) addresses the labour dimension of fishing
- The International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) deal with issues related to trade and environment, tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers, subsidies, etc.

# Fisheries management

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- Elaborate architecture of binding and non-binding instruments for fisheries management and governance (international and regional)
- Several international and regional organizations play a role in fisheries management
- However, poor implementation of available instruments. Situation of resources—and communities—continues to be of concern.

# Fisheries management

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- Many proposals from different perspectives to tackle the problem:
  - Rights-based fisheries (ITQs, property rights)
  - Alternative livelihoods
  - Co-management and community-based management
  - Marine protected areas
  - Reducing subsidies
  - Aquaculture

# Fisheries management

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- Top-down proposals, not through consultative processes with people in the fisheries (fisheries and fisheries policy is about people).
- Little recognition of community-led proposals and initiatives
- Communities seeking recognition of their rights
- Rights and responsibility two sides of the same coin

# Bangkok Statement on Small-scale Fisheries

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## Rights:

- to preferential access to fisheries resources under national jurisdiction
- to use, restore, protect and manage local aquatic and coastal ecosystems;
- to participate in fisheries and coastal management decision-making
- of women to fish for processing, trading, and food

# Bangkok Statement on Small-scale Fisheries

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## Rights:

- of women to fish markets, particularly through provision of credit, appropriate technology and infrastructure at landing sites and markets;
- to basic services
- of all categories of workers to social security and safe and decent working conditions;
- to information in appropriate and accessible forms.



# Bangkok Statement on Small-scale Fisheries

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- Need a human rights-based approach to development of fisheries—human rights, including social, economic and cultural rights, must be realized in the process of development
- Fisherpeople have rights, and a strong basis to make claims on their States, and hold them accountable
- Awareness of rights needed, with capacity building of rights-holders and duty bearers

