

World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)  
Forum mondial des populations de pêcheurs  
Foro mundial de comunidades de Pescadores

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Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly  
Kisumu, Kenya, November 21-27, 2004

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## I. Forward

We as WFFP secretariat forward the report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the WFFP, held at Kisumu, Kenya, from 21-27 November, 2004 with deep sacrifices and challenges. We all know It is almost 7 months gone since the GA3 at Kenya. No need to explain why we got delayed. But we prepared this report with great difficulties and amidst deep sorrow as more than 400,000 brothers and sisters from 13 countries of Asian & African continents coastal communities sacrificed their lives to the 26 December tsunami. Millions of people lost their houses and livelihoods, specifically fishing is the worst hit sector due to tsunami. Around 800,000 houses destroyed and damaged while more than one million fishing gear destroyed or damaged due to this situation. Most of the victims are still in the camps without having any hope for future as they do not have kind of resettlement plan rather NGO involvement for that. The tsunami hit our regions right after one month of the appointment of the new office bearers of WFFP CC. Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia are the worst affected among the tsunami hit countries. So, the whole world was mobilized towards the relief and rehabilitation of the affected communities. WFFP also heavily involve the tsunami relief, rehabilitation activities and no other involvement for finalize the formal matters like report preparations and other activities.

However, there was a deep consideration to do the follow up activities emerged from the GA 3 discussions and decisions by the respective persons. The WFFP policy document finalization by Sebastian Mathew of ICSF by March was one of the very important matter among the others which he did even before the time. So, the final draft of the WFFP policy document is attached to the GA3 report here. We are grateful to Sebastian for his commitment and also appreciate his expertise and professionalism on this.

Thomas Kocherry, under took to finalize and hand over the WFFP audited accounts by February. The audited accounts are already with us and attached to the report. Tom has already circulated the audited accounts report to each member organization. We are thankful to Tom and Philomine Mary for their commitment over the work from the inception of the WFFP.

Jaquis Gagnon of Canada was responsible for the French translation of the GA3 minutes. Jaquis did his work with deep commitment and we were received the finalized French translation to forward to you on time. Thanks to Jaquis for his marvelous work on behalf of WFFP.

Sherry Pictou of Canada, volunteered to do the Spanish translation. We received with thanks the Spanish translation from Sherry and need the finalization as she informed. We need to do the finalization of the work with the assistance of Ezeizabarrena Xabier of Basque region of France.

We are very much thankful to the Rapporteurs of the GA3. Xavier Pinto, S.Santiago for their deep commitment and hard work to finalize the English version of the GA 3 report. We totally depended on the report prepared by them for our official follow up work and actions. So, we are grateful to Xavier, Santiago and Cecily for their dedication and untiring efforts for the progress of WFFP. Without Xavier's and Santiago's hard work this report would not be possible as it submit to you now.

We can not forget our brother Mohamed Ali Sha who was in the jail due to his commitment of the fisher people's struggle at Sindh Province of Pakistan. We should be joined with Pakistani fishers struggle for the right to livelihoods.

People's leaders who sacrificed their lives due to fight against militarization at Philippines under the PAMALAKAYA banner can not be forgotten. They are the life and blood of the fisher people's struggle.

We can not forget the Jumbudwip people who are fighting to protect the customary rights of the fisher people in India. The struggle continues and they need the solidarity action all over the world.

Fisher people in Sri Lanka are fighting for their right to livelihood in North and east coastal regions. The high security zones and land mines due to civil war imposed restrictions for fishing and fishery related activities at coastal areas. At the same time country's communities in the coastal areas are fighting to protect their land as Government is planning to evacuate them with 100/200 M buffer zones and hand over them to tourism and other business purposes in the name of security. So people are fighting to claiming their rights as fishers in the area.

These are only very few examples. But thousands are there to be reported. This is the uniqueness of WFFP. We are fighting for the life and livelihoods in the context of Globalization.

I thank to all CC members, Coordinators, and the WFFP member organizations for their dedication on the cause of the fishers and also the marginalized communities in the world. So the journey we started from Kenya should be continued until we reach the destiny. I wish you all the success and courage to go forward under the banner of WFFP.

Long Live WFFP,

Long Live Fisher People,

Long Live Poor and Marginalized communities in the world.

Herman Kumara,  
General Secretary,  
World Forum of Fisher Peoples'  
No. 10, Malwaththa Road,  
Negombo,  
Sri Lanka.  
10 June, 2005

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India.

## II. Formal Announcement

Doc L WFFP GA 3  
/2004

OFFICIAL

15 /8

**To All Member Organizations of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples  
(WFFP)**

**Subject: 3rd General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher peoples (WFFP  
GA 3)**

Dear Friends and colleagues,

It is my pleasure & privilege to announce officially that the 3rd General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP GA 3) will take place in Kenya from November 23-27, 2004.

Prior to the GA3 there will be an orientation Program on ILO LABOUR STANDARDS and SUBSIDIES from Nov.21-22, 2004.

**01 The following are the details:**

**Event:** 3rd General Assembly of World Forum of Fisher peoples (WFFP G A 3).

**Dates:** November 21-27, 2004

**Arrival and departure:**

**Arrival:** November 20,2004

**Depature:** November 28, 2004

**Venue:** Tom Mboya Labour College, KISUMU, Kenya.

**02 General Objectives:**

The World Forum of Fisher people will work to:

Protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on fishing for their livelihoods.

Assist member organisations to secure and improve the economic viability and quality of life of the fish workers and their communities.

Recognise, protect and enhance the role of women in the fishing economy and in the sustenance of the community

Establish and promote traditional and customary rights of the fishing communities to their traditional and customary territories under their national jurisdiction in the coastal zone for fishing and habitation

Recognise and promote the primary role of fish workers organisations in managing the fisheries and oceans nationally and internationally.

Have a Global Fisheries Policy (GFP) that will sustain and promote a responsible fishing, which in turn will ensure food security for the Traditional, small fishing communities of the world.

**03 Specific Objectives:**

**Global Fisheries Policy (GFP)**

As per the decision of the CC meetings both in Martinique 2002 and Sri Lanka in 2003, to prepare and finalise the Global Fisheries Policy (GFP) of the labour intensive small-scale artisanal fisheries (WFFP Fisheries Policy) including Community based Resource Management.

#### **New Role of WFFP in the world and Alternative Globalization**

To review & study the present International Scenario focusing on the challenges before the WFFP posed by the forces of Globalization, WTO and militarisation of International affairs and to prepare and finalize the NEW ROLE of the WFFP in the task of creating an ALTERNATIVE GLOBALIZATION /ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT IMPERIALIST GLOBALIZATION which would ensure Sustainable Development & Sustainable Fisheries by fostering, protecting, promoting and preserving the natural Resources of LAND, WATER AND FORESTS.

#### **04 Agenda:**

Inauguration

WFFP Report by the General Secretary

WFFP Financial Report by the Treasurer

Country wise Report of the Member Organisations

Discussion on the above three reports.

Presentation of the draft Global Fisheries Policy (GFT) by the Action Committee.

Draft paper on the Challenges before the WFFP in the face of Globalisation, WTO and militarisation / Weaponization of International affairs.

Region/country / Language wise study of the two Drafts

Region / country wise/ presentation of the report of the study

Finalisation of the Draft and adoption as WFFP document.

Financial and Organisational Concerns of the WFFP

Membership Issue /New Membership

Evaluation of activities of the WFFP and day to day working for the WFFP

Plan of Action for next 3 years for the implementation of the objectives and decisions at: International (UN, FAO, DLO etc.), Regional and National level.

Election of the Office bearers.

Any other subject.

#### **05 Matters to be discussed:**

**The 2 objectives and all the items on the agenda will be studied, discussed and the appropriate decisions will be taken by the entire body of delegates in a spirit of democracy, co responsibility and collegiality**

#### **06 The Participants**

Article 12: Member Representation at the General Assembly

a) Each country with at least one member organization shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by two delegates, one of whom shall be male and the other female.

*(Countries having more than one member organisation of WFFP will jointly select one male and one female delegate to represent the country).*

Each member organization shall be entitled to nominate observers / auditors

Harekrishna Debnath  
General Secretary

**The Venue of the Third General Assembly of the  
World Forum of Fisher Peoples**

**TOM MBOYA LABOUR COLLEGE, KISUMU-KENYA**

*A profile*

Situated on a vast area of land overlooking lake Victoria in Kisumu, Western Kenya, TMLC has a great historical importance. This is named after TOM MBOYA – one of the Freedom Fighters, a great champion of the oppressed workers in Kenya. He was a political leader cum Unionist with a niche, in that many envied his approach to matters pertaining to the poor working people in Kenya. The dawn of Kenya's independence saw Tom Mboya being held dear to both urban and rural poor in the country and the rise of Tom Mboya to the ministerial level holding various portfolios. There were times when he rubbed the regime on the "wrong side" because of his zeal to uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed people especially the working class in Kenya. Because of the stand he took siding with the poor, he was assassinated in 1969 in Nairobi the seat of political power in the country.

The TMLC is conceived, planned and independently financed by different member trade unions affiliated to the Central Organizations of Trade Unions (COTU), Kenya. Its origin goes back to the string of the trade Union Movement at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is important to emphasize that the College is fundamentally dedicated to cater to the needs, interests and ideas of making people in general and trade unions in particular. Its philosophy reflects the deep root in Kenya's trade union history and the history of Kenya since independence. The central principle underlying the philosophy of TMLC and its educational objectives is that high quality Education is not only the right that should be accorded to trade union members, but also necessary prerequisite for building a strong and democratic trade union.

Against this back ground, it is not by chance that the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFPGA3) takes place here in TOM MBOYA LABOUR COLLEGE, KISUMU but it is a PROVIDENTIAL happening that we are hosted here in this beautiful quiet place away from the hustles of the town. Above all its strong trade Union Orientation is an added claim for us to be here, as we and our Forum represent the traditional fisher peoples' movement to assert our right to own and manage our natural and community ownership to the marine resources and its management We cherish the values that TOM MBOYA fought for at the cost of his life. This is well reflected in the people whom we come across at TMLC-very friendly and helpful.

### **III. Inauguration.**

#### **Inaugural Session of the Third General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)**

**23 November, 2004, 9.00 A. M.**

#### **Chairing the session:**

**Jamine Madara**, Chairperson, Kenya Fisher Peoples Network

#### **Others on the dias:**

Dao Gaye and Pauline Tangiora, Coordinators of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples,  
Harekrishna Debnath, General secretary of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples,  
Francis Owakah, Chairperson of the organizing committee of the General Assembly,  
Thomas Kocherry, permanent invitee to the World Forum of Fisher Peoples,  
Otiato Peter, Chairperson of Buhede Kenya,  
Joyce A. Oruko, Kisumu Beach Management.  
Kamaturaki Seremos, Treasurer, World Forum of Fisher Peoples.

**Harekrishna Debnath** welcomed all the participants and asked Thomas Kocherry to lead the group in prayer to God.

**Thomas Kocherry** led the group in prayer:

#### ***PRAYER:***

God of all, sustainer of all, we your children, we your fisher people, have gathered here to protect our environment, our culture, and our people, our society and our livelihood. We hope to do this together with each other. Oh God, help us, be with us to carry on this struggle in the world today.

#### **INAUGURAL SPEECH**

**Jamine Madara**, Chairman, Kenya Fisher peoples Network gave the inaugural address: I thank the organizers of the WFFP for this honour to inaugurate the 3<sup>rd</sup>. General Assembly of the WFFP in Kisumu, Kenya.

**The representation from countries, which cover the five continents of the world is a clear indicator of the concern that fisher people of the world have for collective engagement to fight for their rights and improve their economic and livelihood status. It is both a happy and a sad moment for the fisher people of the world today. Happy moment because they have gathered from different parts of the world with only one aim, to advocate for their rights and recognition; and sad, to remember that despite their significant contribution to the many economies of the world the fisher people are still the least recognized group by the national governments and the international organizations.**



We in Kenya have been rather passive in our approach but have now come to realize that we must come together and demand for right and recognition and in doing so we shall consult and work in solidarity with our brothers and sisters anywhere in the world to achieve life which is just and poverty free, for the Kenyan Fisher peoples.

Having gone through the protocol of the introductory remarks may I now call upon the band, as provided in the programme to entertain our guests and colleagues with African-Western cocktail of music from Kenya and more specially Kisumu.

At this point a cultural presentation of the Orutu traditional dancers took place.

### **Tea break.**

**11.00 A.M.** (23.11.2004) - Inaugural session continued

### **Francis Owakah**

We in Kenya are particularly privileged to host the 3<sup>rd</sup>. General Assembly of WFFP. On behalf of the working Committee, I welcome you all in Kenya and hope that you will enjoy your short stay here.

The working committee was constituted in June 2003. We had over thirty members representing the fishing fraternity in Kenya, i.e. fishermen and women, beach managers, fish mongers, social, botanical and marine researchers who felt the need to harness resources both financial and human towards the success of this assembly.

In September 2003, a number of sites were identified as possible "venues for this assembly. Prominent among them were Nairobi, for obvious reasons; Mombassa, Lodwar, and Kisumu. Nairobi was quickly eliminated mainly because no fishing takes place there although it is the main market and transit point for fish in Kenya. Let me not dwell on the elimination of others. We settled for Kisumu. Kisumu represents an ideal situation where the producer is the poorest in fishing industry. It is located on lake Victoria which is the single largest fresh water lake in the world covering three East African Countries, namely Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The WFFP secretariat visited Kenya and we together visited Kisumu and were mutually impressed by the city and the facilities available. Among other venues available, Tom Mboya Labour College stood out. In February this year, the secretary general and Tom Kocherry visited Kenya on a planning tour. They saw the efforts put in the preparations and we have no doubt that they were impressed, for they encouraged us on.

Thereafter there has been constant communication between the working committee and WFFP secretariat in India. And today here we all can see the fruits (results) of these communications.

The journey to this day particularly for this committee has been challenging but also enjoyable. Tempers have flared but laughter has also been witnessed. For various reasons a number of us fell along the way. I want to recognize the efforts of the following people who all along stood firm to see this assembly succeed:

Peter Otiato- Chair BUHEDE Kenya.

Crispinous Namadoa - BUHEDE Kenya

Silvanus Namadoa- BUHEDE Kenya

Phillippe Obure- BUHEDE Kenya

Gabriuel Muswali - BUHEDE Kenya

Eunice Kosiro

And of course me, Francis Owakah of the University of Nairobi.

As a committee, we have learnt a lot from organizing an international meeting in which people from diverse cultures and background congregate. I must single out the challenge of language which as you know can be a hindrance. But in a way we overcame.

**Ladies and Gentlemen once again I welcome you to Kenya in General and particularly Kisumu, the third largest city in the country. Feel at home and enjoy yourselves. I wish you a successful General Assembly.**

Joyce A. Oruko

Joyce Oruko welcomed everyone and also explained the issues relating to the fishing communities in the Dunga beach in Lake Victoria.

**Harekrishna Debnath**

**I don't know how to speak. I will only share my feelings. I will share pictures of yesteryears, which come to my mind as of 10 years ago.**

As of 1995 the Dunkel Draft and the WTO came into operation. 20 million fisher people along the 8000 Km long coastline in India began to fight for survival. Foreign vessels in big numbers began to invade our waters. We the traditional fisher people were the first to be hit and to come under the attack of the WTO. The National Fish Workers Forum, under the leadership of Thomas Kocherry fought against this for four long years. Finally we succeeded in changing the policy of the Government of India. We wanted to know about the fisheries of the World. We found the situation of other countries was worse than in India. Small artisanal subsistence fishing had no future. More and more of our fishing grounds and coastal areas were being taken up by MNC's. Our waters were being polluted by introduction of waste matter; the habitat and people destroyed. In this context we the fisher people, 400 delegates from all over the world came to New Delhi in 1997 and started the World Forum - A political organization for the survival of the small, informal and artisanal fisher people

In the year 2000 on October 6<sup>th</sup> we had the 2<sup>nd</sup> general Assembly in Loctudy in France. We had stress and strain, we had ups and downs and there the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) was born.

**Today I am happy to say that there are 34 member organizations from 23 fishing nations from all the continents of the world. We are a world-wide family of fisher peoples. Small fisher people are a big family of the WFFP. Many more are applying for membership.**

I speak now for the press: We have representative leaders of indigenous fisher people of **Canada**. Big leaders from **Honduras, Mauritania, Gaudalupe, Martinique, New Zealand / Aoteroa, Senegal, France, Spain, Basque, Uganda, Guinea, Benin, Mali, South Africa, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kenya and India.**

Our family journey goes on together as one body. A lot perhaps has taken place in the World. The small fish workers were not considered; but now they have an identity. Our voice is heard at the highest levels of the world- ILO, FAO, UN. We were scattered and not visible, but not any longer. Now we are a power.

Fishing is our way of life and our culture. The IMF and the WTO need not teach us how to fish. They need not give us knowledge and technology. WTO, get out! I call upon the governments of the world, do not fall into the trap of the WTO. Do not sellout our natural resources to the WTO. Fishing is not only our occupation and employment, but also a way of life. We are the masters of the sea. We resist to be enslaved to any force.

Here at the Tom Mbayo Labour College, Kisumu, we are journeying for four days. As one body, we send out the message loud and clear: "WTO, get out!, give our seas back to us, we have the right to our water bodies, to our fishing implements, not the multinational corporations. We are ready for a fight, it will be a fight to the end. And conquer, we shall! When Harekrishna finished his speech, the Co-ordinators asked the house to stand in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect for Harckrishna's father who passed away recently.

### **Dao Gaye**

#### **Pauline Tangiora**

Greetings to all of you from my people and all indigenous tribal people who are watching us succeed in our work. To the people of Kisumu and Nairobi and Kenya a thank you from the heart. To our Guest of honour Dr. Rosalie thank you for being here. It is hoped that your government shows due importance of the meeting and gets behind it financially. I visited with two fishermen on lake Victoria, the world's second largest lake- what a wonderful experience- seeing the families fishing – hippopotamus and baby in the lake off the stern of the boat - and the sunshine- what a royal welcome to this visit to Kenya. We acknowledge Wangari the newly awarded Nobel Peace Laureate for sustaining the environment. Well done Kenya, maybe your Madame will lead the small fisheries people to keep the fishing in Kenya and be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nobel Laureate!

Our being here shows there is a world wise movement for strengthening our coastal artisanal and all small fisherperson in the world including shellfish gatherers. Let us move forward strong and supportive of each other.

#### **Thomas Kocherry**

Greetings and love to all - to all the leaders on the stage and delegates in the hall.

We must situate the WFP in the historical situation and context of globalisation. Globalization encourages the free movement of capital for profit. This trend is not for development of peoples; but this helps the moneyed ones to make more and more money. This seems to be the meaning of globalisation for most.

When did this start? In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries, Europe was was faced with the problems of overpopulation and unemployment. This was not the problem in Africa or Asia. Therefore people from Europe began to migrate to other parts of the world. Colonization was the order of the day. 50% of European population moved to other countries to convert, to conquer, and to exploit. We are Christians or Muslims today because of this migration. We have to rediscover our Faiths.

Today, 80% of our wealth is in the hands of 20 % of the people while 80% of the world's population is left with 20% of the wealth. We, the small fisher peoples all over the world are part of the 80% of the exploited people. We are the victims of globalisation and exploitation. The whole world is under globalisation and exploitation. The small fisher people all over are trying to come together to regain their traditional rights.

Our organization is meant to be a part of that struggle. In our organization, any ulterior motive to become leaders will kill and destroy our movement. The greatest service to all is to serve the smallest and the weakest. For those who do not want to struggle for rights of the small, this is not the place.

During the WTO meeting in Cancun, Kenya led the walkout. That saved the developing nations. We have to continue that struggle. Let us not be afraid of colonial powers. This is a new struggle. This is the struggle of the smallest and the weakest against the biggest and the strongest. The biggest and the strongest have all the wealth, money, technology and weapons at their disposal while the smallest and the weakest have no money, no wealth, and no weapons. But God is on the side of the small and the weak. Yes, God is on our side and the devil on the other side. This is the new struggle.

In this struggle we need to stand together. Let us not divide this group. Anyone who tries to divide is an agent of the devil. We have no money, no wealth, and no weapons. Yet we are ready for the fight just as David was ready to fight Goliath. God is with us victory is ours  
**Peter Stanley**

I am overwhelmed by your presentation. We have been listening to very meaningful speeches by various members of the WFFP. I am happy to say that you are listening to the younger members of the WFFP. BUHEDE became a member only last year. For the past one year the leadership has been guiding us, to the extent that w now have a chairman and the Kenya fisher people network

We are fortunate to have the goodwill and support of the political leadership of our country. The absence of the Minister should not be seen as a negative aspect. The minister is impeded from coming because of other activities. We have with us a representative of his ministry. As we continue th^ next four days there are 15 participants from Kenya. They will teach you to greet in the Swahili language.

**Feel free and at home. We advise you not to go out alone because of the language barrier. Kisumu is a peaceful town. This used to be called the centre of East Africa. *The Kenyan delegates stood and joined in welcoming all the delegates)***

**We Kenyans hope to learn from the senior members of the WFFP. I request Mme. Rosaline who represents the Ministry of livestock and fisheries to address the gathering.**

**Dr. Rosaline Owakah**

(Representative from the Ministry of livestock and fisheries development, Kenya)

**In the name of the minister, on whose behalf she spoke, Roselin welcomed the delegates to Kenya and to Kisumu.**

**Kisumu is a wonderful place and a fishing centre. Due to unavoidable circumstances the minister could not be present here.**

**Small fisher people all over the world are being exploited by the big fishers. This situation is a challenge to all small fishers. The government of Kenya is fully aware of this situation and supports organizations such as yours.**

**She explained the various issues relating to fishworkers in the Lake Victoria region and highlighted the need to look into issues of fish marketing in the Lake Victoria region and fish farming. The presentation also highlighted the importance of the organization of the Eastern African Unity and Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization in the fisheries management process.**

**Jamine** then called for responses from the floor of the house.

**Sid' Ahmed-** Mauritania.

On behalf of the participants thanked the organizers for the warm welcome accorded. He said that the participants are already feeling at home in Kisumu, Kenya. He then thanked the guest of honour for the support expressed to the small fisher people in general and to the WFFP in particular. Organizations such as ours need the support of the national governments. On matters of fishing policies we want to be consulted. We want to be protected from Exploitation. Our forum has been successful, our voice is heard. He called the members to stand together. He called for transparency to strengthen the movement. He concluded by thanking the WFFP coordinators and the secretariat.

The vote of thanks was proposed by

**Mogamad Naseegh Jaffer** of South Africa.

**I have the honour of Saying Thanks to the WFFP leaders and the local organizers for this day. We are feeling at home in Kenya. The venue, the accommodation, the hospitality and the people are all very good. He also expressed gratitude to the Minister's representative, Mme Rosaline, for being with us and encouraging us.**

**2.30 p.m.**

**Chairing the session:**

**Dao Gaye and Pauline Tangiora,**

**Others on the dias :**

Harekrishna Debnath, General secretary of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples,  
Kamuturaki Seremos, Treasurer, World Forum of Fisher Peoples.

The general secretary Hrekrishna Debnath called the house to order. The list of the participants with their legal standing is as follows;

List of Participants to WFFP GA3 Kenya. Nov.21-27.2004

SR.No	Name / Sex	Sex	Country	Category	Remarks
01	Harekrishna Debnath	M	India	DELEGATE	Present
02	Purnima Mehar	F	India	DELEGATE	Present
03	Herman Kumara	M	Sri Lanka	DELEGATE	Present
04	N.T. Tilakalatha	F	Sri Lanka	DELEGATE	Present
05	Muhammad Saeed	M	Pakistan	DELEGATE	Absent*
06	Balqees Usman	F	Pakistan	DELEGATE	Absent*
07	Servilano Luna Jr	M	Philippines	DELEGATE	Present
08	Charles capricho	M	Philippines	DELEGATE	Present
09	Kamuturaki Seremos	M	Uganda	DELEGATE	Present
10	Nadunga Irene	F	Uganda	DELEGATE	Present
11	Silvia QuevedoBerrios	F	Honduras	DELEGATE	Present
12	Justo Rufino Garcia	M	Honduras	DELEGATE	Present
13	Sherry M. Pictou	F	Canada	DELEGATE	Present
14	Pauline Tangiora	F	New Zealand	DELEGATE	Present
15	Mogamad Naseegh	M	South Africa	DELEGATE	Present
16	Naomie Gloria Cloete	F	South Africa	DELEGATE	Absent
17	Dr. Peter Staniey Otiato	F	Kenya	DELEGATE	Present
18	Mrs. Joyce A. Oruko'	F	Kenya	DELEGATE	Present
19	Dao Gaye	M	Senesal	DELEGATE	Present
20	Lala Diop	F	Senegal	DELEGATE	Present
21	Dehy Lucien	M	Rep.du Benin	DELEGATE	Present
22	Kocou Fadina	F	Rep.du Benin	DELEGATE	Present
23	Daffe	M	Rep.du Guinea	DELEGATE	Present
24	Sandouna	F	Rep.du Guinea	DELEGATE	Present
25	Marie Adamer	F	Martinique	DELEGATE	Present
26	Altius Socrate Gerard	M	Martinique	DELEGATE	Present
27	Ralotomalala T Lanto	F	Madagascarscar	DELEGATE	Absent

28	J.C.Yoyotte	M	Guadeloupe	DELEGATE	Present
29	Robert Alvarez	M	France	DELEGATE	Present
30	FontaineKorleff.Josiane	F	France	DELEGATE	Present
31	Sid'Aluned ould Abeid	M	Mauritania	DELEGATE	Present
32	Oumoukaltoum mint Abdellahi	F	Maritania	DELEGATE	Present
33	Martina Dieste Laino	F	Spain	DELEGATE	Present
34	Luisa Rodriuuez Gn'lez	F	Spain	DELEGATE	Present
35	Bakery Lonely	M	R du Mali	DELEGATE	Absent
36	Fatoumata Diana	F	R.du Mali	DELEGATE	Present
37	Chandrashckhar Sagar	M	India	Observer	Present
38	T Peter	M	India	Observer	Present
39	N. Sarnapala de Silva	M	Sri Lanka	Observer	Present
40	YVS Lucas Fernando	M	Sri Lanka	Observer	Present
41	Mohamcd Ali Sliah	M	Pakistan	Observer	Absent
42	Muhammad Ayub	M	Pakistan	Observer	Absent
43	Javier Luis E Saenz	M	France	Interpreter	Present
44	Michel Fontaine	M	France	Observer	Absent
45	Miss. Ruth Lokaalei	F	Kenya	Observer	Present
46	Mr. Jamine Madara	M	Kenya	Observer	Present
47	Sunday Robinson	M	Uganda	Observer	Present
48	Dorcas Sophie	F	Uganda	Observer	Present
49	Mr. Sebastian Mathew	M	India	Resource person	Present
50	Ms Ramya Rajagopalan	F	India	Resource person	Present
51	ELI, David	M	Ghana	Resource person	Present
52	V. Vivekanandan	M	India	Resource person	Absent
53	Matthew Gianni	M	USA	Invitedobserver	Absent
54	Jean Vacher	F	Mauritius	Invited observer	Absent
55	Obure Okeyo Phillippe	M	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
56	Dr. Christopher Iteyo	M	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
57	Ms. Eunice A. Kosiro	F	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
58	Muswali Abili Gabriel	M	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
59	Owaka E.A Francis	M	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
60	Hamid Mohammed	M	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
61	Jennifer Kere	F	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
62	Saadiya Hussein A.	F	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
63	Ali Shebwana Bwana	M	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
64	John Otieno Kaudon	M	Kenya	Imited observer	Present

65	Raphael Wanayama	M	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
66	Capt Warruga	M	Kenya	Invited observer	Present
67	Roseline Okwach	F	Kenya	Govt. Rep	Present
68	Mwange Joab	M	Kenya	Secretariat	Present
69	Omulama Ayaya	M	Kenya	Secretariat	Present
70	Joseph Ojwang	M	Kenya	PRESS	Present
71	Bernard Aral	M	Kenya	PRESS	Present
72	Flavien	M	Kenya	Interpreter:	Present
73	Francis Kaeulire	M	Uganda	Invited observer	Present
74	M.M.Malini	F	Sri Lanka	Invited observer	Present
75	Champa Janaki	F	Sri Lanka	Invited observer	Present
76	K.R.M.Bandula	M	Sri Lanka	Invited observer	Present
77	Thomas Kocherry	M	India	Perm. Invitee	Present
78	Cecily Plathottam	F	India	Secretariat	Present
79	Savarimuthu Santiago	M	India	Rapporteur	Present



80	Xavier Pinto	M	India	Rapporteur	Present
81	Jaquis Gagnon	M	Canada	Translator	Present

**Harekrishna** introduced the agenda for the General Assembly.

**Agenda:**

Inauguration

WFFP Report by the General Secretary

Country wise Reports of the member organizations

Discussion on the above three reports

Presentation of the draft Global fisheries Policy (GFT) by the Action Committee

Draft paper on Challenges before the WFFP in the face of globalisation, WTO and militarization/weaponization of International affairs

Region/Country/Language wise study of the two drafts

Region/Country wise presentation of the report of the study

Finalization of the draft and adoption as WFFP document

Financial and organisational concerns of the WFFP

Membership issue/New membership

Evaluation of activities of the WFFP and day-to-day working of the WFFP

Plan of action for the next three years for the implementation of the objectives and decisions at: International (UN, FAO, ILO etc) Regional and National level.

Election of the Office bearers

Any other matter

The items of the agenda to be taken up immediately are the general secretary's report of the WFFP, the financial report of the treasurer, country wise reports from the member organizations and discussion on the above three.

Then **Harekrishna Debnath** presented the WFFP report.

**Sid'Ahmed ould Abeid** proposed a vote of thanks to the general secretary for the report submitted. He paid rich tribute to the person of Hrekrishna who has committed himself for the organization. He called on the participants to work together and to strengthen the organization.

**DECISION 1.**

**It was unanimously decided to accept the WFFP report of the general secretary entitled "Journey from Loctudy, France to Kisumu, Kenya, Ocotber 2000 to Nov 2004".**

**5.00 P.M.**

**Chairperson: Dao Gaye**

**Tabling of the statement of accounts by the treasurer**

**Kmuturaki Seremos** the Treasurer of the WFFP tabled the statement of accounts for the period October 2000 to Sept 2004.

**Statement of Accounts: ( *SEE AUDITED ACCOUNTS* )**

Certain clarifications regarding translators and the expenses for translation were sought and the following explanations were given.

**Thomas Kocherry** said that Flavien the interpreter for this General Assembly is being paid 14,000 KS per day. Jaquis who is doing the translation work from French to English is giving his service just for an honorarium of 1000 USD and his flight tickets. When needed he is also doing the interpretation work. Xabier is doing the Spanish translations totally free of cost. If we were to pay all these persons according to international standards, it will run into thousands of USDs.

**Robert, Micheal and Philomine Marie** are also people who are giving us very valuable free services. All these pages of accounting have been done by her completely free of charge.

**Yoyotte** sought clarification about the subscription his organization had paid and Thomas Kochery gave him the necessary explanation.

It was pointed out that if all the member organizations had paid their annual subscriptions for the last four years the income would have been that much more.

**Servilano Luna Jr.** of the Philippines thanked the treasurer and the secretariat for the presentation of the accounts.

**DECISION 2.**

It was unanimously decided to accept the statement of accounts of the WFFP, from Oct 2000 to Sept 2004, tabled by the Treasurer.

**IV. General Secretary's Report and all the Annextures**  
**From Loctudy, France to Kisumu, Kenya**  
**(October 2000 -November 2004)**  
**Report**

To the 3rd General Assembly (WFFP GA3) of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) Kisumu, Kenya, 23-27 November. 2004.

**INTRODUCTION**

To day on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004, we have gathered together not only to witness a great historic event unfolding before our very eyes, but also, we are here to make this big important event to happen. As I attempt to present to you the general report of the WFFP since the second General

Assembly on October 6, 2000, at Loctudy in France, my heart takes wings to the scene of another BIG HISTORIC event that took place in 1997. It was in New Delhi, the Capital city of India. The date was November 21<sup>st</sup> 1997, for the first time in the history of the world the representatives of the fisher people from 32 countries gathered together. After a long period of discussions, study and sharing, the then representatives unanimously decided to form a Political Forum for the Worlds ' fisher Peoples. And so the World Forum was born. And I have the honour and privilege to salute the Forum's First and founding General Co coordinator **Thomas Kocherry** and many other founding members who are here present at this August Assembly.

It was the first effort we made to create a forum for the small fishers and the artisanal fisher people to be heard. The experience of the victory of the fisher people in India against Deep Sea Fishing Policy of Importing 2600 foreign fishing vessels made other countries to come together. This gathering realized that the Import of foreign fishing vessels was an import of Crisis under the guise of Globalization and not the import of technology. For the first 3 years the forum experienced the severe birth- pang but under the committed leadership of Tom as its 'devoted nurse' the Forum grew and took the shape of a strong Global Movement. Though still in its infancy, today it is the mouthpiece of millions of poor, small, tradition and indigenous fisher people that no governments can ignore easily. In October 2000, we had our Second General Assembly and it was the Constituent Assembly as well. This took place in Loctudy France when the Forum gave to itself a constitution, which was adopted unanimously by the members present. Thus on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2000, the world forum was formerly constituted and called itself the WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP).

That was 4 years ago. As a historical necessity, the forum had to go through another painful period of growth process. Consequent upon the inevitable division that took place among the original membership, the WFFP now consists of members mainly from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean and of course the small and traditional fisher people of both America and Europe are part of the WFFP Family as we have some members from France and Spain, Canada, Pacific and Honduras. Hence though financially we are always in need, we are in possession of a deep commitment and determination to get back & uphold our customary rights as custodians of the Marine resources for the future generations. In this gigantic endeavor we are assisted and supported by our well wishers and friends through whose generous financial assistance we carry forward our tireless efforts to achieve our objectives of making the voice of the Fisher people heard in the local, national and international arena.

I would like to invite you to accompany me as I try to trace back the path we have traveled so far, sharing with you the main happenings that took place ever since we started our journey from Loctudy on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2000. You have in your hand "From LOCTUDY, FRANCE TO KISUMU, KENYA-the growth process of the Fisher Peoples' Global Movement in shaping their destiny.

### **WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR?**

The WFFP is a World Movement of the Grass root level traditional, small scale, artisanal and indigenous Fisher Peoples in the World. We are one of the World's most exploited and neglected Communities. From time immemorial we live of the natural marine resources

while taking good care of the same. Ours is an ongoing struggle for existence and livelihood. Our very basic livelihood is being deprived by the process of globalization and the WTO, and the forces that snatch away our right to livelihood through multinational companies with their huge and destructive factory ships, which plunder our waters and destroy the marine resources. Through this process, we are left with no way to live. To have our livelihood is our Basic Right. With out this Right to food we cannot live. So when our livelihood is being snatched away from us, our Right to Life and to Live is also taken away from us. This is the pure form of HUMAN RIGHT VIOLATION. Most of us live in subsistent economy. Our fishing is a family and community affair.

THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP) is a Federation of Fisher Peoples' National Organizations from all over the world. It is a network of the Traditional, Small scale and Artisanal Fisher peoples. There are over a 100 million such people in the developing countries of Asia & Africa alone. The WFFP has a member ship of 34 national organizations from 23 countries. The WFFP through its various programmes and actions take it upon us to make every traditional, indigenous, small, artisanal Fisher people in the world to become aware of their HUMAN RIGHTS, which are very well embodied in the UN charter. In the final analysis ours is a constant struggle to get back & uphold our Human Rights. In 2002 through one of our Representatives we have submitted to the Human Right commission our representations. Again we have participated at the making of the Voluntary Guidelines for FOOD SOVEREIGNTY in the World as a follow up of the FOOD SUMMIT. We participated at the Commission for Sustainable Development of the UN. Our continuous participation in the World Social Forum reveals who we are and what we stand for. Our fight against Globalization is part and parcel of us.

The PREAMBLE to our Constitution sums up who we are, what we stand for, what our goal and objectives are and how we go about realizing these.

*"We, the Fisher Peoples of the world,*

*United under the banner of*

*THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP)*

*With the aim of protecting our livelihood,*

*Upholding fishing rights, human rights, fundamental rights,*

*Social justice and community responsibilities,*

*And preserving and promoting our culture,*

*Affirming water as the source of all life,*

*Committing us to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources*

*for the present and future generations,*

*Gathered in Loctudy, France,*

*Solemnly bind ourselves to abide by this Constitution, We adapt on this day, the sixth of October 2000."*

## **02.Report of the First General Assembly, October 6. 2000. Loctudy. France**

The first General Assembly of the WFFP took place in Loctudy, France in October 2000.

The representatives / delegates of the member organizations met on the cold windy lawn of the Hotel which was the venue of the Constituent Assembly to plan out the future course of

action for the following 3 years or till the next General Assembly. There were 21 organizations from 16 countries present.

The following decisions were taken unanimously.

**Decision 1** It was unanimously decided to name the Fishers Forum as "THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES". The Short form for the name shall be "WFFP"

The Assembly discussed the draft Constitution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) article by article. After discussions and changes made to the draft, the following text was adopted unanimously as the CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP). (**WFFP Constitution Annex 1**)

**Decision 2:**

It was unanimously decided to adopt the Constitution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). This was followed by Elections. The following persons were unanimously elected'

**As Office bearers:**

Coordinators: (1) Pauline Tangiora (Aotearoa)  
(2) Dao Gaye (Senegal)  
General Secretary: Harekrishna Debnath (India)  
Treasurer: Kamuturaki Seremos (Uganda)

**Election of other Members to the Coordination Committee:**

Africa: Andrew Wilfred Johnston & Fatoumata Diarra  
Europe: Robert Alvarez & Marie Adémar  
Asia: Rosario Nazu & Mohamed Ali Shah

From this point, the newly elected Coordinators jointly chaired the Assembly. Pauline Tangiora proposed that Thomas Kocherry be a permanent invitee to the Coordination Committee and the house unanimously accepted the proposition. With this, the Assembly was adjourned and resumed after dinner.

**Decision 3:**

It was decided that the WFFP should join the International Forum on Globalization and Peoples' Global Action against WTO in their struggles against Globalization.

**Decision 4:**

It was decided that WFFP should organize large level struggles and actions to celebrate World Fisheries Day on 21 November every year. This is a campaign to establish the right of the fishing communities to own water bodies, fishing implements and to manage the distribution of their catch. It is an on-going struggle against industrial fleets in the world.

**Decision 5:**

It was decided to have the first WFFP Coordination Committee meeting in India February / March 2001 and the exact date would be announced later.

**Decision 6:**

It was decided to adopt two resolutions one by Pauline Tangiora to ban Toxic and atomic pollutions and the other by Alvarez Robert to ban trawlers. It is very encouraging to see that our resolution to ban trawlers all over the World is bearing fruits. (The two resolutions are given as **annex 2:Ban 011 atomic pollutions, Annex 3:Ban on trawlers**)

**Our journey begins from Loctudv, Franco to Bombay, India:****WORLD FISHERIES DAY, Nov 21 2000:**

One of the major decisions of the General Body was to observe Nov 21 as the World Fisheries day every year to establish the right of the fishing communities to own water bodies, fishing implements and to manage the distribution of their catch. World Fisheries Day was celebrated by many member organizations with lot of enthusiasm and solidarity. (A report of the happening of the WFD is given as **Annex 4**)

**FISHERMEN IN JAILS:**

The arrest and subsequent detention of innocent fishworkers is a point of contention between India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives. Coast guards/ Navy often arrest fishworkers in the name of crossing international border. This has led to many suffering to the fishworkers and their families. One face of International Solidarity of fishworkers is the efforts the national organizations take in releasing the jailed fishworkers from other countries. The formation of WFFP has accelerated this solidarity. We also need to find permanent ways of working in this regard. About 60 fishworkers belonging to Sri Lanka who were in Indian Jails were released as an effort of the working of WFFP. The demand to release all fishworkers in Indian jails was also one of the demands of the National Fisheries Agitation by NFF. The letter from Ministry of External Affairs, Govt, of India in this regard is attached as (Annex-5)

**WEB SITE FOR WFFP:**

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) has set up a website to inform its activities to the general public and to increase information flow between the member organizations. The plan is to have a site, which announces the programs, documents and other details of WFFP together with a home page for each organization. The WFFP site is planned to be developed as a unique fisheries site, which will have a fisher people perspective on the important issues facing the fisheries sector. At present the site contains the 1<sup>st</sup> General Body report, the Press Release of WFFP, Name and addresses of Member organizations and a brief report of the World Fisheries Day Celebrations. We know that our web site is not up to the mark. We need more resource to make it very creative. Please visit our web site: [www.wffp.org](http://www.wffp.org)

**IEVOLI SUN OIL SPILLAGE:**

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) has expressed its protest against the shipment of toxic chemicals through the sea without even proper facilities. WFFP has also demanded that the fishworkers who are affected by the spillage should be properly compensated and the polluter should be made responsible for the cleaning up of the polluted ecosystem also. A detailed press release on the spillage of Ievoli sun is attached as (Annex 6).

### **Coordination Committee (CC) meeting, Mumbai, India 2001**

As per decision 5 of the Loctudy General Assembly to have the first Coordination Committee meeting in India in the month of February/March 2001, the CC meeting took place in Mumbai from March 4-10, 2001. All the CC, members except Dao Gaye were present. Dao Gaye was not able to attend the meeting due to some unforeseen circumstances and he had informed the house about it.

Some of the Decisions of the Co ordination Committee , MUMBAI were as follows:

It was decided to register the WFFP in India for practical and functioning reasons.

A new definition was adopted for The World Forum of Fisher Peoples. "*The traditional-ariisanal /customary Fisher People are those who fish and earn an income to meet the basic needs of life. They work as a community. Sometimes they may employ workers and operate as a collective/ co-operative/group. They participate in the distribution of fish and different activities of fishers that take care of processing, management and conservation of fish resource*

That the role of women in fisheries be accepted and be granted equal rights in the exercise of their responsibilities like, management, supervision and administration in fisheries.

That the catch per fishing vessel is going down in an alarming manner all over the world.

This is due to over capacity, destructive fishing gears and pollution. In order to address this crisis the fishing community that depends on fishing for their livelihood should have the right of custodianship of water bodies and manage resources. They own the fishing implements and the rights of sale and distribution of their catch. We must stop all destructive gears and pollution. We must adopt eco friendly fishing gear.

In order to achieve the above, from now on, we are going to campaign for aquatic reform by which we have the right of custodianship of water bodies and manage our resources. In order to achieve this goal to preserve the resource and the community we must put an end to factory fishing ships, destructive gear & pollution. Therefore we campaign and we have to struggle throughout this year particularly 21- 11-2001, world fisheries day. On this day we stop fishing, sale of fish and the consumption of fish, and we organize protests in this regard. We will also form an action committee to see that the innocent fishermen from countries like the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia who, for reasons beyond their control are held in each others prisons, be treated in accordance with human rights conventions and be released forthwith.

It was decided that the next CC meeting would be held in Martinique in the year 2002 between 15-25 April, and March 2003 CC meeting would held in Uganda and in March 2004 the General Body of the WFFP would be held in South Africa.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, Women's Day was celebrated in Gorai, a fishing Village near Mumbai. The entire CC participants were invited to witness the same. There was a crowd of a little more than 2000 people comprising of many women gathered at an open ground to express and experience the importance of Women's Day. Medha Patkar, an internationally known environmentalist and a Woman leader of the Peoples' Movement in India was the Chief Guest. The involvement and the role of women in fisheries was the point of major discussion.

All the CC members addressed the gathering. KOLI DANCE (Traditional dance of the local fishing community) was performed with a lot of vigor and enthusiasm so much so many of the invitees could not but join the group of dancers.

**Finally it was very strongly recommended that all the CC members and the member Organizations must communicate regularly with the Secretariat and Vice-versa.**

#### 1 Secretariat Meeting

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2001 at 6.30 P.M the formal meeting of the WFFP CC was closed. On the following day i.e. on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2001 at 10 am, the Secretariat of the WFFP met informally at Atma Darshan, Mumbai, India. The meeting took place in a very cordial and "at home" atmosphere. Harekrishna Debnath the General Secretary introduced the meeting by stating that this meeting was meant to clarify the day to day functioning of the Secretariat at Thiruvananthapuram and the related matters. It is important to have a general understanding of the Office and what is expected of the office, he said. At this juncture, Pauline Tangiora, the Co-coordinator suggested that:

It is not just an office but also the International Secretariat of the WFFP.

It is the clearinghouse for all communications of the WFFP, and among its member organizations.

It is where all the files and all the communications are kept. It is the Archives of information for WFFP.

It is the Center of Campaign, Co-coordinating all the activities of the various Action Committee or Task team.

As one of the decisions of the Secretariat meeting it was made clear that the WFFP Secretariat consists of the 4 office-bearers, namely the 2 Co-coordinators, the General Secretary, and the Treasurer; together with Thomas Kocherry- the Permanent invitee, Cecily Plathottam and Santiago (of the WFFP Secretariat office) as part of the WFFP Secretariat.

#### 2 We continue our journey: from Mumbai, India to Martinique, French West Indies

As soon as the Mumbai CC was over Maju Varghese left for further studies and Cecily Plathottam took over the charge of the Secretariat office.

**A FLASH-BACK** of the activities during the period between the CC meeting Mumbai up to the CC meet in Martinique:

Ever since the Coordination Committee meeting at Mumbai was over, we had been kept very busy in the Secretariat Office, with the work of communication, organization and actions.

There were plenty of activities that had to be looked into. There were very many contacts and collaborations that called for active involvement of /by the WFFP. A lot of contacts, a lot of appeals, a lot of communications took place for the following actions mentioned below and under taken by the WFFP. Many of us are aware of them and many of us are actively involved in these



activities and involvement of the WFFP. However it is good to have it in black and white and to share these with our friends and collaborators far and wide. So let us have a Hash back.

**WFFP LOCO:** At the CC meeting in Mumbai, Andy Johnston had been entrusted with the responsibility to of getting the WFFP Logo done. He did a good job and we have the beautiful Logo that we see on our Flag. This is a gift from the Artisanal Fishers Association of South Africa to the WFFP. Thank you Andy for facilitating the process to its completion and gifting the logo to the WFFP.

### **MANGROVE DAY 5Th JUNE:**

Mr. Mohammed Aii Shah of Pakistan was not able to be present at the CC meeting due to non-availability of Visa in time. Mr. Shah could arrive only on the 10<sup>th</sup> evening. Therefore on the 11<sup>th</sup> there was an informal meeting where Mr. Shah was apprised of the happening at the CC. Those at the meeting were: (Pauline Tangiora of New Zealand, Harekrishna Debnath of India, Mohammed Ali Shah of Pakistan, Thomas Kocherry of India, Kamuthuraki Seremos of Uganda, Herman kumara of Sri Lanka, Marie Ademar of Martinique, Robert Alvarez of France, Maju Varghese and Cecily Plathottam of the Secretariat)

Since the deteriorating situation of Mangrove all over the world was a very important concern for the Traditional Fisher peoples, Mr. M.A Shah of Pakistan was able to share in depth regarding the Mangrove Ecology and suggested that WFFP takes it up very seriously and should do something significant. Further it was felt that those responsible, especially the National Governments, the MNCs and corporations be made aware of the disaster that might befall on our Ecosystem as well as on many fish species, if timely warning was not taken seriously to protect the Mangrove System in the world. Hence it was suggested that the WFFP give a call to observe June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001 as Mangrove Day through out the world. All present at that meeting strongly felt the importance of such a political Action and unanimously agreed to take this proposal to the whole forum for it's whole hearted consent, co operation and concrete Action to make MANGROVE DAY ON 5<sup>Th</sup> JUNE, 2001 a success.

In many places Mangrove Day was celebrated in a wide a range of actions like asking students to write articles and making posters on mangrove day, planting mangrove seedlings, having cultural programs, public meetings, mangrove pooja (worship), regaining lost mangrove area, using mass media, etc. Some of our member organizations have reported the way they have celebrated it

### **Contacting SAARC**

NAFSO. Sri Lanka organized a meeting with Hon. High Commissioner of India at Colombo on 4<sup>n</sup> April and submitted a letter to the Indian High Commissioner with the request to intervene to the release of all foreign fishermen in the Indian Jails.

### **1<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY OF THE WFFP**

On 6th October 2001 we proudly remembered the 1st Birth Anniversary of the WFFP. On this occasion Herman from National Fisheries Solidarity, Sri Lanka wrote a beautiful message of solidarity, in which he reminded all of us to consider and reflect on the **why** and the **how** of the WFFP.

This was an occasion for all of us to reflect on the meaning behind our march forward together to achieve the objectives of the Forum. There had been some successful events like the very formation of the WFFP itself and the CC meetings at Loctudy and Mumbai respectively. But we need to continue looking ahead. We need to reflect together how we can make WFFP as the small fisher people's instrument of power at the service of the neglected Fishing Peoples and communities through out the world... We need to think and act collectively, then only the Forum serve as a strong and powerful political instrument of the fisher peoples. We need to strengthen our unity as one-fisher peoples' movement. In our unity lies our power.

*" Let us be united under the banner of WFFP and march ever forward"*

### **GLOBAL FISHERIES' STRIKE (GFS)**

One of the major decisions of the General Assembly was to observe Nov 21 as the World Fisheries day every year to establish the right of the fishing communities to own water bodies, fishing implements and to manage the distribution of their catch.

The CC meeting at Mumbai from March 5-11, 2001 took a stride when it decided to celebrate the World Fisheries Day as **Global Fisheries Strike (GFS)** in the current Financial Year. Accordingly a 'clarion call' to this effect was sent out through out the world through E-mails, Fax and ordinary mail. Thousands of Posters were printed and distributed nationally and internationally. It was also put on the WFFP web site. GFS was celebrated by all the member organizations with interest and enthusiasm. We also realized the limitations of declaring such Global Strike. However it was remarkable to note that the Pakistan Fisher Folks Strike was total while in other countries it was partial.

3 Symposium "On the Social Agenda|"

*(A Stakeholder Dialogue that took place at Johannesburg's Castle outside Stockholm, Sweden from June 20-21 2001.)*

The main purpose of the symposium was to increase knowledge about the most burning social issues, by engaging in a Stakeholder Dialogue. The challenge was to understand how the social agenda influences corporate business and society today, as well as trends and developments of the future.

On behalf of the World Forum of fisher Peoples & National Fish workers Forum, India (WFFP & NFF) **Thomas Kocherry** was invited to talk on "The effect of the Globalization on the Poor, what can we expect from the private sector " In his speech he stressed the need for the Victims of Globalization coming together. The communities that depend on Natural resources for their livelihood should own and manage the natural resources all over the world. This is going to be the struggle of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. "...Being the only one who represented the Traditional /Small scale / artisanal people, it was a novel experience to listen & exchanging ideas with those representing the big Corporations. At least one could gather knowledge as to how the Corporations think and in what terms ", said Thomas Kocherry

### **WFFP represented at the National Congress of FAWU (South Africa)**

The WFFP was invited by the Food & Allied Workers Union (FAWU) along with the Artisanal Fishers Association of South Africa, to participate in the National Congress of FAWU on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their founding. **Harekrishna Debnath** the General secretary did attend the congress representing the WFFP. In his address to the CONGRESS he congratulated FAWU for the glorious role they played as a vanguard of struggles in South Africa and hoped that Food and Allied Workers Union would continue to take pioneering role in all future movements. "... I wish you all success in your struggle, which is a common struggle for all of us. LET US FIGHT TOGETHER all aimed at one and only goal to protect our planet and the dependent health and welfare of humanity from the greed of the few... AND THE VICTORY WILL BE OURS ", he concluded

### **INDIA TO DOHA MARCH !!!!!**

WFFP is an accredited member to WTO. "INDIA TO DOHA MARCH" by the Fisher Peoples' preparations were on full swing as this was one of the CC decisions at Mumbai that the WFFP would join with like-minded people for action against WTO Ministerial meeting at DOHA. For the Doha March, the intense preparations started since July. We had been in contact with various organizations and peoples at both national and international level. Intense preparations went on for the WFFP to join the Rainbow Warrior of the Green Peace in Doha... But due to the sudden event of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the American War against Afghanistan the plan had to be abandoned and this we had to do against our will. Finally responding to a special invitation from the Greenpeace **Thomas Kocherry** managed to be present at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in DOHA, Thanks to the Rainbow Warrior that accommodated him.

### **WFFP JOINS WITH THE 'QUEBEC TO QATAR' CARAVAN CAMPAIGN**

WFFP did join with the Canadian Caravan against Globalization & the WTO. At the request & the invitation of the COMMON FRONT against Globalization & the WTO, 3 names were proposed but finally only Cecily Plathottam was able to make it. She took part in a 4 weeks' campaign called ' Quebec to Qatar', from October 18<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup> Starting from the signal Hill at Newfoundland and ending at Niagara Fall, the caravan covered over 10,000 km halting in 32 communities meeting with the local people as well as the students from the Universities. The message of the Caravan was:" A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE NOT THROUGH 'FREE TRADE' BUT THROUGH FAIR TRADE ". Cecily was the only one representing the fisher peoples. She gave a number of Radio Interviews and almost at every place participated in the Press Conference well focusing on the Southerners concern against globalization and the WTO. And in a very special way represented the Traditional Fisher People and their concerns especially those of the Southern countries. ". The message she gave to the Americans and the Canadians," the story from the South "was well received as is evident from what the **Organizers wrote:**

*"from the Council of Canadians & Canadian Union of Postal workers (CUPW)*

*Dear Thomas, Sister Cecily will be returning home soon. Her visit was inspiring. Thank, you for your work. I will reflect more on Cecily's comments tonight but they are particularly helpful, especially where you identify the imbalances on the tour. I must report to WFFP that*

*many communities involved expressed their admiration for WFFP and your representation of the*

*Organization. I do not believe that such a Caravan could work without such perspectives from the majority - (i.e. the south). For us it is a learning curve so our many errors are something nx> can only address by having your input. Thank you and thank you WFFP for your inspiring contribution.*

In solidarity.

Dave for the Common front "

#### **WFFP MEMBERS AT THE SEMINAR ON THE INDIAN OCKAN:**

It was encouraging that unintentionally though, a great many number of WFFP Organizations were present and attended the 4 day International Seminar workshop on the Indian Ocean organized by the ICSF in Chennai, South India from 9-13 October 2001 with the following objectives:

to create an awareness among the participants about the bio-geographical and cultural unity of the riparian communities of the Indian Ocean region;

to highlight the importance of sustaining the livelihoods of the artisanal and small-scale fishing communities dependent on marine fisheries in the emerging context of new developments in fisheries in the Indian Ocean region;

to forge greater unity between communities to:

advocate for participatory regional and bilateral arrangements among the riparian nations of the Indian Ocean for access to, and responsible management of, fisheries resources consistent with the UNCLOS;

discuss mechanisms for conflict resolution and conflict reduction in the Indian Ocean region and for humane treatment of fishworkers; and develop a shared vision statement for responsible utilization of fishery and coastal resources in the Indian Ocean Region.

#### **WFFP AT THE 'Asian Workshop on Fisheries and Globalization'**

Again unintentionally though, a number of WFFP persons attended Asian Workshop on Fisheries and Globalization' held in Thailand in January 2002. It was being jointly organized by the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), FSA (Thailand), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the Fishermen's Federation of Thailand and fishworker organizations from Philippines.

Members present were: **Pauline Tangiora** from PET & Star Associates, New Zealand, **Harekrishna Debnath and Thomas Kocherry**, National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), India, **Andy Johnston** Artisanal Fishers Association South Africa. **Herman Kumara** NAFSO Sri Lanka, **Balan PIFWA**. Malaysia, **Mohammad Ali Shah** APFF, Pakistan

**Thomas Kocherry** was practical and creative as usual and did not allow the occasion to slip by without achieving something 'useful'. So he took advantage of the situation and conducted an 'on the spot interview' with the members present. So below we have the tit-bits he collected.

They are valuable information that we may have missed otherwise.

### **Malaysia**

We are a small organization. Conflict between Trawlers and traditional fisher people are going on. Inshore people are affected. It is an ongoing struggle for the traditional fisher people. We lost the mangrove. We are fighting against this as well.

### **Thailand**

Thailand Fisher Folk's Federation is a recent origin. There is lake fishing and marine fishing as well. There are small and traditional fisheries. On the other side there are Industrial Fisheries and Mono Aquaculture. The Government supports these two. All these are displacing the fisher people and the environment. Globalization has destroyed cultures and ecology.

### **South Africa**

Market forces are running the World today. From Political Freedom to Economic Colonialism is what is happening in South Africa. Small and artisanal people are not wanted. The Government wants only the Industrial Fleets and ITQ. Are we going to win the battle against the MNCs and Corporations?

4 Pauline Tangiora

I am here in Thailand as a representative of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP). Every day the Industrial fleets and ITQ displace the small and artisanal fisher people. The USA publicly violates Keyoto agreement. Tourism is displacing fisher people Dumping atomic waste by the Imperialists countries is affecting fish and fisher people. Peaceful Protest against war should take place all over the World. We the people of the World I UN charter now turned into we the governments in the World. Pauline toured different parts of the World and campaigned for the WFFP. She went to Algeria to attend the Fifteenth Triennial Conference of students and human rights. She distributed both the posters and WFFP folders to the participants. She attended World conference on Racism. In Durban, South Africa. She distributed WFFP leaflets to the participants. Then She went to Costa Rica to attend the indigenous peoples meet. She went to Mexico to attend the aboriginal meet. She represented these meetings as representative of WFFP. She went to England to attend women's meet against Atomic Waste. She also went to Cook Island Women's meet, where they found high metal content in fish. She was a guest speaker in Santiago against waste dumping. She went to Holland to attend the Mass Media. She spoke on WFFP. Then she went to Germany to attend the EXPO, where 30 indigenous groups met. On the Global Fisheries strike on November 21<sup>st</sup> she had two radio programmes.

### **Andy Johnston, South Africa.**

He attended Farmers' meet in Amsterdam. He spoke on WFFP. South African Commercial Fishermen took him to the court but the case was dismissed. He also attended Wilton Park conference. He spoke against ITQ system. He also attended the WORLD Citizen's meet in

France. There was a very big demonstration in Cape Town demanding ACCESS TO FISHERIES AND FISH RESOURCES. They are very much involved in the preparation of WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD). On the Global Fisheries Strike there was a TV programme on WFFP. There was a prayer meeting as well.

### **Mohamed Ali Sha-Pakistan.**

We first met communicated all the decisions of WFFP CC meeting in Mumbai. On June 8<sup>th</sup> Mangrove Day there was a Mangrove planting in Karachi. Global Fisheries strike was total. They distributed leaflets all over the coast. Black flags were raised on each boat. There was a Mass Rally in Karachi.

### **Sri Lanka-Herman Kumara**

We protested against fishermen in Jail in front of the Indian High Commission. There was a big campaign on 8<sup>th</sup> June as Mangrove Day. We covered 42 schools. 135 persons were released through our collective efforts. Under the banner of SRILANKA the Global Fisheries strike was total.

### **Seremos Kamuturaki-Uganda(at Brazil)**

We had a public meeting on the Global Fisheries Strike Day. Fisheries Minister and other Ministers also attended the programme. They Distributed 1500 Tee Shirts to the Fisher People. They work with Women's group as well.

During the meeting the WFFP members attending it prepared a statement to be presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

### **Sri Lankan Fishworkers in the Indian jails,... Released**

About 60 fishworkers belonging to Sri Lanka who were in Indian Jails were released as an effort of the working of WFFP. The demand to release all fishworkers in Indian jails was also a demand of the National Fisheries Agitation by NFF. The letter from Ministry of External Affairs, Govt, of India to NFF in this regard is attached (ANNEXE. 5)

### **Brussels Meet:**

In the persons of **Herman Kumara of Sri Lanka and Kamuturaki Seremos of Uganda** WFFP was well represented at the Doha Follow up meet in Brussels. According to what they communicated they seem to have enjoyed the experience. It helped them to widen their mental horizon. They both came back to their day-to-day life full of enthusiasm and determination to struggle on for the worthy cause to which they have committed themselves.

### **World Social Forum (WSF) in Brazil.**

**Harekrishna Debnath, Thomas Kocherry, Kamuturaki Seremos**

Took part in the World Social Forum (WSF) in Brazil. It was, no doubt, an enriching Experience.

### **Co-ordination Committee (CC) Meeting Fort de France, Martinique April 15 -21 2002**

At this CC meet there was a feeling of gratitude, wonder, thrill & challenge. **Gratitude** to all those who made it possible for the CC Martinique to happen- to Marie Ademar and her team of supporters who did a wonderful job in organizing this international meeting of the CC of WFFP. And **Gratitude** to all those who helped with their financial assistance. **Wonder** because Who would have ever thought that hardly 2 years after the historic divide and the Consequent birth of the WFFP in the French territory on October 6, 2000, the 2<sup>nd</sup> CC of the WFFP would be hosted again in another French Territory! **Thrill** because, this CC meet has witnessed the growth of WFFP in number as 4 new Organizations have been inducted into the WFFP family, making its presence in the French West Indies stronger than it ever was in that region. **(List of WFFP member organizations Annex 8)**

#### **Some of the decisions of the CC Martinique are:**

That it was decided to authorize Robert Alvarez to enquire into the possibilities of opening a bank account for WFFP either in France or in Spain.

It was decided to authorize the WFFP Secretariat to close the bank account in UK and open one either in France or in Spain, when Robert Alvarez comes up with a suitable alternative bank. It was decided to register the WFFP in India under the Charitable Societies Act.

It was decided to hold the next WFFP CC meeting in Uganda between 2-12 April 2003.

It was decided that at the WFFP CC meeting in Uganda, we must come up with a WFFP Fisheries Policy including Community based Resource Management. The Task Committee and the Action Committee will take the responsibility for preparing a working document Preparing this policy statement should be a one-year process and every member should be involved in it Concrete ways and means of Community Resource Management should be worked out for each country

The second last day of the meeting, WFFP CC was invited to have breakfast with the President of the Regional Council of Martinique.

#### **COMMUNICATION**

The need for communication between member organisations and among the organisations themselves was stressed. Communication is not limited to official matters but also sharina of news and views. It was suggested that anything and everything of interest should be circulated even by ordinary post. We should also acknowledge and encourage each other by responding to messages sent. This will also build us up as an international community committed to a cause The secretariat pointed out that in this area we have still to go a long way.

It was decided to send a joint appeal, signed by all the members of the WFFP CC, to the Governments of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives for the release of the fishermen held in each other's jails and pressing for a permanent solution to this problem.

The letter was drafted and sent to the Governments of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, signed by all the members of the WFFP CC. (**Annexure 7 Letter**). With this final act and followed by a formal vote of thanks the CC meet was declared closed. Then we moved to Marie Ademar's house where we enjoyed a sumptuous dinner prepared by no one else other than Thomas Kocherry and his team from the Secretariat.

5 We resume our journey from Martinique to Sri Lanka

One of the decisions of CC Martinique was to open the WFFP Account in France. And for that it was necessary to register the Forum in France as a non-profitable organization. The process is now completed Three Cheers to Robert, Michel, Xabier, Beatrice and the team for their efforts and generosity. The details regarding the Account and the mode of transferring money to this account have already been circulated to all the WFFP member organizations both in English and French. This account is in operation since then. Below we have the details of the bank account:

**Name of the Bank:** Credit Mutual

**Address:**CCM Saint Jean De Luz,  
2 Boulevard thiers  
64500 St. Jean De Luz, France.

**Phone Number:** (33) 559 51 87 87

**SWIFT /BIC Code:** CREDIT MUTUAL, BANQUE 15999

**Account owner:** World Forum of Fisher peoples

Address: 40,rue ignace Francois Bibal,  
64500 St.Jean de luz, France

**Important International involvement of the WFFP since Martinique CC, 2002**

WFFP has been very much active in various other spheres as well. Ours is a movement of continuous struggle because we belong to Mother Earth with all her resources of water, land and forest. As long as there is water flowing in our seas & rivers and inland bodies, we will also be on the move and we are a moving people in constant struggle. We struggle to protect our marine life & resources, to preserve and conserve it for the future generations while at the same time we depend on theses for our livelihood. Consequent upon we being on the move our presence was sought after by a number of international groups and I am happy and proud to say that some of our members have attended a number of the international seminars & workshops as resource persons cum participants. They had been able to articulate the values for which the WFFP stands. Our strong stand against Globalization and the WTO is clearly put forward both in the national & international level by our members during several of these events. I report some of these events below chronologically



Straight after the CC meeting on 21 April, 2002, all the participants dispersed to their respective places carrying with them the message of the CC, no doubt.

Cecily in Geneva, Switzerland, Ma, 20-hmc 1, 2002

On behalf of WFFP, Cecily was invited, to participate in a Training Programme organized by the United Nations ' Minority Rights Group (MRG) in Geneva Switzerland. From May 20 -June1. The first part of the Programme (May 20-25) was an in depth study of Minority Rights of the Traditional & indigenous People. They were given intense training in how to make intelligent interventions at the UN and its various meetings on the protection of Minority Rights. It contained both theory and practice.

The latter part of the programme (May 26-June1) was actual participation at the meeting of the Working Group on Minorities & Human Rights (WGM). What was most striking for Cecily was the fact that out of the 350 participants at this august meet there was one and only one single person who was present for and on behalf of the Fisher people of the world. WFFP's presence was well appreciated and Cecily was given the chance to make 2 interventions on behalf of the WFFP. One on Agenda item: 3a dealing with General issues of the Human Rights of the traditional & indigenous Fisher people and the second one on Agenda item: 3b 2 dealing with the Developmental programmes and its adverse effects on the human rights of the Traditional and Indigenous fisher people.

N.D.Koli at the UN along with Helen Garland. The NFF of India is registered as ECOSOC member at the UN For the first time the WFFP and the NFF were represented at the UN. Since then we have been there at the UN. We made use of this opportunity to campaign for our resolutions Thanks to the efforts by the long-standing experience by Helen Garland.

Thomas Kocherry in Bali, Indonesia For the Prep Comm IV,  
27<sup>th</sup> May - 7<sup>th</sup> June 2002

The Indonesian People's Forum, has invited Tom to actively participate in People's Forum, the parallel event to ministerial meeting during Prep Comm IV, 27<sup>th</sup> May - 7<sup>th</sup> June 2002, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia. Through participation in these activities all participants had a chance to share their specialty and the opportunity to gain their comprehension on the issues. It was a chance to actively give one's contribution for Prep. Comm. IV to make any different and better future live on earth.

The Integrated Rural Development Foundation [IRDF], in coordination with eight [8]-peasant network and NGOs in Indonesia, organized a workshop in Bali during the same period 4 Prep Comm. of the UN WSSD.

The workshop theme was: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY"  
DEVELOPING A REGIONAL [Asia Pacific] PEOPLE'S AGENDA FOR THE  
JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT.

They too invited **Tom** and it was a good chance for Tom to contribute his mite on behalf of the WFFP. A very important document called Bali Declaration on Climate change was prepared and the contribution of WFFP in its preparation was much appreciated. While in Bali Tom was able to contact SERVILLANO LUNA JR the **Deputy** Secretary General, PAMALAKAYA, Philippines, who is with us today participating the meeting as a delegate. **Tom's** presence also helped to facilitate 47 persons to go to JOHANNESBURG to participate at the WSSD and INTERNATIONAL FISHER PEOPLES FORUM. He also facilitated with Andy Johnston the upcoming of the WSSD in Johannesburg.

### **WFFP's Action at the WSSD Johannesburg, South Africa: 26 August - 4 September 2002**

Andrew Johnston and team, Pauline Tangiora, Thomas Kocherry, Seremos, Herman Kumara, Razafindraf Ahatra Zoe and Harekrishna Debnath, and 27 others, raising their own money participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa:

At the invitation of Andy and MASIFUNDISE, Thomas Kocherry had gone much ahead of the scheduled time to help with the organization of The Fisher peoples' Action. This was indeed a hit and WFFP's presence was something that no one could ignore.

We are happy that during this event we came in contact with Jackie Sunde and the group from Massifundise who have done a lot to arrange and organize the Fisher peoples' Action. That led to the joining of Massifundise to WFFP later. I am happy that the Secretary General of the Massifundise is present here as one of the delegates.

It was a historic event that about 500 fisherpeople from all over the World gathered there to make presence felt. It was very encouraging to see our leader; aboriginal leader **Pauline Tangiora's** Bill Board was put up in Johannesburg by the UN as the PROTECTOR OF THE OCEANS.

### **Harekrishna Debnath in New Delhi, Oct. 23-Nov.1, 2002.**

Johannesburg was followed very closely by New Delhi Workshop on Climate Justice change from October 23-November1, 2002. At this meeting more than 4000 fisher people from India lead by **Harekrishna** Debnath, Chairperson of the NFF have participated. The Bali declaration on Climate change was well discussed. Fisher folk and coastal communities will bear a disproportionate burden of the negative effects of global climate change. These effects include loss of land to the sea (sea-level rise), changes in fish migration patterns, changes in species diversity and quantity, increased frequency of major natural disasters cyclones, floods etc. Hence **NFF-India**, actively participated in the Climate Justice Summit.

6 Pauline Tangiora and Thomas Kocherry in Canada, Nov.6-10

From November 6-10 took part in a Programme on Community Based Resource Management (CBRM) in St. Francis Xavier University of Canada. The presentations by these 2 were well received & appreciated. A good amount of spadework for this meeting was done from last year onwards when John Kearney had visited WFFP secretariat and had invited Tom to Coady for taking some Classes. Thomas Kocherry's visit produced another big breakthrough in Canada He has managed to have a meeting with some leaders of the First Nation Fisher Peoples' Organization from Nova Scotia who expressed their desire to

collaborate with the WFFP. This is a welcome development indeed when we look at it against the events of October 2000 in Loctudy. **N.D.Koli** from India also attended the same programme and he stayed on to complete a one-month's training programme on the same (CBRM). As a follow up of the programme John Kearney and N.D.koli conducted a series of training programmes in Arnala, Diamond Harbour and Thiruvananthapuram, in India. This complimented WFFP's Campaigns on World Fisheries Day.

**Tom in Cancun, Mexico. Nov.15-16, 2002**

Tom was invited by a group of several organizations from the North and south to participate in the Strategy Session to Prepare for the 5th Ministerial of the WTO/Cancun, Mexico-2003. This meeting, was an initial encounter of viewpoints and interests of diverse organizations and movements which will get us started on the collective construction of a common strategic framework toward Cancun 2003. It was arranged in such a way that from Canada Tom was able to proceed to Mexico to participate in the said meeting from November 15-16. The outcome of the meeting was fantastic in the sense that not only Fisher Peoples Voice was heard and the international attention was caught, Tom as usual used this opportunity to meet with the following friends who expressed their wish to join with the WFFP.

7 Sid'Ahmed Ould ABEID

of Federation Nationale de peche (FNP) **MAURITANIA**

**Jorge Varela Marquez** of CODDEFFAGOLF **Honduras,**

and **Agamar Salvador Lago** of The Association Galega de Uartscadaras **SANTIAGO COMPOSTELA SPAIN.**

All the 3 organizations are WFFP Members and their delegates are here now.

**Andy Johnston in Germany**

WFFP received an Invitation to participate in an International Civil Society Workshop to develop "Guidelines for the implementation of the right to adequate food " from November 20-22 2002 in Mülheim / Ruhr in Germany

The invitation was sent out in the name of all four inviting organisations, which are FIAN-International, the International Institute Jacques Maritain (IJM), WANHR (World Alliance on Nutrition and Human Rights) and the "eed" the protestant development service of Germany, which has helped in finding the location and has co-hosted the conference.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the strategy with which we can influence the process. The organizers even planned to gather and collect ideas of elements and for the structure of the planned guidelines with the final objective to present a condensed CSO / NGO paper to the first meeting of the IGWG in March 2003. Such a text or list of ideas was to be started in Mülheim and additionally be discussed in the coming weeks in December – February. The purpose also was to integrate the workshop in the overall work of CSOs and NGOs who co-ordinate their work in the form of the International Panning Committee based in Rome, which organized the Parallel CSO / NGO forum in June 2002.

Tom in Oslo:

Tom was invited by the Norwegian committee "Another World is Possible", which is the Norwegian section of World Social Forum to go to Oslo, Norway for the meeting in the facilitating group of "Our World is not for Sale" and to be one of the speakers at the Oslo Conference "Another World is Possible". Tom was one of the speakers at the inaugural session. He also concluded it by singing a freedom song in Hindi. The conference took place from November 28. - December 3. It was a strategy meeting in Oslo, and dealt with:

"Strategies against corporate globalization!

The fight against the WTO, FTAA and The Road to Cancun"

Hosted by the "Our World Is Not For Sale" Network

This meeting was intended to provide the space for leaders and activists within the globalization movement to sit down face to face, to discuss strategies in the fight against the current corporate globalization model. The next WTO ministerial in coming up in Cancun, Mexico in September 2003, and there are ongoing negotiations of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) which would include 34 countries in the hemisphere. The challenge is on us to make the linkages between these negotiations and institutions and develop strategies for how we defeat them.

Months before the actual meeting, Tom was selected to be one of the 12 who consisted the Organizing committee of this meet to represent the Fisher Folks. In that capacity he was able to secure 2 more seats for the WFFP. Accordingly Mohammad Ali Shah of Pakistan Fisher folks Forum and Dao Gaye of Senegal were contacted and everything including the Airfare and other expenses were offered. But unfortunate it was that neither Mohammad Ali Shah nor Dao Gaye participated due to unforeseen events.

However there was PEDRE AVANGANO from the WFF. Victor Menotti facilitated with Thierry from OXFAM to have a preparatory meeting with WFF and WFFP to have a common ANTI-WTO-CANCUN Protest by the fisher people from 10-14 September 2003. The Our World is not for sale [OWNFS] network had a meeting. This is to link Social Movements NGOS and Activists in the fight against Corporate Globalization and the World Trade Organization. WFFP is a member of this network. This was ratified by the CC SRI Lanka.

**Andy Johnston, Y Solomon & Tom in Porto Alegre, Brazil:**

At the request & invitation of via campesina Tom & Andy Johnston participated the event. This was a last minute arrangement as there was no fund available till the last 4 days. Tom was invited by a number of organizations to speak at their particular workshops.

**Fast by Michel Fontaine**

It is very interesting to note that we have member organization, whose members catch electric eels with their hands. They are not considered as professionals by the French Fisheriers Department. So Michel went on a fast to force the government to accept them as professionals so that they can sell their catch with better price. Eels is mostly fish in the World. Michel please keep it up, we are with you.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CC meeting in Sri Lanka April 2003**

It was the decision of the CC meeting in Mumbai, 2001 to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> CC meeting in Uganda. Again this decision was reconfirmed by the CC Meeting in Martinique, 2002. However due to most unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, the Secretariat was forced to shift both the venue and the date of the CC meeting. So the 3<sup>rd</sup> Co ordination Committee meeting of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) took place in Sri Lanka from June 24<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> 2003. NAFSO was very generous to fill the gap. All the CC and secretariat members attended it along with the invited participants and some other invited guests hailing from different walks of life. It was very interesting to bring together 6 new would be WFFP Member organizations to be present at the CC meeting Updated List of WFFP Member ship is given as (**Annex 8**)

I am very glad to inform you that the CC meeting in Sri Lanka was a very pleasant experience in the sense though there was a considerable amount of tensed moments for sometime the end result was very positive and constructive. This was the first time that we have had 100 % attendance, something that happens very rarely even in the most sophisticated organizations WFFP can be proud of this achievement, which could be attributed to WFFP's own way of functioning. All the 27 participants were present from the first to the last sessions WFFP Sri Lanka lead by Herman Kumara deserves a very special word of appreciation for the dynamic way of organizing the CC meeting given the fact that they had only a short period of time to do it THANK YOU Herman and the Team. I also thank all the WFFP members in Sri Lanka who in some way or other did contribute for the success of the CC.

**Some very important decisions** were taken by the CC that has direct effect on the day-to-day functioning of the Secretariat. Following are some of them:

#### 8 WFFP Bank account

It was decided that WFFP stop utilizing the services of the bank account of Ramesh Fonseca in UK and to start operating our bank account in France with immediate effect.

It was decided that when WFFP funds are disbursed from our bank account in France a minimum of 3 out of 4 office bearers should send a joint request to the operators of WFFP bank (Credit Mutual Bank, Saint De Luz) account.

It was decided that Robert Alvarez and Michel Jauregui will be responsible for all the WFFP transactions in the bank in France in accordance with the directives of the WFFP CC as found in decision No -3.

#### 9 Membership fee /Annual subscription

After prolonged discussion and reflection it was unanimously agreed that the matter of the membership fee and annual subscription should be taken seriously by member organizations and the CC members Each member organization should give a schedule for paying outstanding fees, in accordance with the provisions in our Constitutions (Art.6&7)

It was decided that member organizations that appeal for the payment of concessional fees must do so with a formal letter of request from the Executive committee of the said organization along with the minutes of the meeting where a decision to apply for the concession was taken and *it* should be signed by all those present at the meeting.

The general feeling was that, this point has to be taken up during the GA and some feasible solution should be arrived at and once the solution is arrived at, every member Organization of the WFFP is bound to honour it because it is our own decision.

Fisheries Policy: was another important matter discussed. In the light of the way the discussion took place Harekrishna Debnath, summarized as follows:

"We are here to create a fisheries policy that will benefit all fishers. If we do not stick to the basics of our principles we will play into the hands of our enemies. ..."

The task force - **Thomas Kocherry & Andy Johnston** - will present a new draft to the General Assembly 2004.

### **Need to communicate with the WFFP secretariat and vice versa**

Then there was a side discussion on the need to communicate speedily to the correspondence to and from the secretariat. "This would expedite matters and make it easy for the secretariat", it was pointed out. This point was stressed both in the CC meetings of Mumbai and Martinique. This is possible only if we have translations into French and Spanish, but unfortunately we do not have resources for such. So we have to depend on the service of free work done by our generous friends Patricia Barre, Pascal bergret and Cecily Plathottam.

### WSF Bombay

It was decided that the WFFP members would collaborate with the NFF, India in making the fisher peoples voice heard at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Social Forum in Mumbai from 16-21 January 2004. About 500 fisher people gathered in a fishing village called GORAI. About 50,000 fisher people gathered at the Azad Maidan to have a RAIL ROKO in protest against Foreign Fishing Vessels.

### 10 Collaboration with ICSF

The house unanimously agreed to collaborate with ICSF provided ICSF keeps in touch with the WFFP Secretariat and work together with the WFFP members with mutual compliment. It was decided that for solidarity and mutual support member organizations of the WFFP would inform the WFFP secretariat of their relationships and collaboration with international organizations, regarding activities relating to fishing communities and fisheries.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)**

Already back in 2001 at the CC meeting in Mumbai, it was decided that the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the WFFP would be held in South Africa hosted by the Artisanal Fishers Association (AFA), one of the member Organizations of the WFFP, lead by Andy Johnston. This decision was reconfirmed at the CC meeting Martinique. However things changed by the time the CC met in Sri Lanka from June 24<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> 2003.

After long and detailed discussion and reflection finally Andrew **Johnston** expressed the opinion that having the General Assembly in South Africa later than March 2004 will not suit the

artisanal fishers there, and that if it cannot be held in March, a venue other than South Africa should be enquired into.

This meant we had to start anew finding another venue and all the work associated with this change. Considering this change and all the factors that were discussed it was difficult to complete the preparatory work by March 2004. We needed time to raise funds as well. So the CC took the following decisions.

It was decided that taking into account the present uncertainties in South Africa the General Assembly which was scheduled to take place there in March 2004 be postponed to November 2004.

**Various pros and cons were considered such as:**

The availability of embassies of the prospective host country in the member countries

The availability of visas for the participants,

Climatic conditions

The capability of the prospective host to raise the funds for the boarding and lodging of the delegates and making all other arrangements,

Whether the WFFP CC or GA was held in the venue before

The suitability of the time (November 2004) to the prospective host

With all these considerations and with the very positive emphatic insistence of the invitee (now member) from Kenya, BUHEDE, the following decision was made.

It was decided that the next General Assembly would be held in Kenya from November 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> 2004. Participants' arrival is on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and departure is on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2004. This was later advanced by 2 days in view of the Seminar on ILO labour standards. It was also said that in case if there is any unforeseen events, the Philippines, and Pakistan should be considered respectively.

11 We resume our journey from Sri Lanka to Kenya

So after the successful conclusion of the CC in Sri Lanka on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003, we started off towards Kenya. Forever fixing our eyes on the EVENT OF WFFP GA3, we kept journeying forward. I am not keeping a secret that the path we trod was not strewn with roses. The Secretariat walked through fire, thorns and stones before we were able to find shelter with our Friends in Kenya namely the WFFP GA WORKING COMMITTEE under the committed leadership of Dr **Peter Stanley Otiato and Dr. Francis Owakha**

**NAFSO's Fisheries policy:**

In the month of November 2003, NAFSO had an important meeting where they have invited many people to have an extended consultation on the National Fisheries Policy of Sri Lanka and the end of the session was devoted to its finalization. From the WFFP Secretariat Thomas Kocherry and Cecily Plathottam had the privilege to be present and to witness this beautiful effort that NAFSO was making towards the realization of making their National Fisheries Policy. Recently we are informed that they have succeeded in presenting it to the Sri Lankan Government for consideration. We have already circulated the copy of this to all our member

Organizations both by E mail and ordinary post requesting each of the them to study it and make the Fisheries Policy of each one's country and to send the copy to the Secretariat. I am sorry to mention that except 2-3 Organizations, others have not even acknowledged having received the same.

Congratulations to Herman and the NAFSO Teem for the good work you did. Keep it up.

### **COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE UN.**

As a follow up of WSSD in Johannesburg, Thomas Kocherry, Harekrishna Debnath Marie Ademar, Herman Kumara, Jackie Sunde, Helen Garland and Manu Vimalasserry representing the WFFP participated in the CSD. We made many interventions particularly the intervention by Marie Ademar was historic.

### **Letter from ICSF inviting WFFP to participate at a common programme.**

ICSF has invited WFFP to participate at a common programme in setting up labour standard for fisher people all over the World by ILO. A copy of the letter is enclosed as ANNEXURE-XV This was discussed and took a decision to collaborate with ICSF. We conducted two sessions on ILO labour standards in Thiruvananthapuram and Delhi. We also conducted another session on Fisheries in Collaboration with ICSF and South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Societies (SIFFS). As a follow up of this we are going to have two days workshop on ILO Labour standards on 21-22 November in KISUMU.

### **Food Summit, Follow up Voluntary Guidelines for Food Sovereignty.**

Thomas Kocherry and Andy Johnson regularly attended the preparation of Voluntary Guidelines in Rome. It was really a break through that the FAO was able to make the final guidelines for all the governments in the World.

FAO Fisheries Committee discussed on illegal fishing and subsidies in Fisheries. Thomas Kocherry participated in these two meetings in Rome.

12 WFFP members in Turin, Terra Madre Slow food Conference 20-24 Oct, 2004

It was through ICSF and IPC that we were invited to participate in a large gathering of SLOW FOOD MOVEMENT in the World. WFFP Secretariat was so busy with the preparation of the General Assembly that it was nearly impossible to get involved with its organizational and facilitation work. However WFFP agreed to participate in that with the understanding that ICSF would facilitate the whole process. With this understanding WFFP has given the list to the ICSF. After sometime we were told that the ICSF had withdrawn. That put us into untold difficulties. We were not able to respond to it in the way we wanted. Unfortunately, though I got the Air Tickets and Visa at the last moment I was not able to attend it due to the sudden death of my father. Pauline was not able to respond to it due to an accident and she made an apology to the organizers. The PAMALAKAYA of Philippines and PFF from Pakistan are the only 2 who participated finally. We are really sorry that we were not able to respond and participate in the



event in a constructive manner. I take this opportunity to apologize to the organizers and the WFFP participants for all the untoward happenings.

In a statement to the Conference Our Co-coordinator Pauline Tangiora after making the apology for not participating in the Conference made the following points:

*“WFFP is very conscious that very many coastal fisher peoples are being encroached upon when it comes to MNCS building hotels, oils refineries, and such like on fish shores. This destroys the food basket of the inshore fisher peoples who are already at a risk of losing their access to their food.”*

### **National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) India struggles for Jambudwip Transient fisher People.**

As this report is being prepared we have the information that NFF in India is fighting against all odds to save the life and the livelihood of 10,000 fisher people and their families from the cruel hands of the Ministry of Environment and forestry. These are transient fisher people who use some portion of the Jambudwip Island for drying fish for their livelihood. For the past 50 years they had been doing it. Now, in the name of protecting the environment the concerned ministry is forcing the poor fishers to evacuate the place. NFF is engaged in this struggle for the past 3 years. Now the case is in the Supreme Court of India (SCI). The SCI has asked the Ministry of Environment & Forests Government of India (GOI) to file its stand on the issue. So this going to be decisive.

### **Appeal for Solidarity from Pakistan Fisher folks Forum**

The Rangers, the paramilitary force installed at the coastal borders of district Badin, Sindh, is consistently victimizing the local fisherfolk community by the means of physical torture and occupancy of livelihood resources since last few years. Such a ruthless action was made on Wednesday noon by the forces when two armed personnel of above mentioned force rushed in Kandhri, a coastal village of Badin and started beating innocent villagers and humiliating women. The community, in reaction, caught the violent personnel and informed the Kadhan Police Station of the situation, pledging for the registration of case against the assaulters. Police after taking these ruthless cops in the custody, alleged villagers for making the forces personnel hostage and lodged an FIR against them. The assaulting copse was released, in spite four villagers Nabi Bux Mallah, Bakhar Mallah, Ali Mohammad Mallah and Janu Mallah were arrested. The fisherfolk community of Sindh took to the roads in reaction of the event protesting for the justice. No step has been taken yet by the state of Islamic Republic of Pakistan; however, peaceful struggle of fisherfolk under way comprises on demonstration, rallies and protest marches. The PFF is spearheading this struggle.

As we have reached the end of our journey to Kenya I would like to keep no secret that the Secretariat walked through fire, thorns and stones before we were able to find shelter with our Friends in Kenya namely the WFFP GA WORKING COMMITTEE under the committed leadership of Peter and Francis. We have met several times for planning this GA. We have had extensive consultations through E-mails, fax, Ordinary post and telephonic conversation. Both Thomas Kocherry and Cecily, cent percent join with me to say that we wholeheartedly admire the quality of the commitment with which our friends in Kenya took up the responsibility of "organizing this historic Event to happen here in the KENYAN soil. Dear friends, your commitment is SUPER.

## **Conclusion**

As we all struggle to withstand the Trauma caused by the process of GLOBALIZATION and the WTO let us not forget to REMAIN SANE ourselves We would all fall into a "well-laid-trap" if feelings of sadness, hurt, frustration & disappointments, dejection and depression (with the state of politics, labour, environment & development and our own apparent helplessness before this situation....) take over our energy and motivation to be pro-active. Instead, let us look forward to a future of extending solidarity and support to one another in movements of spirit and intellect, in action and protest, in legal support and petitioning, in focusing and re-focusing our visions, in hope and celebrations, in holding hands and building bonds stronger and forever.

We are now faced with challenges more than ever before because of the happenings that is taking place in the world. The Multinationals through their extended tentacles of WTO, GLOBALIZATION, World Bank are crushing and draining out the last drop of blood of the poor people and nations through their so called Developmental programs. Our Traditional Fisher people are the worse hit. To find the ways and means of making our voice heard in the world through the World Bodies is a challenge we have to face immediately. Hence the need for a Global Fisheries Policy (GFP) that will ensure a sustainable Fisheries Policy with participatory Management of the Marine wealth in the world. More than ever it is time for us to wake up to the new awareness of our new Role in the world and in society, to contribute our share in the making of a BETTER WORLD believing that the creation of Other World Is Possible and that we march with the motto that Our World Is not For Sale. We will protect and preserve our natural resources of LAND, WATER and FOREST, till the last breath.

So we do have a full-fledged Agenda on the card before the GA Meet. As individual Groups, country and continent we need to work towards the follow up actions. As we do it, let us be strengthened by the realization that we are not alone, and that we are part of a WORLD FORUM that is political and entirely by and for the Fisher peoples. Lets us celebrate this ONENESS by keeping up a channel of Communication between each member organization and the International Secretariat and among the Member Organizations as well

**In the light of the above report may I ask you to discuss on the following questions:**

**Do we need to continue WFEFP? Is there any purpose to continue WFFP?**

**If we want to continue how are we going to have organic and sustainable communication among us?**

**If we want to continue how are we going to raise funds needed for the day-to-day running of the WFFP Secretariat and managing CC meetings and the General Assembly?**

**If we want to continue what are our plans for the next three years?**

**PART-II**

## **A SELF EVALUATION**

### **Our strength**

Today there are 34 members in WFFP hailing from 23 countries and majority of them are small, traditional and artisanal fisher peoples. Ours is a body consisting of traditional, artisanal, small, indigenous and aboriginal Communities and peoples who are determined to struggle for their existence. United we stand as one mighty fort and work and struggle for a SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT the center of which is PEOPLE. We realize that development is meant for ALL and if in the process some are left behind because of the Greed of others, it is not development but deprivation. This we will resist with all our might.

**To mention some of our achievements:** we participated in the anti-globalization-WTO campaign all over the World. We participated at the Protest in Seattle, DOHA and Mexico during the Ministerial meetings. We protested against Factory Trawlers and Foreign Fishing vessels. We participated at the preparatory meeting in BALI, Indonesia. We participated at the Preparatory meeting of WSSD in NY. At the Summit in JOHANNESBURG we were able to organize the INTERNATIONAL FISHER FORUM together with Artisanal Fishers Association and MASIFUNDISE. Hundreds of Fisher people across the Globe participated in this historic event. We organize World Fisheries Day every year campaigning for the LEGISLATIVE CHANGES THAT THE COMMUNITIES THAT DEPEND ON NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR LIVELIHOOD SHOULD OWN AND MANAGE THESE RESOURCES. This is the only way we can stop GLOBALIZATION-THE RULE OF THE MNCs AND PRIVATIZATION. We participated at the WORLD SOCIAL FORUM actively. We continue our struggles to guarantee the basic need to every human being on earth. We participated at the FAO fisheries committee meetings. We participated in all the FOOD SUMMITS.

All our organizations were actively participating in the struggles against import of huge factory Fishing Vessels by the MNCs and their national counterparts. We were fighting against intensive aquaculture. We were fighting against overcapacity. We were trying to conserve mangroves. We were fighting against all evictions from our work places. Our fight against JAMBUDWIP in INDIA is historic. The recent struggle of PFF in Pakistan against the Rangers in Badin is praise worthy. The struggle of Association des Pecheurs Traditionnels a Pied d' Estrain 17 (APTPE) for their recognition as professional Fishers by the French Government is note worthy. The resolution of ITSAS GEROA demanding a ban on bottom trawling is bearing fruit. The artisanal fisher people in SOUTH AFRICA continue fight for the basic right to access to fishing. We are determined to fight for the rights of the innocent fisher people, jailed in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India. These fishermen were released through our continuous involvement. We collaborate with UN, FAO, Via Campesina, ICSF, ILO, WFF and other Bodies for a common cause. As in Bhopal, corporations around the world are today getting away with crimes against humanity and the environment, and dictating policies that affect all life on earth. Communities everywhere have learnt that the only way they will regain control of their lives and health is by fighting corporate crime directly. Let us take this as a challenge before us to day. That we have made a real break through in bringing about gender Balance in organizational structure at all levels.

Last but not least I think one of the greatest strength of WFFP is the free service of committed, devoted and well-qualified people with their sustained presence in the International Secretariat.

### **Our limitations**

WFFP consists of Traditional, small scale, artisanal, Indigenous and aboriginal fisher people who are one of the most exploited people in the world. Our limitation lies in the fact that the majority of us are from the Southern countries that had been plundered by the Colonial powers in the past. To day in the name of Globalization and WTO, our Natural Resources are all being sold out to the Multinational Companies by our national Governments. The worst hit people are the traditional and indigenous fisher people, farmers and artisans who depend on Natural Resources of land, water and forests for our Livelihood As a result we are faced with lack of finance This affects our way forward. We have been struggling with a subsistent Economy, lack of resources illiteracy, and unorganized sector though we have come together as a body; we have been lacking organic and sustainable communication. Some of us are lacking a mass based political organizational struggle that continuously fighting for our rights. We are lacking an international out look, so that each national organization will rise to the occasion to help each other We are lacking a creative contribution to make WFFP a DYNAMIC Movement in the world Every WFFP member Organization is lacking the effort to sustain WFFP both financially and through creative contribution. Some of the member organizations lack mass based organizational structure, with a collective democratic process. Some remain as an NGO run by a few individuals. We are really sorry that we do not have enough resources to bring about timely translations in French and Spanish to have better communication with all the member organizations. We are really sorry that we do not have enough resources to have better facilities sufficient infra structure and staff.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Yet we are full of hope for the future. Our hope is kept alive because more and more we realize that ours is a POLITICAL MOVEMENT that knows no boundary, that there are people of good will in the North and the South who accompany us in our JOURNEY towards building a BETTER WORLD where Destructive plundering of the greedy gives way to Sustainable Development respecting, preserving and conserving the Natural Resources of Land, water, forests and our MOTHER EARTH herself. This Solidarity increases our courage and determinate, which in turn, consolidates our efforts and renews our commitment enkindling in us new faith in ourselves. We are thus energized With this renewed hope and courage and a sense of Global Solidarity we look forward to this GREAT EVENT the 3<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the WFFP.

### ***OUR APPRECIATION***

Before I conclude this report, I would like to express our appreciation to our friends and collaborators / supporters at:

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

CCFD.

ENTRAIDE et FRATERNITE,

NOVIB,

OXFAM,

Global Green grants Fund

CSSR GENERAL

Niaz Dorry

Helen Garland

Maharaja Kaul

Ramesh Fonseca

SCIC Sisters.

Dr. Joseph Scaria

Dear friends with out your financial support, we would not have been able to conduct our CC meetings, the General Assembly and the day today running of the International Secretariat. Some of you have helped us to participate in a number of International Meetings that are very vital as far as the Fisher people are concerned. Your constant help gives us the message that YOU ARE whole heartedly supporting and participating in the Traditional, small artisanal and Indigenous Fisher peoples 's struggle for their livelihood, in their struggle for survival in a world where a small minority are holding 80 % of worlds wealth. Against the existing Global scenario, the present General Assembly of the WFFP is very important and crucial one. Friends, while we express our sentiments of appreciation and gratitude for all your help in the past, we look forwards to your continuous support and collaboration in future. Thank you for journeying with us.

Finally I think it will not be fair on my part if I do not have it on record that Tomas Kocherry deserves a big word of appreciation from all of us for the untiring effort he makes to make the WFFP really grow and remain alive. As it stands now I cannot imagine WFFP without Tom. Of course this could be taken as either strength or a weakness of WFFP. If we do not take up the responsibility, this will continue as a dependency forever. Let us rise up to the occasion by taking up the individual as well as collective responsibility in building up the WFFP into a strong and sustainable GOLBAL Movement.

#### **Conclusion**

We like to highlight the fact that our objectives are always spearheading towards the realization of our Goal.

***"To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on fishing for their livelihood and to create an understanding that the Marine Resource like all other natural resources are a common heritage of humanity and, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation, and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations. The fishing community that depends on fishing for their livelihood to have the right of custodianship of water bodies and manages resources. They own the fishing implements and the rights of sale and distribution of their catch"***

Harekrishna Debnath

General secretary

24/11/2004

**PART- 3**

## **ANNEXURE**

### **Annex 1**

## **World Forum of Fisher Peoples Constitution**

### ***PREAMBLE***

*We, the Fisher Peoples of the world,  
United under the banner of  
THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP)  
With the aim of protecting our livelihood,  
Upholding fishing rights, human rights, fundamental rights,  
Social justice and community responsibilities,  
And preserving and promoting our culture,  
Affirming water as the source of all life,  
Committing us to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources  
For the present and for future generations,  
Gathered in Loctudy, France,  
Solemnly bind ourselves to abide by this Constitution,  
We adapt on this day, the sixth of October 2000.*

### ***OBJECTIVES***

#### **Article 1: Objectives**

The objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) are:

To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood. To assist member organizations to secure and improve upon the economic viability and quality of life of Fisher Peoples and their communities.

To recognize, support and enhance the role of women in the social, economic, political and cultural life of the fishing community.

To create an understanding of the resource as a common heritage of humanity and, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation, and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations.

To protect fishing communities, fish resources and fish habitats, such as coastal zones, watersheds and mangroves, from land-based, sea-based and air-based threats. These include displacement by tourism, pollution (including the use of the sea as a dumping ground for toxic waste), destructive industrial aquaculture, over-fishing and destructive fishing practices.

To establish and assert the rights of fishing communities to their customary territories in the coastal zone under their national jurisdiction for fishing and habitation.

To promote a legal regime that will ensure the traditional and customary rights of fishing communities to the fishery under their national jurisdiction.

To promote the primary role of fisher-peoples' organizations in managing fisheries and oceans, nationally and internationally.

To protect food security, both locally and worldwide, by sustaining fish stocks for the future, and by preserving fish for human consumption.

To promote equitable representation of fisher-peoples' organizations in all relevant regional and international fora and advocate their recognition.

To play an active role to ensure that states and transnational corporations comply with relevant international agreements and to oppose any trade agreements that threaten the livelihood of fishers.

To prevent the export of resource collapse crises and of technologies and practices that lead to these crises.

To provide support for national and international struggles that are consistent with the objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To encourage, assist and support Fisher Peoples to organize themselves where they have not already done so.

To promote the right of Fisher Peoples to social security, safe working conditions, fair income and safety at sea, as well as their recognition as seafarers.

To improve the communication between Fisher Peoples and the scientific community through the exchange of knowledge and science.

To acknowledge and enhance the unique culture of fishing communities. To restore our access to the rights and powers originally granted to us in the charter of the United Nations.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### Article 2: Member organizations

Organizations which comply with the objectives set out in Article 1 of this Constitution may be members of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). Subject to article 3, only one national organization per country may be a member. Such organizations must be democratically constituted and may include, but not be limited to, trade unions, associations, federations of cooperatives and aboriginal nations dependent on the fishery for their livelihood. They must represent one of the groups set out below:

Fish harvesters, i.e. any person directly engaged in fishing, known in different countries as:

Subsistence fishers;

Artisanal fishers;

Aboriginal or indigenous peoples who are customary fish harvesters;

Traditional coastal and inland fishers;

Independent small-scale owner-operators;

Crewmembers in this sector.

Crew members of fishing units other than those mentioned above and

Who are presently members of organizations listed under subsection a) above.

Broadly based (mass-based) organizations of fishing communities and women engaged in work in support of the fishery.

Fish workers who are engaged in activities related to the processing, direct sale (excluding merchants) or transport of fish.

Corporations, transnational companies and allied affiliates owning fishing

Vessels and engaged in harvesting, processing and distribution of fish and those carrying out destructive fishing or industrial aquaculture cannot be members of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

#### Article 3: Admission of Members

Only the Coordination Committee may admit member organizations. In exceptional cases, the Coordination Committee may, while respecting the objectives set out in Article 1 of this Constitution, admit as a member organization more than one national group per country if the organization represents a significant proportion of the groups or one of the groups listed in subsections 1) to 4) of Article 2 of this Constitution.

#### Article 4: Commitment

Every member organization of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) must formally accept and abide by this Constitution.

#### Article 5: Withdrawal of Members

Any member may withdraw from the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) by giving three (3) months notice to the Coordination Committee.

#### Article 6: Fees

The fee schedule as well as the method of payment shall be fixed by the Coordination Committee. In very exceptional circumstances, the Coordination Committee may waive the payment of fees by a particular member for a period of time.

#### Article 7: Suspension of Membership

The Coordination Committee may, after two reminders, suspend a member for non-payment of fees. Such suspension will be removed upon payment of the outstanding fees.

The Coordination Committee may suspend a member for actions detrimental to the objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), provided that the Coordination Committee allows the member reasonable opportunity for a hearing before any decision concerning a suspension is made.

No suspended member may take part in the work of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) or vote at the General Assembly.

Any suspension may be appealed to the General Assembly Article 8: Expulsion

The General Assembly may expel a member organization for cause provided that: Expulsion has been recommended by the appropriate Continental Council.

The Co-ordination Committee has given the member reasonable opportunity for a hearing into the actions giving rise to a consideration of expulsion.

### **STRUCTURE**



## **Article 9: Forum Composition**

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall consist of:

A General Assembly  
A Coordination Committee  
Five Continental Fora

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### Article 10: General Assembly

The General Assembly constitutes the highest authority of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

The General Assembly shall be composed of all of the delegates representing member organizations who attend that meeting. The Coordination Committee may permit organizations that are not members to send observers to the General Assembly.

### Article 11: Functions of the General Assembly

The functions of the General Assembly are:

To officially interpret and to amend the Constitution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To discuss issues of common interest and adopt resolutions on subjects on the agenda, and to do so in a spirit of cooperation and exchange of ideas.

To decide on the action required to implement decisions and fulfill the objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To assign tasks or duties to the Coordination Committee.

To conduct elections as per the provisions of this Constitution

To ratify, annul or sanate actions and decisions made by the Coordination Committee and the Continental Councils.

### Article 12: Member Representation at the General Assembly

Each country with at least one member organization organization shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by two delegates, one of whom shall be male and the other female.

Each member organization shall be entitled to nominate observers / alternate delegates to participate at the General Assembly with the right to speak.

The nomination of auditors, observers and alternative delegates must be approved .by the Coordination Committee.

The out-going members of the Coordination Committee shall be delegates to the General Assembly in which the new officials take charge

Article 13: Designation of Delegates

Member organizations shall name their delegates in writing to the Coordination Committee not less than 90 days before the General Assembly takes place.

In the case of a country with more than one member organization, the organizations in the respective country shall try to agree on the delegate's representation. In the event that the member organizations in the respective country are unable to agree on the delegate's representation, they may refer the matter to the Coordination Committee for a binding decision.

Article 14: Decision Making Process

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall seek to make all decisions through consensus.

Article 15: Location of the General Assembly

Subject to any decision taken at a previous General Assembly, the General Assembly shall take place at a location to be fixed by the Coordination Committee.

Article 16: Frequency of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall take place at least once every 3 years.

## COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Article 17: Composition of the Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee shall be composed of two Coordinators, one of whom shall be a woman and the other a man, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and Continental representatives as per the provisions of Article 18.

Article 18: Designation of Continental representatives

The Continental representatives of the Coordination Committee shall be designated in the following manner:

Two representatives (one female and one male) from each of the following Continents: Africa, America, Asia, Europe and South Pacific.

Article 19: Functions of the Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee acts under the authority of the General Assembly and represents the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

Other than the duties that may be delegated by the General Assembly, the functions of the Coordination Committee are as follows:

Facilitate the creation of Continental Fora.

Plan and manage the activities of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). Organize the General Assembly.

Propose recommendations to be put to the General Assembly. Implement measures decided upon by the General Assembly.

Represent the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) in dealings with other organizations.

Admit members in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. Report on its activities to the General Assembly.

Maintain close links among members of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) during periods when the General Assembly is not in session.

Take care of preparing a budget and managing finances of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) in accordance with Article 29 of this Constitution.

Generally, take any measures deemed necessary to attain the objectives set out in this Constitution.

#### Article 20: Term of Office of Coordination Committee Members

The mandate of Coordination Committee members shall be for the period until the next General Assembly. Normally the mandate will be for a term of three (3) years.

#### Article 21: Vacancies in the Coordination Committee.

If an member organization notifies the Coordination Committee that a member of the Coordination Committee no longer holds the position that provided the political base for his or her election to the Coordination Committee, this matter will be referred to the appropriate continental Council. If the Continental Council determines that this notification is valid the Continental Council shall be authorized to declare this position vacant.

If the circumstances described in a) or b) above involve a Coordinator, the General Secretary or the Treasurer, the Coordination Committee is authorized to take appropriate action The Coordination Committee is authorized to fill a vacancy in the position of Coordinator General Secretary or Treasurer.

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Continental representative in the Coordination Committee, the appropriate Continental Council is authorized to fill the vacancy.

#### Article 22: Procedures

The Coordination Committee shall establish its own rules, decide on its own procedures and determine how often to meet. The Coordinators shall convene a special meeting any time when a two thirds of the Coordination Committee so request in writing.

#### Article 23: Functions of the Coordinators

To make all decisions jointly.

To convene the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee.

To preside over the General assembly and the Coordination Committee.

To coordinate the activities of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) according to this Constitution, the decisions of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee.

To facilitate new membership to the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To represent the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) at other national and international fora and to delegate others to do so.

Generally, to take any measures deemed necessary to attain the objectives set out in this Constitution, to be reported to and to be ratified by the Coordination Committee.

#### Article 24: Functions of the Treasurer

To handle all financial matters of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). To act according to the decision of the Coordination Committee.

To spend money as per decisions of the Coordination Committee on written instructions from the Coordinators collectively.

To have the accounts of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) independently audited every year.

#### Article 25: Duties of the General Secretary

To work under the direction of the Coordinators

To maintain an office of communication, animation and documentation

To keep official records of the WFFP

To carry out tasks assigned by the Coordination Committee

#### Article 26: Term of office

The term of office for the Coordinators, Treasurer and General Secretary shall be for a period of three years unless the timing of the next General Assembly dictates otherwise. No individual may be elected for more than two consecutive terms to any of these offices

*CONTINENTAL FORA*

#### Article 27: Establishment of Continental Fora

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) recognizes five Continental Fora in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of this Constitution.

Member organizations of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) in each of the continents mentioned in Article 18 form the respective Continental Forum.

Each Continental Forum shall decide upon its own structures and mode of operation respecting the Objectives contained in Article 1, and in accordance with other directives and spirit of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). Such statutes are subject to the approval of the WFFP Coordination Committee.

The Continental Fora shall designate their representatives to the Coordination Committee.

### Article 28: Continental Councils

Each Continental Forum shall have a Continental Council as its governing body with a Continental Coordinator and other officials deemed necessary.

The functions of the Continental Councils shall be to ensure the coordination and the consultation of member organizations in their respective continents, and the implementation of the programme of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### Article 29: Financing

a) Revenues for the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall derive from:

1. Members fees;
2. Donations or grants deemed acceptable by the Coordination Committee;
3. Any other source deemed acceptable by the Coordination Committee.

b) The Coordination Committee shall not accept funds from large corporations or any other body acting in a manner which is contrary to the objective of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

### Article 30: Quorum

The quorum for the purpose of the meetings of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall be as follows:

General Assembly - Two thirds of the delegates

Coordination Committee - More than 50% of members of the Coordination Committee

### Article 31: Dissolution

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) may be dissolved by a consensus.

### Article 32: Offices

The offices of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall be located as determined from time to time by the Coordination Committee.

### Article 33: Official Languages

The official languages of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall be English French and Spanish.

### Article 34: Interpretation

Between General Assemblies the Coordination Committee has authority in matters concerning the interpretation of this Constitution.

### Article 35: Status

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) is an independent organization. By authority of the General Assembly, the Coordination Committee may undertake any measures deemed necessary to confer on the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) a juridical personality in accordance with the applicable laws of a country in which the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) carries out its activities.

### **Annex 2**

#### **RESOLUTION 1**

##### **A Resolution on Toxin, Heavy Metal and Radioactive Pollution in the Pacific**

That this Forum (WFFP) request the United Nations to implement a study of the Pacific Ocean (both North and South) to identify the high rate of toxin and mercury and other poisons. WFFP -will select the researchers.

This should be incoming CC immediately as people of this area are experiencing the early onset of many types of cancer in young children.

##### **B) Resolution on shipment of Radioactive waste**

That this Forum (WFFP) demand a cessation of mining of uranium on the lands of the indigenous and tribal peoples and that all further transfer of spent uranium and other radioactive wastes across oceans, for example between Japan and France.

We are concerned that this transfer puts the coastal and fishing people at a high risk. Rather than waiting for an accident to happen, we urge countries to act more responsibly and to seek alternative uses of naturally renewable resources, such as solar and wind energy.

### **Annex 3**

#### **RESOLUTION 2**

##### **PROPOSAL OF (ITSAS GEROA) ASSOCL4TION AND SIGNATORIES OF CEDEIRA CHART)**

Pursuant to the objectives of article 2 a), 2 d), 2 1), and 2 m) of the constitution Chart, the World Forum denounces the use of four fishing methods which are imposing at sea to a majority of fishermen "the rule of the over exploiter". These four methods are pelagic trawlers, "naveran" trawlers, rock hopper trawl and "perches" trawlers. The Forum's desires the prohibition of these four methods:

in all areas frequented by those fishermen who are using less aggressive methods for the marine environment.

and for all stocks exploited by those fishermen who are using less aggressive methods for the marine environment.

Call to the objectives of article 2 a), 2 d), 2 1) and 2 m) of the Constitution chart of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) *Articles 2: Objectives*

*"The objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples shall be:*

*To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood, d) To create an understanding of the resource as a common heritage of humanity and through sustainable fishing practices, conservation and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations.*

*To prevent the export of resource collapse crises and of technologies and practices that lead to these crises.*

*To provide support for national and international struggles that are consistent with the objectives of the World Forum"*

### **Some other reasons to justify the petition of prohibition**

The Code of Conduct for a Responsible Fisheries (FAO) confirms on article 6 1 that the right for fishing implies the obligation to do it in a responsible manner.

The aforementioned four fishing methods during the present resolution (pelagic trawlers naveran' trawlers, rock hopper trawl and "perches" trawlers) had demonstrated in various European areas a terribly hard impact on the marine environment and, consequently on other fishermen and their families. Taking into account the characteristics of these methods there is no way to use them in a manner which could be considered responsible, in disagreement with the affirmation of some ship- owners, fishing organizations and science bodies.

In Europe the scientific organizations are directly linked with the lobby of the non-selective fishing and economically powerful fleets. This union marks the origin of the well known diminishing of the European halieutic resources. Therefore it is necessary to denounce it from Southern Fishermen.

The proposed measures of prohibition in this resolution seek for a preventive effect in Southern seas and in their fishermen. These measures may also contribute to the regeneration of certain stocks in Europe, and to give back hope and trust for many Northern fishermen.

There is no reason to disappointment on the affected ship-owners due to the proposed prohibitions, because the European Union has important budget incomes for fisheries and it has been always supporting the ship-owners, particularly for changing the fishing methods  
Loctudy, October 2000

#### Delegate:

Robert Alvarez (Itsas Geroa/ Future of the Sea, Chairman)

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### Auditor

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### **Annex- 4**

#### WORLD FISHERIES DAY CELEBRATIONS November 21, 2000

World Fisheries day was celebrated on November 21, 2000 by the member countries/ organizations with a lot of enthusiasm and solidarity. It was indeed an occasion for the whole fishing communities in the world to assert themselves as the owners, protectors and users of the water bodies and its wealth and to commit themselves anew to keep on struggling for their sustenance. Below we include the report of the WF Day Celebration of some of the countries.

#### MALAYSIA

In conjunction with World Fishery Day, Penang Inshore Fishermen Welfare Association (PIFWA) has planted 5000 mangrove saplings on 16 November 2000 at Sungai Chenaam, Seberang Perai Selatan. This event is held to emphasise the importance of the mangrove forest as an ecosystem that is integral to the life of the fishermen. The Association calls for greater participation and cooperation with the relevant State and Federal Ministry in order to conserve the usefulness to the fishing community as a whole.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa, the Artisanal Fishers Association celebrated the World Fisheries Day by picketing the government offices to highlight the marginalisation of traditional fishworkers. About 500 fishers sang and danced war songs (toy-toi) and made their voices heard. A large number of women participated in the event. The petition demanding the redress of the fishworkers grievances was presented to the Director Mr. Horst Kleinsmith.

#### SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, all the fishworker organizations joined together and celebrated the World Fisheries Day in a collective manner in the name of Sri Lankan fisher people's movement at Negombo. A march was organized from Pitipana fish market to green park Negombo. The main demands were:

Reduce price of Kerosene and Diesel

Reasonable price for their fish catch

Stop destructive fishing operations Dynamite & Light purse seine

Release Sri Lankan Fishermen detained in India and other foreign countries



Release the fisher people from the insecurity situation in war tone areas.  
The issue of landlessness among fisher people.

13 Annex 5

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS INDIA

No. 2352/EAM/200

December 29, 2001

Dear Ram Naikji,

Please refer to your letter dated December 1, 2000 regarding a letter from the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) regarding Indian fishermen in the custody of Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka and also the fishermen of these countries in Indian custody.

While the letter from the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) refers to 82 Indian Fishermen there are in actual fact a total of 112 Indian Fishermen detained in Pakistan. Consular access has been provided to 84 of the 112 Indian Fishermen. We are in regular contact with the Government of Pakistan through the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and the High Commission of Indian in Islamabad for the early repatriation of all 112 and have in exchange offered to release 160 Pakistani fishermen detained in India.

We are pursuing this matter and are hopeful that Pakistan would agree to exchange all the identified fishermen in each other's custody at an early date.

So far as Sri Lanka is concerned, there is one Indian fishermen in the custody of the Sri Lankan Government. This year Sri Lankan authorities had detained 19 Indian fishermen one of whom died while in custody, while 17 have been released and repatriated to India. The High commission of India takes up all cases of Indian Fishermen in Sri Lankan custody with the Sri Lankan Government.

There are a total of 59 Sri Lankan Fishermen in the custody of the Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Earlier this month, the Kerala Government had released 60 Sri Lankan Fishermen after completing necessary formalities.

As you are aware, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka had visited India recently. We had then also discussed the problems faced by fishermen from both countries and highlighted the humanitarian aspect of the problem faced by the poor people for whom fishing is the only means of livelihood. We agreed that the issue should be dealt with in a spirit of compassion and understanding. We further agreed that all pending cases of fishermen in custody should be expeditiously settled. Sri Lanka would be sending a team to India in order to study the legal procedures involved.

As regards Maldives, there is one Indian fishing boat "Mr. India" along with 8 fishermen in the custody of the authorities in Maldives. The High commission of India has taken up their case. The Government of Maldives has agreed to release the detained fishermen; the High commission of India is pursuing the release of the boat as well and is working out the formalities for the return of the fishermen.

Government of India is in continuous and regular contact with the respective governments through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of detained Indian Fishermen.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/-Jaswant Singh (Minister of External Affairs)

Shri Ram Naik,  
Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas  
Government of India  
NEW DELHI - 110 001  
(Copy to Thomas Kocherry)

#### ANNEX 6

##### PRESS RELEASE (of Ievoli sun)

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) is extremely shocked at the recurrence of marine accidents involving toxic Chemicals at Sea. The Italian Vessel Ievoli sun carrying 6021 tons of toxic chemicals including 1027 tones of methyl ethyl ketone, 3998 tonnes of styrene and 996 tonnes of IPA- ISO propyl alcohol sunk in the northwest channel Island of Alderney, United Kingdom. The vessel is also carrying 100 tones of oil in bunkers.

This is the second major incident in recent years after the Maltese tanker Erika spilled 15,000 tones of heavy fuel off the French coast. The fishworkers are the most affected in these kinds of disasters and we demand that they should be adequately compensated for the loss they incur because of the incident. Proper care should also be given to the restoration of the local ecosystem and fishing in the area.

Those companies/ corporations, which are causing the disaster, be made to pay in line with the polluters pay principle and be held responsible for the recovery and clean up. We request the French Government and the Italian Government to take stringent actions against the Italian Company. The incident also calls for strong measures and enforcement of marine transport rules particularly involving chemical and toxic substances. All the international treaties in this regard should be honored and enforced. We also request the International Maritime Organization to hear what the fisher peoples organization has to say in this regard as they are the ones affected by such incidents and transportation first & directly.

Harekrishna Debnath

General Secretary

World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)

14 ANNEX -7

Decision 19 of CC meeting Martinique: 2002- It was decided to send a joint appeal, signed by all the members of the WFFP CC, to the Governments of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and

Maldives for the release of the fishermen held in each other's jails and pressing for a permanent solution to this problem.

09.01. To the Governments of: India,

Pakistan,

Bangladesh,

Sri Lanka

And Maldives.

World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) is an international organization working among the traditional, artisanal, small fisher peoples in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. We are very much concerned about the innocent fisher people in the jails. We have been fishing for centuries in these waters now have become bordering of each other countries. Since there is demarcation of border of each country it has become a problem for the fisher people to cross over each other's territory and we are arrested for many reasons like no passport and visa, violation of customs etc. We have been fishing there for our livelihood and survival. We cannot go anywhere else.

But all the governments are concerned with smuggling, divisive politics for encroaching into each other's territory, terrorism, etc. and so that they have to take action against the so-called violators and the innocent fisher people. Unless we find a permanent solution each country is forced to take short-term solutions. In order to save the innocent poor fisher people of all the countries we request you all the Governments to hold a meeting of all the four governments including representatives from WFFP so that we can find a permanent solution. In order to achieve this WFFP is placing before you the following proposals for your consideration.

Hold a meeting of all the governments and WFFP representatives within 6 months. Our concern is to protect the fisher people of all the 4 countries that are depending on fishing for our livelihood

Issue an identity card to those fisher people who have no record of smuggling, terrorism, and in the divisive politics.

Do not arrest those fisher people who are holding identity card.

We agree that the fish resources are shared by the fisher people for our livelihood.

Until we take a permanent solution we request you to release all the detained fisher people and fishing vessels.

Thanking in anticipation.

(Signed by all the CC members present)

## **Annex - 8**

### **World Forum of Fisher Peoples' Member/Address list ,2004**

#### **ASIA**

#### **1. INDIA**

#### **01 National Fishworkers Forum (NFF)**

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### 13 (Applied for membership)

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32 Association de Pacheurs du sud Basse Terre (APSBT),

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XXXIII Honduras

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XXIV CANADA

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**V. DECISIONS OF GA3**

*Decisions of the General Assembly*

**DECISION 1.**

**It was unanimously decided to accept the WFFP report of the general secretary entitled "Journey from Loctudy. France to Kisumu, Kenya, October 2000 to Nov 2004".**

**DECISION 2**

It was unanimously decided to accept the statement of accounts of the WFFP, from Oct 2000 to Sept 2004, tabled by the Treasurer.

### **DECISION 3**

It was decided to accept and ratify all the decisions which the Coordination Committee has made after the General body meeting in November 2000 at Loctudy up to now

### **DECISION 4**

**It was unanimously decided by consensus to designate the following persons as office bearers and members of the coordination Committee of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples, for the next three years.**

<b>Coordinators: Dao Gave</b>	<b>(Senegal)</b>
<b>Pauline Tangiora</b>	<b>(New Zealand)</b>
<b>General Secretary: Herman Kumara</b>	<b>(Sri Lanka)</b>
<b>Treasurer: Robert Alvarez</b>	<b>(Basque Country)</b>
<b>Members of the Coordination Committee:</b>	
<b>Asia: Harekrishna Debnath</b>	<b>(India)</b>
<b>Tiara Ali</b>	<b>(Pakistan)</b>
<b>Europe: J.C. Yovotte</b>	<b>(Guadeloupe)</b>
<b>Luisa Rodrigues Gonzalez</b>	<b>(Spain)</b>
<b>America: Sherry M. Pictou</b>	<b>(Canada)</b>
<b>Justo Rufino Garcia</b>	<b>(Honduras)</b>
<b>Africa: Mogamad Naseegh</b>	<b>(South Africa)</b>
<b>Joyce A. Oruko</b>	<b>(Kenya)</b>
<b>Permanent Invitee: Thomas Kocherry</b>	<b>(India)</b>

### **DECISION 5**

It was decided that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2005, in the Philippines.

### **DECISION 6**

It was decided that the coordination committee meeting for 2006 will be in the Basque country in the month of October.

### **DECISION 7**

It was decided that the next WFFP General Assembly will be held in Martinique in the year 2007.

## **VI. Decisions of the Coordination Committee during GA3**

### **Decision 1 (CC 20.11.2004)**

The following decisions were made regarding the General Body:

It was decided that this group should meet everyday after dinner, to evaluate and to plan ahead. The first two days programme will be conducted by the ICSF, studying the ILO Report on Work in the Fishing Sector.

The day will begin at 9.00 A.M. and will end at 5.00 P.M. with break for lunch and tea. To mark the World Fisheries Day, there will be a pledge to protect water bodies and the rights of the fisher peoples

of the world, at the beginning of the session on 21<sup>st</sup> and the pledge will be repeated at Lake Victoria on 22<sup>nd</sup> evening.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> evening the programme will end at 4.00 P.M. and the group will have a chance to go Lake Victoria, where the World Fisheries Day pledge will be renewed At the official inauguration on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Peter, The working committee chairperson and Dao Gaye will give short speeches.

**Decision 2 (CC 21.11.2004)**

It was decided that at the inaugural function on 23<sup>rd</sup> morning, the two Coordinators, Dao Gaye and Pauline Tangiora and the three chairpersons, Peter Stanly, the chairperson of Buhehe, Francis Wakha, the chairperson of the organizing committee, and Jamine Madara, the chairperson of the Kenya Fisherpeoples network, will give short speeches. The fuction will start at 9.00 A.M. and will end at 1 1.00 A.M.

Peter, Francis and Jamine together will be responsible to arrange the programme and will inform this group at our meeting tomorrow night.

**Decision 3 (CC 22.11.2004)**

It was decided unanimously to accept report as presented by the Secretary General.

Since it runs into several pages and since it has already been circulated to each participant (though translation into Spanish is not available) it was decided that it need not be read out page by page.

**Decision 4 (CC 22.11.2004)**

It was decided unanimously to accept the statement of accounts to be presented to the General Assembly.

**Decision 5 (CC 22.11.2004)**

It was decided to accept the programme for the inaugural function as presented by Francis.

**Decision 6 (25.11.2004)**

It was decided to allow the motion of the resolution in support of the AGAMAR fish workers association of Galacia, Spain.

**Decision 7 (CC 25.11.2004)**

It was decided to allow the motion of a resolution in support of the fish workers in Jumbudweep, India

**Decision 8 (CC 27.11.2004)**

It was decided that the General Secretary, Herman Kumara, will start functioning as per the WFFP Constitution from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004 onwards.

**Decision 9: (CC 27.11.2004)**

It was decided that the English and French versions of the General Assembly reports will be handed over to the General Secretary on or before the 16<sup>th</sup> of December after getting the translations from Jaquis of Canada.

**Decision 10: (CC 27.11.2004)**

It was decided that Thomas Kocherry will be handing over the audited statements of the WFFP receipts and expenses by the end of February 2005.

**Decision 11: (CC 27.11.2004)**

It was decided that the WFFP Secretariate will not maintain any staff in Thiruvananthapuram. However, the registered office of the WFFP will continue in Thiruvananthapuram with the help of Thomas Kocherry and the NFF office staff. All communications, letters and E-mails will be forwarded to the General Secretary.

**Decision 12: (CC 27.11.2004)**

It was decided that a copy of all the documents at the WFFP Thiruvananthapuram office will be handed over to the General Secretary as soon as possible.

**VII. DISCUSSION ON COUNTRY REPORTS & General Secretary's Report towards WFFP Fisheries Policy**

**24.11.2004 9.00 A.M.**

**Moderator: Pauline Tangiora**

**Others in the dais: Dao Gaye and Harekrishna Debnath**

**Pauline** greeted all present and called for the reports of the various countries. She requested the presentation of the reports to be short. The foil text of the report will be published in the dossier of the General Assembly.

**Harekrishna** reminded those who had not yet submitted their reports, that they should be handed over to the Secretariate immediately.

**Dao Gaye** also greeted all present and called for the cooperation of all both in the presentation of the reports as well as in the active listening to them.

**BASQUE** - Presented by: **Robert Alvarez (Appendix 4)**

**UGANDA** - Presented by **Robinson Sunday (Appendix 5)**

**MAURITANIA** - Presented by **Sid'Ahmed (Appendix 6)**

Tea break

**11.00 A.M. Continuation of the session**

**Harekrishna Debnath** and **Dao Gaye** appealed to all the presenters to be brief since we are running very much behind schedule.

**SRI LANKA** - Presented by: **Herman Kumara (Appendix 7)**

**SENEGAL** - Presented by **Lalla Diop (Appendix 8)**

**PHILIPPINES** - Presented by **Servilano Luna Jr (Appendix 9)**

**REP DU BENIN** - Presented by **Kocou Fadina and Dehy Lucien Appendix 10)**

**MARTINIQUE** - Presented by **Marie Ademar (Appendix 11)**

Lunch Break

2.30 P.M.

**Chair - Dao Gaye**

Others in the dias - **Pauline Tangiora and Harekrishna Debnath**

**Harekrishna** called for active listening to the reports as the reports are really a sharing for the life, our situation and the work of the member countries.

**SPAIN** - Presented by **Louisa Rodrigues Gonsales (Appendix 12)**

Robert Alvares, lavier, Sid'Ahmed, Luna, and Herman Kumara were asked to draft a resolution supporting the struggle of the AGAMAR fish workers.

**MALI** - Presented by **Fatoumata Diarra (appendix 13)**

**KENYA** - Presented by **Dr.Peter Otaito**

**GAUDOLUPE** - Presented by **Yoyotte Randi**

**HONDURAS** - Presented by **Justo Rufino Garcia**

**CANADA** -Presented by **Sherry Pictou**

**4.30 PM - Tea break**

**GUINEA** -Presented by **Daffe & Sandouna**

**PHILIPPINES** - Presented by **Servillano Luna Jr. and**

**PHILIPPINES** - Presented by **Charles Capricho**

**FRANCE**- Presented by **Fontaine Korlef**

**INDIA** Presented by **Poornima Meher**

**NEWZEELAND** -Presented by **Pauline Tangiora**

**25.11.2004 9.00 A.M.**

**On the dais: Dao Gaye, Pauline Tangiora and Harekrishna Debnath**

**Harekrishna Debnath** introduced the session

We have heard the reports from all the member countries. Now we have reached an important point in our meeting. We should now discuss the reports; not only the reports from the member countries but also the report of the General secretary and the financial report of the treasurer. For the time being let us keep the Secretary's and the treasurer's report away and concentrate on the reports from the member countries.

Out of the reports presented there are some common elements. Some important issues like the depletion of resources, displacement and marginalization of fishers from their traditional fishing grounds. Water pollution, foreign fishing vessels, industrial aquaculture and many other common problems need to be addressed.

We need to give a lot of thought to how we are going to overcome all these problems. First let us have a summary and an overview of the issues that are brought out in the reports from member countries.

**Ramya (ICSF)** presented the summary

### **FISHERIES RELATED ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS**

#### **General**

Develop fisheries policy with specific reference to artisanal and small-scale fishing communities

Better implementation of existing fisheries policy

Recognition of the rights of the aboriginal/indigenous peoples to the fisheries resources

Recognition of artisanal and small-scale fishing communities in the International Forum

Poverty and improvement of livelihoods of fishing communities

#### ***Labour***

Conditions of work in the fishing sector and safety at sea

Conditions of workers in the distant-water fishing vessels

#### **Women in fisheries**

Role of women in fishing communities

As fish processors

As fish vendors/traders

Shell fish gatherers

Fishing in the coastal waters/estuaries



## Human development

Education of children from fishing communities

health issues in the fishing communities

Access to credit and micro finance institutions

## Capacity building

Support institutions working with fishing communities

Training of fishermen in fishing techniques, training to improve fish quality for exports

## Transborder issues

Arrest of fishermen in other countries while fishing across borders

Regulation of transboundary fishing

## **Fisheries resource allocation**

Access to fisheries resources

Fishing agreements with other countries (as seen in the case of EU) and the impact of these agreements on the developing countries

Involvement of fishworkers during the negotiations of the EU fisheries agreements

Promote regional cooperation among countries sharing the fisheries resources

Conflicts between industrial and artisanal fishermen

Conflicts between forest conservation and fisheries

Conflicts due to foreign fishing vessels fishing in national EEZ's

Problems of ITQ management

## **Conservation and management**

Depletion of fisheries resources

Impact due to the use of destructive fishing gear

fisheries resource management

Prevent illegal fishing

Importance of selective fishing techniques

Recognition of the importance of the community based resource management and to strengthen these institutions

## 15 Aquaculture development

Promotion of aquaculture techniques to improve the nutritional status of the fishing communities

Conflicts due to the development of industrial aquaculture

## **Habitat protection**

Habitat protection, for example like regeneration of mangroves, coral reefs

Degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems

Degradation of coastal ecosystems due to industrial aquaculture

Pollution of aquatic bodies

Marine pollution and its impact on fisheries resources and fishing communities

## Fisheries trade

Cheap imports of fish products from other countries

Impacts of globalisation on fishing communities

Impacts of WTO agreements on fishing communities

Issues relating to fish marketing  
Equitable access to markets  
Problems with the export markets

**Sebastian Mathew (ICSF)** shared his reflections and led the group towards working out a fisheries policy. He called on the participants to see what is more relevant to their own situation. He also invited the participants to identify the issues in which we can learn from each other and support each other as this would be a way of showing our concern and solidarity.

**MOVING TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE: SOME THOUGHTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

ICSF, 27 COLLEGE ROAD, CHENNAI 600 006, INDIA

SEE APPENDIX

Tea break

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11.30 A.M.

Workshops: to discuss the general secretary's report and the financial report. The groups are to ponder over the question that the Secretary has proposed at the end of his report and bring their responses to the plenary session.

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**3.00 P.M.**

**On the dais: Pauline Tangiora, Dao Gaye and Harekrishna Debnath.**

Before the session a Video on the struggles and agonies of the transient fisher peoples in the Bay of Bengal - Jumbo dweep Island - was screened. When the session started,

**Herman Kumara** proposed that the WFFP general body pass a resolution of our fellow fish workers in Jumbudwip. This was accepted by a voice vote and the following person were appointed to draft the resolution and to submit it to the CC by 8.30 p.m. Herman Kumara. T. Peter, Xabier and Sebastian Matthew.

**Harekrishna Debnath** spoke about the need for the ratification of all the decisions made by the CC since the last general body as demanded by the constitutions and proposed the same. This was accepted by all.

**DECISION 3**

It was decided to accept and ratify all the decisions which the Coordination Committee has made after the General body meeting in November 2000 at Loctudy up to now.

## **Re designation of new office bearers**

**Harekrishna** said that one of the important agenda of the General body is designate new office bearers to the WFFP. The two coordinators (one man and one woman), the general secretary and the treasurer are elected by the General Body

Then each continent designate two members (one male and one female) to the coordination committee.

Our Constitutions expect us to strive for consensus is all decision-making. Consensus is more democratic than voting. In voting there is always someone who wins and someone who loses. This win-lose situation leaves wounds and scars and makes it difficult for the person elected to function freely. But when a consensus is arrived at, no one is a loser.

But a consensus needs to be facilitated. The co-ordination committee gave serious thought to the election and we have decided to authorize Thomas Kocherry to facilitate this consensus for the designation of the office bearers for the WFFP Thomas Kocherry is a person who knows all the participants of this general body as well as all the issues facing us and is committed to the movement. The CC, therefore, proposes and requests Thomas Kocherry to facilitate a consensus and asks for the approval of the general body for this process

The General Assembly approved of this proposal.

**Thomas Kocherry** spoke accepting the responsibility. He placed himself at the service of the WFFP and hoped to be able to bring about a consensus after meeting every group. He called for collaboration as there may be differences of opinion and we should have a 'give-and-take' attitude. He assured that he had no names in mind and that he was open. After listening to all the groups he will be proposing a panel.

**Now the groups reported their responses to the questions that the General Secretary had posed in his report. Here is a summary of the responses.**

I Do we need to continue WFFP?

All groups answered in the affirmative.

II Is there any purpose to continue WFFP?

All groups answered in the affirmative.

III. If WFFP is to continue, how is it to have organic and sustainable communication among members?

Newsletters, bulletin

Strengthen regional structures at different continents

Empower these structures to handle fishworkers problems at various levels

promoting regular global continental, regional and national newsletters for

exchange of information

Maximize communication using the latest technology - internet, fax, telephone, website, email groups  
All documents should be translated in all three languages  
Encourage to delegate the responsibility of translating the documents in to different languages to the members in the CC from that region, to reduce the demand on the secretariat.

IV. If WFFP is to continue, how are we going to raise funds needed for the day-to-day running?

Engage in rigorous collection from friends and other resources  
develop a voluntary or group of people, who will be responsible for fund raising, within the bounds of the constitution  
Membership fees is an obligation of every member, and each member should inform the secretariat, in situations where they are not able to meet the obligation, through a written explanation  
In the case of the CC meeting, the responsibility for board and lodging and travel should be with the host country  
In the case of the General Assembly, the host country should contribute 25 per cent of the expenditure (funds for local expenses)  
Draft a policy or plan to raise funds  
Provincial budget needs to be put in place  
Look for funds from Donors, gifts and subsidies from others

V. If WFFP is to continue what are the plans for the next three years?

Building capacity at the national, and continental level  
Engage with international institutions, to advocate effectively for the rights of the fisherfolk.  
Look for new members  
Create a plan, how to develop sharing of information relevant to fisher people The issue, actions, activities, policy and programmes, especially on the international level, all member organizations to hold activities simultaneously on nov 21.  
Continue to draft a plan to campaigns against WTO and globalization  
Particular activities /parallel activities against WTO in its ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in Nov-Dec 2005  
Management of fisheries resources  
The improvement of the fisher people  
Train the fisher people about fisheries trade, and commercialisation of their products  
Fight against pollution  
Think about capacity building of organizations Reinforce communications

**Tea break**

**4.45. p.m.**

**On the dais: Pauline Tangiora, Dao Gaye and Harekrishna Debnath**

**Harekrishna** began the session on the draft fisheries policy

Often in our rallies and meeting we shout slogans against globalisation WTO , MNC's, TNC's, industrial pollution and other destructive factors detrimental to fishing operations and fishing communities.

When we look at these slogans, they are all negative. But shouting slogans alone is not enough. We need to be creative and positive. We need to spell out as to what we want; what kind of fisheries, what kind of management, what kind of conservation, how to resolve conflicts, how to restrict our own over-capacity - are some of the issues we need to address.

Already in your reports all these are contained. Now we need to put our thoughts together and workout our policy. It may not be uniform policy for the whole world. Some aspects of the policy could be universal while others would be local.

He called on Thomas Kocherry to present the draft Fisheries Policy based on which we should be able to come out with suggestions with global and local perspectives.

**Thomas Kocherry** introduced the draft Fisheries Policy.

As a preparation for the GA, each member country was supposed to work out a draft Fisheries Policy. In Sri Lanka, NAFSO drafted a fisheries policy and in the negotiation with the government of Sri Lanka. Pakistan has worked one out.

It was a collective decision at the last GA and it should have been carried out. We should respect our decisions and carry them out. If we have not, let us take up the work now. Let us study drafted GFP in our groups, make amendments, suggest changes etc and help finalize a common Fisheries Policy.

In the last session Sebastian and Ramya have listed the issues that you yourselves brought out in your reports. Thus we see that all the resources are with you. What we need to do is to continue pressurizing our national governments and the FAO, UN, and other institutions at the global level. Thus we, WFFP, become a political force and agents of change for a better world.

We need good policies and they should be backed up with good laws. Policymaking and legislation should go hand in hand. If we have only good policies and not backed up with legislation, the courts of law will be helpless to uphold the policy when it comes to litigation. In some countries there are no policies. Having no policy is their policy!

We are talking about social security. As far as we are concerned the problems of the industrial fleets and their workers are different. Our social security must be protected by ILO legislation and conventions.

Everybody is talking about maximum sustainable yield. In a given area there is a certain amount of fish. When we catch the fish, we must calculate and see how much of it we can catch, so that we can

keep catching them. The importance of sustainable and labour intensive fishing should be recognized by all countries, both by law and by policy.

The **minutes of the proceedings of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November were passed by the Assembly.**

The Assembly broke into groups to discuss the draft Fisheries Policy.

### **8.30 A.M.**

**In the dais: Pauline Tangiora, Dao Gaye, Harekrishna Debnath and Kamuturaki Seremos Dao Gaye and Pauline Tangiora greeted** everyone and commended the hard work put in by all the groups late into last night.

**Harekrishna** greeted everyone and introduced the agenda for the day. He also spoke in appreciation of the hard work put in by the ICSF team, **Sebastian Mathew, Ramya and Eli David,** By their presence with the groups late into the night and clarifying matters.

### **Matters to be taken up today**

Group reports on the draft Fisheries Policy

Discussion towards arriving at a WFFP Fisheries Policy

Planning for the next three years

At the level of each organization

At the level of each member country

At the level of each continent

At the International (WFFP) level

Coming up meetings

Coordination Committee 2005

Coordination Committee 2006

WFFP General Body 4 2007

Designation of new office bearers

Resolutions

### **The groups presented their findings on the draft Fisheries Policy**

#### **Group 1 - English**

(This group consisted of members from: Canada, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Kenya, New Zealand, and Uganda)

Agree with the draft guidelines

Added - lobbying the international bodies and national government for legislation to support policy and vice-versa, and clear implementation and enforcement process to be put in place

Agreed a process for common agreement between two or more countries on confiictual national rights 5, 6, 7.

Agreed

8. We agree to subject to self identification by aboriginal/indigenous groups, and requires clear definition of other terms being used in the fishing sector for example "commercial fishers agreed we agree but must include particularly involvement of the fisher people in the process  
11,12,13,14,15.16.17. agreed  
we agree with the exception of the motors being used by artisanal/small scale fishers, (for example increasing motor power.) agreed  
we agree, subject to national government provides alternative livelihoods to displaced fishworkers  
21,22. agreed  
both wage and share system can be used in fisheries management subject to:  
wage system be provided to all fishworkers and recognized as such, all wage system should include a minimum wage  
also mechanisms to prevent the abuse of fishworkers in both systems should be created  
24,25. agreed  
agreed with the recognition and inclusion of trade unions along with the co-operatives  
27, 28, 29, 30. agreed  
recognition of all women in the fisheries as fishworkers and their rights must include maternity benefits and property rights agreed, but would like to include that the International Health Standards must be enforced on both the international and national level  
33,34. agreed  
Do not agree, because they must be recognized as BASIC HUMAN Rights for all fishworkers  
36, 37, 38, 39. Agreed  
Fisher people especially women in the local fishing production and marketing must be protected from the importation of fish products  
At the national level, legislation should be developed to suite the national conditions

## **Group 2 - French**

(This group consisted of members from: Benin, Guadelope, Guinea, Mali, Martinique, Mauritania, Senegal and France)

fishing policy is the all legislative and structures that enable countries to manage the resources that could be flexible from one year to another  
agreed

the maximum catch should be set by the fishermen and they could control them easily  
4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 agreed.

The government should elaborate the fishing policy according with the agreement of all partners in the sector and all territories managed by the government if it is in the same geographical area

Identification number for fishing vessels is required to facilitate the statistics collection 13. 14 and 15.  
we should remove them, they do not related to the small-scale fishworkers It is important to protect the unmotorized vessels, we need to have a special kind of number for the vessels, so as to differentiate the fishing vessels which are motorised and others

17. Agreed

18. yes, but in order to have responsible fishing, sustainable and safe fishing, and to improve



the conditions of life of men and women, to add value to the product,

19. Agreed

20. First question - no

if owners own more than one vessels, could we suggest that we remove all but one - no should each family be allowed to own only trawler - no

should we remove all the fishing vessels older than 10 years - if they do not respect the legislation then the answer is no

all fleet reduction should be followed by social programmes for all the fishworkers involved

all these measures are necessary and should be adopted according to the respective areas with the effective involvement of fishing communities

22. what is OBM...

23.

24. agree

25. change in sentence in French

26. change the formulation in French, real co-operatives are controlled by the members

27. need clarifications...

28. all ships should be equipped with life saving equipments

29

- 31 agree

32. agree

33. what is coastal ...panchayats- Village councils...?

34. agree

35. arrangements for fishermen welfare, clarification on SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC),

36. subsidies in the WTO - clarification about SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES (SCM) agreement

37-38 agreed

39. they should all be the same point

40. agreed, it is important the eel fishermen could continue their traditional fishing, to restore the eel population.

All the acronyms used in the documents need clarification

There is no legislation proposed to recognize the marine traditional fishermen, who do not use any fishing gear.

### **Group 3 - Spanish**

Problems of artisanal fishermen

Integration of social, environmental and economic issues together Depletion of fish stocks

Conservation vs "efficiency"

Group 4 - English 2

(This group consisted of members from: Kenya, Sri Lanka, Uganda, India and South Africa)

## Issues

### **General**

**Artisanal fisher people should be recognized in all aspects of the policy**

### **Labour**

Job security for all fishers, to provision in the ILO documents should be made

### **Women in Fisheries**

Welfare of women in fishing in the fish processing

### **Human Development**

Enhance the access to social amenities to fisher people

### **Capacity building**

Institutions which are internationally recognized should be put in place

### **Transborder issues**

The identity document to be issued to the seafarers/fishworkers

Exchange of fishing register among neighbouring countries, to avoid unnecessary arrests of fishermen

Government should take care of the families of the detained fishermen Put in place cross-border fisheries resource management plan

### **Fisheries Resource allocation**

Use of fishing boats with high engine efficiency

### **Conservation and management**

Fisheries resources exploitation to correspond to the fisheries potential

Develop domestic fishing capacity to exploit the national fisheries resources

Fishing and breeding grounds should be protected from pollution

### **Pollution**

To encourage the traditional fishing methods that are labour intensive to create employment and to decrease pollution

### **Aquaculture development**

Ecologically sound and socially sound aquaculture to be encouraged

### **Habitat protection**

### **Fisheries trade**

WTO agreements should take care of the interests of the artisanal fishers

Tariff increase of processed fish exports should be discouraged

Benefit of international trade should go to human development projects of fisher peoples

Difference between traditional, artisanal, informal, subsistence fishers should be clear.

**Some of the issues not addressed in the draft Fisheries Policy**

Allocation of fisheries resources  
Redistribution of resources between industrial and artisanal fisheries  
Ocean use  
Fisheries in relation to other uses of ocean space  
Habitat protection  
What is the position on "Research"  
what type of scientific research, should be carried?  
Socially responsible scientific research is required  
Role of "Producer Organizations"  
Redefine to include some of the resources management, habitat protection measures in the producer organizations  
Role of organizations at different levels  
"Subsidiarity principle"  
Working with the regional organizations (ICCAT, IOTC. SAARC)

### **Comments by some members**

#### **Charles Capricho**

WFFP should be uniform in lobbying for these policies in different countries and there should be guiding principles for these

Based on experiences in Philippines, in passing a policy it is very important, to have a guiding principle between fishworker organizations, stakeholders and the government

#### Guiding principles

Principle on social justice and human rights

Principle on food security

Principle on fisher people empowerment

Principle on sustainable development

Principle social and ecological security

Principle on Preferential rights and territorial integrity

Social security and standards

Cooperatives

Financial stability of the policy

Discussion between stakeholders, fisherfolk and other discussion should focus on the specific guiding principles.

In Philippines, one of the problem is the financial stability.

There are provisions and principles, these cannot be implemented, if there is no backing/support from the government.

To apply the local policy at the community level, important aspects is the financial stability and viability to implement these provisions in the local principles.

### **Sherry Pictou**

Conservation and Management and the Environment

difficult for the poor, companies and governments have become rich at the expense of the poor, in this process, they have caused destruction to the environment

therefore while the poor, are encouraged to have conservation and management

the real challenge is to apply them to the industrial sectors

the poor are already contributing to the environment

many national and international governments, are putting measures to protect the environment, but many cases, it is still at the expense of the poor, while the other sectors, always find loop holes and keep diminishing the species, and resources

Research

we need more information on good aquaculture practices

In Canada, six species have disappeared, which were earlier available

### **Sid'Ahmed**

The goal of the organization is to strengthen the artisanal fishworkers, including modernization, security of the people working in the sector.

We work in many areas - oceans, rivers,

People working in the oceans, should have very strong vessels, powerful engines, due to the conditions.

The policy for people fishing in marine area, lakes and rivers could be different

Fishermen should be working with safe working conditions

The government should consult fishermen before implementing policies.

Against trawling even though it is addressed in the policy.

### **Yoyotte**

Reducing fishing capacity in the mechanized sub-sector:

Should the owner of the boat be the captain of the boat

No... in some cases, the owner might not be the sailer ..this could create jobs to fishworkers, this should be accepted...

Could a person be an owner of a fleet?

No problem... if there exists a fleet, it should adopt according to the resource available, but if that fleet is working in an area where the species is in danger (endangered), the fleet should be redistributed.

The WFFP should have a common stand on this, it is concerning the mangroves, most of the countries, the mangrove resources are destroyed, they are used for constructions and area is reclaimed. We have two extremes

the mangroves areas are the breeding zones,  
also enables the atmosphere to regenerate..

When these areas are destroyed, the ecosystems is affected.

More than 50 % of the mangroves are destroyed in Guadelope and Martinique

There has been changes to the climatic conditions in these areas

We need to stop the destruction of the mangroves, UNESCO should be asked to act..

Mangroves need to be protected

### **Poornima Meher**

Women workers in seafood processing units:

It should be specific sub-sector, and they should get safe accommodation, and wages, social security measures, these need to be covered in the global policy

### **ISSUES MISSING IN THIS DOCUMENT**

IPRs of fauna and flora

Responsibility of traditional, indigenous and tribal peoples and the responsibility rest with them, to see that it is carried out.

**Harekrishna** made the following proposal

To make a comprehensive policy, needs a lot of intellectual exercise and a lot of time.

I propose that we give all these materials to the ICSF, through Sebastian Mathew, and request them to come up with a complete Fisheries Policy document.

We may not have reflected all the points that we would like to reflect on, but we place our trust on the capacity of these resource person and the institute, to pluck the loopholes if there are any.

### **Resolution**

**The General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), which met from 21-27 November 2004 at Tom Mboya Labour College, Kisumu, Kenya, having discussed the problems and issues, of the fishing communities, in our different countries, having studied the draft fisheries policy proposed by the WFFP secretariat,**

**having made our suggestions, changes, additions, and omissions, to the same document, all of which, are found in the minutes of the third General Assembly, hereby, request the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) to take into account all the opinions collectively expressed in this assembly, and work out and produce a WFFP Fisheries Policy, and present the same to the WFFP secretariat by March 2005.**

This resolution was passed unanimously.

**Sebastian Mathew**, on behalf of the International Collective in support of Fishworkers (ICSF), said that he was very happy to accept this task for the World Forum of Fisher Peoples. He said that he would place the matter before the ICSF Animation Team and was confident that they would be happy to accept this task. He also thanked the group for the trust placed on him and on ICSF.

Tea Break

### **VIII . CONDOLENCE ON THE BEREVEMENT OF THE SUDDEN DEATH OF Pauline's Husband**

**12.00 Noon**

**The session started with the following announcement by Thomas Kocherry Thomas**

#### **Kocherry:**

I am sorry to announce very sad news Pauline Tangiora's husband has passed away. The funeral will be on the 3<sup>th</sup>. All her children are there. She leaves us tomorrow noon. Let us pray for the departed soul.

#### **Harekhrishna Debnath**

This personal loss cannot be described in any language. Our hearts and support is with her. In my community and in many other countries we believe that no one dies. They come back to us as our brother, sister, etc. Her husband is with us. He will certainly be with Pauline. We pray to the almighty to give her strength and consolation to face the loss. The WFFP GA3 on behalf of the whole fishing community of the world expresses our condolence.

#### **Dao Gaye**

I offer a short testimony to Pauline. She has been with us from the beginning. She is always dynamic. Her strong personality has really tried to unite us. She fought and worked for the founding of the World Forum. After New Delhi she was elected as coordinator. She dealt with many issues. Then came to Loctudy. Many know what happened in Loctudy. We disagreed on some issues and departed. She was with us. She has walked a long way with us. She left her husband and children. And has always been available to the WFFP. In Mumbai, Martinique,

Sri Lanka she has always been with the organization. Today the Almighty God has done what he wanted to do. The forum will never forget Pauline, children and her husband. Whenever the WFFP delegates want she has been there. And defended the situation of small fishermen.

**Marie Ademar**

I would like to tell Pauline God told us go whenever you work one day you will die. God told us to be prepared, we don't know the day or the time when we will be called. Be strong. Your children are with you. You are the Mother. God has taken away your husband; but in that place he has given you the gift of all fisher people from Martinique. And my self too. I do not want you to cry. So you go back to your place and bury your husband.

**Silvia Querdo**

I offer you my condolences. In the messages that we write in the book we hope you have a symbol to carry back with you.

**Oumukaltoum Abdellahi**

On my behalf and all the women too we present our condolences and our deepest sympathies. We request you to be courageous. We know this is a hard time.

**Docars Sophie**

Be strong. At the time of marriage we (women) make a promise to be with our husbands till death part us. I am one who has lost my husband when I was rather young. Do not loose heart

**N.T. Tilakalata**

Sister Pauline. His is life, the mystery of life I know you from Loctudy and I saw you as a very committed person and I wondered how at your age with all your family commitments you could do so much for fisher people. We consider that your late husband is a fortunate person. Because of your commitment and sacrifices for the poor the grace you have acquired from such commitments is with you always. God will give your husband rest and his soul is in heaven. You are not a person who gets discouraged. We pray God to give you strength to bear this loss. As a Budhist, I with all our Sri Lankan fisher people and with all the brothers and sisters wish him a place of honour in the other world.

**Joyce Oruko**

I greet you. I say sorry sister Pauline. What has happened to her has happened to me and I was shocked. Those seeing me may have thought that I was very healthy. I was blessed with nine children- all are dead. They all have been educated up to graduate level. I buried them year after year. After burying all of them, this June I buried their father. All I can advice Pauline is to be close to the Creator. You are away from your family and if this loss shocked you, you need the strength. It is quiet painful, but trust in the Lord. Jesus is the one who gives me the strength and I have reason to believe He will guide you. This is the condolence I can give you. Have courage.

**Peter Otiato**

We have been very happy with you here. This event was not expected. But when it does happen we accept the wish of the Creator. The Creator himself comforts you. We Kenyans hosted this event. We

are shocked to get this news. Have courage and be strong. On behalf of BUHEDE Kenya, Kenyan fisher people network I offer you our condolences God is with you.

**Sagar Chandrashekhar**

We are shocked at this terrible thing that has happened to Pauline. This is inevitable for each one of us. These are the moments of Grace and Sorrow Sometimes it changes the course of the life of the individual Pauline Tangiora served the people of the world. This shows the support she has from her husband and her children. You are like a mother to us and we are your children. We are growing up in your parenting so we cannot say much. The affection and protection will continue to flow on us as the How of the holy Ganges On behalf of the fisher people of India and the poor of our country I express my condolences and pray that you may have strength.

**Sherry Pictou**

My sister, elder, teacher. We know that in our ceremonies the older ones and our ancestors are with us. I lost my brother. I pray and trust that your husband is with our ancestors and pray that your husband has a safe journey to the other world. After the sadness you will experience his spirit. All my relatives !

**Harekrishna Debnath**

On behalf of all the participants and the WFFP I express my condolences and pray for the departed soul.

**Pauline's Response**

Whenever we come to the end of life we start another life I have buried three husbands; now I have many children left behind without relationship I do not feel so much for myself but for my grand children. And great grand children. They have lost the richness of their grandfather. We have all lived our lives and our later years meaningfully.

I thank you for the love you have expressed today I will take back your love to my grand children and great grand children. When we leave our home we do not know if we shall return. Let us move forward today to finish our business before the day is finished. The greatest gift we can give to each other at this time is to work and come together for the benefit of our communities.

Lunch break

**IX . PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

**2.00 p.m.**

**On the Dais: Harekrishna Debnath, Pauline Tangiora, Dao Gaye and Seremos**

**Harekrishna** introduced the planning session. This will be a countrywise and continent wise workshop session in which plans are made for the next three years. He urged/instructed the group to concretely work out a programme for:

your **own organization**

your **country/region/continent**

and a plan of action at the **international level**

He gave two examples:



1. We could have a mangrove day. Programmes to plant mangroves, regeneration of mangroves, seminars on the same, exhibitions, rallies, agitations if necessary etc.

2. World Fisheries Day can be celebrated with some programme all over the world. Exhibition on WFFP Highlighting problems. Highlighting our tradition, culture, fishing methods, fishing vessels etc.

The aim should be to focus on and to further the objectives of the WFFP.

We also need your suggestions regarding the CC meetings in 2005 and 2006, the venues etc. The General Assmby in 2007.

The hosting organization / country should be able to take care of the local travels, food and lodging, expences for the meetings, stationary etc, etc.

The geographical position of the country, facility to travel, availability of visas are some of the other considerations for choosing host countries.

Planning for financial stability and for communication with each other.

**With these instructions the members went into workshops, countrywise first, then continentwise.**

Here are the continental groups:

**Asia**

Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Philippines

**Africa**

Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, Senegal Benin, Guinea. Mauritania and Mali

**Europe**

Spain, Basque, France, Martinique and Guadelope

**America & Pacific**

Honduras, Canada and New Zealand.

The reports of the group will be called for at the first session on 27.11.2004.

**Tea break**

**X. Designation of office bearers and the Coordination Committee**

**6.00 P.M.**

**On the Dais: Dao Gaye, Pauline Tangiora, Harekrishna Debnath and Kamuturaki Seremos**

**Harekrishna** said that the term of office for the present office bearers is going to end. He remembered the humble beginnings the WFFP had in an open field on a cold night in Loctudy, France four years ago. The birth of the WFFP has not been painless. It is very difficult to achieve independence. For the sake of independence, we have walked away from domination. We want to be masters of our destiny and relentless fighters for the rights of our people. It is difficult to remain independent in our world today. There will be allurements from various quarters, but we need to be careful, resist all temptations and keep our aims and objectives clear before us.

From our humble beginning, now the WFFP has grown because of the conviction and commitment of member organizations and the commitment to the cause for which we came together.

The coordination Committee and the Office bearers have been working in close harmony. I as General Secretary have been receiving unconditional support from the two coordinators and the treasurer. I thank these my colleagues for it has been a pleasure working with them.

Now it is time to hand over the floor to the facilitator, Thomas Kocherry, who is going to propose a new team of office bearers and members of the coordination committee for your approval.

This is the last chance the photographers have to click the out-going team on the dais.

(At this many participants clicked the out-going team)

The Officials handed over the floor to Thomas Kocherry.

**Thomas Kocherry** thanked the out-going office bearers for their dedicated service to the organization. He also recalled how on that cold night in an open field in Loctudy the newly born WFFP designated its first office bearers and coordination committee in just five minutes. There was no problem. There should be no problem today either, because we are not seekers of power. We are at the service of the community. I have consulted every group and the panel I am going to propose is the result of a consensus among us. We designate our leaders. Our Constitution uses the word designate, rather than elect. The leaders are designated by the Creator God, to be of service to the community. Let us read our Constitutions. As you read it again and again you will find that it is really beautiful. He then made particular reference to Articles 17, 19 and 20 of our Constitutions.

With these words of introduction he proposed the following panel of names.

#### **DECISION 4**

**It was unanimously decided by consensus to designate the following persons as office bearers and members of the coordination Committee of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples, for the next three years.**

#### **Regional/Continental Council**

**Asia**

Members

Harekrishna Debnath, India

Purnima Meher, India  
Herman Kumara, Sri Lanka  
N T. Tilakalatha, Sri Lanka  
Saeed Mohamed, Pakistan  
Balqees Usman, Pakistan  
Servilano Luna, Philippines  
Charles Capricho, Philippines

## **Africa**

### Members

Dr Peter Stanley Otiato, Kenya  
Mrs Joyce A. Oruko, Kenya  
Kamuturaki Seremos, Uganda  
Nadunga Irene, Uganda  
Fatoumata Diarra, R. du Mali  
Bakary Lundy, R. du Mali  
Dao Gaye, Senegal  
Lala Diop, Senegal  
Mrs Naomie Gloria Cloete, South Africa  
Mogamad Naseegh Jaffer, South Africa  
Kocou Fadina, R. du Benin  
Dehy Lucien, R. du Benin  
Sandouna, Rep. du Guinea  
Daffe, Rep. du Guinea  
Sid' Ahmed ould Abeid, Mauritania  
Oumoukaltoum mint Abdellahi, Mauritania

## **Europe and Caribbean Islands**

### Members

Javier Luis Eceizabarrena Saenz. Basque  
Robert Alvarez, Basque  
Fontaine Korleff Josiane, France  
Michel Fontaine, France  
Martina Dieste Laino, Spain  
Luisa Rodriquel Gonzalez, Spain  
Maria Adamer, Martinique  
Altius Socrate Gerard, Martinique  
J.C. Yoyotte, Guadeloupe

## **Pacific/Americas**

### Members

Pauline Tangiora, Aotearoa, New Zealand  
Sherry M. Pictou, Canada  
Silvia Quevedo Berrios, Honduras  
Justo Rufino Garcia Casco, Honduras

<b>Coordinators:</b>	<b>Dao Gaye</b>	<b>(Senegal)</b>
	<b>Pauline Tangiora</b>	<b>(New Zealand)</b>
<b>General Secretary:</b>	<b>Herman Kumara</b>	<b>(Sri Lanka)</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Robert Alvarez</b>	<b>(Basque Country)</b>

**Members of the Coordination Committee:**

<b>Asia:</b>	<b>Harekrishna Debnath</b>	<b>(India)</b>
<b>Tiara Ali</b>		<b>(Pakistan)</b>
<b>Europe:</b>	<b>J.C. Yoyotte</b>	<b>(Guadeloupe)</b>
<b>Luisa Rodrigues Gonzalez</b>		<b>(Spain)</b>
<b>America:</b>	<b>Sherry M. Pictou</b>	<b>(Canada)</b>
<b>Justo Rufino Garcia</b>		<b>(Honduras)</b>
<b>Africa:</b>	<b>Mogamad Naseegh</b>	<b>(South Africa)</b>
<b>Joyce A. Oruko</b>		<b>(Kenya)</b>

**Herman Kumara**

Dear brothers and sisters, I would like to thank you for putting your trust in me allowing me and giving me an opportunity as the to serve the fisher people as the General Secretary of the WFFP. I know my great leaders who are here how much they have sweated and laboured how much they have faced sufferings, difficulties to come up top the preset stage of the WFFP. With their courage and their determination we have come up to their level. To day we are here representing the whole world, especially the small-scale fisher people. Our mandate is very clear so we represent small-scale fisher people allover the world. We cannot go forward without having unity.

So I appeal to you all, let us think how we can work as a united global force to protect the rights of the fisher people, protect the rights of the poor and all the marginalized in the world believe, that you all will help me and the CC to go forward with that unity. I believe our great leaders Mdm Pauline, Dao Gaye, Thomas Kocherry, Harekhrishna and Robert and all these people will go forward with your support. Bat it is not the CC alone who will protect the rights of the people. So let us think how to build up the Continental council groups, think seriously tomorrow and come up with very concrete action plans to go forward. Thank you once more for your trust on me; and as small person small people and being a small nation in the world giving us the opportunity to serve you. Thank you once again.

**J.C. Yoyotte**

I speak on behalf of all the Europe and the Caribbean. When I left my country where I was going. But I did not know what was awaiting me there. When the days were progressing everyday I was trying to discover the problems of other people I felt myself already shocked but I felt that responsibility but did not know what was coming later. I did not know that I would be elected in this committee. I am a marine fisher person and I am use to fight, I know that this is a new challenge . But in my life I don't like things, which are easy. Now because 1 can see the challenge

I am feeling well. I thank you because you have allowed me to have part in a big problem in the problems of the marine people all over the world That is what I have to tell you I thank you

**Joyce**

To begin with, I am very grateful to God who has brought us here. I thank all those who have served this Forum before. It is because of their good work that we are here. I am very surprised at having been elected. When I was elected a beach chairperson I was surprised and now I am surprised again to be elected to an international body. I therefore know and trust that it is God who has arranged this thing. I would like to say that this is not the first time I have been on an elected position. I have been elected six times in various organizations. By electing me, you expect certain works to be done by me. I hope to be able to do what is expected of me.

**Mohammed Naseegh**

I thank you for the trust you have put in me. I'm sure that with a little bit more of sweat and effort we will achieve what we have set out to do. I am not a man of many words, so I support what my sponsor says.

**Sherry**

It is an honour to be in your presence. You gave me and my community hope. I am little bit scared and I just hope I can serve you well. Thank you very much.

**Justo**

Thank you very much. I would like to congratulate the panel elected and secondly the whole general assembly. As a representative from America I am surprised how the forum has developed. In particular how they have taken into account gender parity. Despite our differences in race, culture and politics and religion and even regarding our culture and tradition we have finally made our decisions to keep on pushing for our rights. So we continue working as brothers and sisters and I hope to be helpful to all of us. Thank you everybody.

**Robert Alvarez**

I am really happy at this unexpected situation and thankful to the group of Europe. Its going to be my first time in an international organization. I hope to live up to my duties. Regarding our work in Europe we are looking to work closely with our governments and the grassroots people and European Parliament.

So I thank you all once again I shall keep afoot of all the development sand this meeting and we shall keep pushing on for our fight. Thank you.

I think you for your confidence in me. I thank the former committee, Fotumata, Capricho, Marie, Seremos. They are all hard workers. They worked in a very good atmosphere. In harmony which is very important in any organization. Now again I shall contain with my work. Please wish that I will not run away with your money. I thank you all. I would like to congratulate the translators. Martina, lavier, all of you.

**Harekrishna Debnath** started his speech welcoming the delegate from Pakistan. Despite hardships Muhammad Saeed managed to reach to express his solidarity with all the other delegates to the General Assembly.

He thanked Dao Gaye, Pauline Tangiora and Seremos for all the support and friendship they extended to him personally and as the General Secretary. And he wished Dao and Pauline all the best in their second term of office

He thanked all the outgoing members of the Coordination committee and welcomed the new members.

He thanked many persons who have been working for the success of the organization. He made mention of the Secretariate in India, particularly Cecily Plathottam who has been working quietly and untiringly, mostly behind the screen, without looking for publicity.

He also thanked the Rapporteurs for working day and night preparing the reports.

He thanked the ICSF, Chennai who have been traveling with us in all our efforts particularly during these days of the General assembly. Sebastian, Ramya and David have contributed tremendously to the success of this General Assembly both by conducting the workshop on ILO labour standards for fishworkers and and by their active presence and collaboration in all the events of the General Body These experts have given us their service free of charge.  
The session came to an end in a joyful and celebrative mood

## **XI. PLANNING CONTINUES**

**27<sup>th</sup> November. 9.45. a.m.**

On the Dais: The Newly Designated Team

**Dao Gaye, Herman Kumara, Robert Alvares,**

*Pauline Tangiora had to leave for the funeral of her husband.*

**Dao Gaye:** You asked for a little free time in the afternoon and this has been approved.

**Herman Kumara:**

1. Plans of Action. We are going to look at the plan for the next three years. You have all discussed this last evening. It has been a hard exercise and I commend you for this.

Then we are going to look at an approve three Resolutions relating to:

The ILO conventions on fishing

Galatia.

Jumbudweep.

**Dao Gaye:**

We request the country report and the continental reports to be presented now.

We start with Africa.

Africa: presented by **Sid" Ahmed.**

**Senegal. Guinea. Benin. Mali. Mauritania. South Africa. Uganda and Kenva**

I thank you all. First of all I wish all the new office bearers all the best in the new task ahead. They should know that we Africans support them. We will be available to be consulted for any work they require.

The group met in a plenary session and elected a secretary and chairperson.

In the meeting all the members discussed freely and contributed their ideas. That meeting decided to divide into two groups.

- a. The first group of those who speak French.
- b. The others who speak English.

Then the task of each group was to put into place the presentations.

I am going to present the overview of both the groups.

1. It was decided that each country would present its own programme and action plan.

2. Secondly the Regional plans for the next two years. We should try to develop the exchange and enhance cooperation in the region.

We should inform and communicate with the members of the region.

3. We talked about the products of fishing. And also the professional experiences. Secondly on 21<sup>M</sup> Nov all the leaders from the region will sit together and try to mobilize their people about the life and problems faced in this fishing sector. We should involve the different organization in the work of this forum.

4. We should ratify the agreement, which is related to fishing goods among all the countries in the region so that we can allow a better distribution of the fish

5. We should promote ladies in the fishing sector.

We should try to sensitize all members in the region to be members of the WFFP WE should try to talk to others who are members of the forum.

We try to organize some campaign of sensitization in the region for one week.

We should organize two days in the whole region to fight those big vessels, which are exploiting our people.

We should mobilize and also fight all measures and regulations, which are trying to oppress the fisher people.

Also we will put in place a document and a memorandum, which we will present to the GA of the ILO meeting in May 2005

We should put in place and nominate co-coordinators who would be recognized by the WFFP.

Thank you.

**Dao Gave:** I thank the reporter of the African Group. Your report was very good and is relevant. The General secretary has something to say he can comment

### **Herman**

We must be as concrete as possible. Who should be responsible for the implementation of this programme, when, how, who is responsible? Financial aspects should be taken into consideration. As far as I understand for all this work: is the WFPF responsible for fund raising for all the work you have planned?

### **Sid'Ahmed:**

About the funding, the coordinators elected in the WFFP will be meeting and try to organize everything and to inform us as to how to go about our activities. About the finance the programs are to

be funded by our local people We are the ones who will raise the funds Our representatives/people will fund. That is why at the international level we leave it to the WFFP We are not going to ask you to intervene at the Regional level. The programs are analyzed at the local level. Eg. we said we are going mobilize against the big vessels. In Mauritania: who is going to find, in Kenya same, in Senegal the same We try to be very careful there so that we can have a way of funding our own programme Herman. You may be meeting within one year or later. You need to understand how you are going to coordinate all this work and keep up communication correct.

The programs will be lead by the coordinators who will be elected by the General Assembly. All will meet next year and all the ones who are going to fund this project.

**Dao Gaye:**

I thank you all. Herman Kumara and Sid'Ahmed. Now we are going to hear the European Report.

Presented by:

I thank you Mr. President. The whole afternoon of yesterday we have been working on this document.

**The members of this region of France: Spain, Pays Bas, Guadalupe and Martinique. Seven actions:**

1. Continue to fight against those vessels of foreign origin.
2. Document to be sent to FAO and UN about the sinking of the "prestige" ship. The same to be done to the Govt, of Galatia and the fighter of the Galatian population.
3. On 11<sup>th</sup> of Noon it will be first anniversary, of the "Prestige". We are trying a day on which we will make a petition. In that petition all members of the whole world will sign. To be sent to the Spanish govt the EU, FAO, and the UN. And this under each association and also under the WFFP
4. We have to fight so that the Lake fisher people, and civil should be recognized by their respective governments.
5. We have to fight so that the regions of the Mangroves all over the world be classified and recognized by the UN. Lake people should be safeguarded.
6. Our group is committed to WFFP all necessary support so that we can try to pressurized the EU to participate in the entire meeting in the future. Between the EU and the ACP countries related to the partnership of economics
7. We have to very careful about the food security. Especially food meant for human consumption.

We suggest relating to the Organization of CC: and general assembly:

The group has put in place some suggestions.

In 2006 the Basque countries are willing to organize the coordination committee.

In 2007 the group has suggest that the GA WFFP be held in Martinique. The Association of women in Martinique is willing to accommodate all the delegates, the local transport, the food, the logistics and communications.

The group is wiling to inform all in the region about local meetings and international meetings.

We are going to organize to raise money for the forum We have to share all the experiences in the sector with other groups of this forum so that we can try to improve the way of looking for funds. And also we also ask other groups to do so.



Thank you.

**Dao Gaye:**

Your speech was relevant, but you have emphasized it on ladies. Men are also involved in the fishing sector.

I call on the **Asian Group** to present their discussion report:  
Presented by **Chandrashekar Sagar** from India:

All WFFP countries should carry WFFP logo and information relating to it.

Discussion of ILO and UN should take place simultaneously in all countries.  
Sri Lanka and India should pressurize their governments with their common programs.  
Since Philippines have two organizations they should have a common discussion for the ILO programs.

Every member organization country in the region should launch a campaign for the ILO through the ICSF

We have a programme:

June 5<sup>th</sup> 2005: Environment day will be observed as "Mangrove Day"

Every member country will have activities as follows:

Plantation of mangroves, rallies, workshops, cultural activities etc.

June 5<sup>th</sup> 2006: Theme Coastal Conservation. Esp. against privatization of coastal resources.

June 5<sup>th</sup> 2007: On Habitat protection. For coral reefs, estuaries and mangroves,

Nov 21 2007: Fish festival, exhibition of fish products, boats, nets, and seaweed. Cultural programme of fisher people, Rallies and mass action.

October 16<sup>th</sup>: World Food Day: Celebration will be held in collaboration with WFFP. All countries should hold some activity.

Nov 2005: WTO meeting of ministers in Hong Kong: Suggestion from Asian countries. Every member will send their delegate at their own expense for parallel activities during that meeting.

For WFFP CC meeting 2006: It was agreed that Philippines is willing to host the 2006 meeting. 100 % of local organization, translators etc will be hosted by them for five days.

GA 2007: It was decided that no other country is interested than India and Sri Lanka is interested. Education and information campaign for the communication it was agreed that Luna of the Philippine will be responsible

Thank you.

We are going to be brief the main conclusions of the group of the Americas and the Pacific. Plus from Europe- Basque country some were there. So what relates to them would be included in that report later.

## **Honduras, New Zealand, Canada and the Basque representative.**

Actions at National level

**Honduras** said they would start working at a domestic plan for the organization of the fishing sector. In this context they will support as well a plan for the awareness in the regional use of resources, only for environmental education In the Fonseca Gulf of the Honduras, a general education on fishing and trade. They are searching for extra funding of the communities. They will project some sort of alternative plan to fishing, instead of fishing activities they may need to shift their activities. Finally a plan for the enforcement of Fonseca Gulf plans.

**Sherry Pictou, Canada:** I have a hard time with the word America. This is Canada. Not the USA. In addition to what I presented in the country report I am going to try to lobby other local small fishermen about WFFP. You have taught me a lot this week. About WFFP. And I know they would be surprised that an organization like this exists. So we will also increase the awareness of the WFFP activities and we are going to establish a communication between Canada and Honduras. Many schools and universities will provide translation services and we also want to plan and try to organize women between Canada and Honduras.

Thank you.

**New Zealand:** Pauline informed us of her plans to achieve new memberships from the Pacific. And to bring information of the Forum.

Basque: to be studied and accepted by the European group. It is not only because of Basque being in the Americas, we have a global fund for funding both public and private to see what money we should accept or not. I think from Europe that will be a starting point to find money. In this context seeing the whole Forum research in Fisheries will be a good source of funding. As we announced that the Basque will start establishing contact with the Basque governments and with the San Sebastian funding agency.

We will search for new membership and through open campaigns from individual and collective donors.

We propose a constitution for young people within the WFFP in order to guarantee the future of the Institution. There is a small proposal for international co-operation with the UN, the EU with national governments and with regional government and local bodies and in the context with the super state governments. There is a specific proposal to establish linkages with the new network born in the Johannesburg summit: the network of regional governments for sustainable development. They are trying to link the three branches which we too are interested in. Finally considering the many actions by the government in the whole area we will like to promote some advocating for the protection of human rights, with particular impact on the UN for the protection of Human rights.

From all this derives International Actions: which will be in the international linkages, which we quoted.

This is a concrete plan from Pauline. That the GA will have to propose and ask the CC to lead all these tasks. Within the national proposal the funding is mentioned

GA4: 2007 Pauline is going to be in touch with representatives from Fiji and see how it works out. Otherwise the Basque delegation can also do something for the GA in 2007.

Thank You.

**Herman:**

You have done a good job, a lot of hard work. With this enthusiasm and hard work I mention one point: we are all hard working when we get back to our respective countries. We should think how do we do all this work without being an added burden to the existing ones This is not separate work it is already linked to our own work. The need is to integrate all this together.

**Hare Krishna Debnath.**

It is very nice to make a complete list of the participants and addresses. I request the secretary to facilitate this.

**Dao Gaye:**

Each group can delegate someone to take down all this.

**Tea Break**

**Herman:**

We have 3 resolutions to pass. If we come here by 11.15 after passing three resolutions we can have the film. Lunch will be 1.00 p.m.

**Tom:**

Most of the people are leaving tomorrow and day after tomorrow. Your travel what time are you leaving here, you please tell Gordon about this. A Matador is available. If you travel together in the matador you don't have to pay. If you want to go alone and take a taxi you must pay. Is this clear?

A general agreement was seen.

11.45.

**Dao Gaye:**

We have three points to cover

Passing of the resolution on the ILO Convention on "work in the fishing sector".

Passing of the Galatia, Spain resolution.

Passing of the Jambudweep, India Resolution

Then the Resolution of the ILO was projected on the wall and read out.

*From the Floor of the house the following interventions and clarifications were made*

**Luna:**

We want to ask about the issue of the Right of the workers to form Unions.

Those who work in fishing but not on fishing vessels

To recognize the impotence to all fishers in fishing (fish processing is dealt with a in another convention)

**Sherry:**

We covered that in the policy workshop

**Lucas:** in our workshop on the ILO matter we all strongly recommended that there should be under the capacity building of institutions. One format recognized is so-operatives. But trade unions have obstructed this. AS unorganized people even though we are self employed sometime they call us fishermen, sometime they call us fish workers, If I correctly understand the latter it is a person who is laboring in fishing for a livelihood. Therefore whatever they labour regulation being recommended by the ILO we are of the opinion that they must apply to the fisheries sector as well. It is applicable to the agricultural sector and as far as I know that are certain provision made by the ILO recommending where it is a share or not they must have the right to organize trade unions.

**Sebastian:** We are not going into the right of association in different capacities. Whether self-employed or sharecroppers. If you look at the scope of this convention they are trying to include all fishers, inland, marine whether or not they are earning a wage or a share. The only exception is subsistence and recreational fishermen. But when we look at conditions to those working on fishing vessels, those who work in fishing for livelihood without a fishing vessel, that is a very important proposal within the scope of the convention. We can take the right of association in other conventions.

**Dao Gaye:**

Can we adopt this resolution?

**Herman:**

Before that one correction can be done. I will read it out

"...Further propose that the minimum wage, medical examination, occupational safety and health and fishers work agreement identity document should be extended to fishers on board artisanal and small scaling fishing vessels that undertake international voyages...."

*This change has affected in the main resolution as well.*

**Dao Gaye:**

Thank you, Herman Kumara. About the identity of the fishers it is important to understand the identity of the fishermen especially in case of an accident. I have several examples from Senegal.

**Saeed Hamad:**

In Pakistan fish workers and boat owners are partners. Whatever they earn they divide into two parts. I think we should mention the other side of the partner like the fish worker should also get social security and other things we have mentioned in the document.

**Sebastian:**

If we look at defining of fishers in the convention you will see."Engaged in and employed in any capacity including persons on the basis of share..." so they come under the scope of the convention.

**Herman:**

With that we can go to pass the resolution.

**WITH A SHOW OF HANDS THE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED.**

Now we can take up the Galatia Resolution.

**Sid'Ahmed:**

Suggested that in the future such documents be prepared in all the languages in the Forum

**Herman:**

Your suggestions are well taken. Taking your suggestions we are in a position that we cannot translate this as soon as we want, we assure you we will do our best in the future. With that agreement shall we go in the Galatia Resolution?

**Dao Gaye:**

Thank you Secretary General. Can we adopt this resolution?

**Sid' :Ahmed**

About the 6<sup>th</sup> point it is not clear. It is about organization our role in the WFFP is not interfering in other organizations. WE should leave alone the organization to settle the problems; otherwise we may be able to make a petition to help those persons.

**Louisa:**

Clarification on pt 6. The elections mentioned are governed by the Spanish and Galatian parliaments. They are born long ago. We are not talking of the statutes of the guild. We are talking about the application of those laws of interior nature. There are still governing bodies of the guild, which have not been formed since 2003. It seems that the Galatia government is not interested in convening those election that is why they have included this point. Therefore if the elections are not convoked nothing will happen that is why they are here to get the support of the WFFP. If after this also nothing happens they will resort to other legal methods. So we are still patiently waiting for the government to do that.

**Sid'Ahmed:**

The mandate to organize elections the government cannot stop us.

Louisa:

Does not agree with this idea at all. In Spain the Guilds are in the control of the Governments.

**Sid' Ahmed:**

Everything in the constitutions has to be clear of how to organize elections.

*Then followed some discussion in Spanish alone without any translations on political matters and legal matters. And....*

**Sid' Ahmed** said:

In that case those different organizations should not be here because they are related to the Government.

**Dao Gaye:**

If certain organizations in particular countries which has its own status. Those documents if they are given to local governments after getting the authorization of working it means that when we get that document from the government it is recognized. When we don't have that document it means the government does not recognize that

The discussion carried on for good while in both languages.....

Do those organizations have the board, which organizes the activities within the organization? In this case we should convoke a general assembly.

**Sherry:**

We don't understand how every government operates. But this WFFP is for all peoples. And when we feel as fisher people that the government is violating our right if we cant bring this to the forum and support our brothers and sisters then why have the WFFP.

**Herman:**

The Galatians people are here for our solidarity. If we don't support them who will support them I strongly recommend these people for taking their issues. We are not fighting with the Spanish or Galatian government. We are in solidarity with them. May I request from all of you we should be in solidarity with them and support them? I you agree please pass this resolution"

THE REOLUTON WAS PASSEED BY SHOWING OF HANDS HOWEVER SOME SECTIONS OF THE FLOOR DID NOT RAISE THER HANDS.

**Dao Gaye:**

Do you approve this?

This was done by a show of hands. We are going for lunch.

**Herman:**

Before that there is an announcement regarding the Jumbudweep resolution. In this paper your name, organization and country and the signature should be written and this will be sent to the President and Prime minister of India and the Sec General of the UN. Pls. sign before you leave form here.

**Dao Gaye:**

Refereed to the pervious request for addresses. Each group should nominate one person to collect the addresses, emails etc.

**Alvares:**

We received a letter from Brussels. The WFFP is requested to send one person within form among the delegates to represent WFFP at that meeting next year in the consultative meting on fishing which will be held in Brussels. Also I would like to tell those who are representing the EU here also the members of this forum is going to send the forum in Brussels.

**Sebastian:**

This is a letter to invite two people.

**Herman :**

Can this decision be taken at the office bearers level and let you know? Robert Averages.  
I would like to do something

We have elected you. You have the sovereignty. Mere according the general view of the delegates and then we can say what you have to do.

The EU group should meet and suggest the persons that will go to this meeting.

**Jamine Madera**

This is a WFFP representation. That is dangerous all the two from one continent.

If because of expenses we can not get someone from nearer Europe then we can turn to Asia. To team up with Robert who comes from Europe.

**Harekhrisna:**

We have to finish that is true. Apart from anything else that we have to decide on Venue of 2005, 2006 CC meetings.

Where is the next GA in 2007?

When all of us are here it is best for all to decide.

Two countries have offered Philippines and Basque for the same year.

**Lucas:**

Can we ask the Philippines and the Basque to take one year each?

**Luna:**

Philippines can host 2005 in the second half of 2005.

**Harekhrishna:**

If we can have the meeting just before or after the WTO meeting we can also have some action programme in Hong Kong without any additional expense. This will facilitate the Asian group having some action in Hong Kong during the WFFP So I suggest 2005 and exact dates will be communicated by the secretariat.

**Tom:**

We need to fix the dates now. Otherwise it is difficult to tell everybody

**DECISION 4:**

**It was decided that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2005, in the Philippines.**

**DECISION 5:**

**It was decided that the coordination committee meeting for 2006 will be in the Basque country in the month of October.**

**Herman:**

**We need to decide the venue for WFFP GA4. When we decide it we need to consider some matters like, Travel distance, Visa and climate as some important factors.**

**DECISION 6:**

**It was decided that the next WFFP General Assembly will be held in Martinique in the year 2007.**

**Harekrishna:**

We have also to choose an alternative venue for GA 4 in case of any difficulties

**Herman:**

We can now decide to choose Basque as the next choice.

**Dao Gaye:**

It is not possible to hold the CC in 2005 and then again the GA in 2007. So we should name a third country. SriLanka is the choice.

**Marie Ademar:**

I would like getting a list of all delegates and volunteers. I am expecting the list so that I can confer on this in Paris and the visas.

**Herman:**

The WTO meeting will take place from 13-18th Dec. So the next CC meeting will be 20th and 21<sup>st</sup>. 2005, in the Philippines.

**Dao Gaye:**

Thanks all concerned for everything they have done in the past three days. He named all by name and all the local organizers.

The GA3 ended at 2.00 pm.

**Herman Kumara:**

I would like to thank some people who have been behind the activities; the management of the labour college, the house staff, our hosting organization. Dr. Peter and his team and fisher folk network of Kenya. Our CC. who has done their maximum to make WFFP secretariat without them we would not have been here. Very specifically Sr.Cecily as a "one woman" team and the co-ordinators Pauline and Dao our former General Secretary Harekrishna; Without their untiring efforts we would not have been here. With all of them we cannot forget our great leader Thomas, with his untiring head-breaking effort all the time and his wisdom the event was possible and we came here and the event is sustained. As all of you my colleagues delegates observers I like to congratulate all those behind this event GA 3 Thank you very much.

**Robert Alva res:**

I thank you for doing such a good job. I am very happy to be with all of you. When we meet we feel very happy because we are in the same spirit. We are friends, and I really appreciate that we can fight together for justice. I thank friends from Kenya. I cannot forget this kind of work I have done. I thank you the way you welcomed us here. If god wants we will meet another day.

**Peter Otiato:**

All of your delegates and my host team ladies and gentleman,  
I don't know how to feel happy or to feel sad. It is both. Happy because visitors are always a blessing. A bit sad because they are now departing and I will have no excuse to keep away from



my friends and others who need my attention. I thank you all to for the trouble to come, to this great country of ours, and to the beautiful city of Kisumu, which got a city status about three years ago I know you went through quiet a lot of thing; I want to assure you that we like visitors, in Kenya. Any delay or disturbances was due to the unavoidable protocols I am very certain that none of you have a visa that does not last more than one month! So you can say that officially you are silently invited to stay a little more in Kenya. There has been very minimal discomfort in illness. We hope the affected will recover well enough to go according to their schedules. All over Kenya we have other Tom Mboya's both on the coast on the mountain slopes and within the national parks. That is to lure you in the near future when there is not too much pressure of work in your lives. I wish to express my special thanks to the first committee and the WFFP secretariat for the encouragement and support that hey have give our organization since November last year up till now. Especially Fr. Thomas Kocherry who have been both Father and Grand father to my children. Apart from the BUHEDE members we also had our working committee, especially the Francis Owakha who was the chairman of that committee, He ha done a wonderful Job both in the background in the forefront as you witnessed when he welcomed you. Christopher Iteo and delegates Oruko as well as Jamine Madera were wonderful locally the hosting institution was always willing to bed to our demands. And for us when a visitor comes and it rains it portends a lot of good luck and there is an understanding among you!! Its pity that Pauline lost her husband and she is not here to listen to what we are saying. But I hope she will travel safely and that we will again meet. I'm very happy that it is a meeting that ends in a hope that we are talking in terms of Philippines 2005, the Basque 2006. May we meet within a year's time. I hope that those of us how are Anglophone and have leant something So that sister we become brothers. You all know my Name Peter Otiato- my address is in the Buhede address and Dr. Peter your letter will surely reach me!

Thank you very much and goodbye.

**Thomas Kocherry led the group in singing a song enthusing the participants stand together, with one focus, and to fight for the rights of the masses of the poor.**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

### **XII. FISHERIES POLICY FORMULATED BY THE ICSF AS PER THE WFFP RESOLUTION**

#### **Draft Global WFFP Fisheries Policy**

##### **I. Background**

About one-quarter of the marine fish stocks are under-exploited or moderately exploited; about half are fully exploited and producing catches close to their maximum sustainable limits, and one-quarter are overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion and need rebuilding. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) observes that the achievable levels of marine fish production has already been reached worldwide and calls for more rigorous stock recovery plans to rebuild stocks that have been depleted by overfishing and to prevent the decline of those being exploited at or close to their maximum potential.

Coastal development including urban and industrial expansion and aquaculture and industrial activities in the hinterland pose many threats to the health of marine ecosystems when they pollute and degrade critical coastal habitats, according to FAO. These land-based and coastal alterations adversely affect the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities and industries, for example, through a reduction of the sustainable yield of fish stocks, modification of the resource species composition, health and diversity, an increase in ecosystem instability and variability and a reduction of seafood quality and safety.

It has been estimated by FAO that there are about 28 million people dependent on fisheries for employment and income, of which 21 million are in marine capture fisheries. All fishers except about 200,000 employed on large marine fishing vessels work on vessels less than 24 m length overall or 100 gross tons. This includes about 11 million full time fishers. Majority of the world's full- and part-time fishers are in the artisanal and small-scale fisheries and nearly 6 million of them are believed to be earning an income less than US\$1 a day. About 90 per cent of them are in Asia, followed by Africa and South America. While the total number of fishers in developing countries seems to be increasing, their number seems to be declining in developed countries.

As far as the world's fishing fleet are concerned, after years of expansion, the number of decked vessels has remained stable at around 1.3 million, says FAO. In addition, there are about 2.8 million undecked vessels, of which 65 per cent are not powered. Large marine fishing vessels (above 100 gross tons or 24 m length overall) number about 24,000. About 85 per cent of total decked vessels, 50 per cent of powered undecked vessels and 83 per cent of total non-powered vessels are concentrated in Asia.

In 2002, according to FAO, 38 per cent of world fish production entered international trade in various forms. The share of developing countries was 49 per cent by value and 55 per cent by quantity. Trade in developing countries is gradually evolving from the export of raw material for the processing industry in developed countries to high-value live fish or value-added products. Some developing countries are also importing raw material for further processing and re-export.

Fishing is emerging from an employer of last resort to an "attractive profession"— as FAO calls it in the 2004 *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*— for migrant agriculture workers to earn a better income in countries like China, which has the largest number of fishworkers in the world.

## **2. Rationale for a Global Fisheries Policy**

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) stands for human dignity, social justice and human rights for the empowerment of fisher peoples, for food security, sustainable development social and ecological security, and preferential rights of traditional, artisanal, informal, indigenous small-scale coastal, inshore fisher peoples to marine living resources in coastal waters.

WFFP monitors threats to the livelihood of traditional, artisanal, informal, indigenous small-scale coastal, inshore fisher peoples who do not resort to trawling, and to protect their legitimate interests in conservation of marine living resources, equitable access to fishery resources, protection of marine habitat and the well-being of coastal communities. Pollution from chemical industries intensive coastal aquaculture, destruction of mangroves that destroys the nursery ground offish construction of upstream dams that reduce the flow of nutrient-rich waters from reaching the coast destructive fishing gear like bottom trawling without subscribing to a management plan, and dynamite fishing are examples of such threats.

WFFP advocates positive recognition of, traditional, artisanal, informal, indigenous, small-scale, coastal, inshore, fisher peoples in the texts of international and regional conventions agreements, codes, etc, concerning fisheries, biodiversity and coastal and marine ecosystems WFFP demands their recognition also under national and provincial legislation that are adopted to meet international obligations.

WFFP recognizes that artisanal and small-scale fisheries using selective fishing techniques could sustainably and equitably harvest most of the marine fish production in die world. In this context the WFFP would like to build up the institutional capacity of its members taking into account the social economic, ecological and cultural characteristics of traditional, artisanal, informal indigenous small-scale, coastal, and inshore fisheries and fisher peoples.

WFFP advocates a global fisheries policy for governance, effective conservation and management of fisheries resources and fish habitats, responsible fishing operations, equitable sharing of resources across exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and fair treatment of fishers across borders, safety and better conditions of work at sea and social security, responsible post harvest practice fish marketing and sustainable fish trade for nutritional security, and wise use of inland, coastal and marine biodiversity. WFFP recognizes the importance of having policies governing human development issues in coastal areas like potable and safe drinking water, education for children, and sanitation and health facilities

## **III. WFFP Global Fisheries Policy**

### *(i) Guard the rights of fisher peoples*

The rights of traditional, artisanal, informal, indigenous, small-scale, coastal, inshore fishing communities to the fishery resources pertaining to their traditional fishing grounds, and whether or not they use fishing gear, should be specially safeguarded. These rights include the right of these communities to participate in the use, management and conservation of these resources

*(ii) Develop management regimes for coastal living and non-living resources*

The importance of fisheries management should be recognized, especially regimes that could ideally provide sustainable employment and income for the same, or even lower, level of fishery production. National fisheries legislation should mainly be for the conservation of marine fisheries resources and for the protection of those who work on board fishing vessels. This could be followed by an integrated legislation for fisheries and aquaculture encompassing both marine and inland waters, where appropriate. Harmonized and sustainable fisheries both in the territorial waters and the EEZ are possible only within a national legislation framework.

In the light of new developments in relation to oil and gas exploration and exploitation, it is important to adopt legislation not only for living resources like fish and other forms of biodiversity, but also to manage exploration and exploitation of non-living resources of the EEZ such as oil reserves. In all these legislation, a human perspective should be maintained.

There is need for effective legislation to prevent marine pollution from fishery and non-fishery sources both in the territorial and national waters.

All fisheries and fish habitat related activities should be combined under a fisheries ministry, where appropriate, including measures to protect mangroves, corals, and marine endangered species such as turtles, dolphins, and selected shark species.

*(iii) Promote selective and labour-intensive fishing*

Promote the use of selective and labour-intensive fishing gear and techniques and phase out, or prohibit, trawling, towards sustainable fisheries and sustainable employment.

*(iv) 'No' to individual transferable quotas*

Output control measures such as vessel-based catch quotas should not lead to the introduction of individual transferable quotas that could result in high grading and concentration of ownership of fisheries resources in the hands of a few. The possibility of arriving at optimum fleet size for different categories of fishing vessels based on total allowable catch (TAC) should be considered instead of output control measures.

*(v) Regulate or prohibit trawling and other forms of destructive fishing*

The destructive power of trawlers should be regulated considering that the fishing power of each trawler is much higher today than ever before. Several trawl gear that are used are designed to be species-, bottom-, and water-column-specific and are far more efficient than conventional trawls. Harmful fishing gear like mini trawl and push nets and certain forms of monofilament nets should be prohibited, if necessary.

There should be restrictions on craft-gear-engine combinations in artisanal and small-scale fisheries, if necessary.

*(vi) Do not expand fishing capacity in an indiscriminate manner*

The existing fishing capacity need not further be expanded as a precautionary measure until reliable stock estimates and proper assessment of TAC is made especially in countries with significant fishing capacity. This could also facilitate the existing national fishing fleet to adjust itself to the extent practicable.

A proper assessment of fishing capacity should be made in conjunction with the status of marine fisheries resources before considering new vessel construction. This has to be followed up by effective registration and licensing arrangements.

While looking into different fleet reduction options, governments should decide not to issue any new fishing licenses and to freeze the size of the trawler fleet, in particular. Reducing the fleet size of nonselective fishing units in overcrowded fisheries can improve returns on fishing.

Subsidies should play an important role in financing buy-back schemes, especially of destructive fishing units such as trawlers and purse-seiners, whereas subsidies that lead to overcapacity should be removed.

Only owner-operated vessels should be allowed to fish except under special circumstances. Older vessels engaging in trawling and purse-seining should be retired from fishing. Trawlers that are not sea worthy should be retired and not replaced.

Alternative employment should be provided to workers who lose jobs when fleet reduction programmes are introduced.

Capacity reduction should be considered in the artisanal and small-scale fisheries, too. Fisheries regulation/management is also important for such fisheries with overcapacity.

In artisanal and small-scale fisheries, subsidies that enhance harvesting capacity in countries with recognized excess capacity in such fisheries should be curtailed including assistance for acquisition of fishing craft, gear and engine.

*(vii) Introduce effective effort-control measures*

In addition to capacity reduction, there is need to introduce effort control measures. Such measures should include: mesh size regulations, restricting size of gear, reducing the number of gear units including reducing the number of gear on board each trawler, reducing fishing time at sea, especially by reducing trawling hours and by introducing seasonal ban on fishing and seasonal areas closures.

*(viii) Improve institutional arrangements for fisheries management*

Fisheries management should be based on the subsidiarity principle and there should be devolution of fisheries management functions to the local level.

In addition to government initiatives, local fishing communities should be encouraged to take up fleet reduction and effort control programmes.

Co-management, or government working in partnership with fisheries stakeholders for managing fisheries is an important management tool if rightly implemented. The role of government should mainly be that of a facilitator, undertaking enforcement functions in local-level fisheries management issues only under exceptional circumstances.

There should be flexible arrangements where the need for setting up zones for powered/non-powered fishing vessels are locally determined.

Genuine member-based co-operatives and trade unions of fisher peoples should be promoted.

Member- controlled fishers' cooperatives and trade unions should be allowed to function, where the scope of cooperative and trade union is redefined to include not only marketing and supply of inputs, and organization of fishers, but also resource management.

*(ix) Introduce employment guarantee schemes for workers in fisheries*

There is need to address the informal nature of the artisanal and small-scale fisheries sector, especially the need for government support in the form of guaranteed employment to workers in fisheries, and the need to highlight the right to adequate food and national food security, including that of the fishing and coastal communities, taking into account the *2004 FAO Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security*.

***(x) Provide exclusive protection for fishers on board non-powered fishing vessels***

It is important to provide exclusive protection for fishers on-board non-powered fishing units. There is a greater need for an exclusive zone for the non-powered fishing units.

***(xi) Improve welfare measures for fishers***

Welfare benefits should mainly address the needs of fishworkers and their dependents, and those who have only rudimentary fishing equipment.

Social security provisions should be extended to the fisheries sector including: medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old-age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit and survivors' benefit.

Mechanisms to prevent abuse of fishworkers under both wage system and share system should be developed. There should be minimum wage provision under the wage system, and a minimum wage equivalent share should be mandatory in a share system.

Provisions for minimum age, medical examination, occupational safety and health and fishers' work agreement, identity document in the proposed International Labour Organization (ILO) fishing convention should be extended to fishers on board artisanal and small-scale fishing vessels that undertake international voyages.

Women in processing and pre-processing sub-sectors, both domicile and migrant, should have minimum wage and medical assistance, as well as protection of their rights. In addition to other benefits, migrant women workers should be provided with decent and safe accommodation.

***(xii) Introduce sea safety measures for fishers***

Sea safety measures should be incorporated into fisheries legislation at the state level. Training for safety should be made mandatory for all fishers. All fishing vessels should have life saving equipment on board and they should be maintained in working order.

***(xiii) Treat fishers arrested for illegal fishing in a humane manner***

Coastal State penalties for violations of fisheries laws and regulations in the EEZ should not include imprisonment or any other form of corporal punishment. Penalties for illegal fishing should be based on the principles of necessity and proportionality.

There should be exchange of fishing register between neighbouring countries, to avoid unnecessary arrests of fishers. If fishers are detained while undertaking fishing operations by a coastal State the flag State should look after the fishers' families during the period of their incarceration.

***(xiv) International trade in fish and fish products should not harm fisher peoples***

Fisher peoples especially women in local communities should be protected from unhealthy competition from the importation of fish and fish products.

WTO agreements of relevance to fisheries should protect the livelihood interests of artisanal and small-scale fishers. Tariff escalation of fish and fish products should be eliminated. Benefits of international trade should contribute to human development of artisanal and small-scale fishing communities

Movements similar to organic agriculture should be developed in fisheries, especially to sell 'safe fish-based on self-regulations and independent standards acceptable to consumers worldwide Women should also experience the dignity of undertaking their own initiatives for improving the quality of fish.

***(xv) Improve fish bundling, health and hygiene facilities in marketplaces***

Promoting health and hygiene in fish markets should be considered important. Regulations to improve hygiene standards should first be implemented in harbours and landing centres Coastal local-level administrative units should be involved in keeping beaches and fish landing centres clean of debris and filth. There should be provision for toilets in market places, raised platform for keeping fish and safe water in adequate quantity and quality to help improve health and hygiene standards There should be training and support to women to improve quality of fish sold.

Fishers' associations should manage infrastructure facilities like fish landing centres and fishing harbours. They should be used as a tool for improved fleet management and quality control.

***(xvi) Fisheries access agreements should be socially-responsible***

International fisheries agreements, particularly between the European Union and third countries in the developing world should not adversely impact upon the life and livelihood of artisanal informal indigenous, small-scale, coastal, and inshore fisher peoples. Negotiation of such agreements should ensure their participation.

***(XV•it) Consider fisher peoples as an ally in conserving coastal and marine biodiversity***

Artisanal informal, indigenous, small-scale, coastal, inshore fisher peoples should be recognized as powerful allies in the efforts to conserve, restore and protect coastal and marine biodiversity It is important to protect and strengthen their rights to access and use biodiversity in a responsible manner to pursue sustainable livelihoods, and to participate in decision-making and resource management processes at all levels.

Recognize traditional ecological knowledge of traditional, artisanal, informal indigenous small-scale, coastal, inshore fisher peoples and ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

***(xviii) Develop effective disaster management regimes in coastal areas***

Considering the vulnerability of coastal populations, particularly fisher peoples, to natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis, effective participatory mechanisms should be developed at the regional, national, and local levels to prevent, or if that is difficult, to mitigate the effect of natural disasters on the life and livelihood of fishing communities, and to help them rebuild their fisheries-based livelihoods in a time-bound manner.

**XIII MOVING TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE: SOME THOUGHTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS ICSF, 27 COLLEGE ROAD, CHENNAI 600 006, INDIA

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) would like to congratulate the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) on its third General Assembly, being held at the Tom Mboya Labour College, Kisumu, Kenya. 21-27 November 2004

We are happy to observe that, today, from a social, environmental, economic and cultural point of view artisanal and small-scale fisheries, and the relative merit of artisanal over the industrial model of fish production, are better recognized. This is quite evident from the work of several of

the multilateral organizations and from the fisheries policies of several national governments, for instance, the last Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2003 had small-scale fisheries 011 its agenda and the next COFI meeting in 2005 also has small-scale fisheries scheduled on its agenda.

Even in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United States, during the debate on fishing subsidies, has proposed that subsidies to the artisanal fisheries need not be seen as subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing. India and several other countries also share this view. However, there is an ongoing debate 011 what indeed are artisanal fisheries. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is planning to initiate a project to define artisanal fisheries. While consolidating the current appreciation of artisanal fisheries, and seeking further recognition to this subsector, it is also important that salient aspects of artisanal fisheries that make us all proud of this subsector are not eroded. We should be able to maintain our moral high ground in a credible fashion.

There are worrying developments in the artisanal and small-scale subsector that make some of the traditional fishing operations to behave more like industrial units, where economic interests subsume social, environmental and cultural uniqueness of artisanal fisheries. This demands a constant reflection on our part on artisanal fisheries all die time. Are we fishing resorting to die same tactics that made the world rethink its position on industrial model of fisheries development?

Are we aware of the economic sea-changes in our fisheries that indebt us to the merchants, moneylenders and commercial banks, that enslave us meaninglessly to the marketplace, that rob us the precious equity and ecological dimensions of our fishing operations? What are our considerations to protect our artisanal fisheries from acquiring the characteristics of industrial fisheries?

There are at least three avenues open before us. The first is to keep track of developments at the international, regional, national and local level that potentially threaten our fisheries, our ecosystems as well as our livelihoods. What are the principal threats facing our children, women and men today in different parts of the world?

Chemical industries, intensive coastal aquaculture, dams, destructive fishing gear like bottom trawling and mini trawling without subscribing to a management plan, and dynamite fishing are examples of such threats. Sometimes, the indiscriminate expansion of our own artisanal fishing units without any thoughtful consideration of fisheries management could be a threat to our own artisanal fisheries and its future. Our fishing vessels are getting bigger. The fish-hold capacity is expanding in volume. Fishing vessels are becoming longer with higher horsepower engines. Fishing gear is being used in larger quantities. In the process, artisanal fishing is expanding its area of operation. There are, as a result, growing conflicts amongst artisanal fishers in different parts of the world.

The second avenue is, what are the opportunities to artisanal fisheries, and can we consolidate these opportunities in a meaningful fashion? Our type of fishing today could sustainably and equitably harvest much of the fish in the world. Is our institutional capacity adequate to achieve such fisheries? Institutional capacity should be developed taking into account, the social, economic, ecological and cultural characteristics of artisanal fisheries. Can we develop our own principles and criteria for such fisheries, drawing from the formidable knowledge at the disposal of this General Assembly, based on hands-on experience and traditional wisdom of its leaders? Can we



clearly say what we would, and what we would not like to, do in pursuit of recognition of our fisheries and earning a fishery'-based livelihood?

The third avenue open to us is to support each other and to learn from each other. What are the issues that we would like to lobby together for? The proposal to develop a global fisheries policy, which to us appears more like an attempt to develop a model fisheries policy for each country at the appropriate administrative level is, for example, an excellent idea.

What are the pillars that we would like to propose for a fisheries and human development policy?

What should be the policies governing fisheries resource allocation, conservation and management, habitat protection, fishing operations, sharing of resources across exclusive economic zones, treatment of fishers across borders with compassion, safety and conditions of work at sea, aquaculture development, coastal area development, post harvest practice and fish marketing, and use of inland, coastal and marine biodiversity? What should be the policies governing human development issues in fisheries like potable and safe drinking water, schooling for our children, sanitation and health facilities, social security, etc?

We need further recognition and protection under international and regional conventions, agreements, codes, etc, on fisheries, biodiversity and in the wise use of coastal and marine ecosystems, especially to protect our responsible access to fisheries resources for a livelihood. We may also need protection under national and provincial legislation on fisheries and biodiversity conservation, and use of coastal resources. There are areas where we can learn from each other and areas of work where we could support each other. These should be developed through consultation.

In conclusion, can we have a covenant with the world that if we are given greater responsibility for living aquatic resources we will not abuse it to just amass profits? That we will make a positive difference, unlike the industrial, large-scale fisheries and its adherents? In turn, can we take a promise from the world that it will protect our waters from pollution that kill our fish with toxic pollution? That we will not practice fish production and habitat degradation practices that would take away our resources and undermine existence in no time?

World Fisheries Day World Fisheries Day World Fisheries Day World Fisheries Day World Fisher

The WFFP General Assembly is to take place November 23 - 27.

The participants are gathered two days in advance for a workshop on ILO labour standards for fishworkers. This Workshop is conducted by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), represented by Sebastian Mathew, Eli David and Ramya Rajagopalan.

World Fisheries Day World Fisheries Day World Fisheries Day World Fisheries Day World Fisher

#### **XIV CELEBRATION OF WORLD FISHERIES DAY**

**9.00 A.M. (21.11.2004)**

**Introductory Session to mark the World Fisheries Day**

**Presided by: Dao Gaye**

**Others in the dais were:** Harekrishna Debnath, Owakah E A Francis, and Seremos

**Owakah E A Francis**, the chairman of the organizing committee welcomed all the participants. He shared some of the challenges and hardships faced by the organizing committee, particularly

as regards communication. He said that the preparatory team had representatives from all the stake-holders in Kenya, particularly the small, artisanal fisher peoples. He acknowledged the cooperation and the involvement of the WFFP secretariate in the work of the preparation.

**Some of the persons who have been actively involved in the preparation from the beginning are: Dr. Christopher Iteyo, Silvanus Namadoa, Obure Phillippe, Dr. Peter, Muswali Gabriel and Patrick De Souza. Gratitude and appreciation was expressed to these persons.**

**He also thanked the Kenya Government who have been very supportive through the ministry of livestock, fisheries and development. Special thanks and gratitude was expressed to the management of Tom Mboya Labour College. He welcomed all to the fishing town of Kisumu. Harekrishna thanked Mr. Francis and his team for the excellent work of preparation done. He mentioned that this work of preparation has brought the fisher peoples of Kenya into a national network.**

**He said that it is very fitting that we gather today, thr World Fisheries Day. To mark World Fisheries Day there would be a pledge taking.**

**Dao Gaye** greeted all present and thanked all concerned who have made this event a reality. He mentioned the various continents and regions from where we have gathered here. He also thanked the Government of Kenya for the cooperation.

**Seremos** greeted all present in the name of the fisher peoples of Uganda since we are gathered at Lake Victoria and since Uganda also share the same water body. He spoke of the progress made in Uganda as regards the National Fisheries Policy. The fishers in Uganda are managing their own resources. He expressed the hope of forming a regional network of fisher peoples in this part of the African continent.

**Harekrishna**, then inaugurated the process of introducing the participants of this meet. This was a self-introduction process. However, he himself introduced Thomas Kocherry.

**Then followed the self introduction of all the participants present. Some of the participants spoke also a little bit about their organizations, which will however be taken up when the various member countries present their reports.**

**At the end of the self introduction Namadoa led the group in the pledge taking, to mark the World Fisheries Day.**

**Pledge**

**We the fisher peoples of Kenya together and with the support of our brothers and sisters, members of the world forum of fisher peoples, on the occasion of World Fisheries Day 2004, undertake to guard the fisheries resources by enlightening each and every fisher person on the importance of sustainable fisheries Actively lobby for the inclusion of the fisher people in the formulation, drafting and implementation of the fisheries policy Advocate fore the rights of the fisher people at all levels.**

**This id our pledge, so help us, God.**

## **XV. LETTER FROM ILO**

Page 1 of 4

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
International Labour Standards Department  
4 route des Morillons  
CH-1211 GENEVA 22  
Facsimile direct +41 (22) 799 70 50

Reference:MA 10-0

FACSIMILE

To: Mr. Thomas Kocherry,  
World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)  
Velankanny Junction. Valiathura  
Thruvananthapuram-695 008  
KERALA, INDIA  
Fax No.: +91 (0)471 2501376  
From: Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, Director, International Labour Standards  
Department, International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland  
Telephone direct + 41 (22) 799 6503

9 June 2005

Dear Mr. Kocherry,  
Third General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples  
Labour College, Kisumu, Kenya  
(21-27 November 2004)

Thank you for your gracious invitation to attend the Third General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples. Unfortunately, it will not be possible for an ILO official to attend this important event. However, to assist your Assembly in its discussion of the proposed new ILO Convention and Recommendation concerning work in the fishing sector, we have prepared, for distribution at your Assembly, the attached paper entitled "ILO submission to the Third General Assembly of

the World Forum of Fisher Peoples". This paper describes the ILO's aim with respect to the proposed new instruments. It also provides substantial information on the process underway to develop these standards and on how to obtain copies of relevant ILO publications and other documents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or my colleague Brandt Wagner, Maritime Specialist (wagner@ilo.org), should you require additional information on our work

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and the Third General Assembly of the WFF the greatest success in your efforts to improve the situation of the world's fishers.

With kind regards.

ILO submission to the  
**Third General Assembly of the  
World Forum of Fisher Peoples**

Labour College, Kisumu, Kenya (21-27 November 2004)

*Summary: This document provides information on work underway by the International Labour Organization 1 to prepare a comprehensive standard (a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation) on work in the fishing sector.*

The primary goal of the ILO today is to promote opportunities for men and women to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Decent work means productive work in which rights are protected, which generates an adequate income, with adequate social protection. Since its founding, the Organization has been concerned with improving the conditions of workers in the fishing sector.

At its 283<sup>rd</sup> Session (March 2002) the Governing Body of the ILO decided to place on the agenda of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference an item concerning a comprehensive standard (a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation) on work in the fishing sector. This standard will revise seven ILO standards (five Conventions and two Recommendations) adopted in 1920, 1959 and 1966 that are specifically aimed at persons working on board fishing vessels (henceforth "fishers"). These five standards concern the issues of: minimum age, medical examination, articles of agreement, competency certificates, crew accommodation, hours of work and vocational training. The standard may also address other issues, such as occupational safety & health and social security. The aim is to ensure "decent work" for fishers.

The rationale for this revision is to reflect the changes in the sector which have occurred over the last 40 years; to achieve more widespread ratification; to reach, where possible, a greater proportion of the world's fishers, particularly those working on smaller vessels; and to address

1 The International Labour Organization is the UN specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. It was founded in 1919 and is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles which brought the League of Nations into being and it became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946.

other fishing operations, employment arrangements, methods of remuneration and other aspects. This revision will complement the parallel work being done by the ILO to consolidate its standards for seafarers (on vessels engaged in commercial maritime transport) into a comprehensive new standard.

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Conference, the Office prepared a preliminary report intended to serve as a basis for the first discussion of the item on the fishing sector standard by the Conference in 2004. The report gives an overview of the fishing sector and analyses the relevant legislation and practice concerning labour condition in the sector in various ILO member States. The report and attached questionnaire were communicated to the government of member States of ILO, which were invited to send their replies so as to reach the International Labour Office in 2003. The report, entitled Conditions of work in the fishing sector: A comprehensive standard (a Convention supplement by a Recommendation) on work in the fishing sector, Report V(1), International Labour Conference, 92<sup>nd</sup> Session, Geneva, 2004, is available at the ILO website. It is available in English, Spanish, German, Russian, Arabic and Chinese.

On the basis of the replies to the abovementioned questionnaire, the Office prepared a second report. Replies were received from over 80 ILO member States. In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Conference, governments were requested to consult the most representative organizations of employers and workers before finalizing their replies to the questionnaire, to give reasons for their replies and to indicate which organizations have been consulted. Governments were also reminded of the importance of ensuring that all relevant departments were involved in the present consultative process, including the departments responsible for social and labour affairs, fisheries, maritime safety, health and the environment. The report also took into account the report of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on labour Standards for the Fishing Sector, which had been held in Geneva from 2 to 4 September 2003 in order to discuss issues to be covered in the fishing standard. It provides proposed conclusions with a view to a Convention and a Recommendation. The report, entitled Conditions of work in the fishing sector: A comprehensive standard (a Convention supplement by a Recommendation) on work in the fishing sector: The Constituents' Views, report V(2), International Labour Conference, 92<sup>nd</sup> Session, Geneva, 2004, is available at the ILO website. It is available in English, French, Spanish, German, Arabic and Chinese.

### **92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference (June 2004)**

At the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference, a Committee on the Fishing Sector debated the issue of a new fishing standard. As the basis for its discussions, the Committee had before it the abovementioned reports prepared by the Office. The Conference adopted the Report of the Committee and its Conclusions with a view to a Convention and a Recommendation. It also adopted a Resolution to place on the agenda of the next ordinary session of the Conference an item entitled "Work in the fishing sector" – with a view to adopting a comprehensive standard (a Convention supplement by a Recommendation). During its deliberations, the Committee had agreed that the Office should ensure that consultation on Part V and Annex II of the Conclusions, both of which concern accommodation on board fishing vessels, should take place, through an appropriate mechanism, between the end of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference and its next session.

### Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Fishing Sector (Geneva. 13-17 December 2004)

As a result of the abovementioned calling for consultations on the issue of accommodation on fishing vessels, the Governing Body of the ILO, at its 290th Session (June 2004), agreed that the ILO should hold a Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Fishing Sector from 13 to 17 December 2004. The purpose of the Meeting, which will be composed of six Government experts (from Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, South Africa and Spain), six Employer experts (as nominated by the Employers Group of the Governing Body of the ILO) and six Worker experts (as nominated by the Workers Group of the Governing Body), will be to review and formulate provisions on accommodation and deal with any other pending issues identified by the Committee on the Fishing Sector of the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference. The Committee had also agreed that the Office should develop in the Convention a new Part concerning "Additional requirements for vessels of [. . .] metres in length or more" in order to address the specific needs of fishers working on larger vessels. It was therefore agreed that the Meeting of Experts should review a document entitled Proposed provisions for accommodation, large fishing vessels and social security prepared by the Office and formulate provisions on these issues. The document will be available in English, French and Spanish.

### Report V(1), Work in the Fishing Sector, for the 92<sup>nd</sup> International Labour Conference, sent to ILO Member States for comment

In accordance with article 39, paragraph 6, of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the Office has also prepared Report V(1), Work in the Fishing for the 93rd Session of the Conference. The report was prepared on the basis of the first discussion and contains the texts of a proposed Convention and Recommendation. It was sent to all Member States, which were asked to reply to the International Labour Office by November 15, 2004, after consulting with the most representative organizations of employers and workers, and to state whether they had any amendments to suggest or comments to make on the proposals. The report is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Prussian and Spanish.

### 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference (June 2004)

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference will establish a Committee on the Fishing Sector. The Committee will have, as the basis for its discussions, a Report V(2), which will itself have two parts. The first part will be a summary of the comments received on Report V(1) as mentioned above. This part will also reflect the outcome of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Fishing Sector to be held in December 2004. The second part will contain the texts of a proposed Convention and Recommendation on Work in the Fishing Sector. These reports will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Should the Conference adopt the Convention, in accordance with Article 19 of the ILO Constitution it will be sent to all Member States for possible ratification. Once the Convention receives sufficient ratifications to meet its entry-into-force requirements (to be established in the Convention itself), it will be binding on Member States that ratify it. The Recommendation, if adopted, will also be communicated to Member States for their consideration with a view to effect being given to it by national legislation or otherwise.

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## **Impact on WFFP Members**

The new Convention and Recommendation, if adopted in a form near that of the current draft, will provide a new international standard that will seek to extend labour protection to fishers on not only large fishing vessels but also smaller vessels. This would include legal protection as concerns such issues as: minimum age, medical examination, fishers' work agreements, occupational safety & health and social security. The current drafts of the instruments, however, are written so as to promote improvements in these areas while leaving a certain degree of flexibility for developing countries.

## **Further information**

For further information on the development of the proposed new Convention and Recommendation, and on ILO's work in the fishing sector in general, please visit the ILO website at [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org). At this site, click on "social dialogue", then "sectoral activities", then "Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Fishing Sector". You will then find pages which describe the ILO's work in the fishing sector and which provide links to publications and other documents mentioned above.

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# **XVI TWO DAY Workshop ON ILO Labour Standards in Fisheries, CONDUCTED BY ICSF**

**An Introduction to the  
Proposed ILO Comprehensive Labour Standard for Fishing, 2005**  
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers

**THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP)  
21-27 NOVEMBER 2004, TOM MBOYA LABOUR COLLEGE, KISUMU, KENYA**

**WFFP constitution**

**Structure of the presentation**

**Overview of world fisheries**

**Background information on ILO**

**Existing ILO labour standards for fishing**

**Review of International Labour Conference (ILC) 2004**

**Proposed labour standards ILC 2005**

**Overview of world fisheries**

**Production**

**83 per cent of the fish production comes from Asia**

**9 per cent from Africa**

**The rest from other regions**

## **Capture and culture fish production**

### **Capture fish production**

#### **Small-scale vs Large-scale fisheries**

**45 per cent of marine capture fish production is contributed by small-scale fisheries, the remaining by industrial fisheries**

**90 per cent of the small-scale fish production is for human consumption**

**Bulk of catch taken in capture fisheries are landing in fishing vessels**

Fishing Vessels

**According to FAO (J998) estimates:**

**1.3 million decked vessels**

**2.8 million undecked vessels:**

**Asia accounted for 85 per cent of all decked vessels and per cent of undecked but motorised vessels and 83 per cent of undecked vessel without engines**

#### **Decked vessels**

Europe accounts for 8.9 per cent of decked vessels Countries in North and Central America 4.5 per cent Countries in Africa 1 per cent South America 0.6 per cent Oceania 0.2 per cent

Of the undecked vessels with engine

North and Central America 21 per cent Africa 16 per cent

South America 6 per cent

Oceania 3 per cent

Employment

**Estimated 27 million fishers (full time, part time and occasional fishers) in capture fisheries world wide**

**16.6 million are regularly employed in fishing vessels**

**93 per cent of workers are on vessels below 100 GRT (roughly 90 per cent of the workers work in vessels less than 24 metres in length) There are 45,600 vessels above 100 GRT and there are 146,000 fishermen aboard these vessels**

## **International Labour Organisation**

### **Philadelphia Declaration 1944**

#### **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF ILO**

labour is not a commodity

freedom of expression and association are essential to sustain progress

poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere

the war against want requires to be carried on with unrelenting vigour within each nation, and by continuous and concerted international effort in which the representative of workers and employers, enjoying equal status with those of governments, join with them in free discussion and democratic decision with a view to the promotion of the common welfare

### **ILO Legal Instruments**

**Two types:**



International Convention  
Recommendations

**Each member of ILO has 18 months to bring the Convention before the national authority/authorities for the enactment of national legislation or other actions Members have to inform the Director General (DG) of ILO of the measures taken Members also have to communicate the formal ratification of the Convention to the DG**

Convention and Recommendation

**Convention**

**Requires ratifications from Members to make effective the provisions of such convention**

**Once ratified requires reporting on the status of implementation Requires explanation from**

**Members for non-ratification**

**Recommendation:**

Does not require ratification from Members

No further obligations from Members

Existing ILO instruments for the fishing sector

**Five Conventions**

**Two Recommendations**

Existing ILO Instruments

**Hours of Work (Fishing) Recommendation, 1920, No. 7**

**Minimum Age (Fishermen) Convention, 1959, No. 112 (29 of which 20 have been denounced)**

**Does not apply to fishing in ports, harbours, estuaries of rivers Medical Examination**

**(Fishermen) Convention, 1959, No. 113 (29)**

**Flexible based on national competent authority Fishermen's Article of Agreement Convention, 1959, No. 114 (22)**

**Flexible based on national competent authority Fishermen's Competency Certificates Convention, 1966, No. 125 (10)**

**Does not apply to vessels below 25 tons and 24.4 metres Accommodation of Crews (Fishermen) Convention, 1966, No. 126 (22)**

**Does not apply to vessels below 25 tons and 24.4 metres Vocational Training (Fishermen)**

**Recommendation, 1966, No. 126**

**In practical terms, the scope of the existing labour standards in fishing, in general, does not include those who work on artisanal and small-scale fishing vessels**

Reasons for consideration of new comprehensive standards for the fishing sector

**Existing instruments require updating in order to reflect the changes in the sector over the last forty years**

**Achieve more widespread ratifications**

**To reach a greater proportion of world's fishermen, particularly those on smaller vessels**

**Accelerate the revision of out-dated instruments**

**To move towards an integrated approach for standards-related activities to take into account the different economic, social and political dimensions of public policies**

**To move towards an "integrated approach" as against the traditional "compartmentalized approach", especially to recognize interdependencies in the current era of globalization**

91st Session of ILC

**Comprehensive Standard (a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation) was proposed**

**011 work in the fishing sector**

**It was proposed that such new standard should be sufficiently broad to address a number of issues and to be effective for the majority of the world's fishermen, both those 011 deep sea vessels and those engaged in artisanal fishing**

**It should be based on principles that could be implemented in a manner, which could accommodate the diversity of economic and social conditions of country.**

**It could take into account the differences of fishing fleet and types of fishing**

Comprehensive standard

**Also to address issues hitherto not addressed in relation to persons working on board fishing vessels, namely:**

Identity documents

Repatriation

Recruitment

Medical care at sea

Occupational safety and health

Social security protection

Compliance and enforcement

**New standards would take into account the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**

**Would integrate the work of ILO with that of other international organizations**

**Proposed Convention: Process**

Questionnaire was circulated among Member countries in 2003 to elicit views on the contents of the Convention and Recommendation; they were requested to consult with most representative organizations of employers and workers

Committee on the Fishing Sector

Set up at the 92<sup>nd</sup> session of the ILC

After 20 sittings, Conclusions adopted by the Committee aims to reach majority of the world's fishers including those on board small fishing vessels. This would also provide protection to the self-employed and those who are paid in share of the catch.

Proposed Convention

Broadens the definition of "Commercial Fishing" to include all but subsistence fishing and recreational fishing (including fishing operations on inland lakes and rivers)

Definition of fisher includes "even" person employed or engaged in any capacity on board any fishing vessel, including persons working on board who are paid on the basis of a share of the catch, it excludes pilots, naval personal, other persons in the permanent service of the Government (and shore based persons carrying on work aboard fishing vessels] Certain categories of fishers and fishing vessels are exempted from the requirements of the Convention, where the application is considered to be impractical However, such exclusions should occur only after consultations with the representatives of organizations of fishing vessel owners and fishers Instrument will include, new provisions on compliance and enforcement especially promoting interventions by port State in relation to conditions on board fishing vessels visiting their ports Will address safety and health in the fishing sector and thus help to reduce the rate of injuries and fatalities in the sector The 92<sup>nd</sup> session of the ILC approved the report of the Committee and adopted the proposed Conclusions concerning the fishing sector Work to be concluded at the forthcoming Second Discussion during the 93<sup>rd</sup> session of the ILC in June 2005

Review of the Work of the Committee on Fishing 2004

New section concerning additional requirements for vessels of, a yet unspecified, metres in length or more to be developed by the ILO office Provisions concerning longer fishing vessels and accommodation on board fishing vessels yet to be finalized Limited discussions on social security at the 92<sup>nd</sup> session, which needs to be addressed in the Convention, since fishers are excluded from the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 Fishers work agreement also remains outstanding

### **Employers' Group:**

Looks forward to sufficiently broad and flexible standards

### **Workers' Group:**

Seeks the adoption of a balanced approach that would be global in scope and provide the flexibility necessary for large and small -scale sector Retain protection afforded to larger vessels by current ILO instruments Proposed Consolidated Maritime Convention excludes fishers from its scope

Proposed Convention 2005

### **Fishers work agreement means:**

A contract of employment, Articles of agreement or other similar arrangements and any other contract governing the terms of the fisher's living conditions and work on board a vessel "Fishing vessels or vessel" means any ship or boat, of any nature whatsoever, whether publicly or privately owned, used or intended to be used, for the purpose of commercial fishing

Scope of the Convention

## **Convention applies to all fishers and all fishing vessels engaged**

**subject to exclusions in consultation**

**Provisions for exclusion of fishing vessels engaged in fishing in rivers and inland waters**

**Limited categories of fishers or fishing vessels**

**Caveat: the case of exclusions, the competent authority should take measures to progressively extend the protection under the Convention to those categories of fishers and fishing vessels**

Minimum requirements for work on board fishing vessels

### **Minimum age**

16 years

May be 15 years for persons no longer subject to compulsory schooling/during school holidays

18 years for activities that are likely to jeopardize the health and safety of young persons

(determination of such activities through consultation)

16 years on condition that the health and safety of young persons are fully protected and that the young persons concerned have completed basic pre-sea safety training

### **Medical examination**

Need for valid medical certificate attesting to medical fitness to perform their duties The competent authority, may after consultation, grant exemptions taking into account the health and safety of fishers, size of the vessels, availability of medical assistance and evacuation, duration of the voyage, area of operation type of fishing operations and national traditions

Conditions of Service

### **Manning and hours of rest**

Vessels are sufficiently and safely manned

Fishers are given rest periods of sufficient frequency and duration

### **Fishers work agreements and list of persons on board**

Fishers working on vessels to have a fishers work agreement, comprehensible to them

Specifying the minimum particulars to be included in fishers work agreement. Every fishing vessel should carry a list of fishers on board

Identity documents, repatriation rights, and recruitment and placement services

Fishers working on board fishing vessels that undertake international voyages shall enjoy treatment no less favorable than that provided to the seafarers **Payment of fishers**

Each Member shall provide that fishers are ensured a monthly or regular payment . Accommodation on board

### **[Accommodation, food and potable water on board fishing vessels]**

Health protection, Medical care and Social security

**Medical care**

Carry appropriate medical equipments and supplies for service of the vessel taking into account the number of fishers on board, area of operation and the length of the voyage

Medical equipments and supplies to be accompanied by instructions and other information in a language understood by fishers

Fishing vessels should have atleast one person on board who is trained in first aid and other forms of medical care, taking into account the number of fishers on board, area of operation and the length of the voyage

Fishers should have the right to medical treatment ashore and to be taken ashore in a timely manner in the event of serious injuries or illness

**Occupational safety, health and accident prevention**

Prevention of occupational accidents, occupational diseases and work related risks on board fishing vessels, including risk evaluation and management

Training and onboard instructions of fishers

Training of fishers in handling types of fishing gear they will use and in the knowledge of fishing operations they will be engaged

Due account should be taken of the safety and health of fishers under 18 years of age

**Social security**

[Each Member shall ensure that fishers are entitled to benefit from social security protection on conditions no less favorable than those applicable to other workers]

**Protection in the case of work-related sickness, injury or death**

Each Member should take measures to provide fishers with protection for work- related sickness, injury or death, determined in accordance with national laws, regulations or practice.

**Compliance and Enforcement**

**Each Member should exercise effective jurisdiction in control over vessels that fly its flag by establishing standards of the Convention including inspections, reporting and monitoring, appropriate penalties and corrective measures, in accordance with national laws or regulations**

**Provisions for port State control****Annex 1: Fisher's Work Agreement****Proposed Recommendation 2005****Conditions for work on board fishing vessels**

Protection of young persons

From night work, hazardous tasks, work with dangerous machinery, manual handling and transport of heavy loads, work in high latitudes, work in excessive periods of time

Medical examination

Pay due regard to the age of the person to be examined and the nature of the duties to be performed

Medical examination certificate to attest that the person is not suffering from any diseases likely to render them unfit from service or likely to endanger the health of other persons on board  
Take into account the international guidance for medical examination and certification of persons at sea, such as the ILO/WHO guidelines for conducting Pre-Sea and Periodic medical fitness examinations for seafarers

### **Competency and Training**

Proposed Recommendation

### **Conditions of service Record of service**

At the end of each voyage, record of service in regard to their voyage should be available to the fisher concerned or entered in their service book

### **Special measures**

For fishers excluded from the scope of the Convention

The competent authority should take measures to provide adequate protection, with respect to their conditions of work with means of dispute settlement

### **Health protection, medical care and social security**

Medical care on board

Occupational safety and health

State should have in places. programmes to prevent accidents on board fishing vessels

Technical specifications

Occupational safety and health management systems

Take into account any relevant international guidelines concerning occupational safety and health management systems including the Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems of the ILO

### **Risk evaluation and management**

#### **Social security**

Members should take measures to extend social security measures progressively to all fishers

Members should maintain up-to-date information on

Percentage of fishers covered Range of contingencies covered Level of benefits

Existing measures under the Social Security Convention (1952)

#### **medical care**

**sickness benefit**

**unemployment**

**benefit old-age benefit**

**employment injury benefit**

**family benefit**

**maternity benefit**

**invalidity benefit and**

**survivors benefit.**

Discussion

**Definition of fisher**

**Scope of the convention**

11.45 A.M. (21.11.2004) **The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) team, led by Sebastian Mathew conducted this session. The others in the team are Ramya Rajagopalan and Eli David.**

The presentation consisted of the following:

- Overview of world fisheries
- Background information on ILO
- Existing ILO labour standards for fishing
- Review of International Labour Conference (ILC) 2004
- Proposed labour standards ILC 2005

For the full text appendix I

The group broke for lunch at 1.00 P.M.

**2.00 P.M. (21.11.2004)**

**Sebastian Mathew** continued with the presentation and took up the proposed **ILO** Convention 2005.

**He emphasized the importance of the small and artisanal fisheries in providing food for the world.**

**He said that we need to take a position to influence the ILO as well as the national governments. The national governments need to be brought to abide by the directives and the recommendations of the ILO.**

At the end of the presentation, **Harekrishna** thanked Sebastian and his team and also the interpreter who had a difficult job through the day.

**Thomas Kocherry** spoke of the importance of taking this document seriously and make our responses to it.

**The participants were divided into four groups for group discussion on the matter. The main question to address is whether we agree with the proposals; if we do not what is our own proposal.**

The group went into workshops.

**Second day of the Workshop on ILO labour standards for fishworkers  
9.00 A.M. (22.11.2004)**

**Harekrishna Debnath** began the session

**Thomas Kocherry** brought the attention of the group to a letter received today from the Director of Labour standards of the ILO

As a background to this letter, Tom said that historically the ILO represented organized workers and had not handled the the issues of the unorganised workers. For the first time the ILO is talking of the unorganised workers. So far, the concerns of the ILO has been very different from ours. The ILO usually addresses the employer-employee situation. The ILO will go on their way if we do not intervene. Since we are given an opportunity to make our views known we may do so. We can be very radical in our suggestions, but they will be acceptable only if they are acceptable to the majority of the governments. Hence the need to lobby and campaign with our governments.

## Group Reports

Moderator - Sebastian Mathew

### Spanish Group

This group consisted of participants from Honduras, Spain and East basque organization

Main points to focus:

National situation in Honduras and Spain:

Structural problem with international law

Low ratification by Members of ILO for the instruments

Low ratification would imply lesser implementation of the provisions

Lack of political will to ratify the instruments

Honduras, France and Spain:

Poor situation in Honduras

No possibility to control standards No policy on these issues

Honduras has not ratified any of the instruments (existing)

France and Spain is different

As members of the EU, ratifications of the instruments is done

Fishermen involved in the fishing fleet, are normally protected by social security, health systems and other systems

In Galicia, with regards to fisherwomen or collectors of shellfish (Fruits of the sea -) shell fish collectors (women) they are not recognized as they are not working on fishing vessels Domestic

situation: The level of ratifications for the instruments by countries present 50 per cent of the countries have not ratified.

Honduras - In central America, non of the instruments or social rights have been applied

II. How do they see the proposal of the Conventions and Recommendations"



Positive about the proposals made in the conventions and recommendations In international law, what would be the implications?

The proposals calls for the Mandate to the States, once they ratify the instruments

There is large scope of specific exceptions: situations that can be excluded from the scope of the convention example salary, Concerned about exclusions / expectations: Lack of Political will.

The background of the articles is based upon on situations in the industrial fleet, the standards that are mentioned, relate to that of the merchant seafarers. These standards would not apply to the conditions in the countries

Role of women in this context is not adequately recognized in the proposed convention

Contribution from Galician women:

Lack of co-ordination between the ILO and the IMO

There are common issues in labour security between ILO and IMO, which would be applicable for preventing oil spills, marine pollution etc.,

French group:

Convention seems to apply only to maritime fishers and wage workers on board fishing vessels

The convention did not talk about the small-scale fisher people

Role of women in the sector

Lack of consultation between stakeholders by the Governments Adoption and ratification of the convention

Suggestions

The small-scale fishing, marketing, processing, should be recognized as a profession

Look for funding for the training of workers to be recognized as professional fishers

Implementation of the policy of education which would facilitate access to information on legislation on fisheries

traditional fishing contribution to sustainable fisheries should be recognized

Quotas based on fisheries resources (TAC) and not based on fishing capacity

Governments should respect the artisanal fishing zones and work against import of industrial trawlers

Working age - Minimum age - the age proposed by the convention is accepted though, it does not reflect specificity of each country

Countries have already ratified the minimum age convention of the ILO, and would follow the minimum age as mentioned

Working hours: Limited hours of work - it is difficult to schedule the work, because of the method of fishing operation.

The limitation of eight hours is acceptable for a wage fishing worker

But the employer obligations' about the payment of the welfare benefits,

It should be applicable to industrial fisheries Progressive adoption of the convention if it is adopted in 2005

### **English - Group 1**

(Members of the group: Kenya, India, Philippines, Canada, South Africa and Uganda)

Agreed to the proposals of the convention, added some recommendations to the proposals of the

convention

Proposal to page 10: Part I, Article 1.

Definition and scope of the convention

Under section a, definition of "commercial fishing", the definition was accepted, if the definition of subsistence fishing and recreational fishing was accepted and defined

Definition of "commercial fishing" was limited in scope,

Subsistence fishing and recreational fishing was defined

Definition of subsistence fishing:

" All the fishing operations tended to meet the fishers basic needs, and not for profit" and recreational fishing "fishing for leisure and sport purposes"

Page 11.

Definition of fishers work agreement was proposed

"contract of employment that has been agreed upon, after consultation between the Government, fishers organizations and boat owners and the employees"

Article 1. Section 1. Definition of recruitment and replacement service:

"means any person" but it was suggested to make it "means any authorised person"

Page 18: Under Social security:

Article 27 and 28, did not mention the small-scale fishers

So, for the purpose of negotiations and lobbying the national governments, the suggestion from the group is :

That the two articles should include the small-scale fishers

For small-scale fishers, the responsibility should be taken by the national governments for social security measures

Recommendations:

(Not related to the document directly)

Broad conclusions

Ratification and enforcement process is slow and inadequate implementation by the national governments

The group recommends that ILO should enforce better implementation measures by Members

Recommendations from Women in the group:

The document did not address the issues relating to women adequately

The document should consider women in

shell collection,

women in oyster collection,

seaweed collection,

fish drying, salting

women workers in seafood processing units

Some of the regulations are covered in the IMO regulations; it was recommended that WFFP should lobby with IMO to enforce this document.

IMO has instruments on safety of people working on fishing vessels and which are enforced effectively

ILO lacks the teeth to enforce the instruments

English - Group 2

(This group consists of members, exclusively from Sri Lanka)

Introduction on local situation in Sri Lanka:

Bank fishing was carried out earlier by bank fishers in the inland waters. There was a regulation by the Government, that certain percentage of the bank fish production, should be kept separately for the pregnant women.

It was a community effort to feed the pregnant women with nutritious fish

This is was existing in the inland capture fisheries.

With regards to the marine fishing, a certain levy was imposed by the King specifically for dry fish. While the traditional practices was specified, the traditional fishers of Sri Lanka had own arrangements within the communities where the division of labour was not so specific.

In the case of marine fishing, country crafts using sails were used for fishing, which were manually operated. These were community efforts and there was no specific rules or regulations

In 1948, a committee was appointed by the Government, to look into the problems of the fisher people specially in the marine sector, and as a result this committee recommended that to improve the fish production in Sri Lanka and to improve poverty among fishermen, it was recommended that fishing should be mechanized. The marine fishing was modernized, and in board and out board motors were introduced for both inshore and deep sea fishing.

In this process, the Government was interested in developing the fisheries production, though there was a realization that a clear division of labour was coming up because of mechanization, where boats owned by private owners. There was no rules or regulations, to regulate the terms of working conditions, the boat owners who made use of the government subsidies, were exploiting the workers/fishers.

In 1995, a trade union organizations limited to other working sectors, started voicing on these problems. Trade unions and NGOs came together and having analysed and understood the situation, they demanded from the Government to appoint a committee to look into the realities of this situation and recommend better working conditions for the fishers.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

from the committee on contract of work on board multi-day deep sea fishing vessels

Recommendations from the committee for workers employed in private fishing vessels

Security of employment

Government suggested a common fund,

Insurance system

System of sharing

Work contract between the boat owners and crew

Training

Medical certification and fitness  
Competency certificates for the boats  
Life saving appliances in the fishing vessels  
Leave between two voyages  
Dispute handling  
Formation of a Committee with fisheries department officials  
This covers fishworkers employed in deep sea multi day fishing vessels

Multi -day fishing vessels; 30-60 feet boats  
5-6 people work on these boats for 2-3 months

The recommendations are not implemented by the Government.  
Trade unions, NGOs are lobbying at the parliament to make it to a legislation  
With regards to the near shore fisheries, it is a family affair /village  
Family owns the boat, absentee boat owners exists, villagers are employed on these boats

Beach-seine- one person owns the beach-seine;50-70 people are employed to operate the fishing gear

Till the recommendations were made, there was no system for protection of fishers in these fisheries, there were no facilities

In the beach seine operations, there are some regulations which came out

Beach seine is labour intensive method of fishing

The regulations and recommendations that exist are not being implemented

It is suggested that certain recommendations in the ILO document should be aimed at certain groups and other recommendations need to be added, and there should be some scope for the inclusion of the artisanal fishers

Recommendations:

### **Protection of Young persons**

The age limit: 18 should be the age where a person should get employed in deep sea fishing boats.

In Sri Lanka, there is a legislation, that a person should be above 18 year, to be employed for till 18 years there is a regulation for compulsory schooling

But in the case of inland fisheries, near shore fisheries, it is recommended 16 years be the minimum age

With regards to the medical examination or certification:

The suggestions and proposals of the ILO are accepted, it is further suggested that the Medical certification, fitness certificate should cover all fishers

Fishers do not have access to medical services in many parts of Sri Lanka, the proposed medical examination, certification, would be useful, if everyone is included in the same (including women)

### **Competency and training**

It is essential for deep sea fishers and coastal fishers who are operating mechanized boats

### **Conditions of work**

Record book

It is needed for larger fishing vessels, as they don't have documents to show the year of experience of the fishers

Medical care on board

In factories, there is a legislation where medical chest should be present, and the legislation was amended to mention the contents of the medical chest. Similar regulation is required

Social Security

There is a pension scheme for fishers in Sri Lanka, it was made possible by lobbying by trade unions, NGOs

**In the social security system recommended, there needs to be a specific mention of the pension scheme , which needs to be implemented by the national governments**

It is accepted social security system, even though there is share wage system. The share of the fisher should be accepted by the government as employers trust fund and employees provident fund.

Summing-up

Summing up the group reports, **Sebastian Mathew** made the following observations:

Interesting presentation and reflects the diversity of the people presents

Unique forum for discussing the issues from gleaners to deep -sea fishers

There is support to the idea of broadening the scope of the convention, to include artisanal and small-scale fishers

Common concern with regards to the exclusions, for those who do not work on fishing vessels, women issues

This can be a strong recommendation from the workshop to see how women who are involved in various activities can be included under the convention

One group has dealt with all instruments under the convention

Occupational safety and health was not dealt with any interest by any group

But social security seems to be a concern of all groups

**Harekrishna Debnath** made the following observations

What we recommended from this workshop, should reflect all small-scale fishers from gleaners to deep sea fishing vessels.

Some of the concerns of extending the regulations of the large scale fishing vessels to the small- scale fishing vessels

Even in ILO, there is a debate to see how to find a balance between the two

Inclusion of small-scale fishers should be seen on a positive manner

The challenge is with the national delegation,

poor ratification of the existing instruments reflects that majority of the fishers were not with in the scope of the convention

With the smallscale fishers coming into the scope of the convention, there is a need to lobby national governments for better education, social security

Whatever instruments, that contribute to safety of fishers, better living standards, better educations should be seen from a positive light

**Suggested (by Harekrishna) recommendations** for the June 2005 meeting at the ILO:

ILO should take care of huge number of un-organized fisher population and should also include women in fisheries as an inseparable part

Traditional, artisanal, family fishermen should not be bound by stringent industrial regulations

Family fishers, traditional fishers, must be covered by the social security measures and benefits

The national governments should be made responsible for the well' being of the small-scale fishers.

But small-scale fishers fishing operations should not be restricted by industrial regulations And based on these corner stones, we shall strive to see if there can be a community ownership/management managed regimes can be brought in to this document

**The moderator called for brief interventions from the participants**

### **Mauritania**

Informal nature of the fishing sector should be considered.

We should not put too much emphasis on the regulations.

### **Kenya**

There are two missing links, between us and the documents. The documents discuss issues relating to fishers on fishing vessels but we are not looking at the fishing industry as a wholesome industry. If the fishing industry is looked at instead of fishing vessels that there would be some changes. The document lacks information on environmental management Destruction of fishing environment by commercial fishing, creates trouble for artisanal fishing The recommendations/discussions should also include the environmental conditions situations and to improve the environment. We need to include at fishing vessels, fishing industry and the environment together. Lake Victoria is becoming smaller, because only fish is given importance there is pollution and the lake is becoming less productive

### **Sri Lanka**

We have working with the organized sector, but UFFC feels the importance of working with the unorganised sector. The unorganized fishermen are being organized in Sri Lanka head load workers While organizing the fishworkers, we realized that most of the rights of the fishworkers were not recognized. Workers in factories and others have the right to get organized there are regulations for the organized sector - employment, working conditions, these are not applicable for the unorganised sector. A survey of the problems of fishworkers in the deep sea fishing vessels was undertaken with the support of ILO office, Sri Lanka.

We presented the report to the government and to the other organizations concerned with fishworkers, a seminar was organized based on this. The government after seeing the report provided an application to present this situation to the ILO

The only organization in Sri Lanka who answered the questionnaire and sent it to the ILO

We never got a chance to go to the ILO, it was politically affiliated trade unions who were present at the ILO.

We have got a good chance to represent our problems to the ILO. it is not only the industrial fishers deep -sea fishers but all of them dependent on fishing for livelihood should be benefited from the proposed ILO document. Our efforts should protect the labour rights, human rights civil rights or fishworkers

## India

Instrument on occupational safety and health. Safe and secure working environment in harbours and in markets for women **Labour contracts should also address the occupational safety and health, social security rights of fishworkers**

And in cases where there is no labour contracts, the State should protect the social security rights of the fishworkers. Social rights not protected by labour contracts should be protected by the State

## Canada

Aboriginal and indigenous fishing communities are not organized sector, they are organized only for community based management. The fishing communities are not officially recognized as "Organized"

## Honduras

Some of the important aspects:Problems suffered by the artisanal fishermen

Within the convention, there should be a mention on the respecting of rights of fishermen

In general, there is not really a true and fair respect of human rights of fishermen in some parts of the world. In majority of cases, there is no response from the government, who accept this Behaviour.

Therefore, on behalf of these people, requests WFFP to support a proposal to lead the rights of these fishermen to be protected.

To protect the areas of reproduction of the species, such as mangroves, coastal marshes, reefs, and other areas for reproduction of fish species. These are under risk, due to unsustainable fishing and illegal fishing. Also propose that all members of the forum, should write letters to the government, to lobby them for ratification of all international treaties

**Suggests that letters be written to the IMF, World Bank, International Development fund, to stop support to polices that affect the environment and in particular, the shrimp culture practices in central America. Regret on behalf of fishermen of Honduras, the president of Honduras is one of the biggest shrimp aquaculture investors.**

**As a conclusion to the two day work-shop, the following statement was adopted by the which may be taken up as a resolution in the General Assembly that follows.**

## **STATEMENT ON ILO'S PROPOSED LABOUR STANDARDS IN THE FISHING SECTOR**

*We, representing artisanal, small-scale, informal, traditional, subsistence, family, aboriginal, indigenous fishing communities and fishworkers from Africa, Asia, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, North America and the Pacific, active as gleaners including shell gatherers, net and line fishers, whose fishing operations range from rivers and lakes to the exclusive economic zones, met at the Third General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) from the 21 to 27 November 2004 at the Tom Mboya Labour College, Kisumu, Kenya, discussed the application of the proposed new ILO Convention and Recommendation concerning work in the fishing sector for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference 2005, to our fishing activities.*

*While welcoming the scope of the instrument to include all fishing operations, we are concerned about the exclusion of fishers, particularly women, who do not work on board fishing vessels, such as shell gatherers and workers employed in shore seine operations.*

*Whilst taking note that the entire lot of proposed legal provisions may not be relevant to all of us, we strongly demand that social security provisions should be extended to all of us irrespective of our sphere of fishing operations.*

*The social security provisions should be no less than those included under the 1952 Minimum Standards for Social Security Convention (C. 102)*

*We would further stress the importance of the State providing social security protection to workers who fall outside formal owner-worker arrangements, viz., those from traditional, artisanal, informal and small-scale fisheries, as well as family-based, subsistence fishers and indigenous peoples.*

**While agreeing with provisions for minimum age, medical examination, occupational safety and health and fishers' work agreement, we support the degree of flexibility in relation to these provisions. We, however, strongly urge that such provisions should be made for artisanal and small-scale\* fishing operations that undertake international voyages.**

## **XVII Press Release FROM KENYA**

### **World Forum of Fisher Peoples**

**(WFFP)**

***is a mass based Movement of the Traditional, small-scale, artisanal and indigenous fisher people in the world who depend upon fishing for their livelihood They not only earn their livelihood through fishing but also take care of the water bodies audits resources. They protect, consent and preserve the marine resources for the future generations.***

It was founded in New Delhi, the Capital city of India on November 21, 1997. For the first time in the history of the world the representatives of the fisher peoples and their communities from 32 countries gathered together with a purpose of organizing themselves into a Political force After long periods of



discussions, study and sharing, the representatives unanimously decided to form a Political Forum for the World's fisher Peoples. The WFFP grew into a mighty Political force in the world. Spreading its membership into 24 countries having a membership of 35 National organizations, though still in its infancy, today it is the mouthpiece of millions of poor small traditional and indigenous fisher people that no governments can ignore easily In October 2000. Second General Assembly in Loctudy, France and it was the Constituent Assembly as well. After 4 years we are again gathered together in Kisumu, Kenya for the 3rd General Assembly from November 21-27, 2004. One of the main objectives of the General Assembly is to prepare a Global Fisheries Policy for the World. This, we find is very important for our very survival and existence as against the forces of Globalization, WTO, IMO and even some of the

National Governments who are but the agents of Multinational Companies who are out to snatch away and destroy our very livelihood. We like to highlight the fact that our objectives are always spearheading towards the realization of our Goal:

“To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on fishing for their livelihood and to create an understanding that the Marine Resource like all other natural resources are a common heritage of humanity and, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation, and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations. The fishing community that depends on fishing for their livelihood to have the right of custodianship of water bodies and manages resources. They own the fishing implements and the rights of sale and distribution of their catch”

Every Year November 21<sup>st</sup> is celebrated as World Fisheries Day (WFD). On this occasion campaign against:

Water Pollution

Industrial Aquaculture

Factory Trawlers.

## **XVIII. COUNTRY REPORTS**

### **Appendix 4.**

#### **Report of Basque Country - Robert Alvarez**

The situation of the fishing sector, in particular regarding the traditional fleet of Biscay Bay is becoming really alarming. Nowadays, the stock is clearly in trouble and different risks are threatening this fishing activities along the world.

This process may conclude with the life line of a relevant number of fishermen that are indeed the ones using more selective gears in terms of the sustainability of fisheries in Biscay Bay

The EU fisheries policy seems to be in trouble with our aimed sustainability. It is a policy based upon economic considerations and. imposed from the powerful lobby of the European industrial fleets. It is finally a policy that will not lead us to any fishing sustainability neither for the current days nor fur the future generations.

The fishing agreement give advantages to those fleets that are responsible for the current situation of overfishing, by catches and general risk of stocks. The industrial fleet continues with nonselective fishing gears and very destructive methods always bringing trouble to any activity of the traditional fleets along Biscay Bay

We are right in this organisation (WFFP) in order to say NO to this imposed future. Each one . within his or her possibilities should be leading at local level a process to recover our common and legitim rights.

I do not have the whole solution therefore but I know that is now time for action rather than playing with speeches. We do need urgent measures for our survival.

Additional Information on ITSAS GEROA (association)

At the following levels:

- Awareness
- Publications
- Research
- Institutional relations

UNION OF ARTISAN FISHING PROFESSIONS OF BENIN (UNIPPA-BENIN UNION DE PROFESSIONNES DE LA PECHE ARTISANALE DU BENIN)

## **Appendix 10 - Report presented by Kokou Fadina & Dehy Lucien**

### **UNIPPA-BENIN**

#### **THE FISHERY POLITICS OF UNIPPA-BENIN**

##### **The Fishery Politics of UNIPPA-BENIN**

The Fishing Sector.

The fishing sector comprises of two active parts of great importance; marine and inland fishing.

Benin possesses approximately 121km of coast which extends to the borders of Nigeria and Togo. In the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of nearly 27,750 km<sup>2</sup>, the continental plateau has weak, rare and poor water up-wellings, and is covered by deep sand which extends for 2,800km<sup>2</sup>. Most of the continental plateau is 27km wide stretching from the coast. Despite the narrow size of the plateau, the ichthyologic fauna comprises of over 257 species with 43 *selaciens* and 214 *teleosteens*.

Artisanal sea fishing is practised by 80 camps of fisher people spread across four coastal regions of Benin. This totals 4,345 artisan fisher people are active at sea with 2,234 of Beninese nationality (51.4%), 1,993 Ghanaian (46%), 115 from Togo (2.54%) and 3 Nigerians (0.06%). The gear currently used is nets, swing lines, beach lines and hand lines

Industrial maritime fishing it is only slightly developed. Time spent at sea has not exceeded 40

tides for the past ten (10) years and the annual catch is valued at about 1,000 tonnes of fish, which represents 10% of all sea fishing. The gear used is trawl nets and since last year *beef-trawl nets*.

The fluvial network in Benin is quite dense. It comprises of lagoons, lakes, estuaries, rivers, ponds, flood plains and reservoirs. In total, less than 333km<sup>2</sup> of brackish water and 700km water courses are available.

Inland fishing holds a particular importance, especially in southern Benin. It accounts for 75% to \_ 80% of the annual fish catch, 40% of national animal protein consumption and the livelihoods of over 300,000 people. The diversity of habitats, species diversity (106 reported), open to the sea and in the rivers creates a complex system of exploitation with one of the characteristics being the presence of food chains confined to lagoons.

Fisher people of Southern Benin have reached the level of full resource exploitation and now over-exploit. In particular, this has caused a reduction in total catches, an increase in fishing effort and a reduction in fishing productivity and in the average size of fish caught. As well as an increase in the effort of fisher people, this reduction in catches is explained by the loss fish habitat and by the use of gear which is unselective or unfavourable for preserving fish resources.

Increasingly, fisher people are using finer mesh nets (squares under 10mm) which trap undersized fish before they reach sexual maturity. In fact, over 90% of fish caught are immature. Across all parts of Southern Benin one commonly sees the use of prohibited fishing methods and gear.

Women play a fundamental role to promote fish resources, by undertaking harvesting, conservation and in the processing and commercialisation of fish products.

## **Problems**

### **At the level of artisanal sea fishing**

Incursion of industrial fishing fleets in the artisanal fishing zone.

Gear is messed up and financial payouts are not available.

Catching immature fish is as common in artisanal fishing as in industrial fishing.

At the level of artisanal fishing, the people predict the ban on gear (land-based net and line fishing '*serine de plage* ') will negatively impact the sustainability of the resource.

Problems with access to credit for alternative fishing activities and the diversification of fishing gear after the introduction of deep sea fishing lines.

Land based net and line fishing (*senne de plage*) has multiplied along the 121km of coastline where it occurs in 112 places, sometimes as frequently as every 800 metres of beach.

In addition to this, the consequences of climate change must be added. This is illustrated by the intensity of rainfall recorded in November this year which caused onions in the region of Grand- Popo to rot where this agricultural practise was used to allow people to replace the increasing losses in fish revenue.

### **At the level of continental fishing**

The level of poverty that has been reached is intolerable. The situation here has led to the creation of all sorts of gear to track fishes regardless of where they are found. We identify two groups: those who do anything to survive without considering the long-term sustainability of the resources and those who wish to undertake other activities and practise fishing with legal gear.

The self-suspension of shrimp exports to Europe decided by the Government to conform to the standard quality requirements of the global market caused a fall in the buying price for producers. Fish processing factories not only reduced the buying price for shrimp but also the volume of stocks.

The water hyacinth is a major problem.

The push towards pisciculture.

Faced with these problems, UNIPP A-BENIN has held general assemblies at Cotonou, Grand-Popo, Ouidah, Guezin, So-Ava and Aguegues.

Concerning current policy, the following actions are held as priorities for the next three years:  
For Inland fishing .

Facilitate access to credit through savings mutuals and community-managed credit agencies.

Push for the introduction of a regulation in gear and mesh size.

Push for the improvement in processing techniques by the establishment of community smoking centres.

Promote the importance of basic reading courses and provide teachers with appropriate teaching materials.

Contribute to an alteration in school fees for children and push for children's homes to be run in a manner which gives a desire for learning and for the life associated with children in communities.

Improve access to drinking water and electricity in 195 fishing villages.

Push for alternative activities and generation of income.

Contribute to the change and work to prevent the spread of water hyacinths.

Organise the docks.

Improve the habitat on lake Nokoue and the Porto-Novo lagoon

### **For Artisanal sea fishing**

Encourage the Directorate of Fishing to begin onboard inspections of vessels to prevent them entering the artisanal fishing zone. This surveillance must be enforced by everyone to make all people in their respective regions aware that they are contravening the law.

Diversify fishing practises where deep sea line fishing on rocks occurs as a prelude to the imminent ban on beach-based hand and net fishing (*senile de plage*)

Assist fisher people by furnishing them *with* fishing equipment.

Improve access to credit for women and for fisher people following a number of incidences made on gear this year by trawlers.

### **To strengthen the organisation of UNIPPA-BENIN**

Pursue funding for:

Organise regional fairs for fishing in Benin.

Organise a congress for UNIPP A-BENIN.

Exchange experiences with unions and regional federations

Training for all members on management and basic accounting.

### **SOUTH AFRICA - Presented by Mogamed Naseegh**

Historical context in South Africa

SA is riddled with the politics of apartheid, racism and economic marginalisation

Legislation, policies .and practices used to benefit whites

Rights to have access to the sea and livelihoods similarly skewed  
Capital and trade also further advantaged whites and largely export driven  
Absorbed white fishers from Europe into fishery to the exclusion of local expertise in the commercial sector.

Challenge: to fight for the traditional, artisanal, fishers to be accepted as a legal entity.  
The need to build international solidarity.

### **The scope of South African Fisheries**

coastline stretches for 3000kms from Namibia to Mozambique rich & diverse aquatic systems covering both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans marine stock harvested includes: Rock Lobster, Abalone, Mullet, Line-fish, squid and oysters Demersal and pelagic fishing largely done by the commercial; and industrial fisheries Economic size of the total fishing industry is approx 15b USD per annum at today's exchange rate;

Provides approx 20000 direct jobs and supports another 60000 indirect and casual jobs. In addition about 30 000 artisanal and subsistence fishers supporting 25 000 households from more than 140 fishing communities are involved in the fisheries. It is mostly men who are engaged with the actual fishing but more women are involved in the processing and marketing. But in the traditional sector more women are now becoming involved in managing small scale fishing enterprises.

### **Regulating access to marine resources**

In the past numerous pieces of legislation has governed the industry which was largely geared toward the industrial and commercial sectors.

Artisanal and subsistence fisher have not been regulated and enjoyed free access for domestic consumption and small-scale sales. Since democracy new legislation was introduced that was earmarked to correct the racially and economically skewed industry

But the neo-liberal policies approached by the government continued to benefit commercial companies and a few elite black companies that gained entry into the sector.

The new policy adopted the ITQ system that expected traditional and small-scale fishers to be business entities operating and competing on an open market.

Fisheries were consolidated as a trade and export driven sector with only 7% being held blacks companies.

The current legislation does not recognise artisanal and traditional fishers despite international protocols adopted by government calling for the social and economic protection of this sector.

The current introduction of long term fishing rights to successful applicants will further derode the rights of traditional fishers.

### **Present situation**

Currently the new policy framework has let the entire traditional, artisanal and small-scale fisheries out of the mainstream and thereby unable to engage in sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Despite the benefits of governmental democracy this has not advantaged small scale fishing communities in any way

Fishing is profit driven and thus making the rich richer and the poor fishing communities is left more destitute and impoverished.

Globalisation and the new neo-liberal world economic order is failing our grassroots fishing communities

For small scale fishers in South Africa this is transformation gone wrong!

### **What are we doing about it ?**

Masifundise has begun to organise small rural fishing villages to stand up for their rights

Artisanal Fishers Association supplements this by working with urban communities also.

As undertaken at WSSD we have formed an organisation of coastal communities, called Coastal Links, consisting of fishing communities themselves to empower them to engage in organising and lobbying activities to advance their cause.

This strategy is based on the peoples participatory approach and involves the empowerment of all relevant sectors in fishing communities including fishers, fish workers, women and young people.

We are empowering Coastal Links with information and knowledge about international agreements and protocols to help them in this work.

The SADC-level Conference of small-scale fisher held in November this year is one strong step to this end.

We will be engaging with the SADC at a regional level and the African Union to further this struggle;

We will be taking the SA government to court to force them to include the traditional sector into legislative framework.

### **CONCLUSION**

We are asking of this forum to assist and support us in our work through the following areas:

Lobby international fora to help have our traditional sector recognised in law;

Form an international solidarity movement to deepen our struggle; and

Engage in debate and economic education around globalisation, world trade and thereby empowering small scale fishers to effectively engage the current global order to seek a fairer dispensation for them.

Aforementioned constraints require consideration and coherent management by stakeholding institutions. The role each plays will depend on the inter-institutional relationships that are created by undertaking the duties listed necessary for promotion of the sector.

Regulation and control

Promotion of the fisheries network

Vulgarisation

Training

Strengthening of the abilities of interested parties

Etc.

## **Importance of Fishing and Pisciculture in the Malian economy**

The fishing sector is a key economic sector in **Appendix 13 - MALI- Report presented by Fatouniata Diarra**

Association des Pecheurs et  
Pisciculture du Mali (APPM)  
BP 08 Tel. 222 13 45-eel 672 74 15.  
608 62 70 - Baguineda.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF FISHING AND PISCICULTURE IN MALI**

Through myself, the President Bakary Lundy has given me the honour to send you his sincere greeting and his wishes for success in your work. All the members, both men and women of APPM send their wishes for full success in your work.

### **Introduction**

This brief technical paper provides just a reflection of the fishing and pisciculture sector in Mali.

In fact, this sector must contend with enormous challenges in its structure, in education within the sector and in resource management. Nevertheless, our vision is large and legitimate.

Fishing in Mali is:

A dense fluvial network with important spatial-temporal variation with flooding and a diversity in fishing areas.

Fishing production is important at around 100,000 tonnes/year with an apparent unutilised availability of 94,000 tonnes/year. This production ensures a consumption level of 10.5kg/person/year.

The adjusted gross net value is around 30 billion FCFA, comprising 4.2% of national wealth Provides employment for approximately 256,400 to 500,000 people.

A good understanding of technology resulting from a long tradition of fishing  
Institutional and regulated.

### **Pisciculture**

Unlike many West African countries where many sorts of aquaculture are practised the Malian experience in modern aquaculture is relatively recent. This resulted from support from the authorities to compensate the deficits in fishery production caused by the persistence of a drought, bad weather and the rarity of different species of fish of good quality and quantity.

### **The Objectives of Pisciculture**

Improving the living conditions for people in general, and for fisher people and fish workers in particular.

To address the deficits in fishery production

To augment and diversify population resources. Improve the nutrition of the population.

### **The goals**



Decentralisation of management in fishing and the implementation of fishery co- management.  
Ecosystem preservation and maintenance for Deltas, Lakes, Rivers,  
Put tools in place  
To promote the fishery network (creating added value - and employment).

## **Perspectives**

### **Fishing**

If fishing brings more in the future it would be thanks to its dynamism. This is true provided that it recognised and supported by public pressure with the funding from development in fishing and pisciculture.

Put in place a fishing and pisciculture plan associated with an investment plan.

Put in place a counsellor for fishing.

Integration of Fisher people in decentralised politics.

Reinforce the capacity of fishing communities to organise and manage awarding credit using accessible language.

### **Pisciculture**

The development of aquaculture must pass by the creation of an enlarged fishing sector and by fishing organised at the level of hydro-agriculture and small water areas [full translation not possible; French unclear].

Politically a hydro-agriculture policy; integration, irrigation and aquaculture.

## **Conclusion**

This entire structure is waiting for fishing and pisciculture sectors and their external management, promotion and direct interaction with fisher people, **socio**-professional organisations and networks and association.<sup>TM'</sup>

I send a vivid appeal to all the many national and international organisations and the financial institutions and the funding agencies to help the development of fishing and pisciculture in Africa in general and Mali in particular.

## **For the Attention of the Forum**

The republic of Mali this year has suffered from a natural disaster which has resulted in the destruction of 75-90% of our cereal crop. The flow of the river Niger has not reached the normal levels of previous years.

## **Mali Report (Part 2)**

Mali is a vast country covering 1,240,000km<sup>2</sup>. Its population is approximately 9.5millino people with an annual growth rate of 3% with over 85% of people living in rural regions With the average annual earnings per person a only US\$270 in 1993, Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world. The Malian economy depends for the most part on agriculture, which itself is strongly associated with climatic fluctuations.

Fishing constitutes a key sector to the Malian economy.

Mali is a country with a large production of fresh-water fish. It is the second largest producer in the continent with 100,000 tonnes of fresh fish / year with normal rains.

The consumption of fish is estimated to be 10.5kg/person/year (compared with meat which is in the order of 7.8kg/person/year).

### **Data on Fishing**

Mali possesses a very important hydrological network with the following characteristics:

The river Niger

The River Senegal with 700km inside the country and its many tributaries.

Hydro-electric dams at Selingue and Manantali which creates reservoirs of 400 to 500 km<sup>2</sup>

Large lakes and swamps such as Horo, Fati, Faguibine, Korientze Gossi and Anderamboukane.

The catch is quite abundant according to the period despite a reduction that is strongly correlated to swelling of the watercourses: 137 species of fish have been identified with an impressive capacity for adaptation.

Fishing is undertaken in Mali by the fisher people with a great ability and constitutes a powerful network of culture and know-how developed over centuries and passed through the line of generations. The result of this long tradition is known in all the sub-region, where one finds the Bozo and Somono fisher people which exploit almost all the wetlands in countries like Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Guinea, Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria.

With the fishery production at over 100,000t/yr during a year with good rains the sub-sector of fishing and pisciculture occupies a central place in the Malian economy, food security programmes, in the creation of jobs and its contribution to national wealth.

Pisciculture, as a complementary activity to agriculture, brings a surplus of food resources and a revenue to family groups in villages in certain regions and constitutes a real opportunity for the diversification of animal production in the rural context of the country.

### **Principle constrains to overcome:**

#### **Production**

Threat to fish biological diversity

Lack of a scheme for organising and co-managing fisheries.

Insufficient, weak statistics and limitations in their distribution.

Poor promotion of fish-farming in reservoirs.

Poor development of pisciculture.

#### **Processing**

Lack of diversification in forms of processing and in fish conservation.

#### **Business Development**

Lack of infrastructure and basic equipment for conservation storage and transportation of fish.

Fall in the quality of fish and the products

Problems with lines of transport for fish.

Insufficient market knowledge.

### **Sector Financing**

Absence of a credit system adapted for the fishing network.

Poor negotiation ability of the network operators Mali. During normal rain seasons, the fish production is estimated to be 100,000 tonnes/year, placing Mali third out of all Africa producers of freshwater fish. On the base of an apparent availability of 94,000 tonnes/year, the consumption of fish may be estimated at 10.5 kg/yr/person which one can compare with meat consumption of 7.8kg/yr/person. In terms of employment, it is estimated that 71,000 fisher people are directly involved, grouped into 32,800 households. Fishing activities constitute a vital resource for approximately 256,400 people. Considering this figure with the rural population of Mali which numbers approximately 7.2 million people, one estimates that fishing activities directly involve 3.6% of the rural population. This average number hides the large disparities seen at regional level. Thus in the region of the Central Niger Delta, which is the most productive region in the country accounting for nearly 80% of the total catch, with a third of the population directly involved in fishing.

Whilst taking account of the jobs generated across the spectrum of the fishing industry, the number of jobs guaranteed in total by the network is estimated to employ 284,000 people, which represents 7.2% of the active Malian workforce. It should be noted that this estimate does not take into account water courses (approx. 5000kms), nor seasonal employees in the region of high production (approx. three people on average to assist a professional fisher person during three months). The fishery network may by consequence employ nearly 80% of the active population.

An estimation of the gross added value of the fishery network has been calculated for the hydrological year of 1994-1995, based on a fish production of 100,000 tonnes/year. This could come to 30 billion Francs CFA. When comparing this value with the national GDP, the fishery network in Mali may contribute approx. 4.2% of the national wealth.

Until the 1980s, fish exports represented an important part of fishery production, because of an abundant production related to a good hydrological system and a good level of internal demand. Since then, the volume of fish exported has not stopped decreasing. With the return of the annual floods in 1994/1995 following the devaluation of the F CFA, fish exports began to increase once more. In 1995, processed fish exports from the central Delta reached nearly 1,900 tonnes, which is equivalent to approx. 5,600 tonnes of fresh, with a value estimated at 1.3 billion F CFA. Added to this, a considerable quantity of fish produces on the Manantali lake destined for Kayes and for Senegal. The fishery network could thus add 1% in value to Mali's exports.

The fishery sector is especially lead by women who are at the beginning and the end of the process (from the production, processing, conservation and marketing of fish products).

### **Appendix**

CANADA - Presented by **Sherry Pictou**

Though I am from a Developed country this is the only forum where I can have my voice heard. This is my first trip overseas . I do not represent the whole of Canada but only a small community of 275 people

### Historical Background:

The Bear River First Nation (BRFN) is situated in one of the seven traditional fishing & hunting districts of the Mi'kmaq Nation known as Kespuwick (Land's End) in what is known as the Southwestern part of Nova Scotia, Canada, in present day, surrounded by the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Ocean. This area traditionally was the headquarters of the Mi'kmaq Nation which was moved to Cape Breton in 1748 following British Rule. This area is now known as one the most lucrative fishing areas in the world. Traditionally, the Mi'kmaq way of life was based on a migratory life style according to the seasons in which they hunted inland during the winter and moved toward the shores of the Bay of Fundy and Atlantic in the Spring to fish and gather food. Enduring a long history of colonization, the Mi'kmaq have always managed to adapt to an imposed economic system by fishing for subsistence including barter and trade and guiding sports (recreational) fresh water fishermen and hunters. The Mi'kmaq also made baskets and other crafts, which they sold on their way to their traditional fishing camps. Even though the Mi'kmaq were on the brink of extinction by the late 1800s, they were able to adapt and keep up their migratory patterns until the Government of Canada tried to centralize all of the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia on two reservations in Nova Scotia in the early 1940s. It should be noted that it was illegal for the Mi'kmaq to practice their ceremonies or speak their language until 1951 and they were considered wards of the state since Confederation in 1867 until 1960. The Mi'kmaq and most First Nations of Canada remain under the Jurisdiction of the Federal Government guided by the "Indian Act". The BRFN Mi'kmaq continues to fish for subsistence or for wages on non-Mi'kmaq boats.

### Legal Context of Today.

In 1992, the Government of Canada through its Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) imposed a Food & Ceremonial Fishery under what is known as the Aboriginal Food Strategy. However, it should be noted that under this Food Fishery, off reserve organizations were able to access the non-Mi'kmaq Commercial Fishery while those on reserve could not. In 1999, the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet & Passmaqoddy won a Supreme Court Decision known as the Marshall decision, which upheld the 1760&61 Treaties in which the Mi'kmaq had the freedom to fish, hunt and gather. As the violence broke out in Atlantic Canada, especially in New Brunswick between First Nation fishers and DFO and the non-First Nation fishermen, the BRFN fisher people came off the water. In response to the 1999 the Government of Canada implemented a two-prong approach to addressing the implementation of the treaties: 1. What is known as the Marshall Fishing Agreements, and 2., the Nova Scotia tripartite process for treaty negotiations? The Fishing agreements are suppose to be interim agreements only. The BRFN is one of the three remaining First Nation communities who have would not sign the Marshall Agreements for the following reasons:

The Fishing Agreements would not guarantee the protection of Treaty Rights. There is also no guarantee that the agreements would not be deemed as treaty compensation in the future.

The Fishing Agreements are not based on community based resource management (which principles were historically inherent in our culture) but on a licensing and quota regime that caters to big business.

The DFO has yet to provide evidence on how their regulations contribute to the conservation and restoration of species and their eco-systems.

Though, the BRFN is a member of many First Nations Organizations which received astronomical amounts of funds to assist the First Nations in capacity building, training and access to the Commercial Fishery, most of these funds catered to the signed First Nations. Further, it still remains unclear if this funding is not subject to Treaty Compensation. Therefore the BRFN took a political stand by ensuring their fishing activities were separated from any affiliation with these organizations and government agencies. Finally it is important to note that the initial 350 million dollars allocated to DFO to acquire licenses, quotas and gear went mostly to non- Mi'kmaq Fishermen or Companies at inflated prices.

Having no resources or any political support, the BRFN through the services of the Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Center (MRC) made contacts and started building relationships with local non-Mi'kmaq Fishermen. We were able to achieve this through a project known as "Turning the Tide" with the assistance of Dr. John Kearney, Coady International Institute - Antigonish and Dr. Tony Charles, St. Mary's University and the MRC. In 2003, with the support and demand of the Non- Mi'kmaq Fishermen, BRFN gained temporary access to the lobster fishing. Further, we were accepted by the World Forum of Fisher Peoples which continues to have political support by the Chief & Council.

Some of the challenges in working with the non-Mi'kmaq Fishermen is the diminishing independent fishermen as big business either buy them or shove them out of the fishing industry completely. The single hand liners in the ground fishermen continue to struggle with decreasing quotas and have no access to any other species.

Other Challenges include:

Members of the community struggle with individual rights versus collective rights

Deterioration of eco-systems and diminishing species

Access to equitable markets, which are currently controlled by big business. There also remains a very minute black market, as the BRFN fisher people have no other alternative.

Other Activities:

Interim and long-term draft fishery management plans with the assistance of MRC

Marine Emergency Duty Training for 11 fisher people including three women

First Nation Lobster Mentor training for 8 fisher people including one woman.

Cultural Center that caters to both tourism but also regaining of our history and traditional practices with the natural resources of the land. .

Two trained participants in the Community Based Resource Management certificate program at Coady International Institute.

Begun discussions between Chief Frank Meuse Jr., John Kearney (Coady) and Arthur Bull (MRC & Saltwater Network) on working toward a sustainable fishery.

### Future directions:

Participatory Research on our traditional land and water use  
Participatory workshops on CBRM as an inherent practice of the BRFN Mi'kmaq traditionally  
Organizing for the implementation of a multi-species project and future access  
Continuing networking and projects.

**Thomas Kocherry** reinterpreted Sherry Pictou's report.

We should understand who we are. Natural resources such as water bodies fisheries resources, forests, etc are common properties. They are not private properties. In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries the Europeans who migrated out of Europe to address their problems of over population and unemployment and set out for India actually landed in America and instead of finding brown skinned people they found red skinned people, therefore they named them Red-Indians. In 1857 the Chief of the Whites met the chief of the Red Indians in Seattle and offered to buy their land but the chief of the Red Indians did not understand what the whites were saying. The concept of owning land and natural resources privately is something totally alien to the culture and tradition of indigenous people. Land does not belong to us, we belong to the land is their firm belief. Against this belief there was this process of privatising all natural resources. The whole of Africa was privatised. Blacks were taken from Africa to America to build their Railways and their mines. Aboriginal lands were taken over by the Americans, killing millions of native peoples. In the same year 1857 the struggle against this privatisation in India took place in the form of the 'Sepoy Mutiny'.

In this context the Supreme Court Verdict in Canada stating that natural resources belong to the people who protect it and live by it is significant. As against private property rights common property rights need to be established all over the world. Even now there are certain areas where common property rights are upheld even in the heart of Mumbai city, in Colaba, the residential area of the fishing community is commonly owned and when the Government tried to privatise it they met with stiff resistance and they had to give you the-idea.

Our main aim in celebrating World Fisheries Day is to re-establish common property rights. We can fight globalisation only if we establish common property rights. This is our birthright.

### **Appendix**

**INDIA - Presented by Poornima Meher**

#### **NATIONAL FISH WORKERS FORUM**

The National Fish workers Forum (NFF) is working for 20 million fish workers for the past 30 years. It has representation from all the nine maritime States and four Union Territories. It is because of the persistent struggle of the NFF that fisher people have emerged as a formidable political power in India. Some historical landmark achievements of the NFF are:

Marine Regulation Act in all maritime states of India. This took 20 years to achieve!

Compulsory Identity cards for all fishermen

Social security schemes like saving cum relief schemes to the men and women in the lean-fishing season. Accident and death insurance for the fishermen, assistance for housing and assistance for children's education, special transport facilities for women fish-vendors.

Historic achievement to chase out foreign vessels from India waters

Lobby to free Prisoner Fishermen from all south Asian countries and send them back to their homelands. This applies to Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India and the Maldives

Rebate in diesel prices for the small fish worker

Struggle against industrial aquaculture resulted in a ban imposed by the Supreme Court of India in 1996.

Ongoing struggle against multinational companies to hold on to an Island in the Bay of Bengal-Jambudweep, which has 10,000 transient fish workers.

A woman's "Magna Carta" so that especially women in the fishing sector get their rights and demands.

Under globalization policies of the WTO, World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) many MNCs are encroaching into the traditional domain for Fish workers Land –shore and fishing grounds are grabbed to make way for industries, commercial ports tourism and ship-breaking yards. To resist this and overcome the menace we **have** resorted to different methods of protest and agitation, like: Long marches, boat **rallies** railway blocking, highway picketing, harbor blockades, hunger strikes etc. This is the only way the world body of fishers can get together to achieve our goals. In trying to do this the NFF pays respect top martyrs such as Col Pratap Save in Gujarat and seven poor fishermen in Jambudweep who laid down their lives for the cause.

**All fishing communities in India are happy and proud to be the founding members of the WFFP. WE are longing for the day when the entire fishing community of the world will come together to effectively fight against the plans and schemes of the WTO, World Bank and the MNC's.**

### **PHILIPPINES II (Bigkis Lakas Pilipinas) - Presented by Charles Capricho**

Country Wise Report of Bigkis Lakas Pilipinas (BLP)

1. November 21, 2003 -Election of BLP new set of officials during the World Fisheries day Celebrations in Calang, Quezon Province, Phillipines.

2. Activities being undertaken by BLP

Continuous organizing, strengthening of fisherfolk organizations in the country

Linking and networking with various sectors, NGO's, Peoples Organizations, Academies, Churches and other Institutions.

Working closely with the implementation of the Philippine Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (FARMC)



Issue advocacy on Fisheries Issues and concerns.  
Fisher folk settlements areas  
Site-based law enforcement  
Women in fisheries  
Social and economic services\*  
Legal and institutional development  
Environmental  
Political  
Coastal Resource Management  
Formation of fish sanctuaries and marine resources  
Mangrove reforestation  
Protection of endangered species  
Formulation of site-based CRM Plans

3. Sectoral representation of fisherfolk  
National Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (FARMC)  
City /Municipal FARMC  
National Anti-Poverty Council (NAPC)  
National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAFC)  
Other

#### NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY OF BIGKIS LAKAS PILIPNAS

As an organizational commitment of effecting change in the present situation through a process that raises peoples consciousness and awareness, strengthens unity among fisher folk and encourages actions that would address social issues and concerns, Bigkis Lakas Pilipnas as a national Alliance will continue to:

Enhance the information and dissemination of the 1998 Fisheries code of the Philippines or Republic Act 8550 in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture- Bureau of fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR)

Formation and strengthening of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management councils (FARMCs) at all levels a tool for fisher folk empowerment in the sustainable management and development of coastal fisheries.

Organization of fisher folk especially the women an youth

Conduct mass actions/mobilizations on issues affecting fisher folk and other fisheries issues and concerns.

Lobbying for Local, National, and International Policies in fisheries.

Coastal Resources Management

Linking and networking with various organization, peoples organizations, NGO's and other institutions

Socio -Economic projects for fisher folk

Marine resources conservation, enhancement and protection activities like artificial reefs, fish sanctuary, marine reserves and parks and sea borne patrol

Protect defend and continue to advocate and institutionalize fisher folk empowerment in the management of coastal fisheries and aquatic resources

Because we fisher folk firmly believe that the sea is the extension of our life. It is our responsibility, therefore, to nourish it and further enhance its life by defending it from those who engage in illegal fishing practices. To protect its integrity and manage it properly in order to Sustain its life-giving capacity for future generations. And we believe that by being united and not being selfish to others, we will be able to change

## **Appedix 9**

### **Pamalakaya Fisheries Report – Philippines, Presented by Servilano Luna Jr.**

#### **A. Organizational Report (Membership)**

Pamalakaya-Pilipinas or Nationwide Federation of Small Fisherfolk Organization in the Philippines at present was the largest fisherfolk organization in the Philippines.

Individual membership is 80,000 fisherfolk composed mainly of small, artisanal or subsistence fisherfolk and fishpond worker. And Pamalakaya is now in the process of starting to reach out and organize those fishworker employed in big scale commercial fishing vessel.

Pamalakaya composed of 40 provincial chapter across the Philippines and it had 4 regional Chapter based in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Pamalakaya is closely working or making and alliances with other sectors. Like May 1<sup>st</sup> Movement (KMU) and the Peasant Movement in the Philippines (KMP). Pamalakaya is also a member of BAYAN or the New Patriotic Alliance, the most progressive and the largest mass movement in the Philippines.

Pamalakaya is on the preparation for its yearly National Council meeting to be heir this on December 5-7.

#### **B. Campaign Reports:**

##### **2003**

April 21-22 = **National Fisherfolk Summit**

= it was attended by 200 delegates

= the summit come with a resolution containing the stand and and plans of action against the massive conversion and privatization of fishing areas and communities

May 16 = National Protest Against Conversion and Privatization of Fishing Areas and Communities

October 16 = in celebration of World Food Day Pamalakaya launch its activities along with Peasant Movement of the Philippines called World Foodless Day

= peasant and fisherfolk presented the condition of rural sector who was living in worsening poverty and hunger

= we protested in front of Department of Agriculture (DA) calling the attention of government and concerned agencies in agriculture and fishery to stop the implementation of all the programs and policies of WTO that exploited and displaced almost a million of peasant, fisherfolk, and indigenous people

Nov. 21 = Pamalakaya hold a fluvial protest at the back of US embassy condemning the US government of Bush of committing a crime against the fisherfolk and whole Filipino people because of its policy and programs under the WTO  
= called the attention of US embassy to send our message to Bush government to stop meddling in our economic and political affairs

Dec. 10 = in commemoration of Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day Pamalakaya actively participated in the multisectoral rally Sponsored by New Patriotic Alliance or BAYAN protesting Massive HRVs committed by the Arroyo government

## **2004**

### **February 24, in the light of anniversary of the enactment of Fisheries Code**

into a law Pamalakaya held a nationwide protest against intrusion of big scale commercial fishing vessels in the municipal fishing grounds of small fisherfolk

April 21 = in front of Department of Environment Natural Resources (DENR) Pamalakaya had a dialogue with the officials of DENR regarding the massive destruction of mangrove area and fishing area and communities

May 16 = a caravan from Southern Tagalog (ST) was held in protest of the Killings of two local leaders of Pamalakaya in Southern part of Luzon.

= the caravan ended in front of general headquarters of Armed Forces of the Philippines

= the rally was blocked by the contingent of Philippines Army and was not allowed to proceed inside headquarters for a dialogue

October 16 = Pamalakaya launched again its yearly activities of its own version of World Food day dubbed as World Foodless Day

### **C. International Work;**

Pamalakaya attended the international conferences and activities;

April 2003 = 3<sup>rd</sup> WFFP CC meeting in Sri Lanka

January 11-21 = People's Movement Encounter in India, a parallel activity to the World Social Forum held in India

October 20-24 = Slow Food Conference (Terra Madre) in Turin Italy

= Pamalakaya attended the activities and represent the WFFP in different workshops

#### **D. Education and training:**

#### **From April 2003 to October 2004 Pamalakaya recorded a monthly education on National Fisherfolk Situation conducted by its provincial**

Chapter. 1,000 new members finish this course  
Trainings and seminar were also conducted like leadership seminar, Speakers training and propaganda and writers seminar.

#### **Pamalakaya Report - II PHILIPPINE FISHERIES UNDER 10 YEARS OF WTO**

##### **Introduction**

10 years after WTO the Philippines Fisheries Sector suffered total destruction, its productive forces were destroyed, production and trade income plunged to all time low. WTO ushered massive displacement and abject poverty among Filipino fisherfolk and their families

International fish trading under WTO policies brought down the Philippine income because of the increase of imported fish and more dollars were spent for importation of fishing gears, implements, including surplus technologies. Decrease of catch and income of small fisherfolk' Under WTO daily catch of small fisherfolk under WTO decreased to 2-3 kilos from a high of 10 kilos per day before 1995 a year before WTO fisherfolk income also reduced to P80-P100 (less US\$2) poverty incidence among small fisherfolk increases.

##### **Reasons:**

WTO policy of liberalization that paved the way for the increased intrusion of big commercial fishing fleets into fishing areas of small fisherfolk. Big commercial fishing vessels owned by local and foreign monopolies harvest huge amount of catch and deprive small fishermen.

Municipal fishing ground had been privatized thru large aquafarms and eco-tourism project under the privatization policies & program of WTO.

The deregulation policy of WTO removed the responsibility of government to give subsidy to small fisherfolk.

Huge amount of surplus imported fish flooded the local market.

182,000 small fisherfolk had been displaced from fishing areas and communities

fishing areas and communities were converted and privatized by foreign investors and their local counterparts for monopoly profits in collaboration with the Philippine government.

large aquafarms and eco-tourism projects like beach resort and diving areas for tourists were built up along coastal and municipal shores.

fishing operations of small fisherfolk had been prohibited especially in areas designated for eco-tourism, export-bane processing zones and aquaculture areas.

##### **Reasons:**

WTO policy of privatization and liberalization

Under WTO Philippine fisheries was declared as one of the investment field for foreign and local investor in collaboration of their puppet government Gloria Macapagal Arroyo build big business around the fishing area for easy profit and forcibly demolished the houses and community of fisherfolk. The strong resistance of fisherfolk against the conversion were answered by harrasment and militarization by the government.

Harrasment and militarization in fishing community implementation of WTO policies and program faced resistance from fisherfolk organizations through rallies & demonstrations. The fascist and US puppet Phil. Gov't, answered it by all-out militarization, brutal suppression of people's rights and political repression. Harassment, demolition, killings had been done in fisherfolk communities. From 2003-2004 alone, 5 Pamalakaya leaders and organizers were killed and the only survivor is its' national vice Chairperson.

Decrease of trade income in international fish trading under WTO  
Comparison of income.

Decrease of income 9 years before WTO from 1986 to 1994, Philippine international fish trading managed to enjoy increased of trade balance of up to + 83.952 million US dollar (+21%) but 9 years under WTO from 1995-2003 Philippine decreased its income by 84.531 million US dollar (-17%) income decreased was due to increase in imported fish flooding the local arket by 40% with a value of 224 million US dollar compared only to 4% increase of exported fish.

Under import-export policy of WTO the control and monopoly of fishlord expanded Share in production by sector Control and monopoly of fishlord expanded and strengthen under WTO Production from 2000-2003 shows that 70% of production were monopolized by fishlords and corporate fishing monopolies.

9 years before WTO 1986-94, 49% of production came from small fisherfolk & 51% from fishlords. 9 years under WTO fishlord monopolies expanded to 69% 40% came from the aquaculture geared toward exportation & 30% from big commercial fishing vessels these operations are mostly owned and controlled by big local and foreign capitalists, TNC and local landlord/fishlords. The Phil. Gov't, supported this kind of operation by creating laws like Fisheries Code and the present GMA-Fisheries Program.

Exportation of quality fish product from Philippines Exported fish Dumping of surplus fish product to Philippines Imported fish. US dictate and controlled and benefited the unfair trade pratices under WTO.

US is the main imperialist country which benefits from one-sided, monopolistic and unfair trade practices under WTO.

RP has 10 major destinations for its fishery exports, however, the US controls 26% of the total export of Philippines and 18.40% of dumped surplus fish to Philippines came from US managed to exploit the country's fishery resources at the turn of 1900. It has controlled the country's economic, political and cultural ways of life since then Fish Importation by Country of origin Shares of top 10 countries Fish Exportation by country of destination  
Shares of top 10 countries

Final Analysis and Pamalakaya's response to the anii-fisherfolk and anti-people WTO policies W 10 will never be an answer to the worsening crisis of world system and the deepening poverty faced by the fisherfolk and the working people of the world

WTO will only benefit TNCs and MNCs of the imperialist camp headed by US, Japan and the European Union because the main objective of WTO is for the big TNCs and MNCs to gain more and huge profits at the expense of poor people like farmers and fisherfolk, as well as the environment ...

Fisherfolk and Pamalakaya's response

Pamalakava along with the other militant organizations in the Philippines were in the forefront of struggle in 1904 when the GATT/WTO was in the process of Phil senate ratification of the agreement and until now Pamalakaya is continuing and intensifying the fight for fisher people's basic and fundamental right to fish and against WTO and imperialist globalization and plunder

its organizing, educating and mobilizing small fishers, conducting mass actions and people's mobilizations despite the harassment and brutal repression conducted by the US puppet gov't, and troops in the Philippines

it will continue linking arms and alliance with different organizations in the Philippines and abroad with strong determination to win the fisherfolk struuule Pamalakaya will play active role in WFFP and other formations aeafnst imperialist globalization and WTO.

Strengthen The Struggle of Fisherfolk for a Genuine Fisherfolk Policy and Program' JUNK WTO!

Down with US Imperialism!

Long Live International Solidarity Against Imperialist Globalization!

Long Live Pamalakaya!

Long Live Fisher Peoples of the World!

Long Live WFFP!

## **Appendix 7**

### **Sri Lankan Fisheries Situation Report - Herman Kumara**

Background of Sri Lankan Fisheries:

Marine Fisheries

Coastal

Deep sea fishery

Brackish Water Fishery

Lagoon fishery

Estuaries & bays

Inland fresh water fisheries

Fresh water tanks

Rivers

The Maximum sustainable Yield - 250.000 Mt

The contribution to the GDP - 2.7%

No. of Fishermen - 200,000

Coastal fishers  
Deep sea fishers  
Brackish water  
Inland fisheries

Total fisheries Population- 1 Million

The total contribution for the protein supply to the country by fisheries -65%

The contribution from small scale fisheries sector for protein supply 80%

The issues faced by fisher people

Fuel, fishing gear, engines, spare parts and all inputs of fishing prices increase daily due to devalue of rupee and also by market forces.

Resource depletion due to destructive fishing gear, pollution through dumping garbage and chemicals from cities and industrial zones, free trade zones.

Destruction of Mangrove ecosystem due to prawn farming industry.

Restrictions on N/E fisher people disturbing their livelihoods. - HSZ, Land Mines.

Fishermen Jailed in foreign countries due to violation of international maritime boarders.

Denied fish workers rights

Sea Safety

Occupational Health

Share for labour

Privatization of inland fresh water tanks

Water management act- 2001

Water as a commodity

Issues faced by fisher women

Due to loss of market for their production

Due to loss the space at fish market as fish vendors

Due to arrest & keep long period in foreign jail due to violate maritime boundaries.

Due to disappear the husband during the war at north & east.

Due to low income of husband as no fish, no reasonable price for the catch and high expenses for inputs.

Due to insecurity situations of North and East - when the husband in the sea, military approach women at home in the night.

Sethu Samudram Ship Canal project at Palk Strait.

Tension at North fishers on proposed project.

How do we face this situation?

Common consensus arrived among the 4 WFFP member organizations.

On corporate Globalization

Deep sea fisheries policy

Fuel price hike

Cross boarder issues

Workers rights

Destructive fishing gears

On ethnic crisis

For political solution for ethnic crisis.



Settle Internally Displaced People[IDP],High Security Zones[HSZ], and issues related restrictions on fishery.

Migration of fishers

Cross boarder Issues:

Release of Sri Lanka fishers in Indian jails. 2000-2204

ARIF - [SIFFS & NFF] - Thomas Kocherry & V.Vivekanandan  
Ministerial delegation to India - September, 2000  
People's representatives visited India with the pressure from the organizations. - October, 2004.  
Discussed at CC meeting at Mumbai in January, 2001.  
Appeal to SAARC countries to have a permanent solution for the cross boarder issues.

Release of Indian fishers at Sri Lanka jails.  
Organizational involvement 2001-2004  
Good Will Mission by Indian delegation- May, 2004  
Church Organizations, Trade Unions, NGO and ARIF + Tamilnadu fisheries organizations.  
Follow up visit is planned by January, 2005.

Fish workers Social Security measures:  
Research and Submission of proposals to the ministerial committee appointed by former fisheries minister.-2001  
ILO workshop - March, 2004  
UR-USA, UFFC, & NAFSO supported by ICSF

WFFP CC meeting held at Sri Lanka  
June 2003, together with UFFC, NUF, WDF, NAFSO

Against destructive fishing -[2000-2004]  
Poster campaign  
Protest March - 7, November 2004  
Dialogue with fisheries minister - 26, August 2004

Fisheries Policy Formulation:  
Sustainable fisheries policy formulation  
Fisheries Commission 2002  
Lobby work conducted  
Advocacy papers on various issues  
Community meetings[2000-2003]  
Series District seminars[2003]  
National Convention on 3 November, 2003  
Submission of fisheries policy to the policy makers  
Signature campaign -300,000 signatures collected- 30 September, 2004  
Dialogue with fisheries minister and his officials.- 26, August, 2004

Government fisheries policy formulation.  
- UNF Regime-2001-2004  
Regaining Sri Lanka : PRSP -fisheries sector contribution  
Submitted our proposals to the Minister of fisheries on the 17 April, 2002.  
UPFA Regime April, 2004 on wards,

Country way forward

Newly elected government initiated fisheries policy formulation and we submitted our proposals to the policy makers on the 30, September, 2004.

Education on fishers:

Code of conduct for responsible fisheries by FAO.

Campaign against joint ventures fishing operations

Protest campaign through posters, leaflets, protest marches, dialogues with officials, fisheries ministers, & campaigns.

Restrictions on north & east fishers

Demanding people's livelihoods rights.

Against HSZ, I DP and speed up de-mining process.

Protest demanding right to life & livelihood for N/E people.

Media dialogues, printing booklets, on the issues of war tone people.

Wrote memorandum to president & PM on N/E people's issues.

FUTURE:

On IUO convention:

-Advocate and lobby with the government on small scale artisanal fisheries sector in the ILO convention.

Educate fishers on ILO convention.

On Sustainable fisheries Policy:

Educate fishers & Lobby and Advocate the policy makers on sustainable fisheries.

Adopt TACT process until sustainable fisheries is enforced.

On Cross Boarder issues:

Continue Lobby activities towards a permanent solution among SAARC region governments on cross boarder issues.

Follow up Good Will mission activities- January, 2005

[Sri Lanka fishers visit to Tamilnadu India ]

Protection of Aquatic environment

From Sethu Samudranf Ship canal project

From budget proposals for promotion of prawn farming industry for export purposes.

Necessity of WFFP

Wherever WFFP members present we raised the voice of the small scale, artisanal fisher people.

WFFP morally, ideologically and even physically strengthen us. That should be continued. So we need WFFP to be continued.

As member organizations, we are the WFFP. Without us WFFP does not exist. If we admit our diversity, our weaknesses, our strengths, as members that is the same as WFFP. For emancipation, liberation and solidarity for small-scale fishers we need WFFP.

So it is our duty & responsibility to build up WFFP as the strongest Political organization to fight against the Globalization & WTO evil forces. It is not the responsibility of the Executive ' committee

of WFFP neither, struggle of Thomas Kocherry alone. Let us face the challenge. Are we ready as members to face this?

On behalf of Sri Lankan member organizations we present this report to the WFFP GA 3 on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2004

Womens' Development Federation [WDF]  
N T Thilakalatha

National Union Of fishermen[NUF]  
S.V.Lucas Fernando  
United Fishers and Fish workers Congress[UFFC]  
Saranapala De Silva

National Fisheries Solidarity Movement[NAFSO]  
Herman Kumara

## **Appendix 5**

### **UGANDA FISHERIES SITUATION REPORT - Robinson Sunday**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

**The Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA) is a people's organization that works for poverty reduction and improvement of the livelihood of the poor lake dependant communities through enabling them to have control and have access to the lake resources.**

The organization has worked in several rural fisher communities from lakes Victoria, Kyoga, Albert, Edward, and George in ensuring that the small-scale fishers are themselves empowered to control and manage the fisheries resources in their respective areas.

#### **1 Activities undertaken since 2000**

Since the year 2000, UFFCA has undertaken a number of activities in order to arrive at this: Pushing for the formulation and development of the new National Fisheries policy that empowers or gives the poor fishers the mandate to control, manage and access the fisheries resources of their sustainable livelihood

Organizing advocacy campaigns and struggles around the fishers rights and needs. So far, a total of four (4) World Fisheries Day Campaigns for 2000,2001,2002, and 2003 have been organized; with grassroots fisher groups from various lakes of Uganda

Engaging national and local governments to address fisher community concerns regarding their constitutional rights towards human rights protection

Pushed for the formulation and development of the Beach Management Unit (BMU) law that gives legal powers to the poor fishers to take over and share lake resources management responsibilities together with both national and local governments.

Organizing and strengthening women fishers into stronger groups/associations so that they can form links and networks in order to lobby and advocate for their needs and rights as well as greater government support and improved government service delivery system. Undertaking gender election monitoring more especially during the BMU electoral processes. UFFCA does this and is committed

to ensuring that, both the women fishers and the fishing labourers are all actively involved in fisheries planning and management decision-making process in their respective places.

Participating in the International Campaign Forum The organization with the support from the World Forum of Fisher People's (WFFP) attended and participated in the WSF in Porto Allegro in 2002, and again WSSD in South Africa in 2003. This has enabled UFFCA to gain knowledge and experience in tackling campaigns and struggles at national level as well as localizing debates.

## **2. Achievements since 2000:**

A new National Fisheries Policy (NFP) that recognizes the poor fishers as managers of the lake resources.

A new Beach Management unit (BMU) law that gives powers to the poor fishers to have control and access to the resources is now in place.

Lake-based women fishers network are now in place, for example: the Lake Albert Women Fishers Organization (LAWOFO) has been formed.

Fully operational and functional BMU are now in place in Uganda having a stronger voice. There are two BMU leaders who have represented others in the GA3 of WFFP.

## **3. Challenges.**

The effective implementation of both the NFP and BMU law still poses a big problem.

Putting more pressure on both the national and local governments to respect the rights of the poor fisher peoples

Continued participation in the national and international campaigns.

## **4. Uganda's delegation to WFFP GA3 in Kisumu.**

**Uganda as a great fisheries nation has been represented in the WFFP GA3 by five (5) people-delegates and observers. These fall under the following categories:**

Two representatives from UFFCA.

Two representatives from LAWFOFO.

One from MAWOFA- Majanji Women Fishers Association.

However the two organizations of LAWFOFO and MAWOFA are all affiliated to UFFCA. We therefore have an agreed position on the formation of the news CC of WFFP.

## **5. Uganda delegates position in the new WFFP CC.**

We, delegates from Uganda, do agree that the WFFP is a vital body to continuously fight for the rights of the fisher people, worldwide.

However, our thinking is that after the five years of its existence since 2000, there is need for a new leadership to be elected to steer with a new vigour.

## **Conclusion: Appreciation:**

**On behalf of the Uganda fisher people, we would like to thank the delegates to the WFFP GA3 for entrusting Uganda with the post of Treasurer for the last five years.**

**Appendix -**



## **GUINEA-**

### **UNPAG PRESENTATION FOR THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES 2i<sup>s</sup>, 27<sup>H</sup> November 2004, KENYA.**

#### **Introduction**

The Republic of Guinea is a country situated on the west coast of Africa. It has 300km of coastline bordering the Atlantic Ocean and a continental plateau of 56,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The plateau is richly covered with watercourses that lead to the coastal basin, carrying a great quantity of nutrients. The climate is characterised by two seasons, each lasting 6 months.

Coastal parts are characterised by regions of mangrove forests. These are important as they offer the best conditions for the development of zooplankton and phytoplankton which constitute the base of the food chain, reproduction and for the development and diversification of biological resources (open water and deep sea fishes, shrimp, cephalopods etc.).

The characteristics of the continental plateau provide Guinea with a Maritime zone of high potential for sea fishing (both artisanal and industrial).

The maritime and fluvial waters are very productive. The annual biological potential is the following:

#### **Sea fishing (both artisanal and industrial)**

Small coastal area accessible only to artisanal fishing: 50,000-200,000 tonnes.

*Demersaux* fish (fish stock shared between the artisanal fisher people and the fishing industry): 35,000-50,000 tonnes.

Shrimp: 2,000-4,000 tonnes.

Large open sea fish (tuna family): 25,000 tonnes.

#### **b) Inland fishing**

All fishing: 12,000 tonnes.

Then annual catch of artisanal fisher people is estimated to be:

Marine fish: 50,000 tonnes.

River fish: 6,000 tonnes.

There is a mountainous region in the centre of the country gives large upland and valley regions which are the source of important water courses. These are grouped into three water basins (the coastal basin on the Guinea coastline, the Niger basin in upland Guinea and the dorsal basin covering the forested region of Guinea).

An increase in production was possible after an effort to fit fishing craft in all coastal regions with outboard motors and to diversify their fishing equipment. This began in 1984 and continues thanks to various development projects aiming to assist fisher peoples achieve financial diversity.

The level of motorisation is now 47%. This has been possible because increased political freedom and liberalisation which has allowed private initiatives supported by the Government of the second republic.

Fishing is an important factor in the regrowth of the national economy and in the progression of equilibrium. It employs 10,000 people directly and 20,000 people indirectly. The per capita consumption passed 7kg in 1987 to 13kg in 2004. Fishing provides 40% of animal protein consumed in the country. Its contribution to GDP is 3%.

## **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GUINEAN FISHING SECTOR**

The attributes of the Guinean fishing sector may be summarised as:

The abundance of potentially accessible fish resources is over 130,000 tonnes in the industrial sector and 80,000 tonnes in the artisanal sea fishing and 8,000'10,000 tonnes in artisanal inland fishing; the potential for marine fish farming is spread along 30,000 hectares of coastline.

The existence of both internal and external markets is very important for products from fishing.

The fluvial network exists but is little exploited.

The infrastructure for the conservation and treatment of catches exists.

Fishery research projects currently exist, surveillance and protection of fish stocks is already in place.

A constant improvement in human resources increases performance in a private sector on the road to professionalisation and understanding.

## **STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY**

The active exploitation of resources is carried out by two classes of stakeholders:

The Artisans: estimated to be around 20,000 fishermen/women of Guinean, Sierra-Leonean and Senegalese nationality spread between 117 harbours using relatively simple, cheap technology, producing a fishing sector with goods destined for both local consumption and export.

The number of people employed is 200,000 giving 350,000 families directly dependant on fishing.

Industrial Fishing: composed of national and foreign private societies such as *SONIT PECHE*, *TRAMER GUI NEE*, *SIP BOUROUMA*, *SOPIAG*, *Djolibci-peche...* and mixed societies in the process of formation.

The foreign fleet plays an important role in this sector and is dominant in the exportation of stock to foreign ports.

### **Sector Politics**

Current political developments in this sector are:

To maximise the economic benefits which the country can take from the fishery sector.

To increase the levels of fish consumption so it reaches 30kg/person/year before 2010 by altering the production of artisanal fishing.

Organisation of the main ports in the country to improve their accessibility and to create facilities for off-loading fishing products.

Develop the conservation of products using a cold-chain to avoid environmental degradation and deforestation.

Campaign against poverty and food insecurity.

To strengthen socio-professional organisations in the artisanal fishing sector

To campaign against illegal fishing both non-regulated and not declared.

Promotion of village pisciculture.

Introduction of new fishing techniques by transferring knowledge.

Development and reinforcement of international co-operation with regional and global fisher people organisations.

The effective involvement of artisanal fisher people in the program of monitoring the Guinean *ZEE* (active participation).

The participation of fisher people organisations in negotiations of new fishing legislations, especially relating to the European Union.

The diversification of fish exports to regional and international markets.

Job creation.

Sustainable exploitation of resources for present and future generations.

Support village communities, economic operations and socio-professionals evolving in the sector.

To support and create the fishing infrastructures to set quality standards.

Institutional support for the fishing sector.

Guinea, thanks to its relationship with development partners, particularly with Japanese co-operation has developed a plan to direct fishery and pisciculture development is coming to be realised which is permitting the rehabilitation of certain fishing bases and the renovation of ice-making facilities.

Other projects underway are:

The project to develop and communicate the knowledge and methods of fishing.

A project to organise and establish a fishing community.

A project to organise a new fishing dock at *KAPORO (Conakry)*

A project to develop pisciculture

A project to organise and improve fish smoking facilities.

To put in place a fishery development fund (a line of credit which favours fisherpeople).

Additionally, other measures to develop fishing are being studied and evaluated, notable the removal of tax on fuel for fisher people.

### **CONSTRAINTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FISHING SECTOR IN GUINEA**

The successful emergence of the private sector, particularly in fishing is confounded by a number of factors:

The lack of universal mechanisms to financially support economic participants in the system.

An absence of a credit system for fisher people and other participants in the sector.

The poor purchasing power of the people.

The insufficient professional structure (traders, smokers, fisher people etc.) and the ability to enforce an adequate capacity.

A lack of significant investment and operational weaknesses to incorporate a value adjusted for the end value of the product (this is particularly common with artisanal fisher peoples).

Incompetence of workers caused by a lack of basic technical training and an inability to seek the required investment in the network.

Lack of terrestrial infrastructure (industrial fishing port).

The domination by foreign fleets in resource exploitation of the Guinean *ZEE*.

The lack of professionalism amongst Guinean fishery workers (both artisanal and industrial).

A lack of fishery surveillance capacity.

### **SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS IN ARTISINAL FISHING**

The sub-sector of artisanal fishing has attracted many development projects; the following list gives an example of their successes:

The centre for motorising fishing craft in Boussoura

The smoking centre in Bonfi The ODEPAG project

The artisanal fishing centre at Dubreka/Taboria

The founding of artisanal fishing at Kamasat

The motor repair centre at Landreah

The reintroduction of pisciculture in the Guinean foresty

The integrated project with artisanal fisher people in Kaback

The pilot project of Security at sea for artisanal fisher people.

The project DIPA/GANT/FAO (Program to develop artisanal fishing in West Africa)

The Artisanal Fishing and Pisciculture Development Project / AFD/BAD.

### **Appendix-**

#### **HONDURAS - Ruffino Garcia ( CODDEFFAGOLF)**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

The republic of Honduras is in the center of Central America, it shares land borders and aquatic with the republics of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Belize, it has pesquerias in the Atlantic and the Pacifico, its territorial extension is of 112.492 kms<sup>2</sup>, it counts on 18 departments and its population is of 6.535,344 inhabitants, of which 3.230,958 are men and 3.304,386 are women, the Gulf of Fonseca is in the South region of the country in where they inhabit 269.110 men and 273.536 women It floats Fishing Honduran

The artisan fishing is made so much in the Pacific Ocean (Gulf of Fonseca) like in the Atlantic, (The Caribbean Sea). In the Gulf of Fonseca a fleet of approximately 500 boats of construction of fiber glass and trunks of trees of color wood exists, whose dimensions oscillate . between 14 and 24 pies of length, they are equipped generally with motors outside hut with combustion by gasoline and capacities of 8-40 HP, in addition approximately 900 boats (boats or cayucos) constructed

specially of trunks of color wood trees exist, also an amount of 15.000 purely artisan fishermen dedicated to the grudge fishing calculates, shrimp, post larvae of extractive shrimp and. These fishermen are organized in seccionales (21 groups) affiliated with the Communitarian Organization of Bases of Artisan Fishermen well-known like CODDEFFAGOLF. The Gulf of Fonseca has a water mirror of 3 .200 km<sup>2</sup> and one 261 coastal line of Km<sup>2</sup> and one mouth that it connects with the 35 Pacific Ocean of Kms<sup>2</sup>. In the Gulf of Fonseca there are in addition 75.000 hectares to humedales constituted mainly by lagoons and matting, from which the fishing is concentrated in these ecosystems and the Gulf

#### ARTISAN PRODUCTION IN The FONSECA GULF (Or PACIFICO)

2003 SPECIES	2001	2002	Total
Shrimp	28.399	14.365	123.665 pounds 166,429
Red fish	66.538,66	31.953	106.703 pounds 205,194.66
White fish	282.646	104.977	98.431 pounds 486,054
Lobster	495	98	340 pounds 933
Crab	1.700 IS	No	REPORT 4.400 Units 6,100
Jaibas	5.476	2.071	8.672 Units 16,219
Curiles	73.000	3.000	134.000 Units 210,000
3.400 Sardines	Libras	7,700	Dries 2.000 2.300

The industry of the cultivated shrimp environmentally handles without appropriate control 552 property of shrimp between industrialists, semi artisan industrialists and, with a total area of 37.05,65 hectares in concession, 18,500 developed and 12.500 in production, calculating this extraction in 4 trillions of post larvae accompanied by 36 trillions of larvae of other species at the rate of 9 larvae of support by each post shrimp larva, (by 4 taken advantage of trillions, they sacrificed 36 trillions, causing the low fishing production) in addition, in the culture processes they use toxics, concentrated and antibiotic foods to maintain to the shrimp of the several diseases and plagues healthy that they themselves have introduced, causing to degradation of waters and diseases in the wild species, they deforest manglares and they destroy zones of temporary humedales that serve as habitat for species of human consumption, they contaminate the rivers that drain to the gulf with the organic sweepings and inorganic that takes place in the plants shrimp assembly plants, they move to the fishermen of its traditional places of fishing, they prevent the free one I journey and close the matting, they extract construction equipments of the beds of the rivers causing asolvamiento in the gulf, they have caused the migration of agriculturists from the mountain to the gulf to dedicate to the capture of post shrimp larvae causing the increase of the fishing population...

The industry of the sugar cane, this activity has caused deforestation of the few rodales of forest of wide leaf in the coastal zone, cause contamination a

The culture of the melon, this industry causes deforestation, contamination to the Earth, to the phreatic mantle and the air by the excessive agroquimicos product use, to it burns it of plastic products and to the use of other polluting products used for the disinfection in the plants processors, (to insert melon photo) Illegal deforestation of the forest mangle, the wood of mangle is used for the construction of houses, bakery, salt sewn and for consumption domestic servant as firewood in the homes and also is used for the tannin extraction to tan skins, this activity causes a significant deterioration in the places of reproduction of the species of fish, crustaceans and moluscos that are used by the fishermen. Migratory agriculture, the use of nonappropriate methods for a responsible agriculture like the rose, it burns, highly toxic agroquimicos and earth nonapt for it, they negatively cause to problems of contamination and asolvamiento in the gulf hitting in the artisan fishing production. Cloacales waters and sweepings, those are 5 rivers that drain to the gulf, all drag great human amounts of escretas and produced organic and inorganic sweepings in the high parts of the river basin, with which they contribute in contaminating the biological diversity and specially the fishing production, (to insert waste basket photography) Illegal fishing, in Honduras a compendium of environmental laws exists structured very well, the problem is as a threat in the sense that the people in charge to apply very are given them to the inoperancia pressed by a political and economic partisan power, this contributes to that east type of fishing activity is made that affects the production greatly. The cattle ranch, this affects the artisan fishing production greatly because the lost one of the forest expands in flat zones and of slope causing and causing the erosion and the contamination by the agroquimicos product use that with rains lowers to the gulf...

The opened sky mining, ... as it is made .....

Granted licenses: Valley 15 Choluteca 44

Valley 71.171 hectares

Choluteca 183.796 hectares

Total in the river basin of the gulf 254.967 hectares

Impacts:

It affects the terrestrial surface (alters water obstacles, it destroys cultivated areas, and other superficial patrimonies)

It affects the general surroundings (noise and transformation of the place)

It contaminates the underground and superficial water (cyanide use, mercury)

It affects grounds (castrates fertile, contamination by leaching) It affects the flora and the aquatic and terrestrial fauna (destroys forests, and water sources) Change micro climate and the scenic beauty (by deforestation and removimiento of earth and rocks...)

It affects to the populations with respiratory diseases, cancerigenas, dermatologicas and lines of vision.

to take shape the development of the sky mining opened in the river basin of the gulf, serious a disastrous impact for pesquerias...

The political and economic partisan power, great part of these greater predators of the fishing

resources (shrimp fishers, caneros, meloneros, cattle dealers) belong to these two spheres, who make use of their influences with impunity to commit the environmental crimes without mattering that pesquerias diminishes their production every day.

On fishing population, due to the natural phenomena that whip the region of the gulf of Fonseca like the drought and the floods, the earth deficiency for cultures and to the bad administration of the same ones by the state, much low people of mountains to look for its daily sustenance in the fishing, causing with it a competition to obtain something of little that even is, this added to gives you to them that they cause the industries.

## STRENGTHS

In 1988 CODDEFFAGOLF (Committee for the Defense and Development of the Flora and Fauna of the Gulf of Fonseca) one consolidates like an organization of artisan fishermen ready to fight so that pesquerias does not succumb before the depredadora action of the industrialists, gradually they are added to the fight the small agriculturists, acuicultores, salineros and teachers of education publish, actions in favor of the fishing sector begin and it is obtained that the state of Honduras signs national and international agreements, As result of the important actions but we have the declaration of 10 protected areas (9 of them are humedales highly productive), declaration of site Ramsar thousands of the 23 of October of 2003, declaration of 3 moratoriums to the expansion shrimp fisher, iron opposition through massive manifestations before the government in the capital to avoid the delivery of zones of artisan fishing to foreigners and nationals to turn them shrimp fishers and tourist complexes by means of the reform to I articulate 107 of the constitution of Honduras that prohibits the foreigners to have properties in adjacent zones to the sea spear a distance 40 km, which causes the evacuation of whole communities of fishermen, who are without their patrimony of life and happen to thicken the multitudes of unemployed in the important cities but of the country...

The CODDEFFAGOLF must like objective concienciar to the population in general so that rational use becomes of the resource fishes through a radial program that spreads in all the coastal zone of the gulf, they are distributed to char them on environmental education and environmentalist youthful clubs and to the teachers in networks of environmental educators are organized in order to look for the preservation doing use of the multiplying effect, alliances strategic with ONGs and national and international organisms are consensuan to obtain through joint efforts a strategy that allows the responsible viability of one pesqueria in Honduras...

CODDEFFAGOLF supports to the fishermen with small productive projects like an alternative to improve the quality of life of these families, trying with it also the rest of the gulf, between the projects we can mention the young of poultries, consumption stores,

beekeeping, responsible agriculture, agroforestaes breeding grounds., artisan bakeries, solar elaboration of salt, among others.

CODDEFFAGOLF supports economically and with terrestrial aquatic transport to the corresponding authorities so that they can make their tasks of the control of the illegal fishing in the coastal zone of the gulf and simultaneously receive and it gives him transacts to the denunciations that are sent by voluntary personnel in the coastal zone...

#### DRAG FISHING

PRODUCTION BY DRAG FISHING, ARTISAN DIVING And (Atlantic)

AMOUNT LBS

SEASON LOBSTER SHRIMP GRUDGE SNAIL

2000-	2001	1.352.201,7	2.681.429	907.826	4,449,747.50
2001-	2002	1.704.783,0	2.126.643	716.399	13,595,572
2002-	2003	2,252.828.3	2.768.143	875.446	2,052,503.25
2003-	2004	1838652,2	1.297.675	1.014.387	30,200.55

AMOUNT METRIC TON

SEASON LOBSTER SHRIMP GRUDGE SNAIL

2000-	2001	613,3	1216,28	411,78	2018.37
2001-	2002	773,30	964,63	324,95	6166.85
2002-	2003	1021,9	1.256	397	931
2003-	2004	834	589	460	14

The industrial fishing fleet this composing by constructed wood boats, iron and fiber glass, dedicated to the capture of fish, shrimp, lobster and snail, for which they use arts of fishing like baskets, palangres, fixed networks and of drift, agalleras of clear monofilament mesh, multifilament and trawls depth

According to data of DIGEPESCA 2002, in the Atlantic they operate 277 boats in the following activities.

For lobster 149

"shrimp 90

"snail 13

"grudge 25

Total 277

Recommendations:

We asked for the solidarity of the WORLD-WIDE FORUM Of the FISHING TOWN in the sense of: To help us to obtain a MORATORIUM TOTAL and IMMEDIATE To the EXPANSION OF INDUSTRY ACUICOLA Of the SHRIMP in Honduras and the tropical zone, considering that its negative impacts against the humedales, against the biological diversity and the security and economy of the local communities they are evident.



To destine to support to us in a campaign so that the Government of Honduras approves and executes PLANS OF HANDLING OF the PROTECTED AREAS Of the FONSECA GULF, where lacustrine zones of artisan fishing predominate

To support to us in a campaign destines to obtain that Honduras investigates the denunciations of violation of the human rights of the

artisan fishermen, in which one talks about the murders of fishermen in the matting next to the property shrimp fishers and behavior according to Law, avoiding that impunity continues.

To press to International the financial Organisms and Agencies of Development so that they finance a project directed to the combat of the poverty and conservation of the fishing, which would go destined to invest in the recovery of the lagoons that have been azolvadas by sediments of the industry shrimp fisher, agroindustria, and others, as well as to enable and to equip with technology and equipment to the fishermen, since until the-moment to name of the poor men only they help the great exporting industrialists generally.

To try to help to locate to sources of financing for the fishing development and defense us of rivers, coasts, seas and the species that in them live.

To fight together shared in common to fortify the World-wide Forum of the Fishing Towns

## **Appendix**

### **Fishery Situation in Kenya**

#### **Background**

Fishing is an important source of food, employment and foreign exchange, particularly for the Kenyans living in the lake region and the coastal area that have the highest incidence of poverty in the country. Exports of fish products earn Kenya Kshs. 4 billions annually. Aggregate fish landings from inland waters show significant growth, increasing from 25,845 tonnes in 1970 to peak of 208, 4564 tonnes in 1999. The production has been declining since 2000, however, due to over fishing. Due to this and other bottlenecks, the industry is projected to grow by only 0.8% per year between 2002 and 2007. Lake Victoria is one of the most important sources of fish, accounting fort 93 % of the national catch. Fish production can be increased by promoting sustainable capture fisheries in the lakes, rivers and the oceans and by encouraging culture fisheries on farmlands. Conditions necessary for fish farming, including integrated fish farming, are readily available in Kenya. The potential from marine fisheries is estimated at 150, 000 tonnes, but the current production from inshore and offshore fishing is estimated between 4000 tonnes and 7000 tonnes.

The low level of fish exploitation is due both to lack of equipment to undertake deep-sea fishing and the abandonment of trade by the fishermen as a result of availability of more lucrative livelihoods mainly in the tourist industry. Despite the vast potential that fisheries hold to generate income, create employment and provide food, the fishing sector faces threats from water pollution by agricultural chemicals, and municipal and industrial effluents, siltation and over fishing breeding grounds in Lake Victoria and estuaries along the coast.

#### **Government strategy to promote fishery industry**

The major bottleneck to the growth of the fishing industry in Kenya is lack of national fishery policy to guide the activities of the industry. However, the govt has appointed a committee that is working on the policy formulation. Unfortunately, the formulation of the policy might take longer owing to inadequate funds allocated to the cause. In its Economic Recovery Strategy for

Wealth and Employment Creation (2003-2007) Policy, the Government intends to address the bottlenecks in the fishing industry through;

To strengthen the community participation in fishery resource management through the beach management units (BMUs).

Development of facilitative infrastructure which include landing beaches, cooling plants and access roads to reduce wastage and to achieve the required sanitary and health standards

Enter into agreements to promote closer regional cooperation in the management and regulation of the trans boundary fishery resources including control of water hyacinth

Encourage growth of micro finance institutions to provide credit.

Promotion of aquaculture to improve food security, nutritional status and incomes

To have a national fisheries Board to address issues regarding the marketing of fish

The above-mentioned strategies are expected to be contained in a comprehensive fishery policy document that is in early planning stage by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development.

Report presented by Dr. Peter S. Otiato  
Chairman BUHEDE Kenya.

### **General Report of Aotearoa -New Zealand with concerns of Pacific People**

Our organization is prominently there to watch for legislation that impinges on coastal people. This is both locally and internationally.

Our need for families to ensure fishing is an inherent right from the beginning of time. The shellfish is an important food basket and has now been caught up in a new legislation that is called the "Foreshore and Seabed act". This legislation puts the foreshore between high and low water under the control and ownership of government and this may impinge on the shellfish gatherers (see document)

We have made alliances with the Maritime Union for a two-way support - While the multinational ships are taking on foreign crew within our waters for some fishing, they are putting local fishermen out a job.

The devolving of quota to tribal people may have its problems in the future from the pressure of the multi-national companies. It is hoped that community fisher people may be able to compete in the tendering rounds.

Having said this the Pacific people of some of the islands have a greater fear of their resources being taken over by the trawlers from Russia, China, Taiwan, Scandinavia- and the European Union; as they have little resource left in the Pacific.

Also high amounts of mercury is being discovered in the fishing catches- and can we trust aquaculture ventures if we can't be assured of what is being fed to them to force growth? It's already been found that certain hormones are entering waterways and are affecting people health. In Aotearoa there already has been cutbacks in quota on several species.

Finally to the Secretariat- thank you for serving the World Forum so well - without your office and the commitment of Cecily, Thomas and Harekhrishna, we would not be here today. Thank you to the fisher folk of Kisumu for their hospitality and welcome! But especially the members of the WFFP make it worth for all of us. In Peace!

-Report presented by Ms. Pauline Tangiora.

## **Appendix**

### **REPORT On the ACTIVITY OF FISHING IN GUADALOUPE**

#### **PRESENTATION :**

Guadeloupe is an archipelago having a surface of 1705 km<sup>2</sup> for a population of 435.000 inhabitant. The saving in production of the primary sector is basee on fishing, the cane, the banana and some cultures vivrieres the such ignomist.

These activities are marginal compared to the sectors secundiere and tertiary sector, and thus a trade balance very dificulthouse.

In the primary sector, fishing is the most important activity by far. A population of the pecheurs estimates has 1450 of which 1200 regulierment embark. A production of approximately 10.000 TWith for a chiffre of business of 80.000.000 euros. A flotilla of 800 ships surroundings of which 98% armee have offshore fishing, 1,8% have fishing cotiere and 0,2 % ala high-sea fishing the scale.

The organization of the sector is done through structures of framing whose principal ones are:

- Cooperative of the Pecheurs Sailors whose role is mainly avitrattement as regards fishing, and takes part etroitement has the evolution of the sector taut on the local level that in the basin caraibe thus which with the other DOM.
- The Maritime Credit, organization financial.
- the Unemployment fund Interperie.
- the Organization of professionnelles which has just been cree the OPAGUA.
- the COGUARA,

All its associaions are under the supervision of the State which it same is subjected to the Directives European por what is development and financing U secteure.

The Regional Council intervenes por the developpment economic one of the sector, like for the formation. The General Council etait harbour load of the infrastructures.

With such a framing, one could think that the fisheries sector is N full rise, far from. The reasons are varied:

- eloignement of the matters premieres for the consruction of the ships.
- the cost eleve of these matters premieres.
- the cost very eleve of the fuel which only has to him represente 75% of the expenditure of the MP.
- a growing competition of the products coming from the importation, all in congele which in expenses.
- a chute of the selling prices.
- a lack of structure of distribution and marketing.

Malgre the law of orientation in addition to-Mr. which has permi diminuere of moitie the social contributions and the installation of a moratorium for one 80% of the Pecheurs Marine having sign this moratorium of which in the incapacite to respect it. For exit of the crisis the sector it east turns towards L utilisation and the exploitation of the device of the concentration of let us

poissons (DCI).

Very vite, this effective fishing which by its character artisanal does not have any incidence pure pure stock and done TAC of the North Atlantic, watch these limits has.

Production limits because of the small size of the ships (6,5 m have 8,5m).

Setting sour it walk at the one moment dun tonnage of important fish pellagic having for consequence a mevente and a chute of the prices. In same time the various agreements of the OMF that of COTONU have permi the penetration on our walk of products fishery of the states of the caraibe became impossible to circumvent.

The Organization of the Producers and the OPEGUA were born connait 2003.

Engage a race then has the competitiveness of the enterprises of fishing which pous to be done imperatively owe ameliorer the equipment production, maybe by the modernization of cenne existing.

To face, Held of the new Europeenes Directives with the traver of the PCP (Political Commune de Peche) any subsidy will be gelee to the 31-12-2005 for the construction of ships nine and to the 31-12-2006 for modernization.

In same time, different agreement of the OMF of 1975 has 2000, that of COTONU or MERCOSUR with the countries of America of the South and soon the APE (economic Agreement of Partnership between the ACP EU and countries) have permi the penetration on our walk of similar products at a cost derisoire.

Which is thus the strategy of the EU through these various agreements, and their impact on the population of the pecheurs and singulierment of Guadaloupe.

If to attack with large goes of consomatuer that represente the 250 million inhabitants of the zone Caraibe.

2. To help with the development of the fisheries of these small countries by the implementation of great groups of company of export which gardereint pecheurs in a human state of exploitation and pure an exploitation of the resource so permetres it walk Europeene ainci that that of the DOM.

## CONSEQUENCES

The conjunction of the parameters quote with the top would quickly put MP of the DOM in a catastrophic social condition. Fishing will then become a marginal activity or of leisure, and together of the products of consumator, will come from its great groups of investe which are already well establishes.

The situation of the pechor of the other states of Caraibe will be idem and purely worse A average firm if devices important are not taken for the preservation of the resource, by a fishing raisonable.

That to make then:

- To require that the profesionnels are the actors incountournable of all negotiations concerning fishing has all the levels.

Quil has a charter in laquel there the WFFP owes the organization cle of the negotiations.

- That the EU holds account of the situation of the populations of pehcurs of the DOM in his policy of development, and takes into account the social impact of the decisions on this population.
- Finally any meter works about it so that the population of the pecheurs pus this to continue has to exploit the resources with a view to equitabilite raisonablement so that all the inhabitants of planet can enjoy the healthy animal proteines that us offers the seas and the oceans, provided that the behavior of a minority of profiteur, does not come to put an end to it.

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## **Appendix- 8**

### **SENEGAL CARRY FORWARD- Presented by Lalla Diop**

The accompaniment of the organizations of producers of the filiere peche ete retained following the place that the fisheries sector in the economy senegalaise occupies.

With enormous the potential ites which the sector of the peche contains.

3 with the many problems and forced which this sector aungsi encounters to identify the constraints of the sector of the artisanal peche. The sector cible by the CNPS are:

- fishing
- fish trade
- the transformation

All country of the world rest that offshore fishing contribu in ihe fight against the pauvreter and the hunger And that is threat by the large fleets industrialist. What touches vaguely the resource cest porquoi in this direction, the CNPS a a strong position. To pose on the table of the diferents meeting with the state senegalaise in this conser the agreement of peche between the State senagalaise and the EU.

Por this it will be necessary to define a strategy which can permetre throw one pant between all apuis has a management durable and equal box in Senegal envisagement a support has a profesionnelle demarche which allows the emergence.

The framework of consultation for defendre interests of the profesionnelles ones. The reinforcement of capacity of profesionnelles has to take part has the development and implementation of the sectoral policy of management.

The organizations which have a World representation on the level of the Forum of Poupulations of Pecheurs all that owes repaser well on a strategy of communication elaboree around Federateurs topics clear and .accesible with everyone reconnait itself.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Since the period precoloniale, the Statute of the woman in West Africa motavrient the countries

cotiers fully does not permit to him simpler in the economic activities on the same basis only the men.

During this period, it, words of multiple spots has assured. C'était it its main manager of forging, it ensured the education of the children,

Thus the role of the woman in West Africa primarily is confined with the multiple occupation of menage. Aujourd'hui the role of the woman has much improved, on the whole with the declarations or International Conventions in favour of aiming policy the promotion of the woman has. Maintaining in the fisheries sector and particularly Senegal, the women play an important part in the post activity captures it is they which take care of debarquement and has the marketing of the capture because of the relations or bonds which exist between and the proprietaires dugouts. Indeed these spots are primarily devolved with the wives mothers sisters or aunts of the pecheurs.

Maintaining with the socio-economic evolution it they are lancees relans the transformation of fish or the resale of fresh fish, almost the whole is devoted to the micro-maregeuses but transformation became economically profitable have regard plus 50.000 women who are lancees has that activity which represents approximately 40% of the unloading of artisanal fishing to which of unsold goods of industrial fishing add. It also makes it possible to develop and attenuer leave them after capture.

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT SOCIAL

By their strong presence in the additional activities fishing has the women constitute an essential link in fishing. If the haliotic transformation of the products of fishing strongly contributes has to develop the production and has diminished the pearls after capture, it also allows the population interior of the country of avoid a regular provisioning of proteins animals supporting certain a food safety thus death population. It is, tournament that the incomes cars of the exercises activities, by the women the major left finance the family expenditure, such as the medical expenses, the education of the children, etc.

It is to thus say that the women in the communities of fishing is a pillar of the family economy and constitute an essential factor for the development main road.

#### - CONSTRAINTS

It partage with the man the difficulties has the capture, handling, the transformation and the distribution of fish and the fishery products which so as to preserve should be effectees the nutritional value the quality and the innocuity of the products have to reduce the wasting and have minoriser environment the negative effects on L.

The fields according to merit to be held in consideration: Awaiting us from this forum of the prospects for the future for the women and the world for fishing in general. Good work has all, each one has and has each one.

**Diop Lalla- Secretary-general of the Women of the CNPS**

## **XIX. Resolutions**

### **1. Jambudwip Resolution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) Third General Assembly, 21 to 27 November 2004**

WE, REPRESENTING artisanal, small-scale, informal, traditional, subsistence, family-based, aboriginal, indigenous fishing communities and fishworkers from Africa, Asia, Canada, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe and the Pacific,

HAVING CONVENED at the Third General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) from 21 to 27 November 2004 at the Tom Mboya Labour College, Kisumu, Kenya,

BEING CONCERNED about the loss of traditional fishery livelihoods of 10,000 fishers and fishworkers, who are unjustly displaced from their fish landing and drying activities on Jambudwip Island, South 24-Parganas District, West Bengal, India, since 30 September 2002 in the name of conservation of mangroves,

HAVING RECOGNIZED that the traditional bag-net fishing, landing, and drying of fish on Jambudwip Island for direct human consumption pose no threat, whatsoever, to the mangrove forests on the Jambudwip Island,

HERE BY RESOLVE on the twenty-seventh of November 2004, to write to the President of India, the Prime Minister of India and the Secretary General of the United Nations, to restore with immediate effect the right to land and dry fish on the Jambudwip Island, of fishing communities who had been dependent on this Island for their livelihood for the past 57 years, and to allow these displaced fishers and fishworkers to resume, with immediate effect, their fishery-dependent activities on the Jambudwip Island.



## **2. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AGAMAR**

*Considering the general objectives stated within the WFFP Constitution, the WFFP denounces the situation suffered by the fisherwomen and fishermen of Galicia after the shipwreck of the hull tanker "Prestige " in front of the Spanish North West Coast (19-11-2002).*

*Recalling our attention to the even current terrible consequences of this oil spill, the WFFP is concerned with the whole impact suffered by the North of Spain, West French coast West Portugal coast, and in particular to the Galician fishing community.*

*Considering as well the lack of social protection of the fisherwomen from Galicia, the WFFP wishes to express the solidarity of its members towards the members of this important community of women in Galicia.*

*And, therefore, we pledge to the General Assembly of the WFFP for the approval of the Resolution as follows:*

1. To demand from the international organisations, IMO and other relevant bodies to remove forthwith from seas the single hull tankers.
2. To require to the relevant bodies of the UN, EU and Spanish Government to control through satellite the navigation of those vessels transporting dangerous goods, sailing along the Atlantic Galician coast, while demanding for all the involved countries to be committed with the best available solution and technology for this common problem.
3. To demand before the EU and before the Spanish and Galician Governments the construction of a shelter port in Galicia, in order to avoid environmental and social impacts such as the one happened with the "Prestige" tanker since November 2002.
4. To advocate for the social rights of the fisherwomen of Galicia before the Spanish and the Galician Governments so as before the Ombudsman of both Parliaments, and in particular to enjoy certain protection whenever a biological halt of fishing may be required, avoiding any sort of gender discrimination.
5. To claim before the Fishermen Guilds of Galicia to have a proportional representation within their governing bodies considering the relevance in number of the fisherwomen of Galicia.
6. To demand before the Galician and Spanish Governments to convoke and celebrate democratic elections in those guilds which have not already comply with this legal duty.

In Kisumu, Kenya, 27 November 2004.

### **3. ILO RESOLUTION.**

*We, representing* artisanal, small-scale, traditional, subsistence, family, aboriginal, indigenous fishing communities and fishworkers from Africa, Asia, Canada, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific, active as gleaners including shell gatherers, net and line fishers,

*Having convened* at the Third General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) from the 21 to 27 November 2004 at the Tom Mboya Labour College, Kisumu, Kenya,

*Having discussed* the ILO Report V (1) Work in the fishing sector prepared for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) 2005,

*Hereby resolves* on this day twenty-sixth November 2004 to:

*Welcome* the scope of the proposed Convention and Recommendation concerning work in the fishing sector to include all fishers and fishing vessels engaged in commercial fishing operations, which includes all fishing operations, including those in rivers and inland waters, with the exception of subsistence fishing and recreational fishing, although we are aware that all the provisions of the proposed Convention and Recommendation concerning work in the fishing sector may not be relevant to all of us,

*Further welcome* the provisions for minimum age, medical examination, occupational safety and health and fishers' work agreement, and support the degree of flexibility in relation to these provisions,

*Express concern* about the exclusion of fishers, particularly women shell gatherers and other workers employed in shore-based fishing operations who do not work on board fishing vessels,

*Demand* that social security provisions should be extended to all fishers irrespective of the sphere of fishing operations, by adopting all the social security branches under the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952,

*Propose* that the State should provide social security protection to workers, who fall outside formal owner-worker arrangements,

*Further propose* that the provisions for minimum age, medical examination, occupational safety and health and fishers' work agreement, identity document, should be extended to fishers on board artisanal and small-scale fishing vessels that undertake international voyages, and

*Call upon* International Labour Organisation and other organizations, to take into consideration our concerns and views, while arriving at substantive decisions in regard to the proposed Convention and Recommendation on conditions of work in the fishing sector.