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Preparation of this document

This document provides a summary of the presentations, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the Second Small-Scale Fisheries Summit held on 5–7 July 2024 (SSF Summit 2024) at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. The SSF Summit 2024's organizing committee prepared the main draft of this report, which benefited from the contributions of other colleagues and workshop participants.

Abstract

The SSF Summit 2024, held at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, on 5–7 July 2024, was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Working Group on Fisheries, the Small-scale Fisheries Resource and Collaboration Hub (SSF Hub) and SwedBio. The SSF Summit was attended by 285 participants from 78 countries.

The SSF Summit 2024 served as a global platform for collaboratively addressing governance and development challenges in small-scale fisheries, while proposing and sharing solutions to foster and strengthen the implementation of the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#) (SSF Guidelines) on the occasion of their tenth anniversary. The event also provided an opportunity to celebrate the mid-term review of the GFCM [Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea](#) (RPOA-SSF).

This report offers a comprehensive overview of SSF Summit 2024, including its purpose and the presentations, discussions and conclusions that emerged.

More information on the SSF Summit 2024 can be found at www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/home/ssf-summit/en.

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The design of the SSF Summit 2024 was inspired by the first SSF Summit,¹ which took place in 2022. It was further informed by an online survey of participants in the first Summit, as well as a stakeholder engagement process that took place throughout 2023.² We are grateful to participants for sharing their views. Special thanks are also due to the small-scale fisheries organizations that contributed their insights through a global preparatory consultation – conducted by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Working Group on Fisheries – on the thematic issues of the SSF Summit 2024: governance of tenure and social development.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the IPC Working Group on Fisheries, which ensured that the voices of small-scale fisheries actors and Indigenous Peoples were heard and that their concerns and aspirations were adequately reflected in the agenda. In this regard, special recognition is due to the African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA) and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF). We also recognize the GFCM, which took the lead in designing the sessions dedicated to the review of the Regional Plan of Action for small-scale Fisheries for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

We are grateful for the support provided by many FAO colleagues as well as volunteers and staff from Centro Internazionale Crocevia.

The administrative support provided by Romina Toscano, Claudia Aguado Castillo, Veronica Topalo and other colleagues of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division is gratefully acknowledged. We also acknowledge the administrative support provided by the staff at Centro Internazionale Crocevia.

The hard work and dedication of the IPC interpreters, who worked tirelessly for three days to provide interpretation in seven languages enabling the participation of attendees from all over the world, deserves special recognition.

¹ For more information, see <https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/key-thematic-areas/ssf-summit/ssf-summit-2022/en>

² For more information, see <https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/key-thematic-areas/ssf-summit/consultation-process>

The SSF Summit 2024 would not have been possible without generous funding support from the European Commission, with additional support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Additional support from FAO, Centro Internazionale Crocevia, SwedBio, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), members of the SSF Hub, the Meridiane Institute and Oak Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

Abbreviations

AFRIFISH-Net	Pan-African Platform of Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture
AU-IBAR	African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AWFISHNET	African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network
CAOPA	African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CI	Conservation International
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)
CONAPACH	Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (National Confederation of Small-scale fishers of Chile)
CONMECOOP	Confederación Mexicana de Cooperativas Pesqueras y Acuícolas (Mexican Confederation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Cooperatives)
EDF	Environmental Defense Fund
eNGO	environmental non-governmental organization
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IYAFA	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
IHH	Illuminating Hidden Harvests
IPC	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
IITC	International Indian Treaty Council
JARING	Malaysian Inshore Fishers Association for Education and Welfare
KNTI	Indonesia Traditional Fishers Association
LEK	local ecological knowledge
LMMA	locally-managed marine area
LVC	La Via Campesina
MPA	Marine protected area
MPP	Movimento dos Pescadores e Pescadoras Artesanais do Brasil (Movement of small-scale Fishers and Fisher women of Brazil)
MSP	Marine spatial planning
NAFSO	National Fisheries Solidarity Organization
NGO	non-governmental organization
NPoA-SSF	National Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries
NSA	non-state actor platform
OOH	One Ocean Hub
PANG	Pacific Network on Globalization

PFRS	African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
RAG	regional advisory groups
Right to Food Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food in the Context of National Food Security
RPOA-SSF	Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
SADC	Southern African Development Community
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNEHA	Social Need Education and Human Awareness
SSF	small-scale fisheries
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SSF-GSF	Global Strategic Framework in Support of the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines
SSF Hub	Small-scale Fisheries Resource and Collaboration Hub
TNI	Transnational Institute
ULAPA	Unión Latinoamericana de la Pesca Artesanal
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDROP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOC	United Nations Ocean Conference
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Executive summary

The SSF Summit 2024, held in FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, on 5–7 July 2024, was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Working Group on Fisheries, the Small-scale Fisheries Resource and Collaboration Hub (SSF Hub) and SwedBio. The SSF Summit was attended by a total of 285 participants from 78 countries. See Annex 1 for a brief description of each partner.

The SSF Summit 2024 served as a global platform to collaboratively address governance and development challenges in small-scale fisheries, while proposing and sharing solutions to foster and strengthen the implementation of the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#) (SSF Guidelines) on the occasion of their tenth anniversary.

The event also provided the opportunity to celebrate the mid-term review of the GFCM [Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea](#) (RPOA-SSF).

Two issues were identified as the focus for the SSF Summit 2024 through a participatory, bottom-up process: responsible governance of tenure, with a focus on customary tenure, and social development, employment and decent work, with particular attention to social development (respectively Chapters 5a and 6 of the SSF Guidelines).

The Summit was held over three days, with the first day reserved for small-scale fisheries organizations and movements only. The participants came together for presentations and panels in plenary and discussed issues in depth during break-out sessions.

On the first day, invited representatives of small-scale fisheries organizations, both IPC members and non-members, had the opportunity to reflect on important issues around social development and customary tenure rights as well as to exchange information on challenges and best practices. The day led to key insights, a stronger sense of shared identity, a better understanding of each other's roles, and greater awareness of the political, economic and environmental challenges affecting the small-scale fisheries sector.

The second day was open to other invitees. The highlight was a plenary session dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines. After an introductory presentation on the history of small-scale fisheries in global policy and the development of collective action, speakers from FAO, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) provided their perspectives on the first decade of implementation of the SSF Guidelines. This was complemented by reflections from small-scale fisheries actors. The afternoon was dedicated to the two focus areas of the SSF Summit 2024 – customary tenure rights and social development – which were introduced in plenary in the context of food sovereignty and then discussed in parallel sessions. In the parallel sessions, which were divided by language, participants exchanged stories illustrating challenges and improvements related to the two focus areas and discussed changes needed to improve the current situation. Many agreed that

not enough has happened to implement the SSF Guidelines since their endorsement. Small-scale fisheries communities around the world have common challenges: women are not adequately valued for their work and the communities themselves are at risk due to large-scale fishing, oil and gas production, tourism, the construction of ports and conservation initiatives. Community resilience is regarded as key.

A parallel session was dedicated to reviewing the Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF) as 2024 marks the mid-point in its ten-year mandate. This enabled fishers and fish workers to evaluate the implementation of the RPOA-SSF, assessing changing circumstances and shifting priorities, and providing guidance for achieving a more sustainable and resilient small-scale fisheries sector by 2028. The day concluded with three short presentations by selected participants and an evening reception.

The third day included plenary and parallel sessions followed by a dialogue with governments, a wrap up session and an evening reception. The first plenary session provided space for collective reflections on how participants can support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. It began with insights into global policy processes that are highly relevant to small-scale fisheries and then focused on what can be done at the regional level to implement the Guidelines. Non-state actor networks, groups and processes from different regions shared their roles, mandates, and contributions and suggested how small-scale fisheries actors can get more involved.

The plenary discussion on supporting implementation continued in three regional breakout groups, for Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. Discussions considered engagement in relevant processes at the regional level and actions to stimulate the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Some participants proposed that small-scale fisheries should be a stand-alone item on the COFI agenda and integrated into all other discussion topics. To improve the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, both funders and fund seekers should unite behind their promotion. There is also a need for a monitoring system in which small-scale fisheries are full and effective participants. Small-scale fisheries should be involved in all relevant decision-making processes. This will require that they are well organized.

Returning to the plenary, a moderated dialogue took place between small-scale fisheries representatives and invited government and intergovernmental organization representatives to explore how to best include small-scale fisheries in implementing the SSF Guidelines. Mitchel Lay of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) reflected on discussions at the SSF Summit so far. The parallel session that followed included a GFCM-led RPOA-SSF mid-term review session that built on the discussions during Day 2. This consisted of a roundtable dialogue with representatives of RPOA-SSF signatory countries and partner organizations. The wrap-up session heard reports back from the regional groups, as well as from representatives of NGOs and academia, before gathering final thoughts from participants and agreeing on next steps. The day ended with a celebratory reception.

More information about the SSF Summit 2024 is available [here](#), and presentations can be found at the following links:

- [Day 1](#)
- [Day 2](#)
- [Day 3](#)

1. Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Second Small-Scale Fisheries Summit (SSF Summit 2024) was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy from 5 to 7 July 2024. The Summit was jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Working Group on Fisheries, the Small-scale Fisheries Resource and Collaboration Hub (SSF Hub) and SwedBio (see Annex 1 for short description of each organization). Principal funding came from the European Commission (DG MARE), with additional financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), FAO, Centro Internazionale Crocevia, SwedBio, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), members of the SSF Hub, the Meridiane Institute and the Oak Foundation.

The SSF Summit 2024 built on the first SSF Summit (SSF Summit 2022), which was held in September 2022 in Rome, Italy within the context of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (IYAFA 2022).³ The SSF Summit 2022 raised awareness of the role of small-scale fisheries and facilitated discussions around taking action and building and strengthening partnerships. It also promoted uptake of the SSF Guidelines and actions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SSF Summit 2022 was held prior to the 35th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries on 5–9 September 2022 (COFI 35), and some government representatives participated in the last day of the Summit. COFI 35, in its deliberations, recognized:

...the unique opportunity to gather commitments and recommendations at a Summit on small-scale fisheries, which is encouraged to be held every two years prior to COFI, subject to resourcing, to sustain and inform continued support to the subsector.

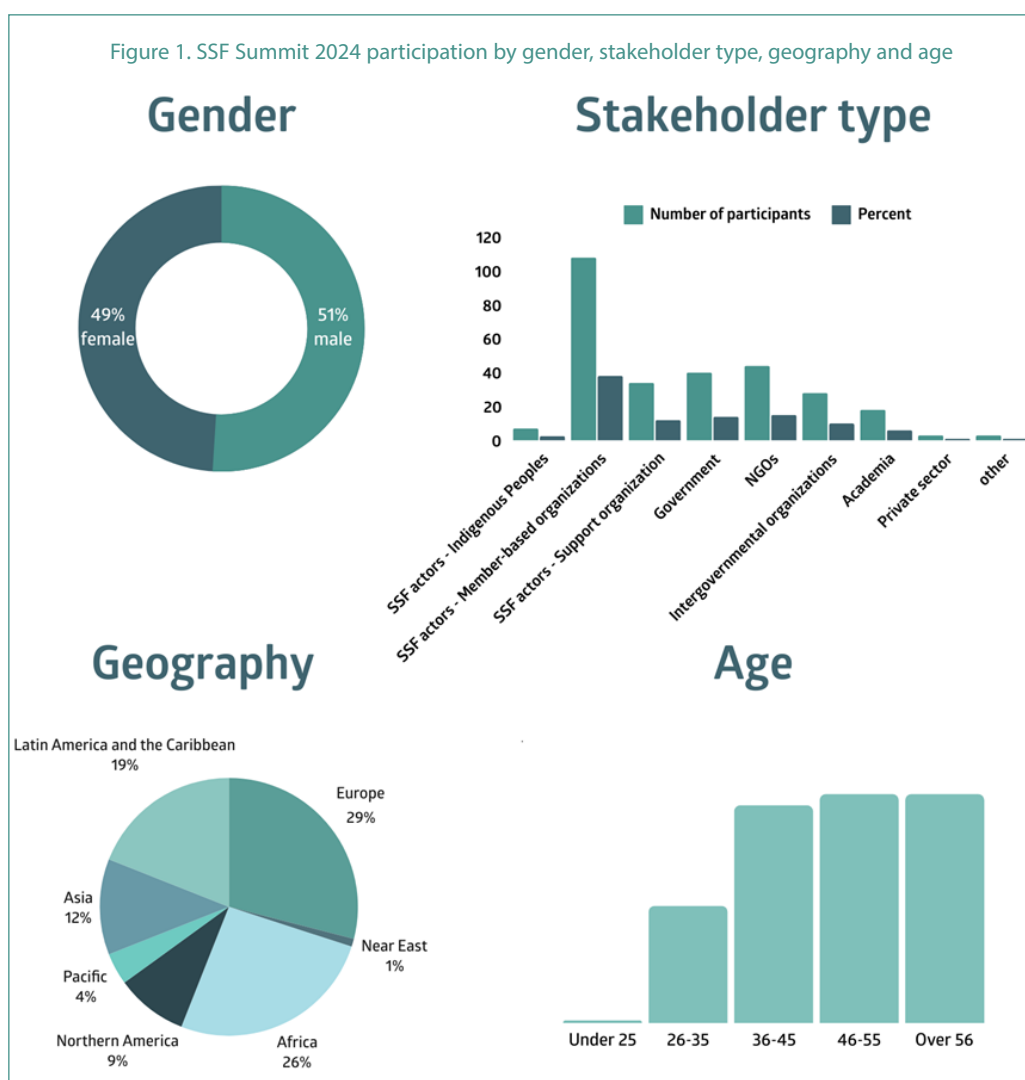
The SSF Summit 2024 was designed to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines, to advance priority actions for sustainable small-scale fisheries and to assess the current status of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the national, regional and global levels. Based on consultations with regional and global small-scale fisheries organizations and supporting organizations, the SSF Summit 2024 focused on two critical topics for small-scale fisheries: responsible governance of tenure (Chapter 5a of the SSF Guidelines), with an emphasis on customary tenure rights, and social development, employment and decent work, with special attention to social development (Chapter 6 of the SSF Guidelines). Gender and climate change issues were cross-cutting themes. The Summit 2024 served as a platform for collective discussions among various actors, facilitating the exchange of information and experiences at global, regional, and national levels, with the aim of building common ground, unity, and solidarity. The SSF Summit 2024 also celebrated the halfway point in the implementation of the GFCM Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (RPOA-SSF).

³ See the IYAFA 2022 report at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qzbDeFi6lBnYmd7J6onRTc68q4qTl6Hd/view?usp=sharing>

1.2 PARTICIPANTS

The SSF Summit is primarily a platform for small-scale fisheries movements, but also encourages engagement with governments and other small-scale fisheries advocates in an accessible and non-technical forum, complementing the proceedings of the COFI, as well as other relevant global processes.

The SSF Summit 2024 brought together 285 people,⁴ half of whom were women, from 78 countries. These included 149 members of small-scale fisheries organizations or support organizations, 44 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 28 representatives of intergovernmental organizations, 40 government officials, 18 academics and 6 other participants. Geographically, 29 percent of participants came from Europe, 26 percent from Africa, 19 percent from Latin America and the Caribbean, 12 percent from Asia, 9 percent from North America, 4 percent from the Pacific and 1 percent from the Near East. Fifteen percent of participants were under 36 years old, 27 percent between 36 and 45 years, and 29 percent respectively 46 to 56 years and over 56 years old.



⁴ This does not include an additional 42 people, who provided support, interpretation, video recording and music.

1.3 FORMAT

The SSF Summit was held over three days, from 5 to 7 July 2024. It included plenary sessions and break-out sessions, as well as a mid-term review of the GFCM Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF). Interpretation was available in Arabic, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish. Please refer to the agenda in Annex 2 for details.

The three days were organized as follows:

DAY 1 (Friday 5 July 2024). Small-scale fisheries organizations and movements only.

Approximately 130 representatives from small-scale fisheries organizations and Indigenous Peoples worldwide, both IPC members and non-members, came together to engage in meaningful dialogue on two key topics: customary tenure rights and social development, with gender and climate change as cross-cutting issues.

DAY 2 (Saturday 6 July 2024). Open to other invitees.

The second day included a plenary session to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines. The plenary also considered how to strengthen small-scale fisheries, focusing on customary tenure rights and social development in the context of food sovereignty. This was followed by parallel sessions dedicated to these issues as well as to the mid-term review of the GFCM RPOA-SSF.

DAY 3 (Sunday 7 July). Open to other invitees.

The third day featured collective reflection on how the SSF Summit can support implementation of the SSF Guidelines, followed by regional parallel sessions, including around the finalization of the mid-term review of the GFCM RPOA-SSF. It concluded with a dialogue with governments and a final wrap-up session.

The SSF Summit 2024 presentations are available here:

- [Day 1](#)
- [Day 2](#)
- [Day 3](#)

The following sections provide a more detailed summary of each day.

Picture 1. SSF Summit 2024 participants



2. Summary overview of Day 1

Picture 2. Day one participants



©CAOPA/Alidou Diallo

The first day of the SSF Summit 2024 was organized by and dedicated to small-scale fishers, Indigenous Peoples and small-scale fisheries support organizations. Day 1 aimed to foster meaningful dialogue in order to build common ground, address differences and deepen the understanding of current circumstances.

The agenda for the day focused on the challenges faced by small-scale fishing communities in their daily lives and to possible solutions, as a foundation for subsequent discussions.

Day 1 was moderated by Chief Gary Harisson, from the Chickaloon Native Village in Alaska, representing the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC).

2.1 OPENING REMARKS AND SETTING THE STAGE

Nadine Nembhard of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) from Belize delivered the opening remarks, extending a warm welcome to the delegates and outlining the purpose and agenda of the SSF Summit 2024. She emphasized the importance of the Summit as a space for sharing diverse perspectives, where mutual respect and solidarity would be paramount. Mrs Nembhard set the ground rules for the event, highlighting the principles of equality, respectful engagement, active listening and confidentiality. She encouraged participants to view the Summit as an opportunity to connect, inspire and empower each other, and she reminded everyone that any shared information would be used solely for Summit purposes.

Gaoussou Gueye of the African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA) from Senegal spoke about the significance of the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines. He reflected on the shared struggles that led to the development of the Guidelines and the continuing need for unity and action. Mr Gueye paid tribute to Chandrika Sharma, a key figure in the small-scale fisheries community

and instrumental in the development of the SSF Guidelines, who tragically passed away in 2014. He stressed the urgency of implementing the SSF Guidelines in the face of climate change and environmental degradation. Finally, Mr Gueye called for global commitment to protecting small-scale fishers and their rights, urging governments to adopt transparent and participatory approaches to decision-making.

Maira Netto from the Movimento dos Pescadores e Pescadoras Artesanais do Brasil, together with Margaret Nakato from the Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT), provided an overview of the context in which small-scale fishers and fisherfolk operate. They highlighted the challenges faced by small-scale fishers globally and the role of Peoples' Tribunals in amplifying their voices. Ms Netto shared insights from the Brazil's Peoples' Tribunal, which addresses issues such as the blue economy's impact, tenure rights and human rights violations. The International Tribunal "Impact of Blue Economy in Indian Ocean Countries" was held in Asia,⁵ covering India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Thailand. Another tribunal is planned for South Africa in late 2024. The tribunals have been instrumental in gathering testimonies and raising awareness about the struggles faced by fishing communities.

Following the opening remarks, several representatives shared powerful testimonies:

- Herman Kumara from the National Fisheries Solidarity Organization (NAFSO) in Sri Lanka explained the devastating impact of the blue economy and other factors on ecosystems and small-scale fisheries in his country. He emphasized the need for a unified movement to address these issues and highlighted the role of peoples' tribunals in bringing real data and voices to the fore.
- Josana Serrao Pinto from the Movement of Fishermen and Fisherwomen (MPP) in Brazil underscored the importance of tribunals in fostering community solidarity and empowering marginalized groups. She noted that while tribunals bring hope and strength, challenges such as emotional distress and difficulties in opening up to share their stories still persist.
- Carmen Mannarino of the Masifundise Development Trust in South Africa reflected on the insights gained from experiences in Asia and Brazil, stressing the need for African perspectives on the struggle for fishing rights. She stressed the importance of sharing stories and experiences to build solidarity and advance local and international struggles.

2.2 CEREMONIAL OPENING

After a *mistica*,⁶ facilitated by Christiana Louwa of the El Molo Forum, Kenya, participants engaged in discussions on the two key themes of the SSF Summit 2024: customary tenure rights and social development.

2.3 INTRODUCING THE KEY THEMES: CUSTOMARY TENURE RIGHTS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

After the coffee break, Lorena Ortiz from the Confederation Mexicana de Cooperativas Pesqueras y Acuícolas (CONMECOOP) in Mexico presented the main findings from a global consultation on customary tenure rights, which was conducted by the IPC prior to the SSF Summit 2024 and included input from small-scale fisheries organizations,

⁵ <http://blueeconomytribunal.org/>

⁶ A *mistica* is a spiritual performance, approximately ten minutes in length, which relates to the common interests of everyone present. The *mistica* often begins with music or poetry, and it focuses on a specific issue that needs attention ([La Via Campesina](#)).

Indigenous Peoples, and fisherfolk. The findings, which covered Africa (Morocco, Tunisia and Gambia), Asia (Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh) and Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru), reflected both positive and negative community experiences. Mrs Ortiz pointed out that the findings were based on subjective impressions and may not be scientifically rigorous or verified. The global consultation underscored the necessity for governments to recognize and safeguard both traditional and legal rights to land, forests, rivers and seas, with particular attention to women's rights in small-scale fisheries. It was emphasized that laws should ensure free, prior, and informed consent and consultation with fishing communities, along with training programmes to raise awareness about their rights. Key recommendations included integrating customary tenure rights into national legislation, strengthening legal frameworks through transparent processes and effective enforcement, and ensuring meaningful participation of SSF and Indigenous Peoples in policymaking.

Next, Azrilnizam Bin Omar from the Inshore Fishermen Association for Education and Welfare (Jaring) in Malaysia, introduced the case of the Malaysia's Tagal system, a community-led tenure system designed to restore fisheries and protect resources. The Tagal system divides rivers into zones: green (year-round fishing), yellow (limited fishing), and red (conservation-only) and involves local communities in managing resources. The system's benefits include sustainable fisheries, river conservation and ecotourism.

Margaret Nakato from the Katosi Women Development Trust in Uganda highlighted the lack of access to fishing areas in Uganda, especially for women. She noted that customary tenure systems no longer exist, and small-scale fishing communities face challenges in obtaining licenses. Women involved in catching silver fish are particularly affected by government bans, which have disrupted their livelihoods. Mrs Nakato emphasized the need for inclusive decision-making and the protection of customary tenure rights for local communities.

Sebastian Mathew from the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) in India described the role of social development in small-scale fisheries. He focused on marginalized communities, noting that while development efforts are often community-led, they also include state collaboration. Social development is addressed through various key interventions, with social security and social protection being central. These interventions extend beyond mere security to encompass broader community benefits.

Health and labour issues have been integrated into the small-scale fisheries perspective, with particular attention to concerns such as forced labour. Mr Mathew explained that social development initiatives have led to improvements in human rights standards, sustainable fisheries management and income levels. They have also helped to create safer environments, which are free from crime and harassment, and have facilitated coordinated migration within the fisheries sector. Mr Mathew emphasized efforts to use existing social schemes to benefit fisheries, focusing on transforming institutions and empowering communities. Mr Mathew illustrated issues related to social security, health and labour rights with case studies from Antigua, Barbuda, Costa Rica and Brazil. He highlighted the need to address poverty, the impacts of climate change and the exclusion of fishers from social protection systems. Other recommendations involved improving healthcare facilities near fishing villages, establishing better schools and implementing health plans, including immunization against waterborne diseases.

Laitia Tamata – representing Pacific community-based fisheries – highlighted the importance of local government-supported community rights in the Pacific. He urged leaders to restore these rights and protect the environment for future generations, calling for stronger financial and policy support for small-scale fishing communities.

Aracelly Jimenez Mora from CoopeMoluscosChomes R.L. in Costa Rica described the challenges faced by women mollusk collectors, including a lack of recognition and access to social protection. Their work is of significant value, and she advocated for equal rights to social security and pensions. She also called for better recognition of women's contributions in small-scale fisheries.

The session concluded with interventions from the plenary that stressed the need for legal protection, access to social security and stronger rights for small-scale fishing communities and Indigenous Peoples.

2.4 PARALLEL GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON CUSTOMARY TENURE RIGHTS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Participants were divided into regional groups to further explore customary tenure rights and social development and to facilitate in-depth exchanges. The outcomes of these discussions were reported in detail on Day 2⁷ by Djalikatou Cherif Haïdara from CAOPA, Guinea. Key insights focused on the impacts of blue economy initiatives on small-scale fishing communities and the need to protect tenure rights, especially for women in fish processing. Participants emphasized the importance of ancestral wisdom and self-organization in fisheries management, called for better infrastructure and social policies, and highlighted successful models like the Padul System in Sri Lanka and the Philippines' preferential rights system for small-scale fishers. Finally, the need for continued dialogue on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines was stressed as a means to improve ocean governance and to address issues like climate change and food security.

Overall, Day 1 resulted in valuable insights, a stronger sense of shared identity among participants, a better understanding of each other's roles and a greater awareness of the political, economic and environmental challenges affecting the small-scale fisheries sector.

⁷ The outcomes are described in the following section.

3. Summary overview of Day 2

3.1 INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Day 2 of the SSF Summit 2024 was open to all registrants. The day began with moderator Suzanne Njeri from AWFISHNET in Kenya, who welcomed the participants. She then invited Alieu Sowe from the Gambian Fisher Folks Association to introduce the SSF Summit 2024.

Mr Sowe congratulated the SSF Summit 2024 organizing committee on its work and acknowledged the contributions of small-scale fisheries, Indigenous Peoples and NGOs. He explained that the SSF Summit is an opportunity to foster solidarity among small-scale fisheries movements and Indigenous Peoples and to engage with governments in an accessible and non-technical forum. The SSF Summit 2022, celebrated during the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA), was crucial for raising awareness of the small-scale fisheries subsector and it led to a COFI 35 recommendation to hold biennial summits prior to COFI meetings. Mr Sowe explained that the second edition of the SSF Summit aimed to advance the implementation of the SSF Guidelines by recognizing milestones in their implementation at national, regional, and global levels to inform future actions. He reminded participants that the SSF Summit 2024 is a space for celebrating both the diversity and the unity of small-scale fisheries actors and Indigenous Peoples. Manuel Barange, FAO Assistant Director General and Director of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, welcomed all participants to FAO Headquarters and to the SSF Summit 2024. He recalled that FAO was created in 1945 at a time when the world faced severe problems of hunger and malnutrition – global challenges that world leaders committed to tackling. He acknowledged the success of the first SSF Summit in 2022, which led governments to agree to hold an SSF Summit every two years, just prior to COFI. Mr Barange noted that COFI's endorsement of the SSF Guidelines in 2014 demonstrated the world's commitment to riparian and coastal communities. This was followed by Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Target 4.b (Provide access to small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets) – in 2015, and in 2021 by the FAO Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, which recognized the important contributions of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty eradication. The FAO Blue Transformation Roadmap 2022–2030 takes due note of the potential of the small-scale fisheries subsector and promotes the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Before moving into the main programme of the SSF Summit 2024, Mr Sowe explained the ground rules for the Summit, particularly emphasizing the importance of diversity, equity and active listening. He encouraged all participants to freely participate and contribute.

The SSF Summit 2024 ground rules

The purpose of these rules is to ensure dignity and respect for all Summit participants and to enable fruitful interactions.

1. Principles for interactions

a. **EQUALITY** – Treat each other as peers.

We treat everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of age, beliefs, race, gender and sexual identity, ability, social background or other characteristics.

b. **ATTENTION** – Actively listen.

We listen to each other with interest, empathy, fascination and respect, without interrupting.

c. **DIVERSITY** – The differences between us add quality.

We encourage and benefit from diversity. All of us have valid and important knowledge and insights to contribute, whether local, traditional, indigenous or scientific.

d. **EASE** – Freedom from inner stress benefits everyone's thinking.

e. **ENCOURAGEMENT** – Move beyond competition.

f. **SAFE ENVIRONMENT** – Ensure respectful communication

Any form of harm, discrimination or hate speech is against the ethos of the meeting.

g. **CONFIDENTIALITY** – Protect personal information.



Source: Adapted from Susan Kleinschmidt.

3.2 COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SSF GUIDELINES

Picture 3. John Kurien facilitated the session commemorating the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines



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The session commemorating the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines was introduced and facilitated by John Kurien, reflective practitioner, India. Mr Kurien reminded participants of the SSF Summit 2022, which took place in Rome outside of the FAO headquarters. Importantly, he also recalled the very first international meeting of fishers and fish workers in 1984, which took place in parallel to the World Fisheries Conference organized by FAO, without fisher representation. He emphasized the historical significance of the SSF Summit 2024 for small-scale fisheries actors, highlighting the change it represents. Held 40 years later inside the FAO, the SSF Summit 2024 saw small-scale fisheries organizations and movements extending invitations to governments.

Mr Kurien stressed the importance of the small-scale fisheries subsector: 60 million people are employed along the small-scale fisheries value chain and almost 500 million people depend at least partially on small-scale fisheries. He underscored the need of using the SSF Guidelines, which belong to the world's small-scale fishers and fishworkers.

Mr Kurien told a 'short story of a long voyage' on the development of the SSF Guidelines. From his point of view, the voyage started at least a century ago and can be divided into eight periods:

- Until 1950. Over the centuries, small-scale fisheries struggled to get support from states and civil society. The first small-scale fisheries association was formed in Norway in the late 1920s.
- 1951–1970. Development focused on increasing fish production, largely ignoring small-scale artisanal fisheries.

- 1971–1980. The decade was characterized by disillusionment over fisheries development and efforts to rectify the approach. A first Asian fishers meeting was held in Bangkok and a national fishermen's forum was created in India.
- 1981–1986. Intense response by fishers and their supporters: the first global fishers meeting took place in Rome in 1984 and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) was established in 1986.
- 1987–1994. National movements and fresh perspectives: a number of regional small-scale fisheries networks were established and the ICSF women in fisheries programme began in 1993. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was ratified in 1994.
- 1995–2000. Global efforts: eNGOs supported small-scale fisheries to be considered in the UN Fish Stock Agreement. The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was endorsed in 1995 and the COFI papers began to include aspects of small-scale fisheries and their contributions.
- 2001–2007. Slow consolidation of global and regional networks: the IPC was formed and small-scale fisheries became a standing item on the COFI agenda.
- 2008–2014. Intense activity by fishers, civil society and states: The Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries – securing sustainable, small-scale fisheries took place in Bangkok in 2008, and the SSF Guidelines were developed in a participatory process and endorsed at COFI in 2014, acknowledging Chandrika Sharma.

Following his presentation, Mr Kurien welcomed several interventions from participants:

- After sharing a brief video⁸ on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines over the past decade, Nicole Franz, FAO, reflected on the uptake and influence of the SSF Guidelines around the world, and shared information on tools, guidance and support for their implementation. She noted that political will and strong organizations are essential to implementation, and that change takes time and requires partnerships. She reminded the group that current information on the SSF Guidelines implementation can be found on the FAO website.⁹
- Pablo Green from the Kuna General Council, IITC, in Panama, referred to the IPC People-Centred Assessment,¹⁰ which was carried out by fishers in 18 countries of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa. Recommendations from the assessment included, among others, that States must consult and empower small-scale fisheries, Indigenous Peoples, and fish workers, particularly women, to actively participate in all decision-making processes affecting their communities. States should respect, protect and enforce the customary tenure rights of small-scale fishers and Indigenous Peoples, ensuring consistency with the SSF Guidelines and Tenure Guidelines. Additionally, States must guarantee free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) as a requirement for any project affecting the land or resources of small-scale fishing communities. A video¹¹ celebrating the tenth year of the SSF Guidelines was shown.
- Venu Gopa, ICSF, noted the importance of the meetings and activities carried out during IYAFA 2022 to raise awareness of the challenges of the small-scale fisheries subsector and the need to apply a human rights-based approach. A video¹² produced by ICSF on their meetings during IYAFA 2022 was shown.

⁸ Find the video at <https://youtu.be/l56G4x4pEdw>

⁹ See <https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en>

¹⁰ See <https://www.foodsovereignty.org/people-centred-methodology-ssf/>

¹¹ Find the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m4NZE3WNms>

¹² Find the video at <https://youtu.be/14DYMrm4tHQ?feature=shared>

After the break, interventions focused on the experiences of small-scale fisheries.

- Antonia Adama Djalo from CAOPA in Guinea Bissau, reflected on tenure rights and social development, particularly with respect to women. Women play an important role in value chains but often lack secure access to land as well as to adequate financial services. Access to social security is essential for all fish workers and initiatives are needed to support the social development of small-scale fishing communities.
- Zoila Bustamante from Confederation Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH) explained how her organization has supported the development and implementation of the SSF Guidelines. CONAPACH has particularly concentrated on involving women in these processes. However, she emphasized that political will and more action by governments are needed in the future.
- Diana Vasquez from Rare-Central America and Gavina Tumbaga, Municipal Fisherfolk and representative of the Aquatic Resources Management Council, Philippines, described how Rare–Central America has supported the process of developing the National Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries (NPoA-SSF) in the Philippines. The NPoA-SSF went through an extensive consultation process. Participation, policy support and financial resources are needed to support SSF Guidelines implementation, applying a human rights-based approach.
- Tavita Faletese from Samoa Reefs of Hope shared his story of working with fishers to implement community-based approaches, which became successful through youth involvement. He called on governments and stakeholders to support community rights to effectively manage their resources.
- Hugh Govan, Adjunct Senior Fellow at the University of the South Pacific, shared his experiences from the Pacific Islands, noting that there was little involvement of the Pacific in the development of the SSF Guidelines and thus small-scale fisheries actors and governments know very little about them. However, there have been other processes for supporting community participation in fisheries management and development, including policies and the development of 600 Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs).
- Anna Carlson, Fishery Officer at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), talked about the Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF), which was adopted by ministerial declaration in 2018. The RPOA-SSF tailors the SSF Guidelines to the specificities of the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. The vision for implementation until 2028 and beyond consolidates a participatory approach to management within the regional context, involving small-scale fishers and promoting stakeholder engagement.

Picture 4. Participants in the session on the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines



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3.3 REPORTING BACK FROM DAY 1

Djalikatou Cherif Haïdara, CAOPA, Guinea, reported back on the outcomes of the discussions among small-scale fisheries movements and Indigenous Peoples on Day 1 with the following statement:

Yesterday, we, the fisherfolk and representatives of small-scale fisheries and Indigenous Peoples organizations and movements, gathered for the first day of the SSF Summit 2024. This day, exclusively dedicated to small-scale fisheries organizations and movements, provided an opportunity to get to know each other better, creating a space of solidarity where we could share our struggles and support one another. It was a moment to better understand the challenges and violations our communities face daily, and to share experiences of success and opportunity. It gave us the strength to come together and unify our efforts in advocating for our rights.

This year, as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), this spirit is needed more than ever. In this Second SSF Summit, we commemorate the importance of these Guidelines, focusing particularly on Chapters 5 and 6 on Customary Tenure Rights and Social Development.

Some of us shared our experiences with the People's Tribunals, and many others were impressed by how the tribunal process can help unite us in the face of injustices, bring people together, strengthen fishers' movements and amplify our voices.

The parallel sessions we participated in have served as a vehicle to strengthen our unity and solidarity. They allowed us to gather with representatives from all the global regions to learn and exchange ideas on social development and customary tenure rights, building on the global consultation we conducted earlier this year. We collected stories and cases that illustrate the current situation and recommendations for improvement, as well as general strategies for further advancing the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

We would like to highlight some of the key insights that emerged from our discussions on customary tenure rights and social development:

Designated areas for fish processing are essential for us to continue our work effectively and without conflicts. Tenure rights for women in fish processing are often overlooked, leading to challenges like the lack of access to water and sanitary facilities, and land exploitation by companies, which leave us powerless and hinders our ability to ensure decent work and sustainable livelihoods.

In many countries, new ocean development initiatives in the name of the blue economy (such as aquaculture, fishmeal production, mining, port development, tourism, and renewable energy) have undermined the customary tenure rights of small-scale fishers, sometimes despite existing legal protections. This has sparked significant conflicts over coastal and marine territories, resulting in the forced displacement of small-scale fishing communities, often without proper community engagement or consent.

We would like to highlight some inspiring examples from Fiji and Sri Lanka. Fiji's co-management system for sea cucumber harvesting includes tribal clans with traditional ownership of land and marine resources, who are consulted by the government when it allocates new licenses to foreign fishers, with the aim of preserving tenure rights for local fishers.

The Padul System in Sri Lanka, a community ancestral system for prawn fishing, focuses on ensuring equitable resource access. However, these systems are starting to face threats from new laws and external interests that are undermining the rights of small-scale fisheries and Indigenous Peoples.

We would also like to reiterate that recognizing the value of ancestral wisdom and cultural social organization in small-scale fisheries and among Indigenous Peoples is crucial for effective fisheries management.

It is important to recognize and value the self-organization of small-scale fisheries and Indigenous Peoples, which often serve as primary sources of support within their territories. However, many of these community-driven support systems still have minimal impact to guarantee the right to life.

We need to ensure the operation of the Global Strategic Framework for implementing the SSF Guidelines, including the development of national action plans, which governments must integrate into their national fisheries budgets.

The establishment of no-fishing reserves for conservation (marine protected areas) is interfering with our rights to access resources essential for subsistence, as well as our rights to our ancestral lands and territories where we have lived for generations.

Militarization and corruption are also undermining our rights to life, livelihoods, and access to justice by governments.

We call upon our governments to improve infrastructure within fishing communities by investing in facilities for processing, schools, childcare facilities, and access to clean water.

We also want to see the development and implementation of social policies specifically tailored to protect informal small-scale fisheries, with a particular focus on formalizing the roles of women within the sector.

This also requires dedicated funds to be allocated for social protection initiatives aimed at supporting vulnerable groups within fishing communities.

Successful models should be used as inspiration, such as the Philippines' practice of granting preferential rights to small-scale fishers. This includes establishing designated fishing grounds (municipal waters) where commercial fishing operations are prohibited by law. We must also ensure that small-scale fishers are actively engaged in policy and decision-making processes through Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils. This approach allows for direct participation of fishers in managing resources and enforcing local regulations.

Additionally, promoting gender equality by ensuring adequate representation of women within these councils is paramount, formalizing their roles through fisherfolk registration, and involving them directly in monitoring and managing fishing activities.

In closing, we re-emphasize the importance of regularly discussing and assessing the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). This ongoing dialogue is crucial for strengthening ocean governance and addressing climate change and food security as intersecting issues.

Furthermore, it is vital to reintroduce discussions on small-scale and artisanal fisheries within COFI, the foremost global forum for policy debate in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

3.4 STRENGTHENING SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES: CUSTOMARY TENURE RIGHTS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The afternoon of the second day was dedicated to discussions on customary tenure rights and social development in both the plenary and parallel sessions. A separate parallel session was concerned with the mid-term review of the GFCM RPOA-SSF. Since the mid-term review continued on the third day, the outcomes are reported under the summary for Day 3.

Picture 5. Plenary session on tenure rights and social development



An introductory plenary session aimed to add the context of food sovereignty to the SSF Guidelines. The session was facilitated by Hanna Wetterstrand from SwedBio, Sweden. She referred to the 55th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in which Michael Fakhri, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, presented his report on fisheries and the right to food in the context of climate change.¹³ Michael Fakhri travelled around the world to collect real life stories, including from several of the small-scale fisheries representatives in the room.

- Michael Fakhri, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, emphasized through a video message¹⁴ the importance of the SSF Guidelines and their role in addressing the long-standing marginalization of small-scale fisheries in policymaking processes. He stressed the importance of recognizing ten years of small-scale fisheries advocacy and noted that change happens when people organize and create new relationships. By sharing experiences and learnings, there can be progress towards more sustainable small-scale fisheries and equitable sharing of the benefits. Zainal Arfin from the Indonesian Peasant Union (SPI) reiterated key recommendations of Michael Fakhri's report:
- The ocean is our mother and the rivers are her kin. States and businesses must stop exploiting oceans and rivers and treating them like commodities, and instead recognize them as sources of life.
- Policies need to refocus on addressing the needs and challenges of small-scale fisheries, which are integral to most countries' recovery from the pandemic and to food system transformation. This shift is necessary to counteract the dominance of large industrial fleets in fisheries management efforts and political interests.

Mr Arfin emphasized that States should protect water-related ecosystems; restore and redistribute traditional, customary and indigenous tenure rights of fishing communities; suspend any offshore oil and gas projects; ensure that markets are fair and stable; revisit the blue economy agenda; exercise great caution around aquaculture, and ensure that corporations operate transparently.

Mr Arfin then described the evolution of global hunger and briefly shared insights on the history of food sovereignty. He noted that the SSF Guidelines complement other global initiatives and policies, including, among others, the UN Declaration of the Right of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), and explained how raising awareness of these other instruments is closely linked to raising awareness of the SSF Guidelines.

- Rehema Namaganda from FIAN Uganda reminded participants that both the SSF Guidelines and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) build on the Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food in the Context of National Food Security (Right to Food Guidelines), which emphasize marginalized people. She noted that while celebrating the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines, we need to recall that it is also the 20th anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines. In this context, she highlighted the following issues:

¹³ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5549-fisheries-and-right-food-context-climate-change-report-special>

¹⁴ Find the video here <https://www.foodsovereignty.org/small-scale-fishers-raise-their-voice-at-the-fao/>

- Small-scale fisheries in Uganda and many other countries in Africa are currently characterized by militarization, privatization, conservation and lack of respect for customary tenure. Human rights are not only ignored, as noted in the report of the Special Rapporteur, but sometimes deliberately violated to pave the way for private gains.
 - Securing access to water and areas adjacent to lakes is a challenge for small-scale fisheries communities due to privatization and a desire to increase production and forex earnings, including through aquaculture.
 - Conservation initiatives can have negative impacts on food security unless they consider the needs and livelihoods of small-scale fisheries communities.
 - Women often suffer disproportionately, lacking decent working conditions and facing gender-based violence, both within and outside of the household. The ban on the current fishing method for silver fish in Uganda, imposed without warning and without alternative, has greatly affected the women and girls that are involved in the processing, preparing and marketing silver fish. However, women can also be winners if speaking out and being recognized for their role in small-scale fisheries, a subsector that is crucial for providing fish for food. Governments should therefore carefully consider for whom policies are developed.
- Jesu Rethinam from the Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA) in India, a member of WFFP, referred to the groundbreaking work on Peoples' Tribunals that has taken place in Asia and in Brazil. She also cited a report by the IPC: People-centred assessment of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, a bottom-up attempt to assess the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Mrs Rethinam referred to the Illuminating Hidden Harvests (IHH) report, which demonstrates the major contribution that women in small-scale fisheries make to food security and nutrition. Nevertheless, the role of women in small-scale fisheries is rarely addressed in key fora and women are systematically excluded and under-represented in the small-scale fisheries governance systems. Women should have equal pay to men and access to social protection; they must be recognized in legal frameworks, represented at all levels and included in policy. Mrs Rethinam called for gender justice with five Rs: Recognition of fisherwomen at all levels; Reformation of customary and constitutional laws; Representation of women at all levels of governance; Redistribution of wages and welfare on an equity sharing basis for women in the sector; and Revisiting fisheries policies, laws and budgets to ensure they are women-inclusive and equitable. Moreover, small-scale fisheries should be included as an agenda item of COFI.
 - Vivienne Solis Rivera from CoopeSoliDar R.L. in Costa Rica and Felicito Nuñez, community leader from Sambo Creek, Honduras, shared experiences from small-scale fisheries in the Garifuna Marine Territory of Life. In this area, the customary 'territories of life'¹⁵ of local communities overlap with marine protected areas. The Garifuna Marine Territory of Life has historically served as fishing grounds. Each Garifuna community is guaranteed the use of a cay, which are essential for resting and waiting out bad weather. However, they face challenges due to restrictions on fishing operations and the privatization

¹⁵ Territories of life, also known in some contexts as ICCAs (TICCA in Spanish; APAC in French), are territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities. They are as diverse as the peoples and communities who shape and sustain them through their unique cultures, governance systems and practices. Source: <https://report.territoriesoflife.org/about-territories-of-life-and-the-icca-consortium/> accessed on 27 November 2024

of the cays. This has resulted in reduced access rights, the loss of tenure rights, limited recognition of women's work, and tourism that benefits large companies and organizations rather than local communities. Efforts are needed to restore tenure, access, and the use rights of fishers' communities and Indigenous Peoples and to ensure food security, protect well-being, culture, and identity, and provide opportunities for young people and women. Restrictions on small-scale fishing in marine protected areas (MPAs) have been implemented without the free, prior and informed consent of fishermen. Mr Nuñez showed pictures illustrating the lives and livelihoods of the Garifuna small-scale fishers as they struggle for access, tenure and use rights.

- Anaru Fraser, IITC, from Aotearoa, New Zealand, reiterated that small-scale fisheries need to be discussed in appropriate fora, including as an agenda item of COFI. He also noted that 'rights and responsibilities come together' as specified in paragraph 5.14 of the SSF Guidelines, and that partnerships and collaboration are essential for sustainable small-scale fisheries. As shown by the experience of the Maori Fisheries Commission in New Zealand, building relationships is time consuming, requiring capacity and the willingness of those involved, but partnerships are a powerful tool that is worthy of investment. He called for 'weapons of mass collaboration' to connect and create relationships, and make these relationships grow.

The session wrapped up with remarks by Juan Echanove from FAO's Right to Food team and Elisa Morgera, UN Special Rapporteur of Climate Change.

- Mr Echanove noted that one of the main messages of the presentations thus far was that the recognition of tenure rights is crucial to the achievement of the right to food and the respect of people's culture and identity. However, there is another aspect of the right to food, which is the obligation of States to respect the rights of small-scale fisheries communities and actors. We must continue advocating for the promotion, respect and protection of these rights, and the empowerment of small-scale fisheries actors.
- Mrs Morgera noted the importance of protecting human rights in the context of climate change. She referred to a [recent scene-setting report](#) on this topic and stressed that more information is needed to better understand how climate change threatens small-scale fishing communities. Different types of knowledge must be recognized, including scientific and local knowledge. New alliances and partnerships should also be considered, including with groups such as the Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, established by the Human Rights Council in 2023.

3.5 PARALLEL SESSIONS ON CUSTOMARY TENURE RIGHTS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Picture 6. Participants during parallel sessions



Following the plenary presentations on customary tenure rights and social development, participants were divided into smaller groups to explore these topics in greater depth. There were five groups: two in English, one in French, one in Spanish and one in Portuguese, each facilitated by two or three moderators:

- English 1: Pradip Chatterjee and Sebastian Mathew
- English 2: Rochelle Diver and Margaret Nakato
- French: Joelle Philippe and Virginie Lagarde
- Spanish: Vivienne Solis-Rivera, Aracelly Jimenez Mora and Lorena Ortiz
- Portuguese/Spanish: Josana Pinto da Costa, Maira Franco Netto and Beatriz Mesquita

The aims of the group discussions were to:

- promote learning and exchange on the topics presented so far (social development, customary tenure rights, gender, Indigenous Peoples, climate change, resilient communities etc.);
- collect stories illustrating challenges and improvements;
- discuss what can be done to address the challenges and how small-scale fisheries actors and supporters can contribute; and
- strengthen the accountability of duty bearers (primarily governments).

In each group, participants were asked to consider the following questions, based on their own situation and experience:

- Are there any case studies you can share with the group? What experiences resonate with you?

- What are the most important changes that need to occur to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries?

Common perspectives surfaced in several of the group discussions:

- Stories from small-scale fishing communities around the world are very similar. Small-scale fishers are increasingly undervalued for their work and as individuals, facing the risk of disappearing. They face threats from large-scale fishing, oil and gas industries, tourism, port construction and even conservation efforts. These threats have severe consequences, including the displacement of entire small-scale fishing communities. Community resilience is key.
- The SSF Guidelines should become binding.
- There is widespread appreciation for FAO's work to support national plans of action for implementing the SSF Guidelines.
- Small-scale fisheries should be a permanent agenda item on the COFI agenda.
- The small-scale fisheries sector in general, and the role of women in particular, needs greater recognition. Women and young people should be included in decision-making.
- Some kind of fund is needed to support small-scale fishing communities in the face of disasters, climate change and negative impacts of the blue economy. More funding in general is needed for small-scale fisheries communities.

Key topics from English Group 1

It was noted that small-scale fisheries were not an agenda item at the 2024 COFI meeting. Similar stories from across Africa illustrate a lack of access to basic services such as potable water, schooling, health care, disproportionately affecting women and children. Migrants are especially vulnerable due to a lack of secure tenure rights and displacement from customary lands. A key message for governments is that compensation for displacement is not enough! Tenure rights are necessary but not sufficient when small-scale fisheries are undermined by interests with greater economic and political power.

The discussions highlighted the success of efforts by Namibia and Malawi to implement the SSF Guidelines implementation through NPoAs, facilitated by FAO. Concerning the way forward for small-scale fisheries, the following were proposed:

- Promote rights awareness training for communities.
- Create alliances with organizations engaged in democratic processes and structures.
- Enable small-scale fisheries actors to define their own research priorities and needs and mobilizing researchers to support them instead of vice versa.
- Organize and work with unions.
- Mobilize funds and focus on low-hanging fruit.
- Develop a shared template for mapping gaps in current policies in relation to the SSF Guidelines, creating NPoAs and implementing them.

Suggestions for duty bearers included:

- Create strong regulatory enabling environments for the SSF Guidelines and NPoAs-SSF.
- Ensure greater accountability, transparency and commitment to democracy.
- Mandate prior informed consent and participatory and just research processes in all countries.

- Support rights awareness training for constituents.

Key demands included:

- Ensure meaningful representation of women in decision-making.
- Establish safe and hygiene market spaces for fisher women.
- Make provision for structures such as processing units.
- Promote recognition and identity card for women to facilitate recognition and access to services.
- Ensure a clear definition of small-scale fisher in the national context.
- Discourage aquaculture development that negatively influences the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries actors.

Key topics from English Group 2

- Not much has changed for small-scale fisheries since the 1984 Rome conference, with communities continuing to fight injustices, in particular over land and water, but with little government support.
- A positive change is that women's rights are now on the agenda, with more governments seeing women as agents of change.
- There is a need for more communication about fisheries and an increased focus on fisher folk.
- It is problematic that small-scale fisheries are not included in agriculture policy discussions.
- Communities need to be informed about access restrictions in the context of conservation.

Changes are needed:

- Broader conservation measures and sustainable community conservation efforts should be better connected and integrated.
- People must be at the centre of policymaking, including through consulting communities to inform decision-making.
- Leadership development and shifts in power are required, for example by supporting community champions.
- There is a need for greater inclusion of women and young people in decision-making and activities; this will also help move small-scale fisheries from the margins to the centre of attention.
- A new fisheries narrative is needed, such as one that views fish as food, not just as a commodity.
- The SSF Guidelines need to reach small-scale fishing communities to help them protect their human and tenure rights.

Key topics from the French Group

Examples from several countries, including Gabon, Togo and the Republic of Guinea, illustrate how small-scale fisheries women and communities have been forced to move due to the establishment of marine protected areas, hotel and port construction, oil wells and outside entrepreneurs. The following solutions were proposed:

- Promote co-management, active and effective participation and consultation and involvement of communities in decision-making.
- Ensure greater consideration of traditional knowledge.
- Improve communication with governments.

- Increase capacity development for women.
- Create a fund to provide subsidies for small-scale fisheries.

Key topics from the Spanish Group

The group discussed social development, tenure rights, gender, Indigenous Peoples, climate change and resilient communities. The following perspectives were shared:

- The implementation of the SSF Guidelines has been poor so far; they must become binding. There has been progress through NPoAs-SSF in some countries.
- Data is crucial to better understand what is happening and to find better ways to advance the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Small-scale fisheries must recover space on the COFI agenda
- There is a wish to formulate statements to the governments attending the SSF Summit.
- Many small-scale fishing communities lack access to infrastructure education, health, pensions and are subject to climate change impacts.
- There is a risk that small-scale fisheries will be displaced by tourism, the oil industry or climate change. We need greater community resilience; we need to adapt to climate change. If we can recover ecosystems, we can recover ourselves!
- There is a lot of talk about rights, but little about obligations. Governments and industries are taking advantage of vulnerability and lack of commitment. It is crucial for fishers to have capacity, presence and decision-making capacity.
- Women must receive greater recognition in the small-scale fisheries sector. Women and young people at all levels need to be included in decision-making.
- There is need for increased awareness and understanding of the impacts of the blue economy agenda.
- More resources must end up with communities, which, although resilient in many ways, are still vulnerable to climate change.
- There is a need to strike a balance between human rights and environmental protection.
- Afrodescendentes ought to be given more recognition, as native peoples, in addition to Indigenous Peoples.

Key topics from the Portuguese Group

- Equitable participation by fishers is needed in decision-making and governance and they should be represented in key processes (e.g. COFI, CBD).
- Intergenerational knowledge transmission is a non-formal and decolonial educational process for diverse knowledge.
- Climate change requires governments to address the issue and establish a financing mechanism for mitigating its impact on communities.
- Child labour in fisheries and traditional knowledge: it is essential to understand the specificities and particularities of fishing communities and the role intergenerational knowledge transmission plays.
- The future of small-scale fisheries lies in young people.
- Traditional knowledge evolves as communities continue developing and innovating.
- Customary and tenure rights are needed to safeguard and protect against external impacts from other sectors.
- Most problems that affect fisher people are due to external factors and are not fisheries related.
- The small-scale fisheries movement was born out of resistance to existing challenges the sub-sector was facing.

What needs to change?

- Developed countries should establish an international fund to support small-scale artisanal fishing (e.g., natural disaster insurance, flood insurance, etc.).
- Companies profiting from natural resources should contribute to funds that support small-scale fisheries
- Compensation can be problematic.
- Current funds do not reach the intended communities.
- Civil society should have a say in shaping the COFI agenda.

3.6 MEET THE PARTICIPANTS

The 'meet the participants' session was an opportunity for some of the participants to present their work in relation to small-scale fisheries. The session was moderated by Suzanne Njeri Kuria from AWFISHNET in Kenya.

Imani Fairweather Morrison from the [Oak Foundation](#), and Tanya Mahadwar from CEA Consulting, presented the Oak Foundation's Small-scale Fisheries Strategy. The Oak Foundation is a family charity based in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2017, the Foundation created a small-scale fisheries strategy in collaboration with many Summit participants. The strategy aims to improve the governance of small-scale fisheries and to empower small-scale fisheries leaders to safeguard marine ecosystems and protect their livelihoods. A review of Oak Foundation's small-scale fisheries portfolio is ongoing but preliminary findings reveal some emerging opportunities to:

- increase international recognition of the small-scale fisheries field;
- shift power dynamics to support small-scale fisheries;
- build resilience and adaptive capacity for small-scale fisheries;
- improve funding, including through exploring the role of big international NGOs;
- more effectively incorporate human rights-based approaches;
- ensure an equitable and sustainable blue economy future;

Picture 7. Speakers at the "meet the participants" session



- develop a small-scale fisheries field-wide communication strategy; and
- leverage increase in philanthropic funding for small-scale fisheries and oceans.

The presentation finished with a request to the SSF Summit 2024 participants to provide their reflections and comments (by scanning a QR-code provided on the screen and/or join a breakfast meeting). In particular, the audience was asked two questions:

- From your perspective, which of these opportunities seem most important?
- What other important opportunities were not captured?

Pip Cohen, co-director of [Turning Tides](#), introduced this new established organization, which is working towards more equitable funding for small-scale fisheries tenure. Mrs Cohen explained that an analysis of data from 2020 showed that out of the USD 1.2 billion funding for initiatives on oceans, only USD 100 million were dedicated to small-scale fisheries and coastal communities. Most is channeled through large NGOs and the funds that are directly transferred to small-scale fishers and fishworkers, Indigenous Peoples and communities are negligible. Turning Tides is working to change this:

- Where the money goes: by ensuring more direct funding to local communities, small-scale fisheries and Indigenous Peoples, and the groups in their service;
- Who decides what: by transferring assets and decision-making to local control;
- How power is centred: by creating a new culture to support local governance and self-determination;
- How the money moves: by promoting non-extractive processes determined by partners to meet their needs.

Turning Tides was launched on 15 June 2024 after an extensive period of consultation, research, piloting and preparation. It is a regranting facility supporting the rights and tenure of coastal and shoreline communities with a view to bringing in new money and work in new ways.

Marina Gomei from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), presented a global map of organizations working with small-scale fisheries. Work on the map was initiated after the First SSF Summit in 2022, where it became clear that small-scale fisheries representatives and movements would like to better understand where eNGOs work and with which communities. To address this, a group of NGOs launched an initiative to increase transparency around their small-scale fisheries work. Mrs Gomei presented the map and invited participants to provide feedback and additional information.

The three presentations were followed by comments from the audience. Some participants expressed concerns regarding the access, use and purpose of the data provided on the map presented by WWF. They asked who had control over the information and asked whether appropriate processes of free, prior and informed consent were in place. It was stressed that eNGOs need to be transparent and be careful about not exposing communities by sharing information.

4. Summary overview of Day 3

Picture 8. Participants in plenary on Day 3 of the SSF Summit 2024



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4.1 COLLECTIVE REFLECTION ON HOW THE SSF SUMMIT CAN SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES

Day 3 was opened by the moderator, Alejandro Bravo Avalos, WFF/fisher from Peru. The first plenary session, moderated by Hanna Wetterstrand, SwedBio, provided space for a collective reflection on how the SSF Summit can support implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The session started with insights on global policy processes with high relevance for small-scale fisheries. The discussion then focused on what can be done at the regional level to implement the SSF Guidelines, including potential roles for non-state actor networks, groups and processes.

- Adam Wolfenden from the Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG), focused on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the fisheries subsidies negotiations, relating this process to the SSF Guidelines. He noted that subsidies can act as an incentive for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines but can also undermine it. It is therefore important to elevate the voice of small-scale fisheries in the negotiations to ensure that subsidies are designed to benefit the subsector.
- Vivienne Solis Rivera from CoopeSoliDar in Costa Rica pointed to the need to include small-scale fisheries in all international discussions related to ocean conservation, management, and sustainable use. She specifically mentioned the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and the fact that Indigenous Peoples and small-scale fishing communities need to be present in related conversations. Mrs Solis Rivera also shared the experience of promoting small-scale fisheries issues in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity negotiations and stressed that the

new Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is strongly based on a human rights-based approach, much like the SSF Guidelines. She advocated for more small-scale fisheries representatives meaningfully participating in the implementation of the Framework. She also referred to other global policy processes such as the UN Ocean conferences. The next conference will take place in 2025 in France in collaboration with the Costa Rican government, which hosted a pre-meeting in June 2024 called Immersed in change.

- Herman Kumara from NAFSO in Sri Lanka and a member of the Regional Advisory Group¹⁶ for Asia and the Pacific, spoke about the importance of the [Global Strategic Framework in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines](#) (SSF–GSF), a partnership mechanism that offers small-scale fishery actors, government representatives and other stakeholders a space to collaborate and support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. A key objective is to give small-scale fishery actors an opportunity to provide advice on how they would like to see the SSF Guidelines put into action through the SSF–GSF Advisory Group (currently consisting of representatives of WFFP, WFF, IITC and La Via Campesina). The Advisory Group aims to inform stakeholders of the status of the SSF Guidelines implementation and to develop evidence-based recommendations and priorities from small-scale fishing communities and Indigenous Peoples. Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) were established by the IPC for Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in regional policy spaces and share experiences and good practices from the regional to the global level. The RAGs are open to non-IPC members.

The RAG for Asia and the Pacific carried out an assessment of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and one conclusion was the need to better recognize customary tenure rights. Mr Kumara stressed the importance for countries to have NPoAs-SSF and to allocate funds for SSF Guidelines implementation, including for an accountability mechanism.

- Namadoa Okelo from AFRIFISH–Net in Kenya introduced the Pan African Non-State-Actor Platform for Fisheries and Aquaculture (AFRIFIHSH–Net), which was established by the African Union. AFRIFIHSH–Net comprises small-scale fisheries organizations and other non-state actor organizations involved in fisheries and aquaculture issues. Mr Okelo explained that there are five subregional non-state actor platforms for fisheries and aquaculture established in the context of the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS), and these play a key role in pushing forward the implementation of the SSF Guidelines on the African continent in collaboration with the Federation of African Small-scale Fisheries Producer Organizations (CAOPA) and the African Women Fish processors and Traders (AWFISHNET). He invited all African participants to join the platforms. Africa is a frontrunner on SSF Guidelines implementation, with several countries having developed NPoAs-SSF. Nevertheless, further policy harmonization at continental, subregional and national levels is needed as well as additional plans of action at national and regional levels.
- Marta Machazek, from the Latin American Union of Artisanal Fishers, Panama (ULAPA) and Zoila Bustamante from the Confederation Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH), introduced ULAPA, which brings together small-scale fisheries organizations from 12 Latin American countries representing more than 10 million men and women. The members work together

¹⁶ See <https://www.foodsovereignty.org/working-group/fisheries/regional-advisory-groups/>

for their human rights and their right to fish, and to contribute to the food security of thousands of communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. ULAPA aims for all small-scale fishers to be aware of their human rights. Mrs Machazek called for all small-scale fisheries organizations to unite and defend the rights and culture of the subsector to avoid further marginalization.

- Lazaro Mecha Barahona, Cacique of Maje Emberra Drua, Indigenous leader and representative of the Regional Mesoamerican Marine Territories of Life network, Panama, focused his reflections on the processes underway to implement the SSF Guidelines in Central America. Through their network, members have been able to work with increased strength on common challenges, such poverty and food insecurity, human rights in small-scale fisheries, governance, unequal recognition of the work of women and young people, land tenure and access to the sea, fair trade, ecosystem restoration and climate change.
- Philile Mbatha of One Ocean Hub (OOH), University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced the OOH as a network of universities and civil society concerned with issues affecting ocean governance and local and indigenous communities. Small-scale fisheries are often excluded from various process and the OOH is looking at innovative ways to involve them in discussions around the blue economy, marine spatial planning (MSP), mining and conservation. These include art-based research and collaboration with lawyers and artists. Mr Mbatha insisted that it will be important to move away from normative talk about human rights and to work more on realizing those rights. At the next SSF Summit, it will be important to consider how to strengthen the dialogue between small-scale fisheries actors and other stakeholders to ensure that it draws on the knowledge of fishers and can inform research agendas.
- Elena Finkbeiner, Conservation International (CI), an informal representative of the NGO community at the SSF Summit, considered how NGOs can support SSF Guidelines implementation and summarized some earlier discussion points. She highlighted the diverse range of NGOs, including international, national, and regional organizations, that work on various environmental and social issues using approaches such as advocacy, government engagement, research, project implementation, market facilitation, and community organizing. Mrs Finkbeiner expressed her deep commitment to supporting small-scale fisheries and fishing communities and respecting the rights and well-being of Indigenous peoples, local communities, and small-scale fishing actors. She stressed that NGOs have a crucial role in supporting the SSF Summit and implementing the SSF Guidelines and encouraged leveraging individual and collective strengths in support of small-scale fisheries. She proposed three sets of actions for NGOs in this context:
 - NGOs engaged in small-scale fisheries need to drive change within their own organizations. Fishers' rights must be prioritized, and NGOs must avoid sacrificing them for conservation. The NGO community meets regularly to strategize and advocate for a human rights-based approach to conservation activities, supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and elevating the importance of small-scale fisheries in international dialogues.
 - NGOs should devote resources to convening small-scale fisheries actors and helping to strengthen their collective voice in international fora and with governments. The SSF Hub, which works with FAO, IPC and SwedBio to mobilize resources and convene the SSF Summit, is an example of how this might be done.
 - Finally, NGOs can play an important role in mobilizing resources directly to fishing communities to support projects that reflect their own needs and

priorities. NGOs can work collectively to address logistical and funding scale challenges and provide critical training in financial management, among other things, to ensure communities can adequately absorb and effectively use these funds.

Mrs Finkbeiner closed by maintaining that small-scale fisheries movements have NGO allies that take the collective Call to Action¹⁷ and Rules of Conduct¹⁸ to heart and respect small-scale fisheries rights. She noted that working with small-scale fisheries requires funding. She emphasized that NGOs are open to hearing feedback and to learn how to improve their work to advance the agendas of small-scale fishers, fishworkers, and communities.

4.2 PARALLEL SESSION ON REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES

The plenary discussion on supporting the SSF Guidelines implementation continued in three regional breakout groups, for Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Discussions considered relevant regional processes to stimulate the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and feed into the next SSF Summit.

Common views surfaced in several group discussions:

- Intersectionality¹⁹ is a general key aspect that should be considered throughout, including in relation to gender, youth and Indigenous Peoples.
- Several global and regional level platforms and processes were identified as potentially relevant from a SSF perspective, i.e. the UN Ocean Conference, the CBD COP 16, SADC Regional meetings and African Platform for livestock and fisheries support.
- Small-scale fisheries should be a stand-alone item on the COFI agenda and integrated into all other topics.
- Efforts to implement the SSF Guidelines must be strengthened. Funders and those requesting funds should unite to promote the Guidelines. There is also a need for a monitoring system that includes small-scale fisheries. Although there is talk about the importance of dissemination, awareness raising and promoting the SSF Guidelines, many communities rather feel a more urgent need for pragmatic action.
- The value of National Plans of Action for Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines were highlighted.
- There is a need to ensure effective participation by small-scale fisheries in all social development and environmental discussions. Small-scale fishers are problem solvers and need to be recognized as such. They can play a key role in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, and in social development. They should be celebrated for this, and included meaningfully in processes such as spatial planning, land, coastal and resource management, efforts to map and respect tenure/traditional rights. FPIC is crucial in this regard.
- Maritime zones reserved for small-scale fisheries should be established to secure property rights, and ensure participatory monitoring, control and surveillance in such zones.

¹⁷ See here <https://www.ssfcalltoaction.org/>

¹⁸ See here https://www.cffacape.org/s/Rules-of-conduct-SSF_EN.pdf

¹⁹ Intersectionality is a concept that describes how different aspects of a person's identity, such as race, gender, class, and sexuality, intersect and interact to create unique experiences of discrimination or privilege.

- It will be critical to build stronger small-scale fisheries movements and new alliances.
- Some messages for the next SSF Summit:
 - Prior to the global SSF Summit, there should be regional summits to ensure inclusive dialogue on the regional level.
 - Look beyond fisheries to the external forces affecting small-scale fisheries. Invite agencies, local government representatives etc. to address key concerns, and build alliances with other sectors (such as non-fish food producers).

Key issues raised by the Asia-Pacific group – English

- Regions are not homogenous. What works in one country/subregion may be counterproductive in another. Better context-specific sharing of what has worked and targeted recommendations are needed.
- Local buy-in is essential. Small-scale fishing communities need to be informed about the SSF Guidelines and a critical mass of local government and community support is needed to drive change at national levels.
- Small-scale fisheries representatives should be invited to review and monitor plans and progress for SSF Guidelines implementation. Status reports should be shared to help identify implementation gaps. There is a need for a monitoring/watchdog system, based on a standardized report from small-scale fisheries communities and organizations, supported by FAO, to push for community needs and balance the asymmetric power relations.
- Key aspects to consider:
 - involving other UN agencies and actors beyond FAO;
 - small-scale fisheries and tenure;
 - intersecting issues and threats (climate change, gender, etc.);
 - national level mechanisms to ensure the coordination of institutions and agencies.
- The SSF Summit 2024 outputs should be used to foster/improve connection, maintain progress, and support growth. Messages should be kept simple, focused and practical. Messages should be disseminated more widely.
- Small-scale fisheries should be a stand-alone item on the COFI agenda and integrated into all other topics.
- The SSF Guidelines should be promoted through advocacy at the local level to influence national governments. Some participants also encouraged a two-way approach, combining bottom-up and top down activities. It was debated whether the SSF Guidelines could be adopted/integrated into international law.
- Available resources should be matched with actions promising the greatest impact. It will be critical to build stronger alliances, such as with other food producers and with the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure.
- Small-scale fishers are problem solvers and need to be recognized as such. They can play a central role in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, and social development. They should be celebrated for this, and included meaningfully in spatial planning, land, coastal and resource management, efforts to map and respect tenure/traditional rights. FPIC will be important here.
- The next SSF Summit should recognize external forces affecting small-scale fisheries and invite agencies, local government representatives etc. to address key concerns, and build alliances with other sector (like other food producers).

Key issues raised by the African Group – English and French

The following relevant global and regional level platforms and processes were identified along with suggestions for action:

- Regional SSF Summits should be more inclusive to increase the opportunity to have dialogue at regional level and get inputs from participants from the region.
- UN Ocean Conference: Small-scale fisheries should be included in this forum.
- World Food Day: Small-scale fisheries should be included in this forum.
- Committee on Fisheries (COFI): Small-scale fisheries should be permanent item on the agenda of COFI. COFI should request FAO to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at all levels.
- World Funders Forum: This group should prioritize small-scale fisheries issues.
- Other processes and regional organizations to target and involve that were identified include: World Social Forum, Conference of the Parties (CoP) – Climate change conference; CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity; SADC Regional meetings; AU-IBAR- Africa Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources; African Platform for supporting livestock and fisheries support; AWFISHNET which brings together several women organizations engaged in fisheries from Africa; Blue economy processes: raise local awareness about the threats of blue economy developments; Nairobi Convention: ²⁰ raise small-scale fisheries issues at the regional fisheries bodies, Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), Regional Fisheries Management Bodies (RFMB) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs); explore opportunities to raise small-scale fisheries issues; International Marine Conservation Congresses (IMCC); science forums like WIOMSA and African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission.

Additional actions identified by the group included the following:

- In 2016, FAO facilitated the development of the Global Strategic Framework in support of the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines, with social movements playing an advisory role. Nearly ten years later, there is a strong need to review and strengthen the Advisory Group (through IPC) to increase its effectiveness and to enhance the capacity of the related Regional Advisory Groups to facilitate regional level dialogues on small-scale fisheries.
- Include small-scale fisheries in all social development and environmental discussions on the continent.
- Build the capacity of institutions to implement the SSF Guidelines at scale.
- Strengthen non-state actors' platforms in south, north, east and west Africa.
- A West African campaign for IYAFA was launched in March 2022 and a plan of action for West Africa is being developed and should be finalized.
- Monitor and support small-scale fisheries in ongoing policy developments (e.g. regarding the blue economy).
- Develop and apply monitoring and evaluation frameworks for SSF Guidelines implementation.
- Mainstream the right to food sovereignty and the rights of peasants in small-scale fisheries.

²⁰ Administered by UNEP, the Nairobi Convention—signed by Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of South Africa — provides a platform for governments, civil society, and the private sector to work together for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment.

- Mobilize resources for SSF Guidelines implementation and ensure that financial contributions are transmitted directly to small-scale fisheries actors to ensure that they benefit.
- Encourage peer-learning, transfer of knowledge, mobilization and collaboration with other small-scale fisheries networks.
- Document success stories around the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Mobilize and build movements; strengthen organizational capacities in small-scale fisheries at local and national levels, improve governance to guarantee inclusiveness and enhance collaboration.
- Document and share success stories around the NpoAs–SSF in Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Provide capacity building about the SSF Guidelines in local languages, including raising awareness, providing training, and ensuring information dissemination.
- Establish maritime zones reserved for small-scale fisheries to ensure ownership of property rights, and ensure participatory monitoring, control and surveillance in such zones.
- Promote participatory and transparent decision-making processes to ensure the effective involvement of small-scale fishers.
- Strengthen disaster risk mechanisms for small-scale fisheries.

Key issues raised by the Latin America and Caribbean Group – Spanish, English and French

- Two key events in the next two years are the UN Ocean Conference and the CBD COP 16. Leaders of small-scale fisheries organizations will benefit from capacity development to be able to participate effectively in both events.
- ULAPA, the Latin American Union of Artisanal Fishers, is making a great deal of effort to disseminate the SSF Guidelines and raise awareness of their existence at the local level. This requires capacity, both human and financial.
- The text of the SSF Guidelines needs to be adapted to enhance their understanding in certain local communities, both in terms of format, language and terminology. This is key for disseminating, awareness raising and promoting the SSF Guidelines.
- Funders and those requesting funds should unite behind promoting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Reviews of relevant legal and public policies and frameworks should be conducted. An example was shared regarding inclusion of the recommendations in legal frameworks, in the case of Decree N391965/MAG/MINAE/MTSS in Costa Rica.
- Promote incorporation of the SSF Guidelines into binding agreements.
- Promote the active participation of small-scale fisheries representatives in relevant public policy development.
- FAO should make greater efforts to make governments aware of the SSF Guidelines and the various initiatives related to their implementation (e.g. the SSF Summit).
- Many communities feel that there is no need for more consultation on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, but rather for more pragmatic activities. This is probably because the organizations that participate in surveys may not receive the results, which leads to a disconnection with the activity (i.e. the SSF Summit).

Picture 9. Session with government representatives

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4.3 HOW CAN THE SSF SUMMIT BE USED TO INFORM GOVERNMENTS?

This session, moderated by Mele Tauati, FAO, sought to explore how the voice of small-scale fisheries can be included in relevant decision-making at national, regional and global levels. It was a dialogue between small-scale fisheries representatives and invited government and intergovernmental organization representatives.

Mitchel Lay from Antigua and Barbuda and a representative of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) opened the session by observing that small-scale fisheries are not on the policy agenda in many countries and are no longer a standalone item on the COFI agenda. He described the many ways in which small-scale fisheries are important – socially, culturally, for food security and nutrition and for livelihoods: “Small-scale fisheries support approximately 500 million individuals. These fishers are not just participants in an industry; they are the backbone of their communities, playing a vital role in promoting livelihoods and driving poverty reduction.”

However, Mr Lay emphasized, small-scale fisheries face challenges and threats on a daily basis, including insecurity of tenure that jeopardizes access to land and fishery resources; land grabbing driven by industrial aquaculture and tourism; and ecological degradation from pollution. Conservation measures, such as those inspired by the target to conserve 30 percent of the earth’s land and sea by 2030, often neglect the needs of small-scale fishers, while the push for a blue economy can create additional pressures on their livelihoods. After ten years of SSF Guidelines implementation, many challenges remain. He shared some ideas on how these might be addressed:

- Ensure secure access to fisheries resources, including water spaces and adjacent land for small-scale fishers.
- Establish legal processes and definitive measures to protect the rights of small-scale fishers.
- Ensure no negative impacts arise from other sectors that threaten their livelihoods.
- Facilitate the participation of small-scale fishers in fisheries management and governance.
- Create national platforms that provide strong representation for small-scale fisheries.
- Invest in capacity building for responsible fisheries practices.

- Develop infrastructure for small-scale fisheries with a focus on gender considerations.
- Ensure that gender considerations are included in any small-scale fisheries governance mechanism.
- Implement the SSF Guidelines effectively.
- Operationalize the Global Strategic Framework in Support of the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines (GSF-SSF) as a strategic partnership mechanism.

The Honorable Abdallah Hamis Ulega, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania, gave an intervention in which he acknowledged the significance of small-scale fisheries as a subsector contributing to food security, employment, and national and global economies. He stressed that United Republic of Tanzania is championing SSF Guidelines implementation as the first country that developed and endorsed an NPoA–SSF. The United Republic of Tanzania also hosted a first regional SSF Summit for Africa in June 2024. The Minister expressed his commitment to SSF Guidelines implementation and the need to support small-scale fisheries with a variety of services and infrastructure.

A dialogue between small-scale fisheries actors and government representatives followed the minister's intervention.

- Dani Setiawan, Indonesia Traditional Fishers Association (KNTI), stated that it is the role of governments to support the livelihoods of small-scale fishers, noting that in Asia, Indonesia and the Philippines are developing NPoAs–SSF. He added that such plans are very relevant when small-scale fisheries are facing increasing threats such as poverty, inequality and climate change. He posed the question as to which strategies might be deployed to enhance the resilience of small-scale fisheries and empower small-scale fishers and coastal communities.
- Drusila Bayate, Undersecretary for Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Philippines explained that initiating an NPoA–SSF is a crucial first step to engaging stakeholders. In the Philippines, the policy framework requires the participation of small-scale fisheries in policymaking through fisheries resources management bodies where fishers are duly represented, including at municipal, provincial and national levels. These bodies draft regulations for consideration at the national level. Ms Bayate added that a multisectoral approach and inclusive participation by different stakeholders are critical to the success of these policies and concluded by stating that the global situation brings big challenges to resources mobilization for small-scale fisheries.
- Sara Ester Garrido Cortes, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF), Latin America and Caribbean Region/Chile, highlighted the point that small-scale fisheries networks for women working in fisheries are great fora for discussing key issues, including gender and post-harvest activities. She noted that Chile has initiated efforts to implement the SSF Guidelines and underscored the importance of updating fishing legislations to align with the SSF Guidelines.
- Rocio Parra Cortes, Head of Legal Division, Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Government of Chile, observed that 35 percent of the country's fish production comes from small-scale fisheries. She emphasized that a NPoA–SSF is a great tool to guarantee that the provisions of the SSF Guidelines are embedded in national legislation, especially with regard to gender equality. The social aspect of the SSF Guidelines is also relevant for new fisheries policies, with the governance of tenure being a critical issue for parliamentary discussions. She stressed that these points should be discussed not only during COFI, but also during intersessional periods.

- Josana Pinto da Costa, Movimento dos Pescadores e Pescadoras Artesanais do Brasil, asked about the vision Brazil has for small-scale fisheries in the future, considering the increasing threats the subsector has been facing, not only the pressure from industrial fisheries but also climate change.
- Cristiano Ramalho, National Secretary of Artisanal Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Brazil, acknowledged the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines and described the government's efforts – starting in 2023 – to formulate an agenda of protection and support for traditional fishing communities. Social protection is at the centre of the government's efforts. Brazil has established a National Forum for Artisanal Fishers, comprising over 20 representatives from small-scale fisheries, to help shape government policies. Mr Ramalho praised FAO for ensuring that women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples are central to this agenda. He ended by saying that the country remains optimistic about creating a legal framework that fully integrates small-scale fisheries actors.
- Editrudith Lukanga, Head of the Secretariat and Bureau Member, African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET), praised the United Republic of Tanzania for taking the lead in embracing the implementation of the SSF Guidelines through an NPoA–SSF. She asked how the NPoA–SSF would empower small-scale fisheries in the United Republic of Tanzania, ensuring sustainable livelihoods, particularly for women fish processors and traders, and how the NPoA–SSF addresses human rights concerns.
- Lilian Ibengwe, Principal Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania, described how the United Republic of Tanzania was able to create an enabling environment for collaboration between the government and NGOs and CSOs, such as EMEDO, which held joint workshops to strengthen commitment to implementing the SSF Guidelines. The NPoA–SSF for the United Republic of Tanzania, launched in 2021, was developed through a multistakeholder process involving small-scale fisheries actors, academics, researchers, private sector representatives, and government entities such as the Ministry of Health. This participatory approach ensured broad representation and also included raising awareness through workshops and meetings, emphasizing the importance of efficient coordination and communication among all actors. Ms Ibengwe stressed that an important aspect of the NPoA's implementation success is the allocation of budget and mobilization of resources from donors.
- Tavita Faletese, Pacific Community-based fisheries representative, asked for an example of a process from the Pacific that has helped raise the voice of the people and might inform and contribute to future SSF Summits.
- Watisoni Lalavanua, Community-based fisheries advisor, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), shared the experience of the SPC community-based fisheries dialogue (CBFD), an inclusive platform for engaging fishing communities and empowering them to express their priorities. In small island developing states (SIDS), where small-scale fisheries supply nearly all the fish, the CBFD fosters collaboration between local communities, civil society organizations, governments and regional actors. The recommendations provided by the platform have been endorsed by fisheries ministries, with regional intergovernmental organizations acting as key connectors between small-scale fisheries and governments. Global organizations, donors and partners also recognize and support these local structures, enhancing their influence and sustainability.

- Ibtissem Gobbaa, representing the Agricultural and Fishing Development Group in Boughrara, Tunisia, asked how the participation of small-scale fisheries actors can be ensured in policy development and implementation in the context of the Mediterranean and Black Seas.
- Emmanuel Berck, Acting Head of Unit, Fisheries Management – Mediterranean and Black Sea (DG MARE), European Commission, pointed out that there is an engagement with small-scale fisheries forums in the region, but that even when regional plans of action are in place there are still challenges to overcome, including recruiting new fishers, engaging young people and improving data collection and access to social protection. The role of women in fishing and the impact of climate change and invasive species are key areas of focus. Efforts are underway to ensure small-scale fisheries representation in key fora, with consultations involving all actors to modernize EU fisheries-related provisions. Additionally, Mr Berck stressed the importance of working towards more sustainable fishing practices, and of governance efforts in relation to marine protected areas (MPAs), monitoring and the commercialization of fisheries, including addressing invasive species.

4.4 PARALLEL SESSION ON THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE GFCM RPOA-SSF

The RPOA-SSF mid-term review session was attended by 52 small-scale fishers, small-scale fisheries stakeholder organizations and non-governmental organizations from 15 Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, as well as the European Commission. Since 2024 marked the half-way point in the ten-year RPOA-SSF, the meeting aimed to give voice to fishers and fish workers evaluating advances in the implementation of the RPOA-SSF, assessing changing circumstances and shifting priorities, and providing guidance towards a more sustainable and resilient small-scale fisheries sector by 2028. The meeting featured two sessions, which focused, respectively, on taking stock of progress in RPOA-SSF implementation and consolidating a common vision for the future of the RPOA-SSF, with the latter session including a roundtable dialogue with representatives of RPOA-SSF signatory countries and partner organizations. The RPOA-SSF mid-term event was not a standalone occurrence; rather, it represented a pivotal step in an ongoing process, building on consultations with technical experts held during the GFCM Working Group on Small-scale Fisheries in March 2024, and anticipated to be further enriched by decision-makers during the GFCM annual session in November 2024.

Picture 10. Participants of the session on the mid-term review of the RPOA-SSF for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea



Based on the discussions and exchanges during the parallel sessions on Days 2 and 3 dedicated to the RPOA–SSF mid-term review, the participants adopted a series of conclusions and recommendations for the way forward for the implementation of the RPOA–SSF by 2028.

Conclusions

1. Progress has been made in implementing the RPOA–SSF since its adoption, including by putting tools and resources into place to support implementation. In particular, the establishment of the SSF Forum as a space for fishers from across the region to exchange and share experiences was highlighted. Nevertheless, there is a need to be more ambitious if the objectives of the RPOA–SSF are to be reached by 2028.
2. A critical issue across the region is the lack of young people entering the SSF sector, which acutely affects the future viability and sustainability of small-scale fisheries. There is a risk of the SSF sector disappearing soon.
3. The combined impacts of climate change, non-indigenous species, pollution and overfishing have created a critical situation for the SSF sector. Actions to address these threats need to be accelerated.
4. The number of women's organizations in fisheries is growing, bringing attention to their valuable role in the sector, yet policies and institutional frameworks still inadequately reflect their contributions nor do policymakers engage with women's organizations in effective ways.
5. Advances have been made in improving data collection, however there is a need to ensure that the fishers who contribute data receive feedback on the activities and analyses in which they are used.
6. Some important advances have been made to integrate inputs from fishers into management advisory processes. These advances need to be consolidated and strengthened.
7. Funding support is needed, particularly to support SSF cooperatives and organizations and to address issues such as climate change adaptation.
8. Some advances have been made in terms of increasing access to social protection programmes at the regional level, however, more attention is needed to ensure social protection benefits are meaningful and effectively promote the resilience of small-scale fishers. The lack of social protection benefits is an important issue that prevents young people from joining the sector.

Recommendations for reaching the objectives of the RPOA–SSF by 2028:

1. Consolidate a mechanism to integrate the inputs of all fisheries actors (both men and women) into fisheries management advisory processes, at both regional and national levels.
2. Ensure consolidation of fora for exchanging information and sharing best practices and experience at the local, national and regional levels (e.g. advisory committees, SSF Forum, etc.).
3. Take urgent action to promote generational turnover in the small-scale fisheries sector, including by improving the image of the sector, reducing bureaucracy (e.g. access to fishing licenses or vessel ownership), facilitating appropriate and meaningful social protection benefits and promoting participatory management in advisory processes.
4. Take urgent action to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, including the increasing presence of non-indigenous species (NIS), by implementing innovative strategies and mechanisms (e.g. diversification of livelihoods, expanding market

- opportunities for NIS, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, etc.) and addressing funding needs to promote the resilience of SSF communities.
5. Address overfishing in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. To do so, strong enforcement and control needs to be coupled with effective management measures.
 6. Encourage robust participatory data collection initiatives and establish consistent mechanisms for reporting back to fishers on data collection outcomes, ultimately supporting improvements in the quality of data on SSF activities and the integration of local ecological knowledge (LEK).
 7. Identify gaps in financing and secure funding sources to enhance small-scale fisheries initiatives.
 8. Promote the regular assessment of RPOA–SSF implementation against clear indicators.
 9. Support synergies across ministries and fisheries organizations to ensure coherence in regulations, enhanced awareness of the RPOA–SSF and better communication with SSF stakeholders.

5. Wrapping up and closing of the SSF Summit 2024

Picture 11. Speakers at the wrap-up session



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The final session was moderated by Nama Kweigyah, Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Association of Ghana. Mr Kweigyah invited the regional groups to report back on their discussions held during the morning of Day 3.

- Asia and the Pacific group, reported by Herman Kumara, National Fisheries Solidarity Organization (NAFSO)

Mr Kumara emphasized the need for the SSF Guidelines to be adapted to suit the specific requirements of each region, subregion or country. Additionally, he stressed the importance of promoting context-specific sharing of what has worked and to target recommendations accordingly. He underscored the importance of implementing the SSF Guidelines at the local level, with the active engagement of small-scale fisheries actors in all activities and at all stages, including in monitoring and implementation. Mr Kumara also stressed the importance of upholding customary tenure rights and ensuring free, prior, and informed consent for interventions targeting or affecting small-scale fisheries. He cited marine spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to foster the inclusion of small-scale fisheries. Mr Kumara recalled that it is essential to recognize that small-scale fisheries play a central role in addressing the climate change and biodiversity crises and social development. Finally, he emphasized the need to consider intersecting issues and threats, such as gender and climate change, and to form alliances with agencies and actors beyond fisheries.

- Latin American and Caribbean group, reported by Marta Machazek, Unión Latinoamericana de la Pesca Artesanal (ULAPA)

Mrs Machazek introduced ULAPA, which was established to unify the voices of small-scale fisheries in order to effectively participate in decision-making processes that affect them. ULAPA brings together 15 organizations representing 12 different countries in the region. She affirmed that including small-scale fisheries in relevant decision-making processes would require respecting the human rights of small-scale fisheries actors, who are often threatened by blue economy initiatives, large-scale aquaculture, tourism projects and conservation measures. Mrs Machazek explained that ULAPA is currently working to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, especially at the local level. This requires raising awareness of the Guidelines at the local level. She recommended ULAPA as a key partner for knowledge sharing and dissemination efforts around the SSF Guidelines in the Latin America region.
- African group, reported by Margaret Nakato, WFF

Mrs Nakato observed that global platforms and processes, such as World Oceans Day, World Food Day, the World Economic Forum (WEF), the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP), the African Union (AU) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), must include small-scale fisheries in their discussions. Blue economy-related developments and the Nairobi Convention are also critical spaces where SSF issues need to be prioritized. Key recommendations from the region are that small-scale fisheries become a permanent item on the COFI agenda and that COFI to request FAO's continued support for implementing the SSF Guidelines at all levels. In the African region, it is essential to review and strengthen advisory groups for small-scale fisheries, with a focus on social and environmental development, while closely monitoring the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Mrs Nakato stressed the importance of mobilizing support for food sovereignty and the rights of peasants, including by securing more funding for women in small-scale fisheries. She noted that it is critical to document success stories and share lessons learned across small-scale fishing communities. Additionally, opportunities to raise the profile of small-scale fisheries in RFMBs and RFMOs should be explored further. Finally, she said there is a need to ensure that financial resources are directly transferred to small-scale fisheries actors, enabling them to benefit fully and strengthen their roles in sustainable fisheries management.
- GFCM group, reported by Michael Croessmann, Fisher Association of Amorgos, Greece

Mr Croessmann informed the group of progress in implementing the RPOA–SSF in the region. The establishment of an SSF Forum for fishers from the Mediterranean and Black Sea region to exchange and share their experiences was extremely important. However, there is a need to be more ambitious if the objectives of the RPOA–SSF are to be reached by 2028. Across the region, small-scale fisheries are facing critical challenges such as a lack of interest in the sector among young people, which threatens its long-term sustainability and even its existence. The combined impacts of climate change, the invasion of non-indigenous species, pollution and overfishing have created a critical situation for the small-scale fisheries sector. Actions to address these threats must be accelerated. Mr Croessmann acknowledged the growth of women's organizations in fisheries. However, policies and institutional frameworks still do not reflect women's contributions or effectively involve women's organizations. This must

change. Small-scale fisheries access to social protection has improved slightly in the region. However, additional work is required to ensure that social protection benefits are meaningful and can effectively promote the resilience of small-scale fishers. The lack of social protection benefits is an important factor deterring young people from joining the sector. Finally, he stressed that funding support is crucial, particularly for the good functioning of small-scale fisheries cooperatives and organizations and to address issues such as climate change adaptation.

The moderator then invited stakeholders and partners to summarize their reflections on the SSF Summit 2024.

- Sonia Sharan, Oceana, reporting on behalf of eNGOs
Mrs Sharan expressed appreciation for the opportunity for eNGOs to participate in the SSF Summit. She assured the group that the priorities and themes identified in the Summit would be reported back to the eNGO community. She highlighted that community's commitment to partnership at all levels and to finding and growing common ground. The eNGOs are aware and recognize that there are still concerns about power imbalances, and the feedback given during the days of the SSF Summit was valued as input that is essential in shaping and reflecting on the role of the eNGOs. The eNGOs aim to meet with small-scale fisheries actors, participate in strategic international events, and support community priorities. Mrs Sharan affirmed that any consultations will align with the principles of free, prior and informed consent principles and will focus on solutions to support small-scale fisheries and ecosystems. She reiterated the eNGO's commitment to driving marine conservation and fisheries management with a human rights-based approach. Lastly, Mrs Sharan reaffirmed that eNGOs look forward to supporting the further implementation of the SSF Guidelines, the SSF Call to Action, the SSF Rules of Engagement, the inclusion of small-scale fisheries on the COFI agenda and in other global fora.
- Ratana Chuenpagdee, reporting on behalf of academia
Mrs Chuenpagdee noted her appreciation for the invitation to the SSF Summit and the opportunity to represent the perspective of the academics and researchers at the meeting. Many participants have been researching small-scale fisheries for decades, with some involved in developing the SSF Guidelines. The SSF Summit sparked new ideas on collaboration, grassroots and movement initiatives, the roles of women and young people, customary law, tenure rights, Indigenous issues and social development. Mrs Chuenpagdee emphasized the importance of hearing small-scale fishers' stories and perspectives and of communicating issues on small-scale fisheries in a way that fosters policy changes. She noted that there is evidence that small-scale fisheries are marginalized in discussions about blue growth/blue economy and in the UN Ocean Conference. Researchers can play a key role in highlighting the consequences of leaving small-scale fisheries out of these discussions. It is also important to recognize and prioritize Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge of small-scale fisheries people to guide fisheries management and inform policies. Mrs Chuenpagdee stressed that fisheries management should be based on good data and good science. She concluded by recalling that the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines is an opportunity to address issues such as climate change and new actors in ocean spaces. Better collaboration between researchers and governments can facilitate the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and contribute to developing laws, policies, and regulations that work for small-scale fishing communities.

The session moderator noted that partnership between small-scale fisheries and academia is critical. If the necessary data to inform policy and action is not available, we are unlikely to successfully address the challenges faced by the subsector. He observed that the SSF Summit 2024 had been very inspirational, and opened the floor for comments. Participants shared that they found the SSF Summit 2024 to have been very inclusive and that there had been active participation. Much work remains: many small-scale fisheries are still not fully informed about the SSF Guidelines. Collective action should be strengthened, building on the partnerships created during the SSF Summit 2024.

Manuel Barange from FAO took the floor, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the SSF Summit 2024 and thanking participants for sharing their experiences, challenges and proposed solutions. He addressed some of the questions and recommendations that had emerged during the Summit. He stated that COFI has the enviable problem of being very popular and successful. This means that there are many competing requests for standing agenda items. He clarified that member countries are responsible for setting the agenda of COFI. The COFI Bureau, composed of seven regional representatives appointed during each COFI session, receives an agenda proposal from the FAO COFI Secretariat. The Bureau can then comment on this proposal to ensure the final agenda reflects the preferences of the membership.

Mr Barange explained that due to increasing interest by members, COFI has agreed to establish a subcommittee dedicated to fisheries management (in addition to existing subcommittees on aquaculture and fish trade). He also clarified that small-scale fisheries were reflected in all COFI agenda items in the 2024 session, e.g. in the agenda item on nutrition.

Picture 12. Manuel Barange, FAO, presenting the closing remarks in plenary



Ms Franz urged participants to share their experiences from the SSF Summit 2024 with their colleagues, constituencies and countries, and to bring key messages from the SSF Summit 2024 to the regional and global processes, meetings and conferences in which they participate, including those related to climate change and biodiversity conservation. On behalf of the organizers, she thanked all participants, the organizers, funders, colleagues and other supporters, as well as the interpreters and others providing administrative and logistic support for SSF Summit 2024.

During an evening reception, the participants had the opportunity to engage in informal conversation, cultural exchange, enjoy a musical performance by Africa Djembe Roma, dance, and eat SSF Guidelines-inspired anniversary cakes.

Picture 13. Cakes served during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines



6. Conclusions

The SSF Summit 2024 successfully reaffirmed the value of the SSF Guidelines and the key role that FAO can play to promote their implementation by convening small-scale fisheries actors and stakeholders and engaging governments.

Some of the insights, key messages and recommendations arising from the Summit are summarized below.

SSF Guidelines and SSF Summit linkages with COFI

- The SSF Summit 2024 affirmed the value of the SSF Guidelines as an instrument to support small-scale fisheries. The Guidelines were developed through a decades-long process of discussions and collective action – at global, regional and national levels – among men and women involved in small-scale fisheries.
- There is an important opportunity to bring messages from the SSF Summit to COFI, and to ensure there is support for continuing hold SSF Summits prior to COFI meetings in the future. This should also help to secure small-scale fisheries as a COFI agenda item and/or item for discussion on the COFI agenda.
- The SSF–GSF, a partnership mechanism giving small-scale fishery actors, government representatives and other stakeholders a space to collaborate (which has been welcomed by COFI), should be used to support the SSF Guidelines at the global level. This can also help to establish a more systematic implementation monitoring mechanism.
- At the national level, NPoAs–SSF are an important tool for SSF Guideline implementation, which governments should integrate into their national budgets.
- There is ample space for increasing local actions to implement the SSF Guidelines by engaging communities and local governments. Various actors have a role to play in such actions, including NGOs.
- Communicating and disseminating relevant information to decision-makers, as well as advocating for the small-scale fisheries sector, remains of crucial importance. Small-scale fisheries organizations need to be able to do this directly. They should also be able to benefit from capacity development to support awareness campaigns advancing their cause.

Improved tenure for small-scale fisheries

- Access to water and adjacent areas is a challenge for many small-scale fishing communities and they often face tenure insecurity and displacement from their customary land and resources. New ocean development initiatives in the name of the blue economy have sometimes undermined customary tenure rights and sparked conflict.
- Marine conservation measures, such as MPAs, can interfere with the access rights of small-scale fisheries. Local communities must be involved in such environmental conservation measures, their knowledge valued and the importance of their economic and subsistence activities recognized.
- Climate change impacts the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries, including in relation to tenure, and needs much stronger action, particularly from governments.

- Small-scale fisheries actors need to be given the rights and responsibility to participate in the management of the resources they depend on and to play a part in the conservation of related ecosystems.
- The recognition of tenure rights is crucial to the achievement of the right to food and the respect of people's culture and identities.
- There are many examples of good practices in traditional and community-based management systems that ensure equitable access and co-management. These practices must be documented, disseminated and, most importantly, protected and allowed to continue.
- Preferential access to designated fishing grounds should be provided to small-scale fishers and these areas should be respected. Good practices exist and should be used for inspiration in areas where such access does not exist.

Social development

- Actions are needed to advance the human rights-based approach and to transform institutions and processes needed to empower small-scale fishing communities, including Indigenous Peoples communities.
- Infrastructure and access to basic social services in fishing communities need to be improved, including processing, schools, childcare facilities, social protection and access to clean water. Communities should be consulted throughout the planning and implementation of development projects to ensure that facilities are appropriate.
- Women must be equally represented in organizations and decision-making bodies. The role of women is still not recognized and many lack decent working conditions and face gender-based violence, both within and outside the household. The role of female small-scale fisheries workers should be formalized and their direct involvement in monitoring and management fisheries activities promoted.

The value of the SSF Summit as a process

- The focus of the SSF Summit is to advance the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Change happens when people organize and create new relationships. By sharing experiences and lessons learned, we can advance towards more sustainable and equitable small-scale fisheries.
- The SSF Summit is a space for fostering unity among small-scale fisheries actors, including Indigenous Peoples, by building on both the diversity and the common interests of small-scale fisheries around the world. The Summit also allows these actors to connect with governments and other stakeholders, including to identify and address tensions.
- Forty years ago, a meeting of small-scale fisheries actors took place in parallel – but separate from – a global FAO fisheries conference. In 2024, small-scale fisheries actors held their meeting inside of FAO, illustrating progress and the move towards more inclusive processes.
- New alliances and partnerships can contribute to better knowledge and information on small-scale fisheries, including how the sector is impacted by climate change.
- FAO is expected to continue to play a central role in promoting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines given its ability to engage with governments and to convene many small-scale fisheries actors and stakeholders in the same room.

Annex 1. Description of organizers

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO's goal is to achieve food security for all and to make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With 195 members – 194 countries and the European Union – FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI) of the FAO works with Members and partners to transform aquatic systems and promote the responsible and sustainable management of aquatic food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life that leaves no one behind.

For further information, see: <https://www.fao.org/fishery-aquaculture/en>; <https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/>

Contact: SSF-Guidelines@fao.org

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean is a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) established in 1949 under the provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Comprising 23 contracting parties, including the European Union, the GFCM has the authority to adopt binding recommendations with the objective to ensure the conservation and the sustainable use of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea.

For further information, see: <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/en/>

Contact: gfc-secretariat@fao.org

International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Working Group on Fisheries

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is an autonomous and self-organized global platform of small-scale food producers, rural worker organizations and grassroots/community-based social movements seeking to advance the food sovereignty agenda at the global and regional levels. The Working Group on Fisheries of the IPC is a space for alliance, solidarity and coordination, composed of the major global civil society networks representing small-scale fisheries: the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF), the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) and La Via Campesina (LVC). The Working Group is mandated by the global civil society organizations of SSF to carry out advocacy work in support of SSF in all relevant international and regional processes.

For further information, see: https://www.foodsovereignty.org/working_groups/fisheries/

Contact: ipc-cip@foodsovereignty.org

Small-scale Fisheries Resources and Collaboration Hub (SSF Hub)

The Small-scale Fisheries Resource and Collaboration Hub (SSF Hub) is an online multilingual platform that supports the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The SSF Hub is a collaborative space providing access to free tools and resources to strengthen small-scale fisheries governance and community development and foster connections and partnership between people who work in, with and in support of small-scale fisheries.

For further information, see: <https://ssfhub.org/>

SWEDBIO

SwedBio is a programme based at the Stockholm Resilience Centre of the University of Stockholm that fosters biodiversity and equitable development in harmony with nature. SwedBio addresses key issues, such as climate change, agroecology, small-scale fisheries, urban nature, and biocultural diversity, with a human rights-based approach as entry point. The programme supports participation of rights holders in policy- and decision-making, as well as the creation of guidelines and methods that enhance equitable ecosystem governance and facilitate dialogue around these critical areas. SwedBio's Small-scale Fisheries (SSF) theme focuses on strengthening the recognition of fisherfolk by supporting partner organizations in influencing policy decisions. It also fosters network-building among partners and relevant actors, identifying opportunities for collaboration and synergies. This activity works with policy processes relevant to the governance and livelihoods of fisherpeople, in particular the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and aligns its efforts with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

For further information, see: <https://swed.bio/>

Contact: swedbio@su.se

Annex 2. SSF Summit 2004 agenda

Day 1. Friday 5 July 2024 (invitation only) Moderator: Chief Gary Harrison, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)		
08.00	Registration	FAO visitor's entrance
09.00	<p>1. Opening remarks and introduction to the SSF Summit and the agenda</p> <p>1.1 Welcome remarks by Nadine Nembhard, Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), Belize</p> <p>1.2 Tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines: a must to action by Gaoussou Gueye, African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA), Senegal</p>	
09.20	<p>2. Contextualizing the SSF Summit in today's global context</p> <p>Facilitation and introduction: Maira Netto, Movimento dos Pescadores e Pescadoras Artesanais do Brasil (MPP), Brazil</p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <p>2.1 Herman Kumara, National Fisheries Solidarity Organization (NAFSO), Sri Lanka</p> <p>2.2 Josana Serrao Pinto, MPP, Brazil</p> <p>2.3 Carmen Mannarino, Masifundise Development Trust, South Africa</p> <p>Interventions from the floor (Q&A)</p>	<p>Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int)</p> <p>English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish</p>
10.20	<p>3. Mistica</p> <p>Facilitation: Christiana Louwa, El Molo Forum, Kenya</p>	
10.30	Break	
11.00	<p>4. Global dialogue on customary tenure rights and social development in small-scale fisheries</p> <p>4.1 Presentation of the primary findings of a global small-scale fisheries-led consultation on customary tenure rights in small scale fisheries by Lorena Ortiz, Confederación Mexicana de Cooperativas Pesqueras y Acuícolas (CONMECOOP), Mexico</p> <p>Panel discussion: experiences on the ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azrilnizam Bin Omar, Inshore Fishermen's Association for Education and Welfare (Jaring), Malaysia Margaret Nakato, Katosi Women's Development Trust, Uganda <p>4.2 Presentation of the primary findings of global small-scale fisheries-led consultation on social development in small-scale fisheries by Sebastian Mathew, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), India</p> <p>Panel discussion: experiences on the ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laitia Tamata, Pacific Community-Based Fisheries Representative, Fiji Aracelly Jimenez Mora, CoopeMoluscosChomes R.L, Costa Rica 	<p>Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int)</p> <p>English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish</p>
12.00	Lunch (FAO Restaurant, 8th Floor)	
14.00	<p>Africa</p> <p>Red Room (A121int)</p> <p>Facilitators: Dawda Saine and Margaret Nakato</p> <p>English, French</p> <p>Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Ethiopia Room (C285)</p> <p>Facilitators: Vivienne Solis-Rivera, Aracelly Jimenez Mora, Lorena Ortiz and Beatriz Mesquita</p> <p>English, Portuguese, Spanish</p>	

	<p>Asia and the Pacific Iran Room (B116 bis) Facilitators: Azrilnizam Jaring, Pradip Chatterjee and Sebastian Mathews English</p> <p>Others Room in front of Iran Room (B116 bis) Facilitators: Chief Gary Harrison and Rochelle Diver English</p>	
15.30	Break	
16.00	<p>6. Global dialogue on customary tenure rights and social development in small-scale fisheries This session will feature selected participants presenting key insights consolidated from the regional working groups</p>	<p>Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int) English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish</p>
17.00	7. Wrap-up and closing remarks	<p>Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int) English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish</p>

Day 2. Saturday 6 July 2024 Moderator: Suzanne Njeri Kenya, AWFISHNET		
08.00	Registration	FAO visitor’s entrance
09.00	1. Introduction to the SSF Summit Alieu Sowe, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)	Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int) Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Turkish
09.20	2. Welcome remarks from FAO Manuel Barange, Assistant Director General and Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division	
09.25	3. Commemorating the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines Facilitation and introduction: John Kurien, Reflective practitioner 3.1 John Kurien 3.2 Nicole Franz, FAO 3.3 Pablo Green, Kuna General Council, IITC, Panama 3.4 Venu Gopa, ICSF, India	
10.30 Break		
11.00	4. Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the SSF Guidelines: small-scale fisheries-led experiences Facilitation: John Kurien, Reflective practitioner 4.1 Antonia Adama Djalo, CAOPA, Guinea Bissau 4.2 Zoila Bustamante, Confederation Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH), Chile 4.3 Tavita Faletose, Pacific Community-based fisheries representative, Samoa 4.4 Diana Vasquez, Rare-Central America, co-presenting with: Gavina Tumbaga, Municipal Fisherfolk and representative of the Aquatic Resources Management Council, Philippines 4.5 Hugh Govan, Adjunct Senior Fellow, University of the South Pacific 4.6 Anna Carlson, Fishery Officer, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Italy	Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int) Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Turkish
12.00	5. Summary report from Day 1 Djalikatou Cherif Haïdara, CAOPA, Guinea	
12.30 Lunch		
14.00 – 15.30	6. Strengthening small-scale fisheries: Customary tenure rights and social development in the context of Food Sovereignty Facilitation: Hanna Wetterstrand, SwedBio, Sweden 6.1 Michael Fakhry, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food 6.2 Rehema Namaganda, FIAN Uganda 6.3 Zainal Arfin, Indonesian Peasant Union (SPI), La Via Campesina, IPC	Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int) Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Turkish

	<p>6.4 Jesu Rethinam, Social Needs Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA), India</p> <p>6.5 Vivienne Solis Rivera, CoopeSoliDar R.L., Costa Rica</p> <p>6.6 Anaru Fraser, IITC, Aotearoa, New Zealand</p> <p>6.7 Juan Echanove, FAO Right to Food Lead</p> <p>6.8 Elisa Morgera, UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change (wrap-up)</p> <p>Reflections from the audience</p>	
15.30	Break	
16.00	<p>7. Parallel sessions: Focus on: i) customary tenure rights and ii) social development</p> <p>Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int)</p> <p>Facilitators: Azrilnizam Jaring, Pradip Chatterjee and Sebastian Mathew</p> <p>English</p> <p>Ethiopia Room (C285)</p> <p>Facilitators: Joelle Philippie and Virginie Lagarde</p> <p>French</p> <p>Iran Room (B116 bis)</p> <p>Facilitators: Vivienne Solis-Rivera, Aracelly Jimenez Mora and Lorena Ortiz</p> <p>Spanish</p> <p>Lebanon Room (D209)</p> <p>Facilitators: Josana, Maira and Beatriz Mesquita</p> <p>Portuguese and Spanish</p> <p>Malaysia Room (B227)</p> <p>Facilitators: Rochelle Diver and Margaret Nakato</p> <p>English</p>	
	<p>8. Parallel session: Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries (RPOA-SSF) mid-term event</p> <p>Taking stock of progress in RPOA-SSF implementation</p> <p>GFCM and WWF</p>	<p>Sheikh Zayed Centre (Atrium)</p> <p>Arabic, English, French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish</p>
17.30 Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int)		
18.00	<p>9. Meet the participants – informal opportunity to learn about some work</p> <p>Facilitation: Suzanne Njeri, Kenay, AWFISHNET</p> <p>9.1 Oak Foundation SSF Strategy Evaluation Update, Imani Fairweather Morrison, Programme Officer, Oak Foundation, with Tanya Mahadwar, CEA Consulting</p> <p>9.2 Turning the Tide toward more equitable flow of funding, Pip Cohen, Co-Director, Turning Tides</p> <p>9.3 A global map of organizations working with small-scale fisheries, Marina Gomei, Senior Programme Manager, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</p>	<p>Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int)</p> <p>English</p>
19.00	Dinner – 8th Floor	

Day 3. Sunday 7 July 2024 Moderator: Alejandro Bravo Avalos, WFF, Perú		
9:00	<p>1. Collective reflection on how the SSF Summit can support SSF Guidelines implementation</p> <p>1.1 Adam Woldenden, Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG)</p> <p>1.2 Vivienne Solis Rivera, CoopeSoliDar, Costa Rica</p> <p>1.3 Herman Kumara, IPC Regional Advisory Group, Asia</p> <p>1.4 Namadoa Okelo, AFRIFISHNET</p> <p>1.5 Marta Machazek, ULAPA, Panama</p> <p>1.6 Lazaro Mecha Barahona, Network of Responsible Fishing Marine Areas (Red de Áreas Marinas de Pesca Responsable), Panama</p> <p>1.7 Philile Mbatha, Deputy Director, One Ocean Hub (OOH), University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</p> <p>1.8 Elena Finkbeiner, Conservation International (CI)</p>	Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int) - TBC English, French, Spanish, Portuguese
	<p>2. Parallel session: Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries (RPOA-SSF) mid-term event</p> <p>Consolidating a common vision for the future of RPOA-SSF GFCM</p>	Sheik Zayed Center (Atrium) Arabic, English, French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish
10:30	Break	
11:00	<p>3. Parallel Sessions for regional working groups</p> <p>Collective reflection on how the SSF Summit can support SSF Guidelines implementation</p> <p>Latin America and the Caribbean Red Room (A121int) Facilitators: Vivienne Solis-Rivera, Marta Machazek and Lazaro Mecha Barahona, supported by Cris Villanueva Spanish, English, Portuguese</p> <p>Africa Ethiopia Room (C285) Facilitators: Margaret Nakato and Namadoa Okela, supported by Velia Lucidi English, French</p> <p>Asia and the Pacific Iran Room (B116bis) Facilitators: Herman Kumara, Azril supported by Hanna English</p> <p>North America and Europe In front of Iran room (B116bis) English</p>	
	<p>4. Parallel session: Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries (RPOA-SSF) mid-term event</p> <p>Consolidating a common vision for the future of RPOA-SSF GFCM</p>	Sheik Zayed Centre (Atrium) Arabic, English, French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish

12:30	Lunch	
14:00	<p>5. How can the SSF Summit inform governments? Moderated dialogue between small-scale fisheries representatives and invited government and intergovernmental organization representatives</p> <p>Facilitation: Mele Tauati, FAO</p> <p>5.1 Recap of key insights so far, Mitchel Lay, CNFO</p> <p>5.2 Dani Setiawan, Indonesia Traditional Fishers Association (KNTI)</p> <p>5.3 Drusila Bayate, Undersecretary for Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Philippines</p> <p>5.4 Sara Ester Garrido Cortes (WFF), Chile</p> <p>5.5 Rocio Parra Cortes, Head of Legal Division, Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Government of Chile, Chile</p> <p>5.6 Josana Pinto da Costa, Movimento dos Pescadores e Pescadoras Artesanais do Brasil, Brazil</p> <p>5.7 Cristiano Ramalho, National Secretary of Artisanal Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Brazil</p> <p>5.8 Editrudith Lukanga, AWFISHNET, United Republic of Tanzania</p> <p>5.9 Lilian Ibengwe, Principal Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania</p> <p>5.10 Tavita Faletose, Pacific Community-based Fisheries representative</p> <p>5.11 Watisoni Lalavanua, Community-based Fisheries Advisor, The Pacific Community (SPC)</p> <p>5.12 Ibtissem Gobbaa, fisher of the Agricultural and Fishing Development Group in Boughrara, Tunisia</p> <p>5.13 Emmanuel Berck, Acting Head of Unit “Fisheries management Mediterranean and Black Sea” (DG MARE), European Commission</p>	<p>Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int)</p> <p>Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Turkish</p>
15:30	Break	
16:00	<p>6. Wrapping up Moderator: Nama Kweigyah, Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Association of Ghana.</p> <p>6.1 Herman Kumara, NAFSO</p> <p>6.2 Marta Machazek, ULAPA</p> <p>6.3 Margaret Nakato, Katosi</p> <p>6.4 Michael Croessmann, Professional Fisherman Association of Amorgos</p> <p>6.5 Sonia Sharan, on behalf of NGOs</p> <p>6.6 Ratana Chuenpagdee, on behalf of Acadamia</p> <p>6.7 Nicole Franz, FAO</p>	<p>Red Room (Building A, 1st Floor – A121int)</p> <p>Arabic, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish</p>
17:15	7. Mistica	
18:00	Dinner – 8 th Floor	

Annex 3. List of participants

SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES ACTORS

Member-based organizations (e.g. small-scale fishers, fishworkers, fishing communities, social movements, professional organizations)

AFRIFISH-NET and West African Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture (WANSFA)
Nigeria

Groupement de développement de l'agriculture et de la pêche de Al-Zaytouna
Tunisia

National Fisher Federation
Djibouti

Northeast Madagascar Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMAA) Group
Madagascar

Groupement de développement de l'agriculture et de la pêche de Ghannouch
Tunisia

All Bangla Fishermen's Association (ABFMA)
Bangladesh

Confederación Red Nacional de Mujeres del Sector Pesquero Acuicola Defensoras del Agua
Colombia

Plateforme maghrébine et nord africaine pour la pêche artisanale
Algeria

Fishermen Syndicate Dora Beirut
Lebanon

Fisher Cooperative Croatia

Sindicato de Trabajadores Independientes – Pescadores Artesanales de Dalcahue
Chile

Comité régional des pêches maritimes et des élevages marins Occitanie
France

Organisation de producteurs (OP) du Sud
France

Groupement de développement de l'agriculture et de la pêche de Zrayeb
Djerba
Tunisia

Asociación Gremio de Pescadores Artesanales San Pedro de Bujama Baja – Mala/WFF/IPC
Peru

Unión Latinoamericana de la Pesca Artesanal/Confederación de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH)
Chile

National Association of Artisanal Fisheries/WFFP/IPC
Gambia

La Via Campesina /IPC
Nicaragua

Comunidad Indígena de Buill
Chile

Segundo Patrón de Barco Viznago
Spain

Plateforme maghrébine et nord africaine pour la pêche artisanale
Morocco

Cooperative Tarcoles
Costa Rica

National Platform for Small-scale Fisheries and Fish Workers (NPSSFW) India	Confédération nationale de la pêche artisanale au Maroc Morocco
Asociación de pescadores artesanales de pequeña escala unidos de Barra del Colorado Costa Rica	Samoa Reefs of Hope Samoa
Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA)/World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)/International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) India	CoopeSoliDar Costa Rica
Professional Fishing Association of Amorgos Greece	IITC/IPC New Zealand
Consorzio della Piccola Pesca Artigianale Italy	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)/IPC Chile
Confédération africaine des organisations de pêche artisanale (CAOPA) Guinea	Legacoop Agroalimentare Italy
Sindicato de Pescadores Chile	Groupement de développement de l'agriculture et de la pêche de Boughrara Tunisia
International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)/IPC United States of America	Réseau des femmes de la pêche (RAFEF)/Réseau national des femmes de la pêche du Benin (RENAFEP) Benin
African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA) Guinea-Bissau	SS Akyaka Fisher Cooperative Türkiye
European Association of Fishermen in the Black Sea Bulgaria	IITC/IPC Panama
Aleutian–Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) United States of America	CAOPA Senegal
Ouzai Fishermen Cooperative Lebanon	CAOPA Guinea
	Association Chirae pour le développement de la pêche artisanale Morocco
	IITC/IPC United States of America
	Artisanal Fisher Association of La Ceiba (APEARCE) Honduras

Hanganeni Artisanal Fishing Association (HAFA) Namibia	CONFREM Brasil/Unión Latinoamericana de Pesca Artesanal Brazil
CoopemoluscoChomes R.L. Costa Rica	WFFP/IPC Kenya
Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)/WFFP Thailand	African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) United Republic of Tanzania
WFF India	Unión Latinoamericana de Pesca Artesanal Panama
WFFP/IPC Türkiye	CAOPA Côte d'Ivoire
Association Les jeunes de la mer pour la développement durable Morocco	Masifundise Development Trust/ WFFP/IPC South Africa
Tanzania Marine Fishers Association United Republic of Tanzania	Federación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Guatemala Guatemala
Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Association of Ghana (CaFGOAG) Ghana	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) India
WFF/IPC France	Cooperativa S/M Unión Embera R.L. Panama
WFF/IPC Nicaragua	Red de Pescadores y Acuicultores Artesanales y Étnicos de Colombia Colombia
Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO)/WFFP/IPC Antigua and Barbuda	Association Les vagues d'or Algeria
Fédération libre de pêche artisanale (FLPA) Mauritania	AWFISHNET Malawi Malawi
Fédération nationale des unions de cooperatives de pêche du Togo (FENUCCOOPETO) Togo	PESCARTES Spain
Taller de mar y pesca artesanal "a so de mar" Spain	Red de Integración del Manglar de Poblaciones Afrodescendientes del Norte del Ecuador Ecuador

Tanzania Women Fish Workers Association (TAWFA) Marine Chapter United Republic of Tanzania	MPP/WFFP/IPC Brazil
Southern African Regional Platform for Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture (SANSFA) and AFRIFISH-NET Zimbabwe	Asociación de Pescadores Mixta del Sector de Montero, Isla Chira Costa Rica
WFF/IPC Uganda	CONAPACH Chile
AFRIFISH-NET and East Africa Platform of Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (EARFISH) Kenya	Unión Argentina de Pescadores Artesanales (UAPA)/WFF/IPC Argentina
WFFP/IPC Senegal	National Platform for Small-scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW) India
CNFO/WFFP/IPC Belize	Consorzio Veneto Pesca Artigianale Italy
AWFISHNET/Association of Women in Fisheries Blue Economy Kenya (AWFBK) Kenya	Development Action Organization/ Network of Farmers' and Producers' Organizations in West Africa (ROPPA) Ghana
ICSF India	Indonesian Traditional Fishers Association (KNTI) Indonesia
Sambo Creek Fisher Association Honduras	AWFISHNET Nigeria Nigeria
AFRIFISH-NET Kenya	Plateforme régionale des acteurs non étatiques pêche et aquaculture d'Afrique centrale (PRAPAC/ CANSAFA)/AFRIFISHNET Gabon
WFFP/IPC Malaysia	Gambia Fisher Folks Association (GFFA)/WFF/IPC Gambia
WFF/IPC Mexico	AWFISHNET South Africa South Africa
AWFISHNET Congo	Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC) Philippines
Pancyriot Association of Professional small-scale Fishermen Cyprus	Wakfu Fishermen Organization Belize

Women in Society Türkiye	LARECOTURH
Mulleres Salgadas – Asociación Gallega de Mulleres do Mar Spain	Libyan Society of Artisanal Fishery Friends
IITC/IPC Mexico	Mediterranean Advisory Council of the EU (MEDAC)
National Fisheries Solidarity Organization (NAFSO)/WFFP/IPC Sri Lanka	Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA)
AWFISHNET Togo	SwedBio
WWF Tunisia (Voices for Just Climate Action Programme) Tunisia	Transnational Institute (TNI)
	Tunisian Society for Sustainable Fishing
	Tunisian Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries
SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS	Unione Italiana dei Lavori Agroalimentari (UILA) Pesca
Association de la Continuité des Générations (ACG)	OTHER NON-GOVERNAMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
Centro Internazionale Crocevia/IPC Secretariat	Blue Ventures
Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA)	Bread for the World
Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST)	Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO)
CoopeSoliDar R.L./International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)	Comunidad y Biodiversidad (COBI)
FIAN International	Conservation International Community Fisheries, Costa Rica
FIAN UGANDA	Environmental Defense Fund
Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA) Network	Fair Oceans
Fishery Mediterranean Network	Fauna & Flora International/
Fundação Joaquim Nabuco	Fisheries Transparency Initiative
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)	Global Fishing Watch
	International Pole and Line Foundation
	Low Impact Fisheries of Europe (LIFE)

Meridian Institute	Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture (GAF) Section of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS)
Movilizatorio	Nigeria
Mundus Maris	
Oceana	University of the South Pacific Spain
Ocean Outcomes	Yale University United States of America
Pew Charitable Trust	
Rare/ Fish Forever Central America	University of Tromso Norway
RISE UP	ICSF Founding Father Center for Development Studies, Trivandrum
Tambuyog Development Center	India
Third World Network	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
TINTA	France
Turning Tides	One Ocean Hub South Africa
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	
Willfish Ocean Management	V2V Global Partnership for SSF/ University of Waterloo
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Canada
WWF Italy	University of Rhode Island
WWF Tunisia	United States of America
WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative	
WWF Kingdom of the Netherlands	Dalhousie University Canada
ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH	
Duke University	WorldFish
United States of America	Malaysia
CESAM, University of Aveiro	Consorzio per il Centro
Portugal	Interuniversitario di Biologia Marina ed Ecologia Applicata (CIBM)
University of Bologna	Italy
Italy	
St. Mary's University	
Canada	
Too Big to Ignore	
Canada	

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Oak Foundation

GOVERNMENTS

Brazil
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Permanent Representation of Brazil to the FAO, IFAD and WFP

Chile
Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Instituto de Fomento Pesquero (IFOP)

European Union
DG Mare

Fiji
Ministry of Fisheries

Germany
German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)

Malta
Aquatic Resources Malta

New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries

Norway
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Philippines
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
Permanent Representation to FAO

South Africa
Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment

United Republic of Tanzania
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
Permanent Representation to FAO, IFAD and WFP

United States of America
Office of International Affairs, Trade and Commerce/NOAA Fisheries
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
United States Department of State
United States Department of Commerce

Holy See
Permanent Representation of the Holy See to FAO, IFAD and WFP

PRIVATE SECTOR

AQUATIKA Startup, ElMaadia Fishing Port
Egypt

CEA Consulting

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Planning Committee
for Food Sovereignty (IPC), Working
Group on Fisheries (through Centro
Internazionale Crocevia)

Small-Scale Fisheries Hub (SSF Hub)

SwedBio

Annex 4. Summary of results of the post-SSF Summit 2024 survey

Following the SSF Summit 2024, a questionnaire was distributed to participants to capture their feedback, views and concerns around the organization of the event and to ensure that future editions better meet the needs of small-scale fisheries.

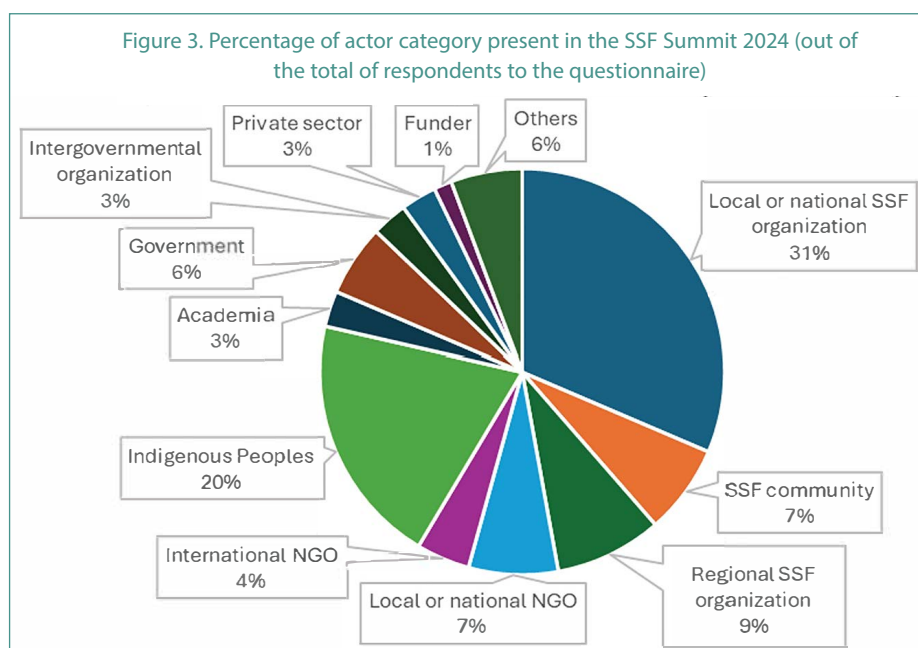
The questionnaire was administered in Arabic, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish (no response received). It included 13 questions and subquestions, including a combination of both closed and open questions, as well as ranking questions that could be answered on a scale of one to five, where one was not at all satisfied and five, very satisfied. A total of 72 answers were received.²¹

This annex offers a brief analysis of the replies.

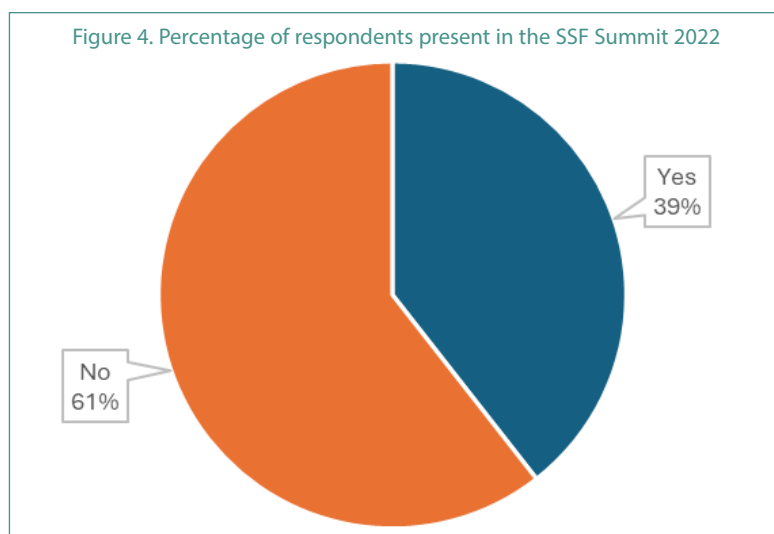
Question 1. How would you best identify yourself at the SSF Summit 2024?

This question asked participants to choose from the following categories: local or national small-scale fisheries organization, small-scale fisheries community, regional small-scale fisheries organization, local or national NGO, international NGO, Indigenous Peoples, academia, government, international organization, private sector or funder.

Thirty-one percent of participants who replied to the questionnaire were either members or representatives of at least one small-scale fisheries organization (see Figure 3). Twenty percent of respondents identified as Indigenous Peoples.



²¹ The breakdown of replies to the questionnaire per language is the following: Arabic – 5, English – 44, French – 8, Italian, Portuguese – 2, Spanish – 13, and Turkish – 0.

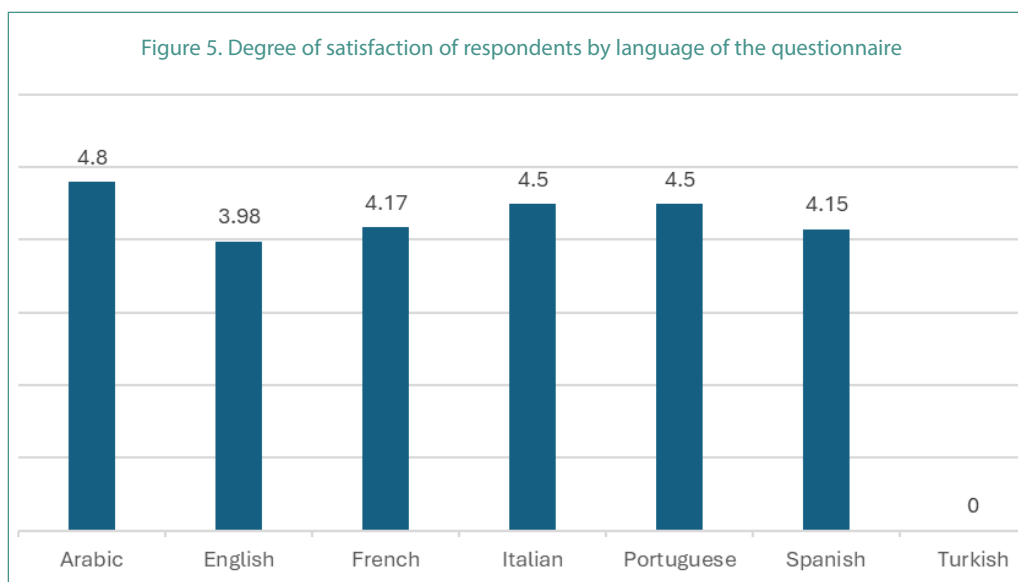


Question 2. Did you participate in the SSF Summit in 2022?

61 percent of the respondents to the questionnaire did not participate in the SSF Summit 2022, while 39 percent did participate (see Figure 4).

Question 3. How satisfied were you with the SSF Summit 2024?

The overall satisfaction level captured through the questionnaire was very positive. Out of the total replies, the average satisfaction level was 4.16 out of 5 (see Figure 5).²²



²² The reason for 0 to appear in the column 'Turkish' below in Figure 5 is that the Turkish questionnaire received zero replies. The same logic applies to Figures 6.a, 6.b, 6.c, 6.d, 6.e, and 6.f below.

Question 4. What was your favourite part of the SSF Summit 2024?

The questionnaire captured a general agreement on the importance of including small-scale fisheries representatives as a pivotal part of the SSF Summit 2024, as well as the value of the breakout group discussions that were held during the event. The fact that the SSF Summit 2024 allowed experience sharing and learning across regions, together with the wide diversity of nationalities present during the event, was also perceived positively.

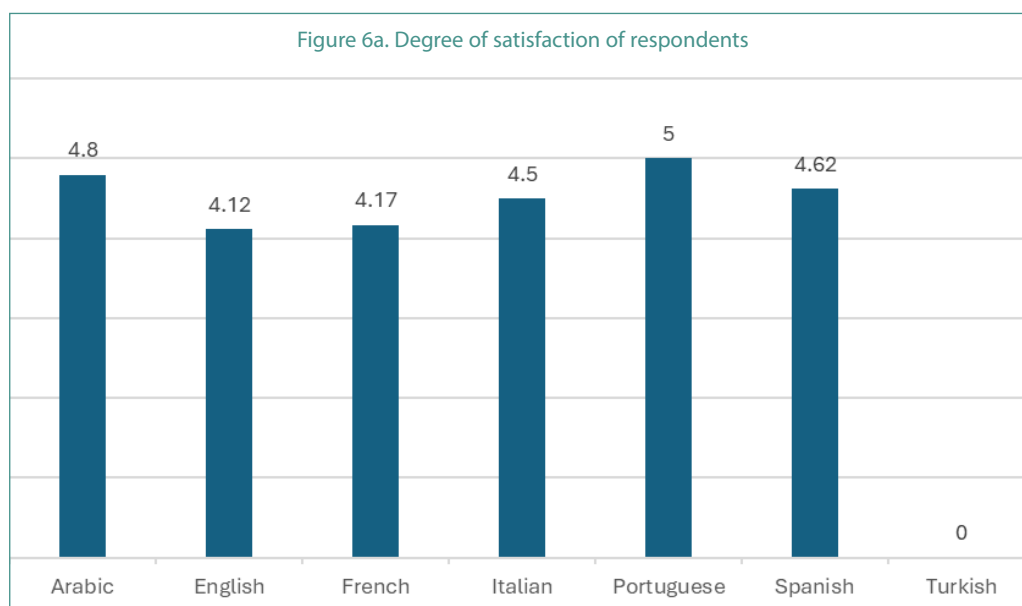
Question 5. What did you like least about the SSF Summit 2024?

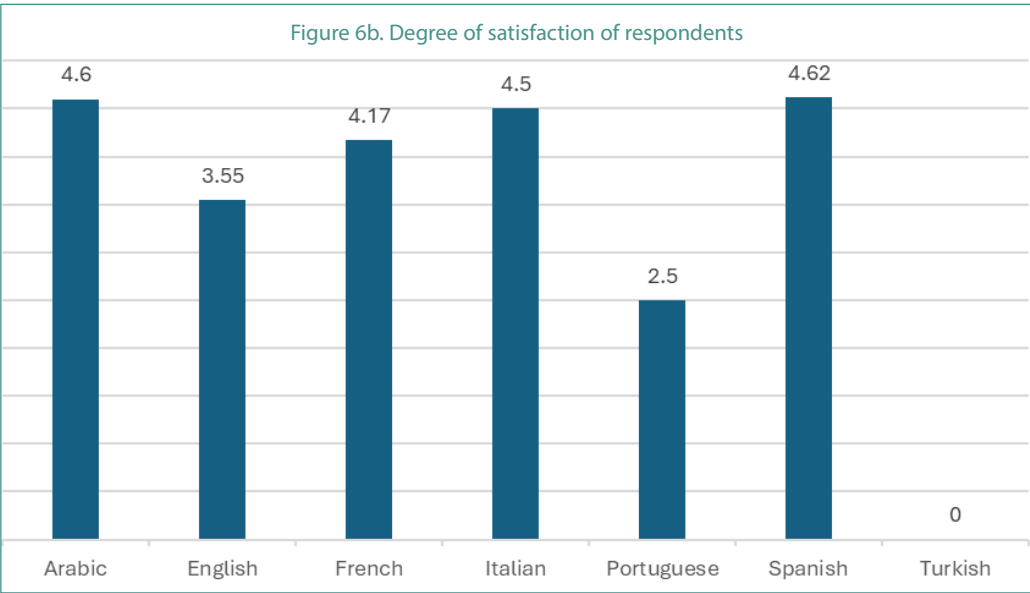
Participants focused their replies on the great number of topics discussed and multiple plenary presentations during the event, which although important, limited the possibilities for interaction among participants. Some participants also would like to see more tangible results and several suggested working towards an action plan with measurable targets for all regions. Some participants would prefer to have more civil society organizations working in support of communities as participants and fewer NGOs.

Question 6. How much do you agree with the following statement about the objectives and content of the SSF Summit?

- a. The SSF Summit 2024 celebrated the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines.

The average satisfaction score was 4.37, which shows a general appreciation of one of the objectives of the SSF Summit 2024. The SSF Guidelines were celebrated and discussed widely, both directly and indirectly, through plenary presentations and breakout group discussions (see Figure 6a).



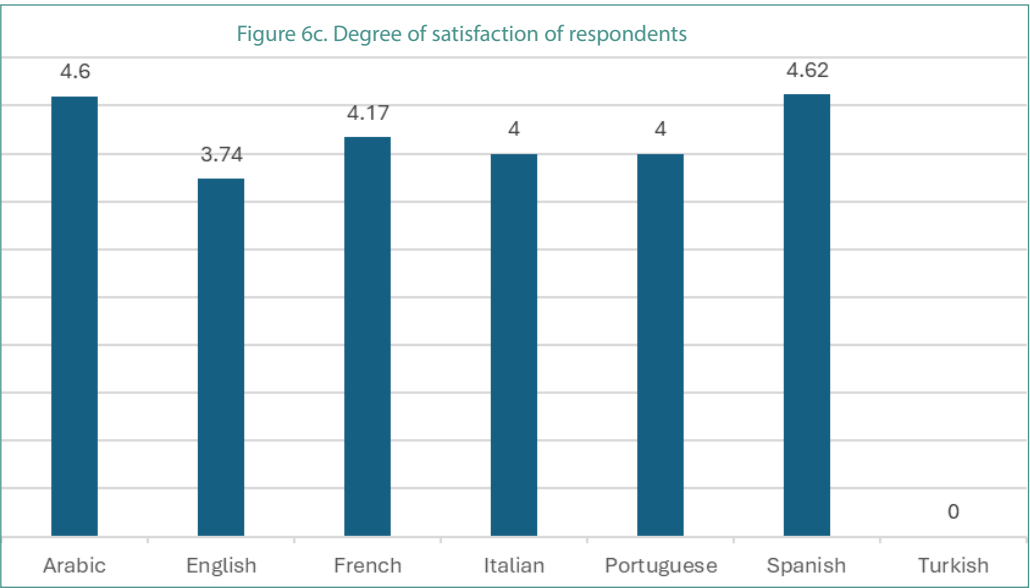


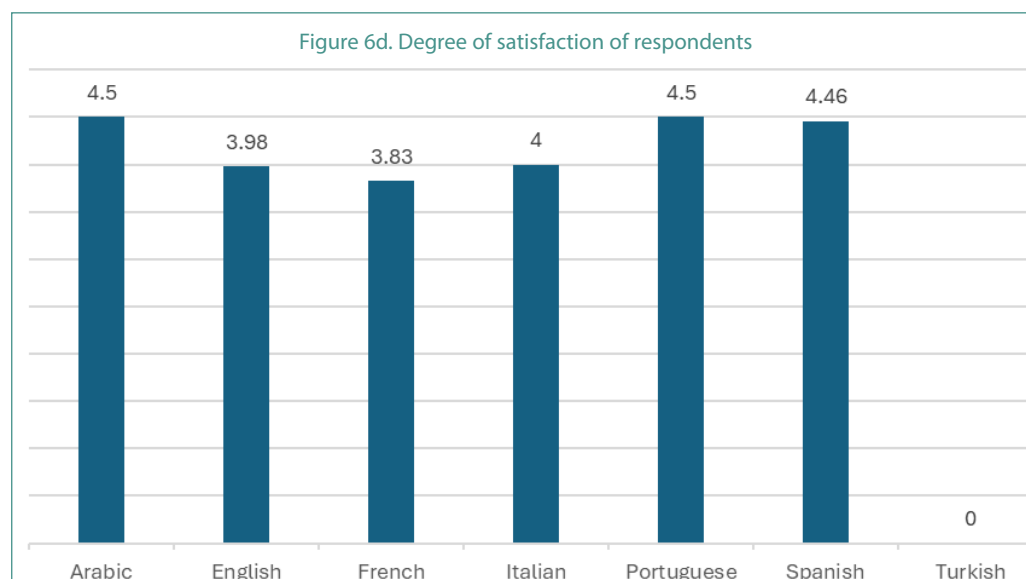
b. The SSF Summit 2024 served to assess the status of the SSF Guidelines implementation at the national, regional and global levels to inform future actions.

Although replies to this question revealed the widely shared opinion that the SSF Summit 2024 helped assess the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, the average satisfaction score was somewhat low at 4.08 (see Figure 6b).

c. The SSF Summit 2024 served as a global platform to collaboratively address governance and development challenges in small-scale fisheries while proposing and sharing solutions to foster and strengthen the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Most participants shared the view that the SSF Summit 2024 had played an important role in promoting experience sharing and learning across regions with an average satisfaction score of 4.09 (see Figure 6c). The plenary discussions showcased case studies from around the world, while breakout group discussions allowed participants to closely topics that are particularly important to the subsector in the regions.



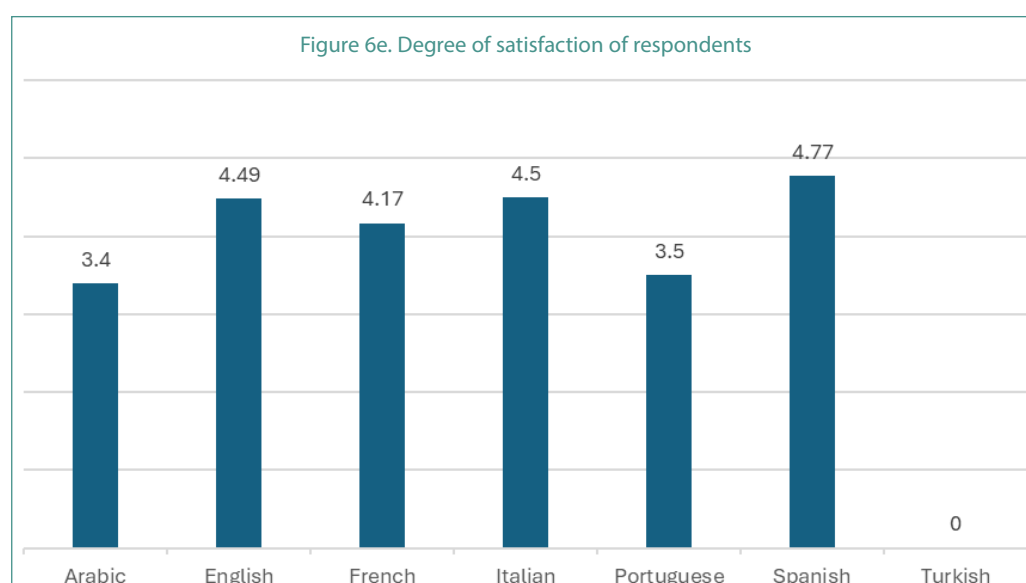


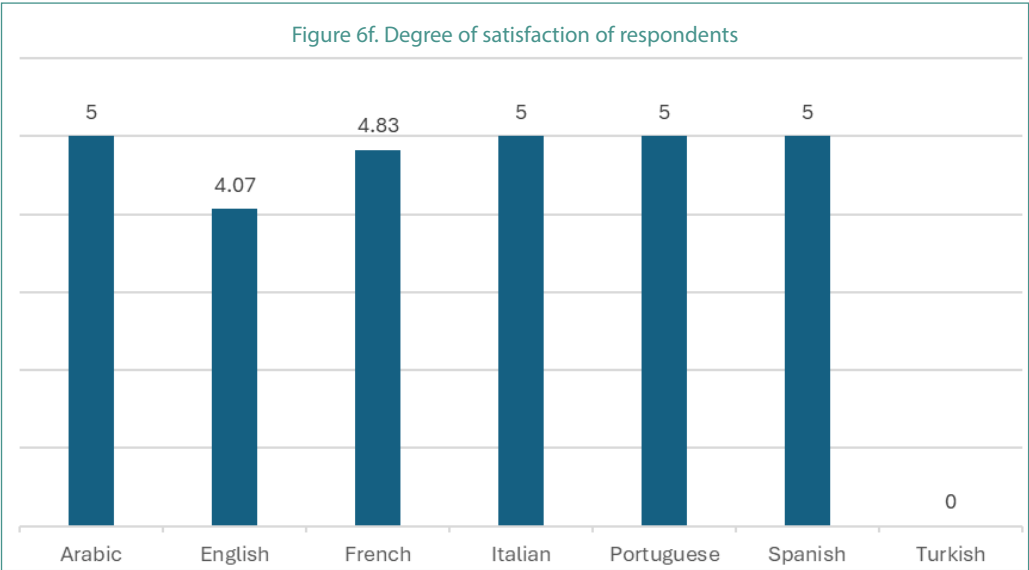
d. The SSF Summit 2024 focused on the SSF Guidelines Chapter 5a – Responsible Governance of Tenure with a focus on Customary Tenure, and Chapter 6 – Social development, employment and decent work, with a focus on social development.

The agenda of the SSF Summit 2024 included both plenary discussions and parallel sessions on both matters. Respondents to the questionnaire agreed that the two topics had received significant attention and assigned this statement an average satisfaction score of 4.41 (see Figure 6.d).

e. I like that the Summit was three days long, with one day dedicated to SSF actors and movements.

The length of the SSF Summit 2024 was generally appreciated by most of the participants, with an average satisfaction score of 4.41 (see Figure 6.e). However, the responses to this statement should be considered together the responses to Question 5, which held that there were too many plenary presentations and that too many topics were discussed during the event.



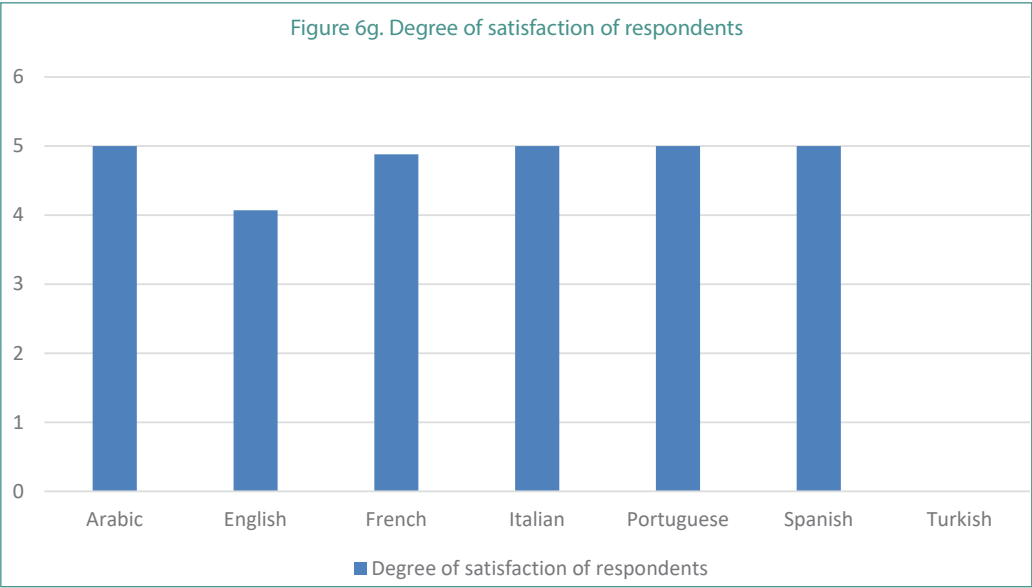


f. The format allowed participants to engage with governments and with other small-scale fisheries advocates in an accessible and non-technical forum.

Respondents generally agreed that the Summit facilitated interactions between governments and small-scale fisheries actors. The average satisfaction score was 4.88 (see Figure 6f).

g. I liked that the SSF Summit 2024 took place at FAO.

The organization of the SSF Summit 2024 at FAO was welcomed by participants and acknowledged during the conduct of the event, with an average score of 4.43 (see Figure 6 g).



Question 7. What else would you like to bring to the organizing committee's attention regarding the SSF Summit 2024?

Respondents provided a number of suggestions that will help improve future editions of the SSF Summit. The following is not exhaustive but focuses on areas that received the greatest mention.

Various respondents felt that an effort should be made to expand the number of countries represented, including higher income countries. They highlighted the importance of bringing more governments to future SSF Summits and including them in breakout group discussions.

It was also noted that, although breakout group discussions were organized by region so that small-scale fisheries actors could focus on topics of regional interest, these regional divisions should be fine-tuned, for example by dividing actors from the Pacific and the Indo-Pacific region instead of having one group for both.

It was suggested that the agenda of future SSF Summits should be developed more strategically, allowing for more in-person interactions rather than having too many plenary presentations.

Several respondents addressed the matter of gender balance, commending the organizers' efforts to ensure that women were active participants in the Summit. It was also noted that future events should seek to ensure an age balance as well.

Finally, the responses praised FAO's effort to make the Summit as accessible as possible in terms of language availability through the offer of simultaneous interpretation services, proving key for the successful delivery of the SSF Summit 2024.

Proceedings of the Second Small-Scale Fisheries Summit

5–7 July 2024
Rome, Italy

The Second Small-Scale Fisheries Summit (SSF Summit 2024), held at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, on 5–7 July 2024, was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Working Group on Fisheries, the Small-Scale Fisheries Resource and Collaboration Hub (SSF Hub) and SwedBio. The SSF Summit 2024 was attended by 285 participants from 78 countries. This report offers a comprehensive summary of the SSF Summit 2024, including its purpose, format, presentations, discussions and conclusions.

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