



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
National Commission for the Strengthening of Extractive Reserves (CONFREM)
Linha D'água Institute (LDA)
Latin America and the Caribbean Workshop IYafa 2022:
Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Artisanal Fisheries
2-5 November 2022, Ilha do Cardoso State Park, Cananéia-SP Brazil

CANANEIA STATEMENT

We, the representatives of artisanal fisheries, from 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Santa Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis;

Gathered in Cananéia City-São Paulo State, Brazil, in the Caiçara community of Itacuruçá Pereirinha, on Cardoso Island, a traditional fishing territory, that resists against conservationist policies for decades while continuing to fish and working with community-based tourism;

We reaffirm our essential role in the production of healthy and nutritious food along seas, oceans, rivers and lakes, intrinsic in the fight against hunger and food security, as was attested during the Covid-19 pandemic, when we provided fresh seafood on the population table;

Ensuring the international and regional cooperation principles, human rights standards, ancestral rights, as well as all forms of collaboration among fishers' organizations and supporting institutions, guaranteeing their rights and place of speech¹;

We recognize the knowledge of traditional fishing communities, Afro-descendants, of all indigenous peoples and the respect for culture, their ways of life and also their different realities;

We recognize the importance of women in the development of artisanal fisheries systems;

We recognize the importance of both national governments and supranational structures such as the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

Concerned with the loss of rights, alongside socioenvironmental impacts in artisanal fisheries territories and "mareteries"² arising from globalization, as well as incentives to

1 The concept of Place of Speech appreciates the speaker's social, cultural and economic realities while participating in a debate on a specific topic

2 "Mareteries" are places of tidal flows, coastal and marine areas of collective use of natural resources, of food sovereignty, composed by people who traditionally live there. Based on the premise of consumer goods production,

predatory, exclusionary and polluting economic activities encouraged by development projects announced by the Blue Economy;

Also concerned about worsening climate change and the effects of human action on the planet, such as rising sea levels, the intensification and greater frequency of extreme events (hurricanes and floods), invasion of exotic species such as lionfish and pandemics;

We draw the attention of all stakeholders interested in artisanal fisheries sustainability to the little progress made to date in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and the Eradication of Poverty, called the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines;

After 5 days of intense debates, we identified the following areas and priorities for action across Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure the continuity, development and well-being of our families, communities, and livelihoods:

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

It is important that education be a priority. Encourage differentiated and contextualized education that embrace traditional knowledge into formal education, also supporting adult literacy programs;

Propose territorialized projects for the education of fishers, established upon their needs;

Strengthen the role of youth through actions to promote the activity, to ensure future viability of artisanal fisheries;

Carry out training and capacity building processes both internally in technology (satellite knowledge, engine repair) and externally to the sector (management and accounting), and also in new communication technologies such as social media;

Create promotional materials, campaigns and other means of dissemination so that information is widely available to fishers in our different countries;

Inform society about artisanal fishing related issues through the use of social networks, media and others;

Attention to local languages, translating communication material in order to democratize information and knowledge;

Stimulate science that considers the knowledge of fishermen and fisherwomen and be guided by their demands.

It is necessary to document the history and knowledge of artisanal fisheries;

HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY

Foster preventive health;

Regulation of public health policies that are specific to artisanal fisheries such as recognition of occupational diseases, implementation of health centers in communities;

There must be information and records on occupational diseases in artisanal fisheries;

Recognition of traditional medicines;

Promotion of seafood as a healthy diet;

COALITION BUILDING

Promote coordination of different institutions, between fishers' organizations, both at local, regional and international levels, governments, universities, networks, and others;

Strengthen the Latin America and the Caribbean fisher representation insertion in regional and global coalitions of Artisanal Fisheries.

MANAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION

Recognize and respect the ancestral rights of traditional communities (e.g., LANGUAGE)

Build, strengthen, structure and recognize databases and information that can support decision-making and management of fishing activities and communities;

Ensure the regulation of artisanal fishers in different countries to leverage their visibility and recognition, guaranteeing access to appropriate public policies;

Recognize, regularize and entitle fishers' territories/maretories;

Empower fishermen and fisherwomen to manage resources;

Define small and large scale fishing;

Ensure policies to fight violence, exposure to delinquency, drug trafficking and other pressures that affect our communities and artisanal fishers;

Demand Fisheries Guidelines implementation to be carried out through specific binding Action Plans in each signatory country, as agreed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2022;

Request states to comply with implementation obligations for the acquired international commitments oriented towards marine conservation: 1) Other area-based conservation measures (OECM), 2) Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), and, 3) 30x30 High Ambition Coalition (HAC), demanding compliance with the free, prior and informed consent of International Labor Organization (ILO) 169 Convention and respect for all sovereign rights from fishers, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and local communities that ensure their participation in decision-making in coastal marine territories.

Demand more equitable distribution of speech time limits at FAO meetings, especially at the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), where participation is unjust and entitled only 3 minutes of speech after national governmental delegations;

Support the strengthening of fishers' actions and initiatives such as the "A Call to Action" initiative, presented at the Ocean Conference in 2022 and develop an advocacy process in the various world meetings that influence our livelihoods.

SOCIAL SECURITY

We demand special social security for artisanal fisheries, independent of agriculture.

Retirement with reduced age, life insurance and dignified health is required.

In some countries, security is private and fishers do not have access;

Recognition of other activities related to fishing, such as the processing of seafood, carried out mainly by women;

No requirement of fishing as an exclusive activity for access to social security rights (Brazil);

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

Implement closed-season insurance as a conservation strategy, where the state pays for temporary fishing moratoriums during species reproductive periods. This policy must be reproduced in our countries;

We celebrate the achievements met by the implementation and management of Sustainable Use Marine Protected Areas such as the Extractive Reserves in Brazil and responsible fisheries marine areas such as the Sustainable Use Authorization Terms (TAUS) in Costa Rica and other examples of shared governance, fisheries co-management and territorial autonomy;

We value and recognize the marine conservation efforts carried out by ancestral and traditional indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities and fishing organizations, as well as Protected Areas models which act as a defense mechanism of territories and maretries, in order to protect resources, as well as a safeguard against installation of large enterprises and associated impacts;

On the other hand, some countries are frightened by the debate on the establishment of environmental protection goals and the creation of Marine Protected Areas without prior, free and informed consultation;

We demand shared governance and the sovereignty of fishing and indigenous territories in protected areas established by governments, without the proper participation of communities, which result in fishers' exclusion from their activities;

Regulate and supervise the removal of shellfish seeds by fish farmers from natural banks;

CONFLICTS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

There is awareness that conflicts are not individual, but collective and therefore need to be faced accordingly (e.g., popular courts/tribunals);

Strengthen fishing communities in the face of environmental licensing processes, monitored by fishermen and fisherwomen, in prior, free and informed consultations (Convention 169), holding public hearings and others;

Alignment with NGOs, international complaints, wide media dissemination of the impacts;

Guarantees for all artisanal fishing territories, as fishers are often displaced from their communities by pressure from development projects, such as tourism;

Establish concepts about activities that dialogue with artisanal fishing, such as family aquaculture and community-based tourism, and strengthen agroecological practices;

Unjust public policies such as the concession of public waters for aquaculture should be reviewed in favor of artisanal fishers;

Review and/or regulate sport fishing that competes with artisanal fishing in fishing and protected areas, without measures to monitor their fish extraction volumes, to limit harmful methods and fishing gears, mainly of some protected species that in the end are not used.

WOMEN

Recognition and dissemination of the importance of women in fishing and ensuring that women have freedom, attentive listening and equality to participate in the entire fish-chain from fish harvest to the organization and management of fisheries institutions;

Strengthen communication and partnership among fisherwomen (women's networks, exchanges);

Recognition of women's work in formal bodies such as Ministries of Labor and others and implementation of public policies aimed at women and others;

Differentiated treatment for women in productive projects, public announcements, financing and bank investments;

Right to daycare facilities considering hours of operation that are sensitive to fisher community needs (e.g. tidal cycle);

Adaptation of productive and health public policies to the specific challenges faced by women in fisheries (e.g., adaptation of vessels);

Conducting campaigns to combat stigmas against fisherwomen (e.g., painted nails and makeup);

PANDEMIC

May the lessons learned from the pandemic that resulted in a greater network of solidarity between communities, and social movements of artisanal fishing and family farming workers, new marketing strategies, among other initiatives, not be forgotten;

Artisanal fisheries are not small-scale, because we feed the world!