



VIGO DIALOGUE ON DECENT WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

03 OCTOBER 2017, VIGO, SPAIN



WORKING TOWARDS ENSURING DECENT WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

BACKGROUND

The fisheries sector is characterized by cases of human rights violations and labour abuses, including instances of human trafficking, fraudulent and deceptive recruitment, modern-day-slavery, physical, mental and sexual abuse, homicide, child labour, debt bondage, refusal of fair and promised pay, abandonment, discrimination, excessive working hours, poor occupational safety and health, and denial of rights to association and collective bargaining negotiations and labour agreements. Violations take place at different stages of seafood value chains - especially in fish harvesting, farming and processing stages - and across different geographical areas. Women, migrant labourers and youth are exposed to these violations and are particularly vulnerable. Human rights violations on fishing vessels occur along with illegal fishing practices and other crimes.

On the occasion of World Fisheries Day on 21 November 2016¹, the representatives of the Holy See and FAO, as well as ILO, fish industry representatives and trade unions condemned illegal fishing and forced labour in fisheries, and urged collective commitment to prevent human rights abuses in fisheries value chains. The number of international and national initiatives calling for social accountability in fisheries and promoting improvements of social and labour conditions in fish value chains continues to grow, with support of governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, auditing and certification schemes, media and international organizations.²

The 2017 Vigo Dialogue will focus on the implementation of available recent international fisheries and labour instruments - as strategic approaches to combat abuses of human and labour rights in fish value chains.

For more info:

- 2015 Vigo Dialogue on Benefits of Decent Employment in Fisheries and Aquaculture
- 2016 Vigo Dialogue on Decent Work for Blue Growth: Towards Social Responsibility in the Fish Business

¹ FAO & Holy See, 2016. World Fisheries Day: The violation of human rights within the fishing sector. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/453811/code/>

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/11/15/migrants_council_issues_message_for_fisheries_day/1272311

² FAO. 2017. Social sustainability in fisheries value chains – some trends and challenges.

PROGRAMME

3 October 2017, Vigo, Spain

Instituto Ferial de Vigo (IFEVI), Meeting room Carlos Casares (Floor 2B)

WELCOMING REMARKS (10:00)

Rosa Quintana Carballo, Regional Minister of Maritime Affairs, Xunta de Galicia

Alberto López-Asenjo, Secretary General for Fisheries of Spain

Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, FAO

B. Wagner, Head Maritime and Transport Unit, ILO

José Luis Freire, President CONXEMAR

PANEL 1: CALLING FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DECENT WORK IN FISHERIES VALUE CHAINS (10:10)

High-Level Representatives will present introductory statements on human rights and decent work in fisheries.

Opened and moderated by: Audun Lem, Deputy Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO

- Alberto López-Asenjo, Secretary General for Fisheries of Spain
- H.E. Monsignor F. Chica Arellano, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to FAO
- Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, FAO

PANEL 2: ENSURING DECENT WORK IN FISHERIES VALUE CHAINS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS (11:00)

The implementation of recent international instruments provides strategic avenues for combatting IUU fishing and abuses of human and labour rights in fisheries. With the approach of “*Using multiple doors to enter the same room*” in mind, the Panel will first discuss opportunities arising from implementing international instruments. Thereafter the panel will present perspectives from trade unions, and then will discuss industry-led approaches to promote responsible business practices.

Opened and moderated by: Mr Erik Hempel

- The Port State Measures Agreement, the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels – A. Mosteiro (FAO)
- The FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries – M. D’Andrea (FAO)
- Update on ILO activities concerning decent work in the fishing sector – B. Wagner (ILO)

Coffee break

- Trade Union Perspective – L. Baz (ITF)
- Industry Perspective – J. Garat (ICFA)
- “APR” First Fishing certification with ILO C188 Social Conditions – J. Morón (OPAGAC)
- Compliance and human and labour rights protection in the seafood sector – J.P. Regojo (Pescanova)

Discussion

Participants will be encouraged to contribute their experiences and success stories in their efforts of advancing decent work in their fisheries value chains.

Light Lunch

Working languages: English/Spanish/French

The live webcast of the event will be available at this link: <http://fao.seneca.tv/>