

April 2013



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TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

Rome, Italy, 20-24 May 2013

**Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable
Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of
Food Security and Poverty Eradication**

This document contains the draft text of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. It has been developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO)
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DRM	Disaster risk management
EAF	Ecosystem approach to fisheries
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IUU (fishing)	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
RFB	Regional fishery body
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WTO	World Trade Organization

PREFACE

These *Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication* have been developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). They were developed to provide complementary guidance with respect to small-scale fisheries in support of the overall principles and provisions of the CCRF. Accordingly, the Guidelines are intended to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of small-scale fisheries and to contribute to global and national efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty. The Guidelines support responsible governance of fisheries and sustainable social and economic development for the benefit of current and future generations, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people – such as women, children and the elderly, indigenous peoples and food insecure groups – promoting a human rights based approach.

Small-scale and artisanal fisheries,¹ encompassing all activities along the value chain – pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest – undertaken by men and women, play an important role in food security and nutrition,² poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization. Small-scale fisheries provide nutritious food for local, national and international markets, generate income to support local and national economies, and often reinforce sustainable use of fishery resources.³

Small-scale fisheries contribute about half of global fish catches and when considering catches destined for direct human consumption, the share contributed by the subsector increases to two-thirds. Inland fisheries are particularly important in this respect and small-scale fisheries food production dominates the subsector. Small-scale fisheries employ over 90 percent of the world's capture fishers and fish workers, about half of whom are women. In addition to employment as full- or part-time fishers and fish workers, seasonal or occasional fishing and related activities provide vital supplements to the livelihoods of millions. These activities may be a recurrent sideline activity or become especially important in times of difficulty. Many small-scale fishers and fish workers are self-employed and engaged in directly providing food for their household and community as well as working in commercial fishing, processing and marketing. Fishing and related activities often underpin the local economies in coastal, lakeshore and riparian communities and constitute an engine, generating multiplier effects in other sectors.

Small-scale fisheries represent a diverse and dynamic subsector, often characterized by seasonal migration. The precise characteristics of the subsector vary depending on the location; indeed small-scale fisheries tend to be strongly anchored in local communities, reflecting often historic links to adjacent fishery resources, traditions and values, and supporting social cohesion. For many small-scale fishers and fish workers, fisheries represent a way of life and the subsector embodies a diversity and cultural richness that is of global significance. Many small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities – including vulnerable and marginalized groups – are directly dependent on access to fishery resources and land. Tenure rights to land in the coastal/waterfront area are critical for ensuring and facilitating access to the fishery, for accessory activities (including processing and marketing), and for housing and other livelihood support. The health of aquatic ecosystems and associated biodiversity

¹ While the wide diversity of the subsector and the variations in terminology – between languages, countries and regions – are recognized, the terms 'small-scale fisheries' and 'artisanal fisheries' are considered to relate to the same segment of fisheries for the purpose of this document. Comments provided on the Zero Draft document also suggested consideration of the term 'non-vessel and small-boat and community-based fisheries'. In this draft of the Guidelines, the term 'small-scale fisheries' will be used to encompass these different perspectives. The principle of terminology is that in accordance with the discussion in Part 1, chapter 2 "NATURE AND SCOPE, a clear definition of small-scale fisheries needs to be established at local or national level.

² Some of the comments received suggest that the SSF Guidelines should also refer to 'food sovereignty'. The present draft text does however refer to 'food security and nutrition' in line with current terminology of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

³ The term 'fishery resources' in this document covers all living aquatic resources (seaweed, shellfish etc. in both marine and freshwaters) which are commonly subject to harvesting.

are a fundamental basis for their livelihoods and for the subsector's capacity to contribute to overall well-being.

Despite their importance, many small-scale fishing communities continue to be marginalized and their contribution to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization – which benefits both them and others – is not fully realized.

Securing and increasing the contribution of small-scale fisheries faces many challenges and constraints. The development of the fisheries sector over the past three to four decades has in many cases around the world led to overexploitation of resources and threats to habitats and ecosystems. Customary practices for the allocation and sharing of resource benefits in small-scale fisheries, which may have been in place for generations, have been undermined as a result of non-participatory and often centralized fisheries management systems, technology developments and demographic changes. Small-scale fishing communities also commonly suffer from unequal power relations. In some places, conflicts with large-scale fishing operations are an issue and there is increasingly high interdependence or competition between small-scale fisheries and other sectors. These other sectors often have stronger political or economic influence and include: tourism, aquaculture, agriculture, energy, mining, industry and infrastructure developments.

Where poverty exists in small-scale fishing communities, it is of a multidimensional nature and is not only caused by low incomes but also due to factors that impede full enjoyment of human rights including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Small-scale fishing communities are commonly located in remote areas and tend to have limited or disadvantaged access to markets, and may have poor access to health, education and other social services. Other common characteristics include low levels of formal education, existence of ill-health (often including above average incidences of HIV/AIDS) and inadequate organizational structures. The opportunities available are limited, as small-scale fishing communities face a lack of alternative livelihoods, youth unemployment, unhealthy and unsafe working conditions, forced labour, and child labour. These constraints are often magnified in small-scale fishing communities located in remote areas. Pollution, environmental degradation, climate change impacts and natural and human-induced disasters add to the threats faced by small-scale fishing communities. All these factors make it difficult for small-scale fishers and fish workers to make their voices heard, defend their human rights and tenure rights, and secure the sustainable use of the fishery resources on which they depend.

These Guidelines have been developed through a participatory and consultative process, involving representatives of small-scale fishing communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), governments, regional organizations and other stakeholders. They take into account a wide range of important considerations and principles, including equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law, and the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. The Guidelines are consistent with and promote international human rights standards. They complement and support, in addition to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), other international instruments and commitments, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Contexts of National Food Security (*Tenure Guidelines*) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (*Right to Food Guidelines*). Users of the present document – including states, small-scale fisheries actors and other stakeholders – are encouraged to also consult these other guidelines, as well as relevant international and regional instruments, to fully integrate applicable obligations, voluntary commitments and available guidance.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1. OBJECTIVES

1. The goal of these Guidelines is to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. Promoting a human rights based approach, they aim to achieve poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization, placing emphasis on the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups – in fishing communities and elsewhere. The Guidelines seek to achieve this by empowering small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women, to participate in decision-making, enjoy their human rights, and assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fishery resources. The Guidelines also promote the contribution of small-scale fisheries to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and its people in line with the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

1.2. The objectives of these Guidelines are to:

- establish principles and criteria for the development and implementation of policies, strategies and legal frameworks for the enhancement of small-scale fisheries governance and development, and provide guidance for their implementation.
- enhance the awareness and promote the advancement of knowledge on the role, contribution and potential of small-scale fisheries and their related needs and opportunities.

2. NATURE AND SCOPE

2.1. These Guidelines are voluntary in nature and apply to small-scale fisheries in all contexts, but with a specific focus on developing countries and the achievement of benefits for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

2.2. The Guidelines are relevant to small-scale fisheries both in marine and inland waters and apply to all parts of the fishery system, i.e. men and women working in the full range of activities along the value chain, including the pre- and post-harvesting and trading subsectors, and all fishing and harvesting activities, whether in the formal or informal economy. The important linkages between small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are recognized, but these Guidelines principally focus on capture fisheries.

2.3. The Guidelines are directed towards FAO Members and non-member countries at all levels and scales (national, provincial and local governments, parliaments and legislatures, as well as implementing agencies and judicial authorities), including subregional, regional and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), traditional and customary authorities, and small-scale fisheries actors (fishers, fish workers, their communities and related professional organizations and CSOs). They are also aimed at research and academic institutions, the private sector, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), actors in the informal economy and all others concerned with the fisheries sector, coastal and rural development and the use of the aquatic environment. They are relevant to all forms of governance of small-scale fisheries including public, private, communal, collective, indigenous and customary. Accordingly, the Guidelines are directed at all parties – both state and non-state actors – i.e. all persons, institutions and organizations involved in or interested in

small-scale fisheries governance and development and in the use of the aquatic environment and adjacent land areas.

2.4. The Guidelines recognize the great diversity of small-scale fisheries and that there is no single, agreed definition of the subsector. Accordingly, the Guidelines do not prescribe a standard definition of small-scale fisheries. To ensure transparency and accountability in the application of the Guidelines, it is important to ascertain which activities and operators are considered small-scale, and to identify vulnerable and marginalized groups needing greater attention. This should be undertaken at a regional, subregional or national level or according to the particular context in which they are to be applied. States should ensure that this identification is guided by meaningful and substantive participatory, consultative, multi-level and objective-oriented processes so that the voices of both men and women are heard. All parties should support and participate, as appropriate and relevant, in such processes.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3A. General principles

3.1. These Guidelines are based on international human rights standards, responsible governance and sustainable development as defined in Rio+20, paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups and the need to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

3.2. All parties should recognize and respect the human rights principles, and their applicability to small-scale fisheries, as stipulated by international human rights standards: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness; non-discrimination and equality; participation and inclusion; accountability and the rule of law. All parties should also recognize the interdependence of democracy, economic development and human rights. Equitable development is fundamental and gender equality and respect for all should be promoted.

3.3. States should promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to empower individuals and civil society in small-scale fisheries to make demands on their governments, devise policies that address their specific needs and ensure the accountability and transparency of governments and state decision-making processes in implementing such policies.⁴ States should respect and protect the civil and political rights of defenders of human rights.⁵

3.4. Non-state actors including business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights.⁶ States should regulate the scope of activities in relation to small-scale fisheries of non-state actors to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards. Human rights are not limited to national jurisdictions and states should observe the extraterritorial dimension of their human rights obligations.

⁴ Based on § 1.2 of the Right to Food Guidelines

⁵ Based on § 4.8 of the Tenure Guidelines

⁶ Based on § 3.2 of the Tenure Guidelines

3B. Principles of implementation

3.5. Within the framework of a human rights based approach, states should ensure that the following principles direct the implementation of the Guidelines:

1. **Human dignity:** *recognizing the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable human rights of all individuals.*⁷
2. **Respect of cultures:** recognizing and respecting existing forms of organization, traditions, local norms and practices of small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples. However, it is recognized that the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women may need to be modified with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority, or the superiority of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women.⁸
3. **Non-discrimination:** *no one should be subject to discrimination under law and policies or in practice.*⁹
4. **Equity and equality:** ensuring justice and fair treatment – both legally and in practice – of all people, including equal rights of women and men, children, youth and the elderly to the enjoyment of all human rights. At the same time, differences between women and men should be acknowledged and specific measures taken to accelerate *de facto* equality, i.e. using preferential treatment where required to achieve equitable outcomes, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
5. **Consultation and participation:** ensuring active, free, effective, meaningful and informed participation of men and women of small-scale fishing communities in all aspects of governance of fishery resources and adjacent land areas, taking existing power imbalances between different parties into consideration. This should include support and inputs from those who could be affected by decisions prior to decisions being taken, and through appropriate responses to their contributions.¹⁰
6. **Rule of law:** *adopting a rules-based approach through laws that are widely publicized in applicable languages, applicable to all, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and that are consistent with their existing obligations under national and international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments.*¹¹
7. **Transparency:** *clearly defining and widely publicizing policies, laws and procedures in applicable languages, and widely publicizing decisions in applicable languages and in formats accessible to all.*¹²
8. **Accountability:** *holding individuals, public agencies and non-state actors responsible for their actions and decisions according to the principles of the rule of law.*¹³

⁷ § 3B 1. of the Tenure Guidelines

⁸ Based on § 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

⁹ § 3B 2. of the Tenure Guidelines

¹⁰ Based on § 3B 6. of the Tenure Guidelines

¹¹ § 3B 7. of the Tenure Guidelines

¹² § 3B 8. of the Tenure Guidelines

¹³ § 3B 9. of the Tenure Guidelines

3.6. States and all other parties should also apply the following guiding principles to the implementation of the Guidelines:

1. Economic, social and environmental sustainability: applying a precautionary approach and risk management to guard against undesirable outcomes, including not only overexploitation of fishery resources and negative environmental impacts but also unacceptable social and economic consequences.

2. Holistic and integrated approaches: recognizing the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) as an important guiding principle, embracing the notions of comprehensiveness and sustainability of all parts of ecosystems – including people’s livelihoods – and ensuring cross-sectoral coordination since small-scale fisheries are closely linked to and dependent on many other sectors. States should use spatial planning approaches as required.

3. Existing tenure rights: recognizing, respecting and protecting the various forms of legitimate tenure rights to aquatic resources and land enjoyed by small-scale fishing communities, even where not formally recorded in law. States should appropriately protect the rights of small-scale fishers and fish workers to a secure and just livelihood, as well as preferential access, where appropriate, to traditional fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction.¹⁴

4. Social responsibility: promoting community solidarity and collective and corporate responsibility. The fostering of an environment that promotes collaboration among stakeholders should be encouraged.

5. Feasibility and social and economic viability: ensuring that policies, strategies, plans and actions for improving small-scale fisheries governance and development are socially and economically sound and rational. They should be informed by existing conditions, implementable and adaptable to changing circumstances, and should support community resilience.

4. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

4.1. These Guidelines should be interpreted and applied consistent with existing obligations under national and international law, including the rules and mandates of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments. They are complementary to and support national, regional and international initiatives that address human rights, responsible governance and sustainable development as defined by Rio+20. The Guidelines were developed as an integral part of the CCRF and support responsible governance of fisheries and sustainable resource utilization in accordance with this instrument.

4.2. Nothing in the Guidelines should be read as limiting or undermining any legal obligations to which a state may be subject under international law. Where national legislation is inconsistent with the provisions of the Guidelines, they may be used to guide amendments and inspire new legislative provisions as well as help supplement customary norms and regulations.

PART 2: RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

5. GOVERNANCE OF TENURE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

¹⁴ Sentence is based on § 6.18 CCRF

5.1. These Guidelines recognize the need for responsible and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity and natural resources to meet the developmental and environmental requirements of present and future generations. Small-scale fishing communities need to have secure tenure rights¹⁵ to the resources that form the basis for their livelihoods. The Guidelines support equitable distribution of the benefits yielded from responsible management of fisheries and ecosystems, rewarding both men and women and paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups.

5A. Responsible governance of tenure

5.2. All parties should recognize that responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests applicable in small-scale fisheries is central for the realization of human rights, food security, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, social stability, housing security, rural development, and social and economic growth.¹⁶

5.3. States should ensure that small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities have secure, equitable, and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources (marine and inland) and of land in the coastal/waterfront area, with a special focus on women's tenure rights.

5.4. All parties should recognize and respect legitimate customary tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities including when not currently protected by law. States should take appropriate measures to identify record and respect legitimate tenure right holders and their rights, whether formally recorded or not.¹⁷ Local norms and practices, as well as customary or otherwise preferential access to fishery resources and land by small-scale fishing communities including indigenous peoples, should be recognized, respected and protected in ways that are consistent with international human rights standards and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. *Where constitutional or legal reforms strengthen the rights of women and place them in conflict with custom, all parties should cooperate to accommodate such changes in the customary tenure systems.*¹⁸

5.5. Where states own or control water (including fishery resources) and land resources, they should determine the use and tenure rights of these resources in the light of broader social, economic and environmental objectives.¹⁹ States should, as applicable, recognize and safeguard publically owned resources that are collectively used and managed by small-scale fishing communities. They should preserve related collective use and management arrangements and mechanisms. These measures should be taken to ensure that tenure rights of resources which form the basis of livelihoods remain within the community.

5.6. States should ensure that safeguards are in place for the most vulnerable and marginalized, including migrants, who may not have legitimate tenure rights but still depend on access to fishery resources and land for their livelihoods, especially in times of hardship.

¹⁵ The term 'tenure right' is used in accordance with the contents of the *Tenure Guidelines* and hence the notion that tenure determines who can use which natural resources, for how long and under what conditions. It hence encompasses other commonly used terms, such as 'access right', 'use right' and 'management right'.

¹⁶ Based on § 4.1 of the *Tenure Guidelines*

¹⁷ Based on § 3.1 of the *Tenure Guidelines*

¹⁸ Sentence cited from § 9.6 of the *Tenure Guidelines*

¹⁹ Based on § 8.1 of the *Tenure Guidelines*

5.7. States should grant, protect and promote preferential access of small-scale fishing communities to fish in waters under national jurisdiction with a view to achieving equitable outcomes for different groups of people, in particular vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. Specific measures, such as the creation and enforcement of exclusive zones for small-scale fisheries, should be considered. Small-scale fishing communities should be given priority consideration before agreements on resource access are entered into with third countries and third parties.

5.8. States should consider redistributive reforms when these can facilitate equitable access to fishery resources and of land for small-scale fishing communities. Specific measures must be put in place to ensure that women benefit equitably from the redistribution of resources. Redistribution may require expropriation and should take place in accordance with the provisions of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Contexts of National Food Security.

5.9. States should ensure that small-scale fishing communities are not arbitrarily evicted and that their legitimate tenure rights are not otherwise extinguished or infringed.²⁰ States should recognize that competition from other resource users is increasing and that small-scale fishing communities, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups, are often the weaker party in conflicts with other sectors and may require special support if their livelihoods are threatened by the development and activities of other sectors.

5.10. States should provide access through impartial and competent judicial and administrative bodies for small-scale fishing communities to timely, affordable and effective means of resolving disputes over tenure rights, including alternative means of resolving such disputes, and should provide effective remedies, which may include an entitlement to appeal, as appropriate. Such remedies should be promptly enforced and may include restitution, indemnity, compensation and reparation. States should strive to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized persons have access to such means.²¹

5.11. States should take steps to restore access to traditional fishing grounds and coastal lands to small-scale fishing communities that have been displaced due to war or conflict situations. Such steps must promote and ensure the elimination of any form of discrimination against women in tenure practices.

5B. Sustainable resource management

5.12. States and all those engaged in fisheries management should adopt measures for the long term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources. They should promote and implement appropriate management systems, consistent with their existing obligations under national and international law and voluntary commitments including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, that give due recognition to the requirements and opportunities of small-scale fisheries.

5.13. All parties should recognize that rights and responsibilities come together; tenure rights are balanced by duties, and respect for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of resources is required. Destructive and illegal fishing methods or other practices that are harmful to the environment or unsustainable should be replaced by responsible practices.

²⁰ Based on § 4.5 of the Tenure Guidelines

²¹ Based on § 4.9 of the Tenure Guidelines

5.14. States should facilitate and support small-scale fishing communities to take responsibility, in accordance with their customary tenure rights and systems, for the management of the resources on which they depend for their well-being and that are traditionally used for their livelihoods. Accordingly, states should ensure that small-scale fishing communities – including vulnerable and marginalized groups – are involved in the design, planning and implementation of management measures affecting their livelihood options. This applies both to protected areas in marine and inland waters and to coastal areas (e.g. mangrove conservation). Participatory management systems, such as co-management, should be promoted in accordance with national law.

5.15. States should ensure that monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems suitable for small-scale fisheries are in place. They must provide support to such systems, involving small-scale fisheries actors as appropriate and promoting participatory arrangements within the context of co-management. Effective enforcement mechanisms are required to abolish all forms of illegal and destructive fishing having a negative effect on small-scale fisheries.

5.16. States should ensure that the roles and responsibilities in co-management arrangements of concerned parties and stakeholders are clarified and agreed through a participatory process and that they have clear legal and justiciable support. All parties are responsible for assuming the management roles agreed to. Small-scale fisheries actors should endeavour to be represented in relevant local and national professional and fisheries bodies and actively take part in all decision- and policy-making processes.

5.17. States and small-scale fisheries actors should encourage and support the role and involvement of both men and women, whether engaged in pre-harvest, harvest, or post-harvest operations, in co-management and in the promotion of responsible fisheries, contributing their particular knowledge, perspectives and needs. All parties should pay specific attention to the need to ensure equitable participation of women, designing special measures to achieve this objective within set time frames.

5.18. States should avoid policy measures, such as the provision of certain types of government financial transfers and other economic incentive schemes, that may induce increased competition for resources with an adverse impact on small-scale fisheries.

5.19. Where transboundary and other similar issues exist, e.g. shared waters and fishery resources, states should work together to ensure that the tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities are granted and protected according to the principles applied in areas under national jurisdiction. In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, states should cooperate in the management of transboundary fishery resources through regional fishery management arrangements and organizations.

5.20. All parties should recognize the need to consider current and/or future climate change consequences in management arrangements and practices. Effective adaptive management mechanisms and measures to strengthen resilience should be part of small-scale fisheries co-management plans and implementation, considering both water and land.

6. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

6.1. These Guidelines recognize that small-scale fishing communities, both inland and marine, often exhibit high levels of vulnerability. This is the result of their dependence on exploiting a limited natural resource and the inherent unpredictability of the fishing profession, but it also relates to broader developmental issues. Small-scale fishing communities need access to the full spectrum of financial, social and institutional services and resources in addition to tenure rights to fishery resources and land to sustain their livelihoods. The Guidelines promote increased awareness and enhanced consideration of the socio-economic conditions and social and economic development needs of small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women and paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups.

6.2. All parties should recognize the need for coherent integrated and holistic approaches to governance and development that take the complexity of livelihoods into consideration and are based on human rights. Increased attention to social development is needed to ensure that small-scale fishing communities are empowered and can enjoy their human rights.

6.3. States should support investment in human resource development such as health, education, literacy and other skills training. States should ensure that small-scale fishing communities have access to these and other essential public services, including decent housing, sanitation, potable water and electricity. Preferential treatment of women and vulnerable and marginalized groups – in providing services and giving effect to non-discrimination and other human rights– should be accepted and promoted when it is required to ensure equitable benefits.

6.4. States should ensure that small-scale fishers and fish workers are covered by unemployment insurance and social security schemes with benefits equal to other professional groups in the country in accordance with national law. Social security schemes should take into account the particular characteristics of small-scale fisheries. Such schemes should apply to the whole value chain and include provisions for seasonal work and work in the informal economy, as well as for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

6.5. States should support the development of other services that are appropriate for small-scale fishing communities with regard to, for example, savings, credit and insurance schemes, with special emphasis on ensuring the access of women to such services.

6.6. States should recognize as economic and professional operations the full range of activities along the small-scale fisheries value chain: both pre- and post-harvest; whether in an aquatic environment or on land; undertaken by men or by women; in the formal or the informal economy. All activities should be considered: part-time, occasional and/or for subsistence. Professional development opportunities should be promoted, in particular for more vulnerable groups of post-harvest fish workers and women.

6.7. States should respect the right to an adequate standard of living and to work in accordance with international human rights standards. It is necessary to create an enabling environment for sustainable development in small-scale fishing communities. States should pursue inclusive, non-discriminatory and sound economic, fisheries and land-use policies, all of which will permit small-scale fishing communities and other food producers, particularly women, to earn a fair return from

their labour, capital and management, and encourage conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.

6.8. States should support already existing, or the development of, complementary and alternative income-generating opportunities – in addition to earnings from fisheries-related activities – for small-scale fishing communities, as required and in support of sustainable resource utilization and livelihood diversification. The role of small-scale fisheries in local economies and the links of the subsector to the wider economy need to be recognized and benefited from. Small-scale fishing communities should equitably benefit from developments such as community-based tourism (including recreational fishing) and small-scale responsible aquaculture. However, when small-scale fishers and fish workers want to continue in their profession, this wish should be respected and adequately recognized in fisheries policies and management regimes.

6.9. States should create conditions for men and women of small-scale fishing communities to fish and to carry out fisheries-related activities in an environment free from crime (including environmental and fisheries crimes), violence, mafia activities, piracy, theft, sexual abuse, corruption and abuse of authority. All parties should take steps to institute measures that aim to eliminate sexual violence, including domestic violence, and to protect women exposed to such violence. States should ensure access to justice for victims of violence, abuse etc., including within the household or community.

6.10. States and small-scale fisheries actors, including traditional and customary authorities, should understand, recognize and respect the role of migrant fishers and fish workers, given that migration is a common livelihood strategy in small-scale fisheries. States and small-scale fisheries actors should ensure fair and adequate integration of migrants who engage in sustainable use of fisheries resources and who do not undermine local community-based fisheries governance and development.

6.11. States should address occupational health issues and unfair working conditions of all vessel- and shore-based small-scale fishers and fish workers by ensuring that the necessary legislation is in place and is implemented, *inter alia*, in accordance with international human rights standards, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). All parties should strive to ensure the inclusion of the aspect of occupational health and safety as an integral part of fisheries management as well as development initiatives.

6.12. States should eradicate forced labour, prevent debt-bondage of women, men and children and adopt effective measures to protect fishers and fish workers, including migrants, with a view to the complete elimination of forced labour in fisheries including small-scale fisheries.

6.13. States should provide and enable access to schools and education facilities that meet the needs of small-scale fishing communities and that facilitate gainful and decent employment of youth, respecting their career choices and providing equal opportunities for all boys and girls and young men and women.

6.14. Small-scale fisheries actors should recognize the importance of children's well-being and education for the future of the children themselves and of society at large. Children should go to school, be protected from all abuse and have all their rights respected in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6.15. States should recognize and address the underlying causes and consequences of transboundary movement of fishers, leading to the arrest or detention of fishers outside their countries. In such cases, fair and just treatment of the affected persons must be promoted. States and other parties should contribute to the understanding of transboundary tenure issues affecting communities, such as fishing grounds of small-scale fishers, which lie across international boundaries.

6.16. All parties should recognize the complexity that surrounds safety-at-sea issues (in inland and marine fisheries) and the multiple causes behind deficient safety. This applies to all fishing activities (vessel-based or not). States should ensure the development, enactment and implementation of appropriate national laws and regulations that are consistent with international guidelines of FAO, the ILO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for work in fishing and sea safety in small-scale fisheries.

6.17. States should recognize that improved sea safety, which includes occupational health and safety, in small-scale fisheries (inland and marine) will best be achieved through the development and implementation of coherent and integrated national strategies, with elements of regional coordination, as appropriate. States should provide support to, among other things, maintenance of national accident reporting, provision of sea safety awareness programmes and introduction of appropriate legislation for sea safety in small-scale fisheries. Full use should be made of existing institutions and community-based structures for increasing compliance, data collection, training and awareness, and search and rescue operations.

7. VALUE CHAINS, POST-HARVEST AND TRADE

7.1. These Guidelines recognize that the post-harvest subsector – comprising all activities from capture of the fish through to the consumer – employs more people than the primary production subsector and most of them are women. Small-scale fish workers – including both men and women – in all parts of the value chain need to be recognized, considered and adequately supported, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups. The Guidelines promote a value chain perspective to small-scale fisheries governance and development, recognizing the need to view the post-harvest subsector and its actors as an integral part of the fishery system and hence also as stakeholders in fisheries governance and management.

7.2. All parties should recognize the central role that the small-scale fisheries post-harvest subsector and its actors play in the value chain, constituting the link between resource utilization (supply) and consumption (demand). The post-harvest subsector also links small-scale fisheries with other fisheries, as small-scale fish workers sometimes process and market fish obtained from large-scale fisheries. Small-scale fisheries are in a sensitive position as performance is influenced by practices and factors in both the upstream (fishers/primary production) and downstream (consumers/consumption) segments. All parties should ensure that post-harvest actors are part of relevant decision-making, recognizing that there are sometimes unequal power relationships between value chain actors and that vulnerable and marginalized groups may require special support.

7.3. All parties should recognize the role women often play in the post-harvest subsector and support improvements to facilitate women's participation in work. States should ensure that amenities

and services appropriate for women are available as required, to enable women to retain and enhance their livelihoods in the post-harvest subsector.

7.4. States should provide and enable investments in appropriate infrastructures, procedures, organizational structures and capacity development to support the small-scale fisheries post-harvest subsector in producing good quality and safe fish and fishery products, for both export and domestic markets, in a responsible and sustainable manner.

7.5. States and development partners should promote organizational and capacity development for small-scale fish workers in all stages of the value chain, in order to enhance their income and livelihood security. Accordingly, the development of cooperatives and other organizational structures should be supported as appropriate.

7.6. All parties should avoid post-harvest losses and seek ways to create value addition, building on existing traditional and local cost-efficient technologies, local innovations and culturally appropriate technology transfers. Environmentally sustainable practices should be promoted, deterring, for example, waste of inputs (water, fuelwood etc.) in small-scale fish handling and processing.

7.7. States should facilitate access to local, national, regional and international markets for fishery products from small-scale operators, promoting equitable and non-discriminatory trade in fish and fishery products. *States should, as appropriate, promote the development of small-scale local and regional markets and border trade to reduce poverty and increase food security, particularly in poor rural and urban areas.*²² States should work together to introduce border procedures and trade regulations that support regional trade in products from small-scale fisheries and which are consistent with the rules and mandate of WTO.

7.8. All parties should recognize that small-scale fisheries should not be marginalized in markets as a result of ecolabelling and certification schemes. States should encourage certification schemes based on social, economic and environmental sustainability and fair trade criteria for products from small-scale fisheries. An enabling environment for small-scale fishing communities to develop their own area-specific labelling schemes should be provided.

7.9. States should endeavour to understand the impact of international trade in fish and fishery products and of vertical integration on local small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities. States should ensure that promotion of international fish trade and export production do not adversely impact the enjoyment of the right to food and other human rights especially of people for whom fish is critical to a nutritious diet, their health and well-being and for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily available or affordable.²³

7.10. States, small-scale fisheries actors and other value chain actors should recognize that high export prices for their products can be beneficial if distributed fairly. However, if there is no responsible and effective fisheries management system in place, states should be aware that increasing demand in international markets may also incite overexploitation, resulting in a threat to food security and nutrition. Market demand has to be matched by effective fisheries management, including responsible post-harvest practices, policies and actions.

²² § 4.5 Right to Food Guidelines

²³ Based on § 11.2.15 of the CCRF

7.11. States should adopt policies and procedures, including environmental and social assessments, to ensure that adverse impacts by international trade on the environment, small-scale fisheries livelihoods and food security needs are equitably addressed. Consultation with concerned stakeholders should be part of these policies and procedures.²⁴

7.12. States should enable access to relevant market and trade information – for example, on changes in global seafood trade and on other aspects of globalization, sustainability, traceability, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and food security and nutrition – for stakeholders in the small-scale fisheries value chain. Small-scale fisheries stakeholders must be able to access timely and accurate market information to help them adjust to changing market conditions. Capacity development is also required so that small-scale fish workers, and especially women and vulnerable and marginalized groups, can adapt to and benefit from opportunities of global trends and local situations while minimizing any potential negative impacts.

7.13. States should invest in the promotion of fish consumption and consumer education programmes, including in school curricula, in order to increase awareness of the nutritional benefits of eating fish and impart knowledge of how to assess fish and fishery product quality.

7.14. All parties should take into account the impact that climate change may have on the post-harvest subsector in the form of changes in fish species and quantities, fish quality and shelf-life, and implications with regard to market outlets. States should provide support to small-scale fisheries actors with regard to adjustment measures in order to reduce negative impacts. When new technologies are introduced, they need to be flexible and adaptive to future changes in species, products and markets, and climatic variability.

8. GENDER EQUALITY

8.1. These Guidelines recognize that women and men play important and complementary roles in the governance and development of small-scale fisheries, and that they should enjoy equal respect and human rights in all aspects of life and in decision-making. Gender equality in small-scale fisheries should be promoted and supported in accordance with international human rights standards and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Guidelines recognize that although the concept of gender, by definition, deals with both men and women – and boys and girls – and the socially, culturally and economically established roles and relationships between them, women are often more disadvantaged than men. Gender equality efforts, therefore, often involve supporting and empowering women while working with both men and women.

8.2. All parties should recognize that achieving gender equality requires concerted efforts by all and that gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of all small-scale fisheries development strategies. These strategies need to be culturally sensitive and different approaches may be required in different cultural contexts.

²⁴ Based on § 61 of the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 11. Responsible Fish Trade.

8.3. States should comply with international human rights standards and implement relevant instruments, in particular CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. States should adopt specific measures to address discrimination against women, while creating spaces for civil society organizations, in particular for women fish workers and their organizations, to participate in monitoring their implementation. Women should be encouraged to participate in fisheries organizations, and relevant organizational development support should be provided.

8.4. States should ensure that adequate policies and legislation are in place for achieving gender equality. Any policy or legislation that is not compatible with gender equality should be amended. States should be at the forefront of implementing actions for improving gender equality by, *inter alia*, recruiting both men and women as extension staff, offering staff training in gender-sensitive fisheries technologies and other aspects, and ensuring that both men and women have access to extension and technical services related to fisheries.

9. DISASTER RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

9.1. These Guidelines recognize that many small-scale fishing communities are especially vulnerable to natural and human-induced disasters and climate change. Small-scale fishing communities are often located in areas that are prone to natural disasters and climate change impact, given that the land-water interface is one of the most dynamic environments on earth. The particular characteristics of small-scale fisheries need to be considered in disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) policies and interventions. The Guidelines promote the integration of disaster risk and climate change considerations in small-scale fisheries governance and development, including strengthening of resilience and considering the needs of both men and women and of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

9.2. States should develop policies and plans to address climate change in fisheries, in particular strategies for adaptation and mitigation as well as for building resilience, in full and effective consultation with fishing communities, including men and women, paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups. Special considerations must be given to small-scale fishing communities living on small islands where climate change may have particular food security and nutrition implications.

9.3. All parties should recognize the need for integrated and holistic approaches, including cross-sectoral collaboration, in order to address disaster risks and climate change in small-scale fisheries. States should take steps to address issues such as pollution, coastal erosion and destruction of coastal habitats due to human-induced non-fisheries-related factors. Such concerns seriously undermine the livelihoods of fishing communities as well as their ability to adapt to possible impacts of climate change.

9.4. States should guarantee compensation and rehabilitation of small-scale fishing communities affected by climate change and all forms of disaster, natural or caused by humans, including occupational rehabilitation in the same or a related occupation of their choice.

9.5. States should understand how emergency response and disaster preparedness are related in small-scale fisheries and apply the concept of the relief-development continuum. Longer term development objectives need to be considered throughout the emergency sequence, including in the

immediate relief phase, and rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery should include actions to reduce vulnerabilities to potential future threats. The concept of ‘building back better’ should be applied in disaster response and rehabilitation.

9.6. All parties should promote the role of small-scale fisheries in efforts related to climate change and should encourage and support energy efficiency in the subsector, including the whole fishery system – fishing, post-harvest, marketing and distribution. The potential impact of small-scale fisheries on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies of other sectors should be assessed in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

PART 3: ENSURING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

10. POLICY COHERENCE, INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

10.1. These Guidelines recognize that small-scale fisheries are linked to and impacted by policies and developments outside the subsector itself. There is a need to engage in policy and legislative processes also in other sectors in order to support small-scale fisheries. The Guidelines support policy coherence and enhanced linkages between small-scale fisheries, conservation and responsible use of biodiversity, overarching fisheries sectoral policies and strategies and other national planning processes.

10.2. States should recognize the need for and work towards policy coherence with regard to, *inter alia*, national legislation; international human rights standards; treaties with indigenous peoples; economic development policies; energy policies, education, health and rural policies; environmental protection; food security and nutrition policies; labour and employment policies; trade policies; DRM and CCA strategies; fisheries access arrangements; and other fisheries sector policies, plans, actions and investments. Special attention should be paid to mainstreaming gender issues.

10.3. States should use spatial planning approaches as appropriate. Through consultation, participation and publicizing, gender-sensitive policies and laws on regulated spatial planning should be developed. Where appropriate, formal planning systems should consider methods of planning and territorial development used by small-scale fishing and other communities with customary tenure systems, and decision-making processes within those communities.²⁵

10.4. States should adopt specific policy measures to ensure the harmonization of policies impacting the health of inland water bodies and ecosystems and to ensure that fisheries, agriculture and other natural resource policies collectively enhance the interrelated livelihoods derived from these sectors.

10.5. States should ensure that fisheries policy provides a long-term vision for small-scale fisheries and the eradication of hunger and poverty, using a human rights based approach and through clear specification and prioritization of objectives and appropriate policy measures to achieve these objectives. The overall policy framework for fisheries – including large-scale fisheries, recreational

²⁵ Based on § 20.2 of the Tenure Guidelines.

fisheries and aquaculture – should be coherent with the long-term vision and policy framework for small-scale fisheries and international human rights standards, paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups.

10.6. States should establish and promote the institutional structures and linkages – including local-national-regional-global linkages and networks – necessary for achieving policy coherence, cross-sectoral collaboration and the implementation of holistic and inclusive ecosystem approaches in the fisheries sector. At the same time, there is a need for clear responsibilities and there should be well-defined points of contact in government authorities and agencies for small-scale fishing communities.

10.7. Small-scale fisheries actors should promote collaboration among their professional associations and CSOs. They should establish networks and platforms for the exchange of experiences and information and to facilitate their involvement in policy- and decision-making processes relevant to their communities.

10.8. States should promote the principle of subsidiarity, as appropriate and in accordance with national law. Responsibilities for small-scale fisheries governance and development should be vested at the most appropriate and effective decentralized level.

10.9. States should promote enhanced international, regional and subregional cooperation and aid effectiveness in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. States should foster the strengthening of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), basin commissions and other relevant transboundary and international organizations. They should support capacity development in such organizations to enhance their understanding of small-scale fisheries and assist the subsector in matters that require regional or international collaboration.

11. INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

11.1. These Guidelines recognize the need for a wide range of information, including bio-ecological, social, cultural and economic data, for decision-making on governance and development of small-scale fisheries and for the visibility of the subsector. Lack of access to knowledge tends to disproportionately affect the poor, women and vulnerable and marginalized groups. Access to information can influence empowerment; equally, the withholding of information can distort decision-making. The Guidelines promote the use of a combination of scientific data and local, traditional or indigenous knowledge and research. They acknowledge that access to information and communication are essential for human dignity, social equity and justice.

11.2. States should ensure that transparency is a priority consideration. This is important for ensuring accountability and for enabling meaningful participation of small-scale fishing communities and other stakeholders. *States should endeavour to prevent corruption, particularly through increasing transparency, holding decision-makers accountable, and ensuring that impartial decisions are delivered promptly*²⁶ and through appropriate communication with small-scale fishing communities.

11.3. All parties should recognize small-scale fishing communities as holders, providers and receivers of knowledge; information is required about, from and to them. It is particularly important to

²⁶ § 10.5 of the Tenure Guidelines

understand the need for access to appropriate information by small-scale fishing communities and their organizations in order to help them cope with existing problems and empower them to improve their livelihoods. These information requirements depend on current issues facing communities and concern the biological, legal, economic, social and cultural aspects of fisheries and livelihoods.

11.4. States should ensure that the information necessary for responsible governance of fisheries and sustainable development is available. It should relate to, *inter alia*, disaster risks and climate change, with particular attention to the situation of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Information systems that are low on data requirements should be developed for data-poor situations.

11.5. All parties should ensure that the knowledge, culture, traditions and practices of small-scale fishing communities are recognized and supported and that they inform responsible governance and sustainable development processes, including co-management. The specific knowledge of women fishers and fish workers must be recognized and supported. States should investigate and document traditional fisheries knowledge and technologies and assess their application to sustainable fisheries conservation, management and development.²⁷

11.6. All parties should support the collection, compilation and analysis of disaggregated data allowing for an improved understanding and visibility of the importance of small-scale fisheries and its different components. The collection of gender-disaggregated statistics and enumeration of women's work in both inland and marine fisheries, and in all aspects of the fisheries chain, should be ensured.

11.7. All parties should promote the availability, flow and exchange of information through the establishment or use of appropriate existing platforms and networks at community, national, subregional and regional level, including both horizontal and vertical two-way information flows. Appropriate approaches, tools and media should be used for communication with and capacity development for small-scale fishing communities.

11.8. States should ensure that funds are available for small-scale fisheries research, and collaborative and participatory data collection, analyses and research should be encouraged. Research organizations and institutions should support capacity development to allow small-scale fishing communities to participate in research and in the utilization of research findings. Research priorities should be agreed upon through a consultative process focusing on the role of small-scale fisheries in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization, including also DRM and CCA considerations.

11.9. States should promote research into the conditions of work, health, education etc. in the context of gender relations, in order to inform strategies for ensuring equitable benefits for men and women in fisheries. Sex-disaggregated statistics and gender-related data are key for understanding men's and women's contributions to the subsector and their specific needs. Efforts to mainstream gender should include the use of gender analysis in the design phase of policies, programmes and projects for small-scale fisheries, in order to design sensitive interventions. Gender-sensitive indicators should be used to monitor and address gender inequalities.

²⁷ Based on § 12.12 of the CCRF

12. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

12.1. These Guidelines recognize the fundamental importance of capacity development for empowering small-scale fishing communities and creating an enabling environment that allows them to effectively participate in decision-making and contribute to responsible governance and sustainable development. The Guidelines support capacity development that is demand based, uses bottom-up approaches, takes the needs of both men and women into consideration and is participatory with regard to needs assessments, design, implementation and monitoring. Special measures may be required to ensure the empowerment and participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

12.2. All parties should contribute to the creation of legitimate, democratic and representative structures at various decision-making levels. It should be ensured that the range and diversity of the small-scale fisheries subsector along the entire value chain is appropriately represented. The enhancement of people's self-determination capacity and their right of choice should be given particular attention in accordance with international human rights standards. Specific attention must be paid to the need to work towards the equitable participation of women in such structures. Where appropriate and necessary, separate spaces and mechanisms may be provided to enable women to organize autonomously at various levels on issues of particular relevance to them.

12.3. In collaboration with relevant organizations and actors, states should support the strengthening of capacities, including organizational development, of small-scale fisheries actors – involving both men and women and paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups– to participate in decision-making and co-management processes. Existing relevant collective action initiatives should be recognized and built upon. States should provide adequate extension and advisory services for supporting small-scale fisheries governance and development.

12.4. All parties should recognize that capacity development should build on existing knowledge and skills and be a two-way process of knowledge transfer, providing for flexible and suitable learning pathways to meet the needs of individuals, including both men and women and vulnerable and marginalized groups. Moreover, capacity development should include building the resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale fishing communities in relation to DRM and CCA.

12.5. States should ensure that government authorities and agencies at all levels have adequate knowledge and skills to support small-scale fisheries governance and development and to guarantee successful co-management arrangements. Particular attention should be given to decentralized and local government structures directly involved in governance and development processes together with small-scale fishing communities, but also in, for example, the area of research.

13. IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

13.1. These Guidelines recognize the need for broad support of the implementation of their provisions in order to make them effective and have a real impact on food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization. The Guidelines emphasize that implementation policies or strategies should be developed through participatory and transparent processes involving small-scale fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders.

13.2. All parties should ensure that programmes, policies and technical assistance to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries through the implementation of the Guidelines should be consistent with existing obligations under international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.²⁸

13.3. All parties should collaborate and promote the implementation of these Guidelines, promoting aid effectiveness and responsible use of financial resources. *Development partners, specialized agencies of the United Nations, and regional organizations are encouraged to support voluntary efforts by States to implement these Guidelines, including through South-South cooperation*²⁹. Such support could include technical cooperation, financial assistance, institutional capacity development, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences, assistance in developing national small-scale fisheries policies and transfer of technology.³⁰

13.4. States and all other parties should work together to create awareness of the Guidelines, also by disseminating simplified and translated versions for the benefit of those working in small-scale fisheries. States and all other parties should develop a specific set of materials on gender to secure the effective dissemination of information on gender and women's role in small-scale fisheries and to highlight steps that need to be taken to support their work.

13.5. States should elaborate assessment methodologies that allow a better understanding and documentation of the true contribution of small-scale fisheries, including both men and women. States should modify and adopt information and statistical systems that allow monitoring and evaluation of vulnerability and poverty in small-scale fishing communities.

13.6. States should facilitate the formation of national level platforms, with cross-sectoral representation and with strong representation of CSOs, to oversee implementation of the Guidelines. Legitimate representatives of small-scale fishing communities should be involved both in the development and application of implementation strategies for the Guidelines and in monitoring and evaluation.

13.7. States should recognize the importance of accountability and put in place monitoring and evaluation systems that assess progress towards implementation of the objectives and recommendations in these Guidelines. Such systems should allow for accountability monitoring and evaluation at local, national and international level. Assessments of the impact on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and on poverty eradication should be included. These mechanisms should be in line with the guiding principles on human rights impact assessments by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Mechanisms allowing the results of monitoring and evaluation to feed back into policy formulation and implementation should be included. Gender should be taken into consideration in monitoring and evaluation by using gender-sensitive approaches, indicators and data.

13.8. All parties should support the undertaking of regular reviews on the implementation of these Guidelines, using participatory assessment approaches and engaging relevant associations and organizations.

²⁸ Based on § 1.1 of the Tenure Guidelines

²⁹ Sentence cited from § 26.3 of the Tenure Guidelines

³⁰ Based on § 26.3 of the Tenure Guidelines

13.9. States should give FAO the mandate to compile monitoring and evaluation information and assess progress towards achieving the objectives of these Guidelines, while ensuring that the institutional capacity within FAO for the same is strengthened. These monitoring and evaluation reports should be made available to all parties. States should also recommend FAO to establish a mechanism to allow for participatory and inclusive discussions on best practices with a view to accelerating learning across states.

13.10. States should consider requesting the Committee on World Food Security to monitor the implementation of the Guidelines. Given the strong links of the Guidelines with food security, the office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food may be requested to support this monitoring process.