

## **International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)**

### **Statement**

#### **INFOFISH Governing Council, Thirty-third Session 17 December 2018, Langkawi, Malaysia**

Thank you for inviting ICSF to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the INFOFISH Governing Council Meeting. This is for the first time that we are invited to participate in one of your Governing Council meetings and we are grateful for this invitation.

ICSF is an international NGO in status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations, ILO and FAO. ICSF works towards sustainable and gender-just small-scale fisheries and decent work, worldwide. ICSF actively engaged with the negotiations leading to the adoption of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the CCRF in 1995 and the Work in Fishing Convention in 2007 (No. 188). ICSF works towards promoting the ratification of the Work in Fishing Convention across the world.

In regard to small-scale fisheries, ICSF worked with CSOs for the development and endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in 2014. These Guidelines, a negotiated instrument, are built on the economic, social and environmental foundations of sustainable development as laid down in the Outcome Document of Rio+20 'The Future We Want'.

ICSF has also worked towards the adoption of the SDG 14b: provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. ICSF believes that implementing the SSF Guidelines can be a vehicle for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of sustainable inland and marine fisheries as well as the wellbeing of fishing communities, especially women and vulnerable groups, including migrants and indigenous peoples.

ICSF now focuses its energy on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in different countries across the world mainly in partnership with FAO, adopting a human rights-based approach. These countries include: India, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. ICSF has produced a handbook on elaborating chapter 8 of the SSF Guidelines, dealing with gender equality. ICSF is in the process of developing guidelines on implementing chapter 6 of the SSF Guidelines dealing with social development, employment and decent work.

We are pleased to notice that the INFOFISH programme of work for the year 2018-19 includes activities to assist meeting Sustainable Development Goals, to implement the SSF Guidelines, to enhance the role of women in fisheries and to implement programmes with regard to climate change adaptation and mitigation. We hope the information INFOFISH generates and makes available are also these activities.

Although the contribution of small-scale fisheries to fish production, employment and food security is well known, there is little information about the share of small-scale fisheries in fish and fishery products trade at the national, regional and international levels. There is also little information on trade in species originating from small-scale freshwater and brackishwater fisheries. This information is vital from the point of view of meeting the SDG 14b to monitor if the access to market of small-scale fishers and fishworkers are

indeed improving over time. This information is useful to understand how small-scale fisheries, resonating SDG 12, also contribute to sustainable production and consumption.

We would request the Council to consider providing country-level information separately for species related to fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates at national, regional and levels, caught by small-scale subsector as well as others. We could then look at the distributional implications of fish and fish products enjoying a certain market share originating from small-scale fisheries, and see if these shares, in fact, reflect better human development of men and women fishers and fishworkers in countries of fish production, processing and export. In this context, we call upon INFOFISH to seek cooperation from FAO to improve technical and financial aspects related to this work.

Environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development are now more or less well established in relation to fisheries, including fish trade. The social pillar, however, is weak. ICSF works towards strengthening the social pillar of sustainable development, especially to benefit fishing communities. ICSF would like to see INFOFISH broadening its portfolio of activities to include specific activities related to information on the social aspects of sustainable trade and consumption, including decent work, impacts on women, etc., especially to better explain the provenance of fish in the market place. Decent work would imply better employment, better conditions of work, social protection and social dialogue of men and women along the value chain. This would better elucidate how trade in fish and fish products is benefiting fishing communities, fishers and fishworkers at the production and processing levels. ICSF would be pleased to cooperate with INFOFISH with its expertise and knowledge in relation to social aspects of sustainable trade in fish and fish products should INFOFISH wish us to do so.

Thank you Mr. Chair.