



Adopted decisions of the 6th. WFFP General Assembly

This assembly has noted that WFFP have struggled for the human rights for fisher peoples, including the struggle for securing access rights, women's rights, social and economic rights, environmental justice since its inception in 1997. In this context, the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries should be perceived as another tool in our tool-box in the pursuit of these rights and in the fight against Ocean Grabbing.

Furthermore, having noted that the overarching goals of the SSF Guidelines are to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries, including inland fisheries, to food security and nutrition; to support the progressive realization of the right to food; and to empower small-scale fishing communities to participate in decision making, to enjoy their human rights, to assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fishery resources; and to obtain social and economic justice.

This assembly therefore decides to:

1) Strengthen the cooperation between the WFFP and FAO:

Decision 1.1 – Involve CSOs in guidelines implementation

In order to ensure a **democratic process** as well as in **recognition** of the pivotal role played by CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) in the process of getting the guidelines in place, WFFP-members stressed that the CSOs, notably **WFFP, WFF, ICSF and IPC** must continue to play a strong role in the implementation of the guidelines. Concrete suggestions included CSOs being represented and have the right to respond to COFI-delegate statements in the plenary (as a means to hold governments accountable to plenary statements) and the creation of a **gender-balanced Guideline steering committee** consisting of CSOs exclusively (WFFP, WFF, IPC and ICSF) or CSOs and FAO-representatives. Furthermore, in cooperation with WFFP, FAO should host **side-events at future COFI** - meetings with side-events on the status of implementation. This representation also extended to the regional and national level though, where WFFP-members and other legitimate CSO-representative should be included in relevant fora (e.g. engaging with national level governments in the development Country Program Frameworks – these are developed by the FAO and national governments in partnership).

Decision 1.2 - Information and capacity building

In light of the inclusive process up to this point, where many fishers have taken part in the consultation, WFFP-members felt that **FAO and CSOs are obliged to provide information** on the content of the final document back to the communities. A prerequisite to

this, is that the document is **translated** into national and local languages as well as conveyed in a more **popular format** so as to be accessible to everyone in the communities. Furthermore, '**empowerment workshops**', mirroring the consultation prior to the adoption, taking place at regional, national and local level should also be arranged, where these documents can be discussed. The simplification of the language to make it more accessible as well as the workshops would be organized through a cooperation between FAO, WFFP, WFF, ICSF and IPC.

Decision 1.3 - Funding

It was stressed in all groups that WFFP and other legitimate CSOs will need funding for their work on the guidelines. These funds should ideally be administered by FAO and allocated in a manner that is true to the principles in the guidelines. This should include funding for the dissemination to WFFP- and WFF-members.

Decision 1.4 - Monitoring

The main point in terms of monitoring at FAO-level was a larger degree of **inclusion of civil society** in the process and that the existing national monitoring performed by the member-states to FAO should also involve civil society. A concrete suggestion for CSO input to the monitoring process was a 'watch-list' on FAO's website, where CSO at local, national and regional level could give feedback as to which countries are complying with the guidelines and which are not). And crucially, CSOs should take part in **determining the criteria for this monitoring**. Such monitoring should happen on a yearly basis. As part of the monitoring process, it was stressed that **FAO should facilitate regular meetings with the CSOs involved in the tenure guidelines, so as to share experiences with monitoring the two papers**.

2) On the work of WFFP and WFFP members in regards to the SSF Guidelines

Decision 2.1 - Campaigns

While WFFP at the global level played a crucial role, now that the guidelines have been adopted the most **important work now it at national level**, because the only way that anything will happen is if **WFFP-members organisations put sufficient pressure on national governments** to abide by the guidelines. A crucial part of this is therefore a strengthening of **advocacy work at national level**, and in this sense the guidelines should be used as a tool to ensure **knowledge empowerment and mobilization** at local and national level. One means through which to put pressure on governments was to put a time-frame for the implementation of guidelines. Furthermore, there was an idea to launch a coordinated **WFFP campaign directed at governments on World Fisheries Day**.

At the collective/global level it was stressed that **WFFP should actively engage in FAO's civil-society mechanism (CMS)** and the committee on food security (of FAO). WFFP must form a secretariat that specifically works with the guidelines.

Decision 2.2 - Alliances

The alliance work with **WFF, ICSF and IPC** should continue, but new movements working on similar issues should also be approached (e.g. **La Via Campesina**, critical academics, trade unions). This is a crucial step to ensuring an increased awareness on the issue amongst the general population at the national level.

Decision 2.3 - Information dissemination & knowledge empowerment

The most important task for WFFP and WFFP-members is to **ensure that the guidelines and the role that they can play in the national struggles are conveyed in a manner that is understandable at the community level**. This means thinking of how to **disseminate** in new manners e.g. animations, a popular manual, use of webpage and **social media as well as more traditional through workshops**. The actual **education of the members' constituencies must obviously be driven by the members themselves**, but WFFP could at the collective / global level provide a 'toolkit' to do this. A crucial part of this, is to ensure means for better communication and continued and strengthened networking amongst WFFP members – also between the GAs. A first step could be forum on website.

Decision 2.4 - Monitoring

The main task for WFFP and WFFP-members was to use any and all M&E tools setup by FAO (as described above) in order to report back to FAO and member states on progress. WFFP-members should also attempt to reach out to FAO-representatives at national/regional level. **WFFP should establish its own parallel monitoring and evaluation mechanism**, and find ways to ensure that the reports issued by this parallel body are taken up in the FAO mechanism.

Decision 2.5 - Funding

WFFP should collectively work to raise funds for assisting the members to use the guidelines as a tool in their struggle at national level. Specific funds mentioned were IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture and Development). It was also mentioned that the FAO should assist WFFP in obtaining funds from other donors. Through this, it should be possible to allocate funds to national WFFP-members and an increased knowledge about who's who of funders at national level should be developed by WFFP-members.

Decision 2.6 - Cross border buffer zones

With special reference to India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, and in light of the fact that hundreds of fishermen in these countries and in countries throughout the world are victims of human rights violations while fishing in their traditional fishing grounds, and in line with relevant provisions of the SSF Guidelines and the Tenure Guidelines, the WFFP calls attention to these as gross human rights violations thought must be remedied and if necessary taken up by the UN Human Rights Commission.

The WFFP insists:

- on the establishment of a buffer zone of at least 100 nautical miles to ensure that fisherfolk can enter the neighbouring country's sea boundaries;
- that the fishermen incarcerated in prisons of neighbouring countries must be released

immediately; and

- in all the member countries that all countries follow and implement the UNCLSS article 73.3 in which it is clearly mentioned that any country's fishermen crossing the border during fishing cannot be arrested and punished.

3. This assembly having also noted that Ocean Grabbing in its many forms is an alarming threat to small-scale fishers all over the world. Ocean Grabbing has accelerated **Inequity at the global level and is rooted in neo-liberalism**. The most pronounced threats of Ocean Grabbing include **Marine Protected Areas** and **tourism** development; **aquaculture** (in particular shrimp farming in mangrove areas); **mining** activities (both land-based and sea-bed mining); **oil-drilling**; constructions of **power plants and other large scale infrastructure project**; **industrial pollution**; **privatisation of fisheries** (ITQs or Rights Based Fishing) and **extensive industrial fishing** – particularly in the near shore zone. Privatisation of fisheries and extensive industrial fisheries coupled with **destruction of critical habitats** (e.g. through shrimp aquaculture or the construction of coal power plants) also threatens the biological functioning of our waters, including the fish stocks

The Assembly therefore also decides on the following actions of WFFP at the global level:

Decision 3.1 - Internal capacity building and communication:

This was the biggest and single-most important issue for each of the groups. The groups stressed that there is a need for WFFP to **facilitate information sharing** amongst members between the General Assemblies as well as an increased sharing of information between the CC and the members. In light of the earlier presentations, there was a special focus on the need for **dissemination of information in popular format** on Ocean Grabbing and different international policy processes, e.g. the Global Partnership for Oceans. Concrete suggestions here included **news-letters** and strengthening of the use of social media. Together with this ‘fact-based’-information sharing, the need for strengthening of the members’ political consciousness through **political schooling** was also mentioned. Increased information sharing between member organisations will strengthen the bonds of international solidarity, as members from other countries can show support for on-going struggles or even coordinate common protests. An idea for a “corporation watch mechanism” was mentioned here, so as to target (e.g. through name-and-shame) multinationals that present a challenge for several members – e.g. pescanova. A prerequisite for this is that it should be possible for members to quickly ‘sound the alarm’ to other members if they see the need for international solidarity actions from other members. It was also pointed out that WFFP should **provide research assistance** to the members, e.g. if there as part of a national campaign is need to put focus on political developments at the international level.

Decision 3.2 - Campaigns

There was strong emphasis on the need for WFFP and members to set focus on the issue of Ocean Grabbing in a **coordinated campaign globally**. The celebration of **World Fisheries Day** on the 21st November, where WFFP members usually do different campaign initiatives

was mentioned as a possible date. In this connection it was suggested that joint **declarations against Ocean Grabbing** should be signed. The need for globally coordinated actions in general – i.e. also at other times than the World Fisheries Day – was also mentioned. As mentioned above, increased **internal information sharing** would be key in this. Other campaign ideas included launching **international legal action** through the **International Court of Justice**, clarifying the gender inequities in fisheries, and campaigning for the continued and increased role of WFFP in international decision making processes.

Decision 3.3 - Alliances

An on-going theme in the discussions was the need for unity and this centered on the need to strengthen the bonds with **WFF, IPC and ICSF** in order to continue the good cooperation that has been established through the work on the Guidelines. One of the groups had a specific request of creating a joint working group with WFF. In light of the many ways that Ocean Grabbing affect fisheries communities, e.g. also through land-grabbing it was however also mentioned that it is important to form alliances with movements in other sectors, notably **La Via Campesina**. Finally, WFFP needs to strengthen its network of resource people that can assist the movement with analysis, herein legal experts.

Decision 3.4 - External communication

Another issue for many of the groups was the need to strengthen WFFP's **media work**, in order to educate the general public of the challenges that WFFP and its members face. A suggestion here was to have **designated communication personnel** for this task.

Decision 3.5 - Fundraising

Finally, it was discussed how several of the above points would require more money in the network, so there is a need for increased fundraising in order to secure a future development of the network's capabilities. One way of raising resources is through **membership contributions** at the member's level and through paying the membership fee to WFFP.

4) Actions of WFFP at the national level

Decision 4.1 - Information capacity building and communication:

Similar to the discussions on the strategies at global level, the most important issue was to strengthen the **knowledge and information dissemination** in WFFP member organisations to ensure that the knowledge that leaders have (or will have) access to through WFFP must be spread to the local community level. This increased access to information should go together with an **improved analysis of actors at all levels** (also the local), so as to be able to clearly identify who and what the members are resisting against and to develop efficient strategies. This would furthermore counter the divide-and-rule tactics that are employed against the communities.

Decision 4.2 - Alliances

Again, similar to how WFFP at global level should look for **allies in other sectors**, the WFFP-members should also broaden out their alliance with movements working on other issues (e.g. La via Campesina who represents peasants). Furthermore, the members should also look to other NGOs and scientists that are sympathetic to the needs of fisherfolk. A key

aspect of this potential cooperation with scientists should be to put the traditional/local knowledge embodied in the communities to the fore. Such broad alliances could be made by establishing WFFP-support committees in each member-country.

Decision 4.3 - Campaigns

The central idea that echoed across the groups was that the WFFP-members should put forward a common message on the **World Fisheries Day**. Another common campaign idea was that the WFFP-members need to actively use the guidelines to put pressure on their national governments. Other ideas included occupying relevant ministries, initiating court actions, writing declarations and statements against ocean grabbing and campaigning and acting for food sovereignty, e.g. creating alternative markets.

Furthermore, this assembly having also noted that the threats to small-scale fisheries all over the world and the importance of the SSF Guidelines also have to be addressed and applies to the continental level. The assembly therefore decides to the following:

5) Actions of WFFP at the continental level

Decision 5.1 - Sharing and dissemination of information:

The WFFP will provide information on 1) organizations, including funding bodies, to help them to understand their interest and agendas 2) implementation of the guidelines 3) ocean grabbing, using an up-to-date website and other means

Decision 5.2 - Campaigns

Nov 21st. campaign focusing on Guidelines as a mean to end ocean grabbing. Another common campaign idea was that the WFFP-members need to actively to pursue the interests and needs of small-scale fishers at relevant platforms at the regional level – e.g. at the forthcoming FAO conference on User Rights (working title) to be hosted in Asia (Cambodia) in March 2015.

Decision 5.3 - Strengthen focus on Indigenous Peoples

That WFFP will (1) create an Indigenous seat on the WFFP Coordinating Committee, (2) work with Indigenous SSF learning circle project to create a forum for sharing and solidarity, and (3) lobby regional and international forums on Indigenous issues to gain support.