

# Report of the 6th. General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples



**WFFP** WORLD FORUM  
OF FISHER PEOPLES

Foro Mundial de Pueblos Pescadores  
Forum Mondial des Populations de Pêcheurs  
**ASSERT OUR RIGHTS, RESTORE OUR DIGNITY!**

**6th GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



**1-5 Sept 2014**  
**Cape Town**  
**South Africa**



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# 1. Preamble

*“UPHOLD our human and fishing rights as fisherfolk of the world, protect our livelihoods, pursue social justice for fishing communities, preserve and promote the culture of fishing communities worldwide, affirm water as the source of all life and commit ourselves to sustain fisheries and all aquatic resources for present and future generations of the world”.*

With these words, fisherfolk movements from around the world formed the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) on November 21, 1997 in India. Since then, WFFP has grown hugely in strength and stature and today it represents 44 fisherfolk movements from 31 countries.

Ahead of the 6th. General Assembly, Naseegh Jaffer from Masifundise, South Africa, expressed that belonging to the WFFP holds tremendous benefits for local organisations. “It provides solidarity, we can take similar positions on issues, we can learn from each others’ struggles, build a strong social movement and together learn to bring about change that will benefit fishing communities locally and internationally, ” says Jaffer.

Herman Kumara of the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NFSM) in Sri Lanka, says that small-scale fishers in Sri Lanka were marginalised and did not have recognition, their rights as fishers were not respected, and their contribution as food producers were not recognised. This started to change when they started to organise themselves and later joined WFFP. “ As a member of the WFFP family, we gained the recognition. “WFFP demands the recognition and protection of fisher folk’s traditional rights in national law-making and policies, and rejects the practice of destructive fishing such as trawling and poisoning,” says Mohamed Reza, of the SNI Serikat Nelayan Indonesia / Indonesia Fisherfolk Union (SNI).

Through the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, WFFP extensively and vigorously campaigned for and contributed to the development and adoption of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. This is a major victory of the world's fishers organised under WFFP.

WFFP Member organisations, through duly mandated delegates meet every three years in the General Assembly (GA), its highest decision making body. The General Assembly of the WFFP is held in a different country each time it meets, and was only once held in Africa, when it met in Kenya in 2005, and this year, Africa got its second turn, when the 6th. General Assembly was held in Cape Town, South Africa.

This report is structured in chronological order. Following the summary and the introduction it takes the reader through the proceedings of the General Assembly on a day-by-day basis. The two main topics of the assembly - Ocean Grabbing and the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries – were addressed by the delegates throughout the five days, and hence, similar points and issues will reoccur in two or more sections.

## 2. Summary of the 6th General Assembly and its decisions

120 delegates gathered at the 6th. General Assembly for 5 days to discuss the past, the present and the future of the WFFP. Two key themes received particular attention: Ocean Grabbing<sup>1</sup> and the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF guidelines).

Associate Professor Seth Macinko<sup>2</sup> from the University of Rhode Island, gave a sobering opening address underlining how the unprecedented push for privatisation of fisheries can undermine the livelihoods of small-scale fishers world-wide; how the proponents of such privatisation policies increasingly adopt the human-rights language of social movements; and what the WFFP should be particularly aware of when using the SSF guidelines.

The South African National Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Senzeni Sokwana, made a key closing address at the last day of the General Assembly, in which he confirmed South Africa's commitment towards the implementation of the SSF guidelines<sup>3</sup>.

The General Assembly 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 realisation 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.

The General Assembly therefore decided to:

- 1) Strengthen the cooperation between the WFFP and FAO.
- 2) Strengthen the work of WFFP and WFFP members in regards to the SSF guidelines

The General Assembly also noted that Ocean Grabbing in its many forms is an alarming threat to small-scale fishers all over the world.

The General Assembly therefore also decided to:

- 1) Strengthen the capacity of the WFFP, its communication and cooperation with allies at the global level.
- 2) Strengthen capacity, consciousness, activities and alliances of WFFP members at the national level

Furthermore, the assembly 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 applied to the continental level. The assembly therefore decided to enhance communication, information sharing and campaign work; and to strengthen the focus on indigenous peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> For a description, see the Global Ocean Grab, a Primer: [http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/The\\_Global\\_Ocean\\_Grab-EN.pdf](http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/The_Global_Ocean_Grab-EN.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Prof. Seth Macinko's presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTzNJMoXYaw>  
Short interview with Seth Macinko: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5ajkwDggyQ>

<sup>3</sup> <http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Minister-Sokwana-Speech.pdf>

### 3. About the General Assembly

**The 6th. General Assembly** was held at the Fountain Hotel in the city centre of Cape Town, South Africa on 1-5 September 2014. It was hosted by Masifundise and Coastal Links South Africa. The General Assembly was attended by 134 participants from 26 countries. The two key topics addressed at the assembly was Ocean Grabbing - the process whereby elites take control of resources at the expense of poor communities - and the International Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries, endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries in June 2014.

The main goals of the assembly were:

- 1) to deepen the understanding of the threats to small-scale fishing communities imposed by various forms of Ocean Grabbing and develop strategies for WFFP to fight against destructive forces; and,
- 2) to unpack the contents of the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and to develop strategies on how WFFP can use the guidelines in their daily struggles.

Another important function of the assembly was to strengthen international solidarity and unity among its members.

The General Assembly elects a Coordinating Committee (CC), which manages and runs the activities of the WFFP between General Assemblies.

At the General Assembly, time is set aside for the delegates to meet as Continental Fora, and these fora in turn nominate two officials, each to serve on and represent their continents within the CC.

The CC meets once a year and consist of two co-chairpersons, the general secretary, the treasurer and the two officials from each continent.

The programme of the 6th General Assembly is attached as annex 1

The list of participants is attached as annex 2

The General Assembly was moderated by WFFP's two co-coordinators:

Mr. Naseegh Jaffer, Masifundise, South Africa

Ms. Sherry Pictou, Bear River First Nation, Canada

The General Assembly was preceded by a Coordinating Committee (CC) meeting on Sunday evening, 31 August. The meeting finalised and endorsed to the full programme for the General Assembly and prepared a CC report to the General Assembly. Due to the political situation in Pakistan and the country's relation with foreign nations, the WFFP Secretary General, Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah faced severe difficulties in obtaining a visa to enter South Africa, and therefore only arrived in time for the second day of the assembly.

The 6th General Assembly was supported by: Afrika Kontakt, Transnational Institute, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, the Lighthouse Foundation, Umverteilen, Norad<sup>4</sup> and REINCORPFISH<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [www.afrika.dk](http://www.afrika.dk) - [www.tni.org](http://www.tni.org) – [www.naturskyddsforeningen.se](http://www.naturskyddsforeningen.se) – [www.lighthouse-foundation.org](http://www.lighthouse-foundation.org) – [www.umverteilen.de](http://www.umverteilen.de) – [www.norad.no](http://www.norad.no)

<sup>5</sup> The funding from REINCORPFISH (<http://www.reincorpfish.info/>) made it possible for Masifundise and Coastal Links to host a national workshop with 60 leaders from Coastal Links South Africa immediately before the General Assembly. This workshop was important for Coastal Links leaders in order to prepare for active participation in the WFFP General Assembly.

## 4. Proceedings of the General Assembly – Day one

### 4.1. Welcoming remarks and opening sessions

The Co-coordinator, Nassegh Jaffer welcomed all the delegates on behalf of the WFFP Coordinating Committee and the hosts of the event – Masifundise and Coastal Links South Africa. He gave a special welcome to the delegates who have been with WFFP since Delhi in 1997 and a special welcome to the six new members of the WFFP<sup>6</sup>.

Naseegh Jaffer mentioned that apologies were received from twelve WFFP members from nine countries, who were unable to attend due to severe violations of the human rights of fisher peoples<sup>7</sup>, natural disasters<sup>8</sup> and the Ebola outbreak in West Africa<sup>9</sup>. In addition hereto, he mentioned that the WFFP General Secretary, Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah was on his way from Pakistan, but that he would arrive too late to participate in the first day of the General Assembly. Due to the political situation in Pakistan and the country's relation with foreign nations, it turned out to be unexpectedly difficult to obtain a visa to enter South Africa.

**The welcoming address was followed by a cultural item.** The first performance was the singing of the South African National Anthem by 15 members of Coastal Links South Africa accompanied by KwaNtu, followed by a three piece musical group made up of music students from the University of Cape Town. Musical backing was provided by a keyboard player and percussionist.

This was followed by the singing of 'Sondela' by the Coastal Links choir<sup>10</sup>. Sondela means 'come nearer' and is a call for unity of small-scale fishers. Next up were KwaNtu who sang, danced and played traditional instruments in energetic performances that delighted the 120 delegates. The cultural items were interspersed by speeches and presentations.

**The first opening address** was given by the Chairperson of Masifundise, Mr. George Bongo, who gave all the delegates, special invitees and observers from around the world a warm welcome to the mother city of Cape Town. Mr. Bongo mentioned that Coastal Links and Masifundise have changed the law of the country to also accommodate the small-scale fishers. Yet, he underlined that the struggle is not over, and that fishing communities have to continue to mobilise and organise for the implementation of new law and policy. Mr. Bongo also expressed his appreciation towards the South African government for its recent contributions towards the small-scale fisheries sector. In his final remarks, he expressed gratitude for the support towards this important assembly from partner organisations and donors across the world.

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<sup>6</sup> KNTI, Indonesia  
El Molo Forum, Kenya  
The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation  
Association of Fisherfolk of the Gulf of Fonseca (APAGOLF), Honduras  
Apomar, Spain  
C –Condem, Ecuador

<sup>7</sup> The shooting of fishers in the Mangroves of Ecuador – due to conflicts rooted in land-grabbing – prevented Mr. Lider Gongora from C-Condem to participate in the WFFP General Assembly

<sup>8</sup> The flooding in Bangladesh – exaggerated by the causes of Climate Change and destruction of Mangrove forests – required for Mr. Md. Mujibul Haque Munir of Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST Trust) to stay at home and address the severed, devastating impacts.

<sup>9</sup> Precautionary measures by the South African governments prevented all the WFFP members from Ebola affected countries from participating (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGsbi53EqsQ>

**The second opening address** was given by Ms. Maria Hoffman from Pearly Beach, South Africa. Ms. Hoffman, also a co-founder of Coastal Links, underlined the victory of securing the endorsement of a national small-scale fisheries policy in South Africa. Ms. Hoffman also stressed that unless the policy is implemented, the future of the young generation would not be secure, and that Coastal Links have to continue lobbying government to implement the policy and ensure collective access rights<sup>11</sup>.

## 4.2. The opening key note address<sup>12</sup>

The key note address was given by associate professor, Seth Macinko, from University of Rhode Island, USA. Mr. Macinko explained how powerful institutions, such as the World Bank, are manoeuvring and strategising in order to pursue their agenda of privatising fish resources world wide. He stressed that the WFFP should be aware of the tactics of the proponents of privatisation policies – tactics of adapting their language to the language of the WFFP. As an example, he referred to documents showing that the World Bank has moved from speaking directly about privatisation of fish resources (through individual quota systems) to now speaking of ‘tenure rights’ in line with The Voluntary *Guidelines* on the Responsible Governance of *Tenure* of Land, Fisheries and Forests, which was endorsed by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in 2012.

In his conclusions, Seth Macinko recommended 'what to do' as WFFP:

First, WFFP members should beware of rhetoric used by many organisations and institutions who pursue privatisation of fisheries – rhetoric that is also used to co-opt, or take control over, the use of the SSF guidelines.

Second, WFFP should hold any actors accountable to their use of human-rights language and the words and principles used by the WFFP.

Third, under the heading of 'pay attention', he stressed that the issue of privatisation should be taken very seriously and that WFFP members should educate themselves about privatisation initiatives and the associated rhetoric.

**The opening session ended** with a performance by a group of Riel dancers – called Southroots. The Nama Riel Dance has its roots in the ancient rituals of the San and the Khoi, the indigenous peoples of South Africa.

## 4.3. Tribute - Laal Salaam Comrade Tom Kocherry

(born 10 May 1940; † 3 May 2014)

The sudden passing of Thomas Kocherry, 73, a pioneer of the WFFP stunned the small-scale fisheries community. He passed away on 3 May, just a day after he had participated in a lively telephonic conference on the issues facing small-scale fishers across the world.

His passing is an intimate loss for fisher-folk across the world.

In 1978 he was elected president of the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), India.

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<sup>11</sup> The full opening speech of Ms. Maria Hoffman: <http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Maria-Hoffman-opening-speech-WFFP-6th-GA.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <http://worldfishers.org/2014/09/01/media-release-september-1st-2014/>



Thomas, a priest and activist from Kerala, was a hardened soldier in the fight for the rights of fishers and poor people. His very existence echoed the plight of the poor. He was never a person to indulge in luxury. Whenever the WFFP met internationally he was always in the front line of not wasting. All his international work reflected the life of the poor. We in the WFFP can attest to this and we value this personal attribute that he instilled in our organization.

As tough as a person he was, he also stood tall in the fight against the exploitation of marginalized people. Even though he will be modest about it – we know that he has made an indelible impact in the fight for a better life for fishers in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Canada and all over the world.

For us, in the WFFP, the legacy of Thomas Kocherry will continue to stand tall.

While we mourn his passing – we also celebrate the great contribution that he made in the struggle for human rights the world over. His presence will be sorely missed.

Herman Kumara from the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement, Sri Lanka, and Andy Johnston<sup>13</sup> from Artisanal Fishers Association, gave the heartening tributes to Thomas Kocherry. In-between the two tributes a Tribute video with was shown<sup>14</sup>. Speaking about small-scale fisheries in India toward the end of the 1970ies, Thomas Kocherry stressed that “...all these multinationals and greedy profiteering [fishing corporations] should be kept out if you want sustained fisheries and if you want a brighter future”. As a WFFP leader, after its inception in 1997, Thomas Kocherry said that “...the free movement of capital, where the market determines everything... [is a] market that has only one value [pause] that is profit”.

#### **4.4. Presentation of the report of the WFFP General Secretary**

The moderators, Mr. Naseegh Jaffer and Ms. Sherry Pictou, once again apologised for the absence of the General Secretary Excuse, Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah , who were unable to obtain his Visa in time and only arrived late Monday evening. On behalf of the General Secretary, Sherry Pictou gave an account of the most important activities in which the WFFP Coordinating Committee (CC) participated since the 5th. General Assembly held in Pakistan in 2011:

- The first annual CC meeting was held in Pakistan following the General Assembly;
- the second annual CC meeting was held in Novo Scotia, Canada in 2012;
- the third annual CC meeting was held in Rome in 2013 in conjunction with a Technical Consultations meeting of the Food and Agricultural Organisation on the SSF guidelines.

The bulk of the work of the WFFP CC was invested in the process of developing the SSF guidelines. After a series of workshops at national and regional levels all over the world (most of them in 2012), and the two FAO technical consultation meetings in Rome in 2013 and 2014, the guidelines were finally passed at the 31st session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the FAO in June 2014.

Sherry Pictou underlined the immense amount of resources that had to be invested in lobbying the decision makers in Rome at the COFI meeting in order to ensure that the guidelines were passed.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://worldfishers.org/2014/10/03/tribute-thomas-cocherry/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZduCraCnEw>

CC members also participated in several other regional and international meetings where the WFFP perspectives were placed on the various agendas. Some of the most important meetings included:

- The 2012 Conference of the Parties (COP) on Climate Change
- The 2013 COP on the Convention of Biological Diversity
- The Rio+20 Earth Summit where WFFP (Sherry Pictou, Jorge Varela Marquez and Naseegh Jaffer) worked closely together with delegates from the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) and International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF).
- The ICSF 2014 SSF Guidelines workshop<sup>15</sup> (Sherry Pictou, Naseegh Jaffer, Reza Damanik and Manickam Ilango)
- The FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) meetings

In addition to these key activities mentioned by Sherry Pictou, WFFP delegates added other important activities that the Coordinating Committee has been involved in:

- Arthur Bull mentioned the International Learning Circles on Indigenous Peoples and Privatisation of fisheries as important activities where WFFP members share lessons and learn from each other.
- Jorge Varela Marquez mentioned that APAGOLF represented WFFP at a social economic and cultural tribes meeting that took place in Lima, Peru. At this meeting, the rights of fisher peoples, human rights violations and the SSF guidelines were discussed
- Sid Ahmed Abeid mentioned that he, together with Herman Kumara, also attended critical IFAD meetings on small-scale fisheries
- Herman Kumara mentioned that he attended a FIAN meeting in June 2014 in Geneva, on the preparations of a peoples manual on the use of the Tenure Guidelines. This meeting was attended by different groups of people working on food sovereignty and the hand book is being prepared and will be published soon.

Naseegh Jaffer added that the WFFP engaged in some additional, important processes and meetings, including:

- in 2012 the UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food submitted his report to the UN General Assembly and for the first time ever, the report addressed SSF exclusively. WFFP has participated in workshops and discussions that have contributed to the drafting of that report, and as such WFFP can claim that its voice has been heard by the United Nations General Assembly.
- FAO has formally recognised WFFP as a civil society player that represents fishers on the ground. The voice of the WFFP is now formally entrenched within FAO, and this is an important victory.
- The cooperation with the World Forum of Fish Workers and Fish Harvesters (WFF) and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) has improved significantly over the past four years. WFFP, WFF and ICSF have formed a Civil Society Coordinating Committee that now speaks on behalf of SSF in relation to the International SSF Guidelines at the United Nations level.
- WFFP has also strengthened cooperation with the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC). With its secretariat based in Rome, the IPC brings together social movements across the world and across sectors. The IPC includes peasants, women groups, fishers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and others. “We now see a stronger movement to bring sectors together and work together to protect the world's poor small-scale food producers”, added Naseegh Jaffer.

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<sup>15</sup> [http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1054-ICSF%20SSF%20Guidelines%20Workshop%20\(2014\).html](http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1054-ICSF%20SSF%20Guidelines%20Workshop%20(2014).html)

Naseegh Jaffer also mentioned that the Coordinating Committee has not always been successful in sharing all this information, due in part to the challenges faced by the General Secretary in terms of obtaining Visas. He said that the new Coordinating Committee will probably have to develop mechanisms and strategies to improve sharing of information, knowledge and lessons at all levels – from leadership level to the grass roots. This is important not least in order to deepen the sense of solidarity.

Towards the end of the reporting session, Naseegh Jaffer explained the procedures of electing the new Coordinating Committee. According to the constitution, gender balance must be ensured and each region must be represented by two members on the CC. WFFP has a unique way of forming the new CC based on consensus – a practise that has prevailed in all General Assemblies and contributed to strengthening the solidarity. The procedure is that each of the delegates (each WFFP member) of the General Assembly engages with a special invitee of the WFFP CC and nominates a candidate for the new CC who is not her/him-self. The special invitee of the CC elected at the 5th General Assembly, Herman Kumara, has been appointed by the Coordinating Committee to facilitate these conversations/engagements. Herman Kumara is appointed because he carries the history and soul of the WFFP and because he has contributed and is committed to the work of WFFP. On the basis of these conversations, Herman Kumara will present his proposed CC to the General Assembly at the official session on day four.

#### **4.4.1. Presentation of the report of the WFFP Treasurer**

Ms. Natalia Laino Lojo, the WFFP Treasurer, tabled a report that confirmed that the bank account of the WFFP is still held in Galicia. For the past six years no money has been processed through that account, and due to the absence of transactions there has been no need for auditing.

The account balance as per 1.September 2014 was. EUR 1.191,29

The General Assembly accepted the Treasurer's report.

#### **4.5. Country feedback from the WFFP members**

Each WFFP member were asked by the moderators to give five minutes of feedback on the key issues and challenges for small-scale fishers from their home country and to explain what has been done to protect their rights since the last General Assembly in Pakistan, 2011.

Ahead of the General Assembly, WFFP members were offered an opportunity to provide information in writing, which was then uploaded to the WFFP website. Where WFFP members made use of this opportunity, it is reflected in the below summaries of country feedback.

##### **Canada**

Sherry Pictou explained how the indigenous fishers struggle to maintain their traditional livelihoods and protect their Treaty Rights in the context of the government's effort to impose the ITQ (Individual Transferable Quotas) system upon them. Bear River First Nation continue the struggle by use of media-campaigns and litigation. For more information, read <http://worldfishers.org/2014/08/26/mikmaq-indigenous-people-canada-netukulimk-itqs/>

## **France**

Alexis Fossi spoke in the absence of the Association des Pecheurs and Itsas Geroa – the two members were both excused from the meeting. Fossi explained that the main challenge for fishers in France was that of the revised European Union Common Fishery Policy (CFP), and the pressure from the EU Commission to privatise fisheries. In France fishers have fought against ITQs, but now the EU has changed their language and refer to Transferable Fishing Concessions (TFC)<sup>16</sup> instead even though it's the same thing. This makes it more difficult for the fishers. A new rule of the European policy (the CFP) is also that fishers are not allowed to throw any fish overboard. For many small-scale fishers this rule does not make sense, and it is yet more proof that the regulations imposed by the EU are developed by technocrats based in Brussels, Belgium (EU's headquarters), who have very little understanding about fishing.

## **Gambia**

Dawda Saine from the National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators (NAAFO), spoke about the practical implementation of the 2007 Act which gives provision for the empowerment of fishers and the development of the small-scale sector. Yet, the policy is not implemented. NAAFO has fought for the implementation and in particular for the introduction and co-management where the local and traditional knowledge of fishers is integrated. It took NAAFO three years to develop its own co-management plan and push for it to be endorsed by government. This plan has finally been gazetted by government, which means that the fishers are now granted the power to manage and control small-scale fisheries.

## **Honduras**

Moises Osovta from Association of Fishermen of the Gulf of Fonseca (APAGOLF) spoke about the challenges of a new proposed fishery policy in Honduras, which builds on the ITQ system. Up until now APAGOLF has managed to block the endorsement of this policy, but it is a continuous struggle. Osovta said that they have met with decision makers many times and will continue to do so. They also use the media to fight against the proposed policy.

Jorge Varela Marquez (also APAGOLF) added that this struggle is not only taking place in Honduras but in the entire region. It is clear from the new proposal of the government builds on neo-liberal ideology and will benefit the large corporations at the expense of small-scale fishers if endorsed. The consultation of small-scale fishers in the decision making process is a farce and APAGOLF is exposing the real intentions of government via the media. Transnational companies operating in the region is involved in the process and they show no consideration to small-scale fishers. APAGOLF makes use of the media and is also joining forces with other organisations in the struggle against the privatisation and corporatisation of fisheries in Honduras. Meetings are also held with Congress Members and the local FAO officials to ensure that the voice of small-scale fishers is heard.

For more information read <http://worldfishers.org/2014/08/27/struggle-coastal-sovereignty-gulf-fonseca-honduras/>

## **India**

Manickan Ilango from National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) said it was a concern that India – with its 8000 km of coast line – does not have an elected representative in parliament. This makes it difficult to put forward demands to the parliament. A main concern is that fishers are being displaced from their homelands because of so called 'safety' measures. The threat of natural disasters is now used as an excuse to displace fishing communities to provide space for developers

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<sup>16</sup> See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUzCcAFhqs> for more on TFCs

to build resorts for tourists. Another serious concern is the infringement by the industrial fleet on the 12-nautical mile zone, which is reserved for small-scale fishers only. NFF is also addressing cross boarder conflicts and demand the immediate release of prisoners.

The next parliamentary elections will take place this year and NFF is working extensively to get the parliamentarians to address fisheries and ensure that more money is allocated by government to address small-scale fisheries in the future. Currently, fisheries are perceived as a sub-sector of agriculture and therefore are under-prioritised and under-funded.

### **Indonesia**

Mr. Aziz Misbahul Munir from Indonesian Fisher Folk Union explained that one of the big problems is that fishers are evicted from traditional fishing grounds even though they have customary rights to fish. This is particularly a concern in areas that are turned in the marine natural parks (MPAs) for the benefit of tourists. The general public does not understand this dilemma and hence, it's difficult to get their support. They believe fishing is bad – which is an image that has been created because of the negative impacts of industrial trawling for example.

Indonesian Fisher Folk Union is working together with allies and continuously seek new partners to address the challenges.

### **Kenya**

Ms. Christiana Saiti Louwa from El Mole Forum spoke about the painful consequences of insecurity and political instability in Kenya. While the ruling elite is fighting with the opposition, the people in northern Kenya suffer from the terrorism of al-Shabaab and other criminal groups. Fisher peoples are caught in the middle of these conflicts where people are killed and communities destroyed. Christiana also stressed that injustices – rooted in the colonial era – are still pronounced, and in particular in relation to access to land. Land grabbing is pronounced.

El Molo Forum conducts advocacy work at several levels and fronts in the northern Kenya, including meetings and cooperation with local leaders, other local authorities and security agencies. The Forum also emphasises its efforts to mobilise communities to engage in peace and reconciliation dialogue as an important strategy to change the situation.

For more information see: <http://worldfishers.org/2014/08/23/kenyas-fishers-victims-national-politics/>

### **Mauritania**

Mr. Sid Ahmed Abeid from Federation Nationale de Peche (FNP) explained that the situation is somehow different in Mauritania, as they no longer have to strike and protest. Today, FNP works closely and constructively together with the public authorities all the way to the national level. This has secured political and financial support to the artisanal fishers, including special measures such as tax exemptions on fuel and the development of two harbours for the artisanal fleet.

FNP has also successfully advocated for a new Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the European Union that takes into consideration the demands of the local fishing fleet. The new protocol of October 2013 offers sectorial support for the local fisheries and reserves the entire octopus sub-sector for the Mauritanian fleet.

FNP is currently in dialogue with the authorities of Mauritania and Senegal regarding a cross-boarder fishing arrangement.

## **Mauritius**

Mr. Patrick Fortuno from Fisher Apostolat of the Sea explained that 40% of Mauritius' small-scale fishers are members of their organisation. The main problem is that the fishers do not benefit from the development policy of the government and that they are poorly represented. As a result they do not enjoy social justice and equality. The recent development of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the European Union is a clear example of the lack of inclusion.

In order to address these issues, the Fisher Apostolat of the Sea continues to mobilise and lobby government. As the general election is 'around the corner' a lot of effort is directed towards lobbying the political parties.

For more information see Box E page 18 in the report "The Global Ocean Grab"

## **Pakistan**

Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) explained that the political situation makes it difficult for fisherfolks of his country. Firstly, the geo-political situation makes it very difficult for the leaders of PFF to obtain travel visa and this is also the reason for the late arrival of Ali Shah (his member feedback was given on Tuesday morning instead of the Monday). Another issue is the recurrent arrests of fishers from India and Pakistan who cross sea-boundaries from time to time. Detention of poor fishermen by either side of the country is an open human rights violation that requires immediate attention. The threat from the deep-sea trawlers – of which many are from foreign nations – is another serious issue that PFF addresses. Not only does it destroy the natural habitats but it also diminishes the fish stocks and leaves little fish left for the small-scale fishers. Ali Shah also stressed that the government's plan – supported by the military – to build 5 nuclear power plants and coal power plants. These are false solutions to the energy challenge and will lead to displacement and destruction of mangroves and other critical habitats. In Pakistan, it is very difficult to work against these mega-projects because they are backed by the military.

## **Sri Lanka**

Mr. Herman Kumara from the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO) spoke about the post-war situation in Sri Lanka and how the government, with the support from the military, increasingly privatises and sells coastal lands to investors. The effect of this development is displacement of fishers and entire communities, loss of access to the fishing grounds, destruction of mangrove forests and depletion of fish stocks.

NAFSO – together with allies – are continuously raising awareness on these issues in fishing communities. An important aspect of this work is capacity building of leaders and the continuous strengthening of cooperation with other groups. NAFSO also engages with political parties in the struggle for fishers' rights.

For more information see <http://worldfishers.org/2014/08/28/tourism-driven-grabbing-kalpitiya-peninsula-sri-lanka/>

## **Spain**

Ms. Maria Del Mar Pombal Junc from Agamar, said that it is especially hard for female fishers in Galicia, Spain after the recession of the economy. Many women who collect clams as an artisanal activity have earned less over the last few years – down to a third of the amount earned before the financial crisis. With the help from Agamar, it has been possible to move in the right direction and ensure that women continue to play an important role in ensuring the family income. The fisher women work in the formal sector, pay taxes and are part of the social security system. This is a critical aspect of women rights in small-scale fisheries.

The recession of the economy has hit the small-scale fishers much harder than the big corporations who continue to get governmental support and subsidies. Agamar continues the struggle for the

fishers, and key strategies include the use of media and working together with a research centre.

### **Thailand**

Mr. Sama Air Jeamudoor, General Secretary of the Thailand Fisher Folk Federation and Ms. Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk from Sustainable Development Foundation said that one of the main challenges is that the small-scale fishers are invisible in legal terms. Fishers are not recognised and granted access rights by the law. For some time we made progress but with the recent coup d'état in May 2014, the new dictatorship closed the door for democratic participation. This loss of democracy is a major problem for us fisherfolk, and we now have to spend resources and energy in re-establishing a working relationship with the government. Fortunately, some progress has been made over the recent weeks and it seems like we are now being invited to participate in decision making again.

The Thailand Fisherfolk Federation is drafting its own fishery and coastal resource management policy, which is then tabled at decision making meetings with government and other key stakeholders. This policy is used to advocate for meaningful participation; decentralisation of fishery governance and management based on people centred approaches, community access rights (as opposed to individual fishing rights); expansion of exclusive zones (conservation areas for small-scale fishers only); and women's rights.

The Federation will continue to advocate for its policy and strengthen the cooperation with government.

### **Philippines**

Ms. Sylvia Mallari from Pamalakaya presented on behalf of Secretary General Pedro Gonzales who could not make it to the General Assembly. The underlying challenge is the high levels of poverty in fishing communities, which is caused by privatisation programmes. Under privatisation programmes, fisher people have become displaced, but recently, displacement also takes place in the name of 'protection of the people from natural disasters'. Following the Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), government has implemented 'no build zones' which prevents fishing communities to rebuild their houses on their lands.

These kinds of displacements provides space for big business – including tourism. Also, the industrial industry causes havoc for the small-scale fishers. The Philippines has the third largest fishery in Asia in terms of fish production and trawlers also operate in the near shore zone and destroy the natural environment.

Pamalakaya continue to strengthen the organisation and its cooperation with allies in the Philippines and abroad. In the Philippines, the most important means to fight for the rights of small-scale fisherfolk includes education campaigns, mass mobilisation, active participation on political platforms and in particular in the drafting of a fisheries and aquaculture bill.

### **Brazil**

Ms. Marizelha Lopes from Movimento de Pescadores e Pescadoras Artesanais (MPP) explained that the fishers are fighting against social exclusion and government policies that still does not recognise and respect the rights of small-scale fishers. The government continue to prioritise the interests of multinationals, oil and gas corporations, large-scale landowners, and the large-scale fishing industry.

MPP was established in 2010 in a response to the government's inability to promote and enforce the rights of hundred of thousands of fisher peoples. Recently, MPP organised a conference where the government participated, and this turned out to be one step in the right direction. Yet, there is a long

way to go and MPP continue to apply different methods and strategies in pursuit of their goals. Cultural songs are an important tool in the struggle which is used widely, and other tools include protest marches (e.g. against privatisation of water and the multinational water corporations), mass mobilisation, unity and solidarity.

## **Uganda**

Mr. Seremos Kamuturaki from Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA) started by highlighting that they have succeeded in getting government to establish a separate ministry for fisheries. Since the end of colonialism, fisheries has dropped below agriculture and received insufficient attention. Yet, the Ministry of Fisheries give priority to the large-scale, export-oriented fishery and this further marginalises small-scale fisheries. Other governmental policies also cause problems for the fisherfolk. The main problems in the region of Lake Victoria are too many export oriented companies (about 60 fish factories exporting); overfishing by the export driven fishery; increasing food-in-security; privatisation of coast-line and displacement of fishers to provide space for tourism; and enhanced aquaculture involving foreign investors and with no or little involvement of the poor classes.

Another serious threat is the high levels of HIV/AIDS. Fishing communities in Uganda remain the single largest population segment highly affected by HIV and AIDS posting prevalence rates two to five times the national average, which is currently at 7.3%.

Also, while government is committed to co-management, this doesn't work because co-management is implemented from the top and regulations are imposed *de facto* upon fishers. Hence, there is no real co-management.

UFFCA is doing research on fishery policy and management in order to develop a new and real co-management system where fishers play a central role in all discussions and decisions.

UFFCA is also campaigning against the corporate driven displacement of fisher peoples and currently run a campaign with the message 'Lake Victoria is not for sale'. The World Fisheries Day is an important day where fishers unite and campaign for the rights of fishers.

## **World Forum of Fish Workers and Fish Harvesters - WFF<sup>17</sup>**

Ms. Editrudith Lukanga, the co-president of the World Forum of Fish Workers and Fish Harvesters (WFF) expressed sincere appreciation that the WFF has been invited to participate in the General Assembly of the WFFP as an observer. She said that this is yet another confirmation of the strong relationship between the two global bodies and passed on warm regards from her colleagues from WFF.

Lukanga informed the delegates that WFF represents small-scale fisher organisations at the international level, and that it works towards empowering its members through capacity building. She underlined the importance of empowerment at the local level.

Lukanga also stressed that WFF and its members face the same challenges as WFFP; that the two global social movements have worked hand in hand in the process of developing and securing the endorsement of the International Guidelines on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries; and that the challenge ahead of WFF and WFFP is on the actual implementation of the guidelines.

Lukanga finished her speech by saying that it was frightening to hear that the World Bank and others try to take ownership of the guidelines and control the implementation. She stressed that we – as in WFF and WFFP – must empower ourselves and be aware of what these organisations and people are saying and doing.

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<sup>17</sup> <http://worldfisherforum.org/>



## **South Africa<sup>18</sup>**

Mr. Christian Adams added to the opening presentation of Ms. Maria Hoffman. He stressed that the main challenges remain access to fisheries resources, to social and economic developments, and to markets. While this all goes hand in hand, then access to social and economic developments is a right that requires that the access to fisheries resources is secured. In terms of markets, Adams underlined that we live in a country where big corporations control the market and value chains. This has to be changed.

Adams explained how Coastal Links South Africa has, and continue to, use litigation as a strategy in pursuit of the fishers rights. While this in itself might not be sufficient, Coastal Links takes other actions such as protest campaigns at local to national levels, use of media and protest letters and statements.

## **The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation – 17 countries in the region**

Ms. Nadine Orchid, explained that it's a big challenge to reach out to all the members from all 17 countries in the region. The network is currently working to build its internal capacity, including developing appropriate legal structures, a work plan, strengthening the network, building leadership, monitoring and evaluation, and finance sustainability. The network is looking at hiring a coordinator and assistant to take the capacity building forward.

Orchid explained that the network is represented in several official networks or groups on different topics relating to small-scale fisheries: e.g. climate change and management of particular fish species. Furthermore, the network is currently engaging in the development of a Common Fisheries Policy for the Caribbean, and as part of this process the fisherfolk network is cooperating with the government and conducting meetings with fisherfolk in the region.

## **Mali**

Mr. Djafara Diarra from Association des Pecheurs et du Mali mentioned that some of the main threats and challenges in Mali are drought (climate change), insufficient infrastructure for small-scale fisheries and lack of access to credit, funding and training. The rural sectors employ and provide livelihoods for 80% of the population and contribute to some 45% of the GDP. Yet, it remains under-prioritised and particularly so the small-scale fisheries sector. There are about 20.000 fishers who catch 100.000 tons of fish per year, and hence play an important role in terms of providing healthy nutrition for the population.

The association is also working on developing aquaculture on the lakes as a way of producing food and more job-opportunities. Diarra underlined that there is a great potential in Mali to enhance small-scale aquaculture production.

The association also faces challenges with regards to organisational structures, and therefore focuses on building its internal capacity. This will also enhance the capacity to submit recommendations to and strengthen the cooperation with authorities. Diarra finished his speech by stressing that the association works to improve the lives of fisher peoples and that it does this by working together with the government.

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<sup>18</sup> For more information on the feedback from Coastal Links South Africa see: <http://worldfishers.org/2014/08/29/coastal-links-story/>

## 5. Proceedings of the General Assembly – Day two

Day two was opened with a presentation on Ocean Grabbing by Mads Barbesgaard, political chairperson of Afrika Kontakt, Denmark. His presentation was followed by group work on the topic of Ocean Grabbing for the purpose of deepening the understanding of the threats it poses on fishing communities world-wide and to develop solutions and strategies to stop it from continuing.

### 5.1. Presentation by Mr. Mads Barbesgaard: Neoliberalism, Ocean Grabbing and the global attack on Small-Scale Fishers<sup>19</sup>

- “Globalisation is a process that has ensured the free movement of capital, where the market determines everything. This market has no interest whatsoever for the basic needs of the majority of the people in this world. This market has only one value: profit.” – Thomas Kocherry<sup>20</sup>

According to a recent report, the richest 1% now own more than 48% of global wealth<sup>21</sup>. As this staggering level of global inequality shows, the neoliberal globalization-process that Thomas Kocherry devoted his life to fighting against on behalf of small-scale fisher peoples is, unfortunately, still pressing ahead at full speed. At its root, this process is about redistributing wealth in society from the majority to an elite minority – and this redistribution is no accident. To the contrary, it is the result of the elite minority actively pursuing their own interests. As Warren Buffet, the 3rd richest man in the world<sup>22</sup>, explained to the New York Times in 2006: “There’s class warfare, all right, but it’s my class, the rich class, that’s making war, and we’re winning.”<sup>23</sup>

This neoliberal redistribution of wealth from the many to the few also has very direct affects on the lives of small-scale fisher peoples’ throughout the world, through the systematic dispossession of fishers’ means to a livelihood. A recent report by WFFP, Afrika Kontakt, Masifundise and Transnational Institute shows how this systematic dispossession of fisher peoples – or ‘Ocean Grabbing’ – is taking place<sup>24</sup>. The report cites examples of luxury beach-resorts in Sri Lanka where fishermen can no longer get to the coast, the destruction of mangrove areas in Ecuador to promote export-oriented shrimp aquaculture that has destroyed fishing habitats, and the dramatic rise of Rights Based Fishery (RBF) policies that have handed over large tracts of ocean to industrial fishing companies in Europe, Canada and elsewhere. The common denominator in all of these cases is the exclusion of small-scale fishers from access to fisheries. In nearly every case, the grabs are technically ‘legal’, hidden inside policy documents, free trade agreements, conservation mandates and fishing policies. What is left out of these documents is the impact of these decisions on our natural heritage and the livelihoods and food sovereignty of over half a billion people around the world who depend on small-scale fishing.

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<sup>19</sup> Based on the presentation given at the General Assembly, which can be viewed here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beaW\\_xVygb0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beaW_xVygb0)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZduCraCnEw>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/oct/14/richest-1percent-half-global-wealth-credit-suisse-report>

<sup>22</sup> As of 12/11/2014: <http://www.bloomberg.com/billionaires/2014-11-12/cya>

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/26/business/yourmoney/26every.html?\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/26/business/yourmoney/26every.html?_r=1&)

<sup>24</sup> [http://afrika.dk/sites/afrika.dk/files/the\\_global\\_ocean\\_grab-en.pdf](http://afrika.dk/sites/afrika.dk/files/the_global_ocean_grab-en.pdf)

Thus, policy frameworks at national and global levels, such as the Global Partnership for Oceans, underwrite a devastating shift towards corporate capture and control over our world's fisheries. This process of Ocean Grabbing is legitimized by large environmental NGOs collaborating with corporate capital and financially supported by large philanthropic foundations<sup>25</sup>. For small-scale fishers all around the world and society at large, these are unacceptable forms of development that will lead us deeper into ecological, social and political crisis. It is crucial that small-scale fishers build alliances and effective strategies to struggle against ocean grabbing and the profit interests of the elite and instead advocate for concrete, viable and clear alternatives rooted in human rights.

## 5.2. WFFP Group Sessions on Ocean Grabbing

The presentation of Barbesgaard was followed by two sessions with group discussions. The first session unpacked the understanding of Ocean Grabbing, who the key actors are and what the power relations between the actors are. The second group session focussed on concrete strategies that the WFFP can apply at the global level (the central governing body of the WFFP) and at the national level (the individual WFFP members). The following provides a summary of discussions:

The most pronounced threats to small-scale fishers that was repeatedly mentioned in the sessions were Marine Protected Areas and tourism development (evictions to provide space for hotel and resorts). Others threats that also lead to evictions and displacements that we mentioned include aquaculture (in particular shrimp farming in mangrove areas) mining activities (both land-based and sea-bed mining), oil-drilling, infrastructure projects (constructions of power plants, large scale harbours and domestic airports). While these forms of 'development' all lead to evictions and dispossession, it also became clear that the small-scale fisheries are threatened by privatisation of fisheries (ITQs or Rights Based Fishing) and by extensive industrial fishing – particularly in the near shore zone. The export-oriented fisheries are contributing to this irresponsible and destructive type of fishing. 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.

These kinds of developments repeatedly undermines the Access Rights of small-scale fishers.

The WFFP delegates identified several processes and actors responsible for displacements of fishing communities and destruction of nature. First and foremost it was repeatedly mentioned that multinational companies and governments are the key actors. With enormous capital, the multinational companies are capable of influencing the laws and policies. At the same time, governments prioritise economic growth over policies that are people centred and based on principles of justice and equity.

Another major concern was the influence of environmental organisations (“those who only think about plants and animals” – as it was expressed by some delegates). These, together with the eco-centric scientists, also support and assist governments and big corporations in implementing Marine Protected Areas.

Several references were also made to the lack of inclusion of small-scale fishers in decision making processes. It became clear that political marginalisation of social movements and fisher peoples is one of the root causes of displacement and dispossession of their traditional and cultural identity and livelihoods. As one delegate expressed, “fishers suffer from hunger and poverty, they have

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.opendemocracy.net/nick-buxton-carsten-pedersen-mads-christian-barbesgaard/ocean-grabbing-new-wave-of-twenty-first-cent>

become the marginalised of the marginalised”. In some cases this level of marginalisation is closely coupled to the 'divide and conquer' tactics that are applied by the violators (those responsible for displacements etc.). This means that tactics are used to split communities – through forms of gifts and favours given to some community members, but not others. This makes it more difficult to speak with one unified voice.

Several other issues that were also addressed – yet less frequently. The most important of these related to the roles of private and government armed forces in the grabbing of coastal lands; the roles played by regional and international governance and banking institutions.

Lastly, a severe threat that was highlighted – and particularly in the key presentations – was the co-optation of language. This means that the World Bank, Environmental NGOs and other proponents of privatisation policies steal the language of small-scale fishers.

### **5.2.1. Strategies proposed by WFFP members**

After having discussed the many ways that the WFFP members are hit by Ocean Grabbing, the GA turned to a workshop session on what WFFP needs to do to counter Ocean Grabbing. The workshops focussed on two levels – WFFP as a collective at international level on the one hand and the individual WFFP member organisations on the other. Despite the mix of different members in the groups, there was a notable convergence amongst a number of key issues at both levels, listed below.

#### **Global level**

##### **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 the 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 newsletters 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.

#### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Alliances**

An on-going theme in the discussions was the need for unity and this centred 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **National level**

#### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

These suggestions from the groups originated from their earlier campaigning experiences. One of the important lessons from the members' feedback was that these strategies, when applied in combination, bear fruit. Some of the most promising and significant examples include the changes of laws, policies and management plans in favour of small-scale fisheries and as a result of inclusion of small-scale fishers in decision making processes from national level across many countries to the international level with the adoption of the Guidelines. There were other important examples of how processes of developing new legislation – in favour of the corporate sector and multinational companies and in disfavour of small-scale fisheries – have been blocked by the work of WFFP members. In some cases litigation has been applied as a tool for both developing new policies in favour of small-scale fisheries and blocking the endorsement of policies that will affect negatively on small-scale fishing communities.

As the two presentations and the first workshop made clear though, there is still a long struggle ahead of us. Hopefully, the members input during Tuesday's session can help WFFP's ability to take these struggles head on.

### **5.3. PLAAS seminar on SSF Guidelines**

The late afternoon of the second was set aside for a seminar on the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. The seminar took the form of a panel debate followed by plenary debate.

The seminar was arranged by the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of Western Cape, together with WFFP and Masifundise.

PLAAS has worked closely together with fisher people in the Southern Africa in the process of developing the SSF Guidelines. PLAAS has provided expert inputs in national level workshops and at expert FAO meetings in Rome.

The seminar was organised to enrich the discussion on the SSF Guidelines and their implementation, and to ensure that PLAAS' knowledge and expertise from its involvement in the development process was shared with the broader WFFP constituency.

The seminar also served to reach a broader group of people working on small-scale fishery issues in South Africa, including opinion and decision makers. Hence, it was open to the public upon registration, and besides from the WFFP delegation 15 people from PLAAS and other South African institutions participated in the seminar.

The panel was comprised of the following participants:

Ms. Moenieba Isaacs, PLAAS

Ms. Nicole Franz of the FAO<sup>26</sup>

Mr. Jorge Varela Marquez, APAGOLF, Honduras

Ms. Sherry Pictou, Bear River First Nation, Canada

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<sup>26</sup> See presentation of Nicole Franz here: <http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/GLobal-significance-of-the-SSF-Guidelines-.compressed.pdf>

The first part of the seminar was a panel that consisted of three presentations. Mr. Jorge Varela provided the broad background of how the Guidelines came in to being. Professor Moenieba Isaacs talked about the critical link between the Guidelines and food security, and how this related to the development of the Guidelines. Finally, Sherry Pictou outlined the step in the process that led to the Guidelines, and the role that the WFFP and allies played in bringing them to adoption in 2014. Taken together these presentations reminded the membership of the context and historical importance the Guidelines. The second part of the seminar was a presentation by Nicole Franz of FAO that outlined the global significance of the Guidelines, relating them other international instruments, the important features of the Guidelines such as the human rights approach and the fact that it was the first international instrument about small-scale fisheries. Taken together these presentations helped the membership get on the same page in their understanding of the development and importance Guidelines, effectively preparing us for the following day's deliberations on implementation.

## **6. Proceedings of the General Assembly – Day three**

### **6.1. International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries**

#### **About the guidelines.**

On Friday 13 June 2014, the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) successfully completed a chapter in the movement's fight for human rights for all fisher peoples of the world. In January 2011, at the 29th. session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries the decision was taken to develop a set of international guidelines that address both inland and marine small-scale fisheries. This resulted in the development of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) that was endorsed at the 31st. session of the COFI on 13 June 2014.

The final endorsement earlier this year happened after a lengthy process, where WFFP played a key role throughout. The call for some form of international legislation for the protection of small-scale fishers in order to counter their otherwise politically marginalized position was made at the 4<sup>th</sup> WFFP General Assembly held in Sri Lanka in 2007. After strong political work by WFFP that message was one year later carried to the first Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, co-hosted by the FAO in 2008 in Bangkok. At this conference WFFP and a number of other CSOs put forward a draft proposal for a set of guidelines. One of the conference outcomes was the decision to propose to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) that guidelines should be made. Consequently, after another round of effective political work by WFFP, the 30<sup>th</sup> COFI-session in 2012 agreed to initiate a process of developing the guidelines through a number of workshops at regional and national level around the world. WFFP was a key player in ensuring that local communities were heard in this consultative process. As a result, small-scale fisherfolk from around the world have had a clear fingerprint on the final guidelines that were recently endorsed. Finally, at the actual 31<sup>st</sup> session of the COFI in June 2014, was a key player in ensuring that the guidelines were endorsed, by smoothing out the last quarrels between the different national delegations. As this process suggests the major achievement of securing the new SSF Guidelines was made possible as a direct result of the work of WFFP and its allies.

The overarching goals of the SSF Guidelines are to enhance the contribution of small-scale 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, and to assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fishery resources.

### **6.2. Tribute to Ms. Chandrika Sharma**

The morning session was opened with a tribute to another comrade who is no longer with us. Ms. Chandrika Sharma, was on board the Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370 that disappeared in the South China Sea on 8 March 2014.

Delegates, special invitees and observers gathered at the General Assembly to share sadness and reflect on how Chandrika has touched the lives of so many people across the world and to act in solidarity with her family – her 18 year old daughter, Meghna, her husband Narendran and her mother with whom she lived prior to her disappearance.



Chandrika, a political activist from her early years and a leading member of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, spent her last years providing extraordinary leadership, support and guidance in the process of developing and the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. She was demonstrating her ability to link the grassroots struggles of fishing communities with international policy processes and leading advocacy activities at this level.

Chandrika embodied the real integration of head, heart and hands and had an extraordinary ability to work with people from all spectrums of the fisheries sector. Most noticeable, is her ability to rise above the personalities and petty inter-personal struggles in the fisheries sector: she always saw the bigger picture and had an ability to focus on the issues that will move the process towards supporting communities in the best way possible, finding ways of taking the group along with her and uniting them, leaving behind differences that could be divisive.

Candles were lit in memory of Chandrika by the delegates and her life as an extraordinary human being who touched the lives of WFFP members was celebrated.

### **6.3. Presentation by Ms. Nicole Franz of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department**

The tribute was followed by a presentation on the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries by Nicole Franz<sup>27</sup>

As Nicola Franz, FAO-representative, clarified during her presentation, the guidelines are grounded in international human rights principles and build especially on the principles of participation and the involvement of civil society. First ever guidelines entirely dedicated to SSFs; and they are a fisheries instrument that goes beyond the traditional areas of fisheries. She furthermore stressed that the guidelines should be viewed as a complementary instrument to other UN-instruments (Human Rights declaration, code of conduct for responsible fisheries, FAO Tenure Guidelines for land, fisheries and forests). Nicola underlined that part two of the SSF guidelines are of particular relevance to small-scale fisheries as it addresses access rights, tenure rights and fisheries management. Nicole also mentioned that FAO intend to provide support for translation of the guidelines into local languages.

The adoption of the guidelines is therefore in itself a huge success. However, the challenge now is to ensure that the principles expressed in the guidelines are transferred from paper to the daily lives of small-scale fishers.

### **6.4. Workshop on the use of the SSF Guidelines**

Nicole's presentation was followed by a workshop session which centered on the one hand, what WFFP wanted from FAO and on the other hand what the WFFP-members wanted from WFFP. The workshop delegates came up with the following recommendations.

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<sup>27</sup> The presentation can be viewed in full here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vZpa6WtutA>  
The presentation is available for download as a pdf-file here: [http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/FAO\\_Nicole-Franz\\_WFFP.compressed.pdf](http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/FAO_Nicole-Franz_WFFP.compressed.pdf)

## **6.4.1. Recommendations to FAO:**

### **WFFP – FAO cooperation**

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. the Country Program Frameworks – these are FAO-units at national level).

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

## **6.4.2. Recommendations to WFFP and WFFP-members:**

### **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-member 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

## 6.5. Field trip to Langebaan: Marine Protected Area and the SSF Guidelines

The purpose of the field trip was on the one hand, to explore a traditional fishing community of South Africa, and on the other to address and reflect on a series of critical questions in relation to international UN legislation. The following set of question was prepared ahead of the trip.

- Identify the key principles underlying the VG SSF Guidelines that apply to the local context of Langebaan net fishing community.
- Identify the key tenure issues protected in the Tenure Guidelines and the VGSSF that are applicable to the Langebaan traditional net fishing community.
- What other core elements of the VG SSF Guidelines should be used to guide the planning and management of MPAs?
- Which different actors have responsibility in this Langebaan case study? What are their positions in terms of resource use/conservation? Also discuss the power-balance between the actors?
- Apart from the strategy for legal advocacy, what other strategies and tactics could the Langebaan fishing community use to raise awareness of their plight and to fight for their rights?
- Is this an issue impacting fishing communities at international level? if yes, what strategies and actions can WFFP adopt to support fishing communities in their struggles in this regard?

The WFFP delegation received a heart-warming welcome in Langebaan, where traditional fisher people – young and old, men and women - waved the national flags of the home countries of the WFFP delegates when they entered the community by bus. The local fishers and the WFFP delegates went on a march through the town in solidarity with the fishing families who live on the fringes of subsistence because of the strict access regulations under the Langebaan Marine Protected Area.

### 6.5.1. The story of the Langebaan traditional fishing community within a MPA<sup>28</sup>

Langebaan Lagoon Marine Protected Area (MPA) lies approximately 120 km north west of Cape Town, along the western Atlantic coastline of South Africa.

Following the establishment of a Dutch settlement at the Cape in 1652, the Dutch began exploiting the marine resources of the area. The Dutch colonialists clashed with the indigenous peoples of this area, two strong clans of Cochoqua who were eventually driven out of the area.

Records suggest that fishing became one of the few options available to freed slaves following the emancipation of slavery and that in the mid 1800's a rural class of poor, mixed race landless families settled along the shores of the lagoon, eking out an existence as net and hand line fishers. The fishing families established themselves as beach-seine fishers (known as a 'trek' net). In addition to working collectively on a trek, many of the fishers had their own small throw nets and also used a handline. They targeted mainly mullet (known locally as harders), and a range of other line fish.

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<sup>28</sup> This case study has been developed from a case study on Langebaan Lagoon Netfishing community in ICSF Samudra Monograph (2014) 'Marine Conservation and Coastal Communities: Who Carries the Costs? A Study of Marine Protected Areas and Their Impact on Traditional Small-scale Fishing Communities in South Africa': [http://aquaticcommons.org/1563/1/Samudra\\_mon4.pdf](http://aquaticcommons.org/1563/1/Samudra_mon4.pdf)

In time the beach-seine fishers evolved a system of customary rules to manage their fishing activities. This included a range of local customary norms and laws related to how the boats and nets established an order for who had the right to throw their nets and where, how the catch was shared amongst the crew and how to manage conflict. Regular use of specific areas in the lagoon became referred to as their established customary 'trek-net grounds'.

This system persisted until the 1970s when the almost simultaneous introduction of MPAs and the introduction of apartheid race-based spatial planning, altered the course of the coloured Langebaan net fishing community. This was the beginning of a series of new laws and regulations that undermined the customary rights of the fishers.

In 1976 the Lagoon was declared a marine reserve in terms of the Sea Fisheries Act and subsequently in 1985 it was incorporated into the West Coast National Park. In the late 1980s the trek net fishery was outlawed and fishers were forced to rely on their drift nets to target mullets (harders) only.

In 1998, following the promulgating of the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA), the Department of Fisheries took over the allocation of fishing permits. In 2003, the National Environmental Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA) was promulgated, granting the National Parks the authority to introduce specific permit conditions and restrictions on use in certain zones. The conservation authorities used this legislation to prohibit the Langebaan net fishers from fishing in the a particular zone of the lagoon – yet the recreational fishers were still allowed to fish in that zone.

In a response to the continued exclusion from their traditional fishing grounds, the Langebaan fishers, organised as a community based network of fishers called Coastal Links Langebaan. Supported by Masifundise, they decided to launch a legal action against the Ministers of the two responsible ministries. This case was launched in 2013 and is still on-going.

## 7. Proceedings of the General Assembly – Day four

Day four started off with a final session on the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. This session was followed by the WFFP Continental working groups before the final and official session of the Assembly was initiated. The official session was broken into two, where the first part served to reach consensus on a set of decisions of the General Assembly which the new Coordinating Committee will then be responsible for implementing during its three year term. The second part, which took place in the evening, started with a presentation by the South African national Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Fisheries, and was followed by the formal elections of the WFFP. The evening ended with cultural performances and dancing.

### 7.1. Presentation<sup>29</sup> by Ms. Jackie Sunde from the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers<sup>30</sup>

Ms. Jackie Sunde was welcomed as a friend of the WFFP by the moderators and as a true and long standing supporter of fishing communities in South Africa and internationally. Ms. Sunde has worked extensively on international legislation relevant to small-scale fisheries and in particular on Human Rights.

As a member of the independent International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), established in 1984, Ms. Sunde has also worked on the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries. In her presentation, she reported back on the recent workshop on implementing the SSF Guidelines. The workshop, with the title “Towards Socially Just and Sustainable Fisheries” was hosted by the ICSF in Pondicherry, India on 21-24 July 2014.

The workshop was attended by 70 participants from 20 countries. The global social movements representing fisher peoples – including WFFP, WFF and IPC – were also represented. The workshop served to exchange views and experiences; identify constraints and opportunities for the use of the SSF Guidelines; prioritise elements of the SSF Guidelines; and to discuss respective roles and responsibilities of different organisations at the local to global level.

The Pondicherry workshop was also of strategic importance for the ICSF in terms of giving direction for the use of the SSF Guidelines.

In her presentation, Ms. Sunde also underlined the need for a *Transformative Agenda*, and explained how this is guided by a vision of social justice and human rights.

She explained that “the Transformative Agenda is based on the fundamental understanding of social inequality as root cause of poverty and unsustainable development...” and added that it “supports the Human Rights” approach to development, which incorporates the acceptance of equal and inalienable rights of all men and women to be able to make strategic life choices for their own well being”

Ms. Sunde also presented a road-map for the use of the SSF Guidelines, as identified at the Pondicherry workshop. This road-map builds on numerous actions and principles, where information sharing, knowledge empowerment, advocacy, participation, and partnerships are some

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<sup>29</sup> <http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ICSF-Guidelines-Workshop-2014.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) is an international non-governmental organization. ICSF draws its mandate from the historic International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters (ICFWS), held in Rome in 1984, parallel to the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development organized by the FAO. For more information see [www.icsf.net](http://www.icsf.net)

of the keywords. The details of the road-map are outlined in her presentation which is available online<sup>31</sup>.

Ms. Sunde rounded off by honouring Chandrika Sharma and said that we must continue to draw inspiration from her in the continued fight towards equitable and sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication.

## 7.2. Continental group discussions

To set the scene for the group discussions it was underlined that the struggle for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines is not separate from all other local struggles – human rights, housing rights, land rights, education, food, water sanitation, healthcare etc. The SSF Guidelines should be perceived as one additional tool in the struggle, and it was underlined that other tools, such as mass mobilisation should be applied alongside the use of UN legislation.

The delegates were asked to consider what practical plans, campaigns and actions can be put in place to obtain the use of the guidelines whilst we still continue to fight for all our other rights at national and regional levels. How do we build solidarity and joint struggles at regional level? Who will be our allies, and who do we target?

Some specific questions that the groups were requested to answer included:

Who will do what? When will it be done? How will it be done? What resources are needed in order to help make it happen?

### 7.2.1. Recommendations on SFF Guidelines implementation

The delegates divided into five continental groups: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South/Central America. It was evident from the feedback from the continental groups sessions that there was a great deal of overlap between the groups, and recommendations that all groups seemed to agree upon were:

- Information dissemination and knowledge empowerment

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

- Continental level campaigns addressing continental issues/challenges

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.

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<sup>31</sup> For the full presentation by Ms. Jackie Sunde see: <http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ICSF-Guidelines-Workshop-2014.pdf>

For more information from ICSF on the SSF Guidelines see: <http://igssf.icsf.net/>

Other areas that were mentioned by one or several groups included:

- the need to secure funding to further the agenda and work of the WFFP at continental level.
- to ensure the involvement of WFFP in the monitoring of the SSF Guidelines implementation
- to translate the SSF Guidelines into local languages
- to obtain training in lobby and advocacy work
- to use media
- to develop a tool-box in the fight against ocean grabbing
- to strengthen networking with La via Campesina and other IPC groups
- to develop a popular version of the Global Ocean Grab Primer
- to appoint national level WFFP conveners
- to use learning circles (teleconferences) and exchange visits
- to produce
- to strengthen the focus on Indigenous Peoples issues.



## 8. Official business session of the General Assembly (day 4):

Article 11 of the constitution defines the functions of the General Assembly as such:

- a) To officially interpret and to amend the Constitution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).
- b) 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.
- c) To decide on the action required to implement decisions and fulfil the objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).
- d) To assign tasks or duties to the Coordination Committee.
- e) To conduct elections as per the provisions of this Constitution
- f) To ratify, annul or sanate actions and decisions made by the Coordination Committee and the Continental Councils.

**(a) The constitution of the WFFP** was debated, yet no amendments were made. The General Assembly did, however, for a working committee to review the WFFP constitution. The working group is asked to review and propose amendments to the the constitution ahead of the 7th General Assembly. The nominated persons are:

Alexis Fossi, France (resource person to the WFFP)

Jorge Varela Marquez, Association of Fisherfolk of the Gulf of Fonseca, Honduras

Andy Johnston, Artisanal Fishers Association, South Africa

### **(b) adopted decisions by the 6th WFFP General Assembly<sup>32</sup>**

This assembly having 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.

## 8.1. This 6th General Assembly therefore decides to:

### 8.1.1. Strengthening the cooperation between the WFFP and FAO:

**Decision 1.1** 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

<sup>32</sup> Also available at <http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/WFFP-Adopted-Decisions.pdf>

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.

## **8.1.2. 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 boarder 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.

### 8.1.3. Ocean Grabbing

**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 newsletters 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **8.1.4. 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 applied to the continental level. The assembly therefore decides to the following:*

## **8.1.5. 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 a 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

**(c and d)** it was decided that the new **Coordinating Committee of the WFFP** should develop a **plan on the implementation of the endorsed decisions**

## **8.1.6. (e) consensus elections.**

According to article 14 of the constitution, the WFFP shall seek to make all decisions through consensus. WFFPs has adapted a tradition of appointing a special member of the WFFP to facilitate the consensus elections. The General Assembly nominated Herman Kumara of the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement, Sri Lanka to facilitate the elections. Mr. Kumara engaged with all the WFFP delegates on a one-to-one basis during the first three days of the General Assembly. In his conversations with each of the WFFP members, Kumara emphasised the aims of having a group that was balanced in terms or gender, geography, language as well as experience and youthfulness. in the conversations with each of the WFFP members. The WFFP members gave recommendations and expressed their view on the desired composition of the new Coordinating Committee in these conversations.

Mr. Kumara presented his recommendation on the composition of a new Coordinating Committee at the official session. The General Assembly agreed by consensus to the election of the new Coordinating Committee as recommended by Mr. Kumara. The composition of the Coordinating Committee of the 6th General Assembly is as follows:

### **Secretary General:**

Mr. Naseegh Jaffer, Masifundise

### **Coordinators:**

Ms. Nadine Orchid, The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation (America) and  
Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (Asia)

### **Treasurer:**

Ms. Maria del Mar Pombal Junc, Asociación Galega de Mariscadoras/es (AGAMAR) (Europe)

**Committee members Africa:**

Mr. Sid'Ahmed Abeid, *Federation Nationale de Peche, Mauritania* and  
Ms. Christina Louwa, El Molo Forum, Kenya

**Committee members Asia:**

Ms. Sylvia Malari, Pamalakaya, Philippines and  
Mr. Manickam Illango, Natinal Fishworkers Forum, India

**Committee members Europe:**

Ms. Natalia Laino Lojo, *Asociación Galega de Mariscadoras/es (AGAMAR)*, Spain and  
Mr. Jean Claude Yoyotte, *Association de Pecheurs du Sud Basse*, Guadalupe

**Committee members America:**

Mr. Moises Osovto, *Association of Fisherfolk of the Gulf of Fonseca (APAGOLF)*, Honduras and  
Ms. Sherry Pictou, Bear River First Nation, Canada

**Special Invitees:**

Mr. Jorge Varela Marques, *Association of Fisherfolk of the Gulf of Fonseca (APAGOLF)*, Honduras and  
Mr. Heman Kumara, National Fisheries Solidarity Movement, Sri Lanka

**(f) No actions or decisions we ratified or annulled**

## 8.2. The pledge of the Coordinating Committee

The members of the new Coordinating Committee gave their solemn promise to:

1. We work as a team.
2. We have regular communication among us through teleconference and skype every three months.
3. We have communication in all three languages: English, Spanish and French.
4. We implement our GLOBAL FISHERIES POLICY.
5. We implement all our decisions.
6. We launch a movement of planting trees and mangroves wherever we are.
7. We celebrate November 21 as the WORLD FISHERIES DAY to reiterate that we, the traditional artisanal and small fisher people of the World, who depend on water bodies, coast and fish resources for livelihood, own and manage this Natural Capital

## 8.3. Concluding Ceremony

The concluding ceremony was opened with a speech by the South African National Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Senzeni Sokwana. After having addressed the WFFP delegates, Mr. Sokwana spoke about Ocean Grabbing and stressed that it is “in the interest of all of us to promote the world’s oceans as a public good and defend it from being turn into a commodity for exchange”. Later in his speech, Mr. Sokwana also confirmed that South Africa is fully committed towards the implementation of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries and towards the end of his presentation he underlined that he is ready to meet with Masifundise<sup>33</sup>

<sup>33</sup> <http://worldfishers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Minister-Sokwana-Speech.pdf>

The new Secretary General, Naseegh Jaffer, took the floor after Mr. Sokwana's speech and immediately confirmed that Masifundise and the WFFP is ready to meet with the minister. Mr. Jaffer said, that this was in fact a historical moment for South Africa's small-scale fishers as it was the first time the fishers were promised a meeting with a South African minister for fisheries.

The closing session on the evening was filled with enthusiasm, music, and a taste of the Capetonian kitchen. Guests were welcomed by a gumboot dance group Iqhude. the band, KwaNtu again got people to their feet and so did the diverse Rosa choir, a group that incorporates singers across the apartheid racial divide and sings every song in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa, the three official languages of the Western Cape.

The evening ended off with music from a superb five-piece band Urban Groove made up of young people who had our guests dancing the night away.



## **9. Proceedings of the General Assembly – Day five**

### **9.1. The first Coordinating Committee (CC) meeting**

The first CC meeting of the leadership was held in the morning of the 5th. of September at the Fountains Hotel, Cape Town.

The meeting was attended by: Muhammad Ali Shah, Herman Kumara, Naseegh Jaffer, Maria del Mar Pombal, Natalia Laino, Jorge Varela, Sid Ahmed Abeid, Moises Osovta, Sylvia Mallari, Manickam Ilango, Christina Louwa, Sherry Pictou, Nadine Orchid and Alexis Fossi as interpreter.

### **9.2. An educational and heritage tour of the Cape Peninsula**

An educational and heritage tour of the Cape Peninsula ended off a very successful 6th General Assembly of the WFFP.

Veteran fisherman and activist Andy Johnson, of South Africa, acted as the tour guide for more than 100 delegates.

The full day tour began in Green Point where the soccer stadium, built for the 2010 Soccer World Cup is situated and proceeded along the Atlantic Sea Board to the fishing village of Hout Bay.

Important sights included the Moulie Point Light house, one of the oldest lighthouses in South Africa, the Hout Bay Harbor, a working harbor for the tuna and crayfish industry and Chapman's Peak a 9km route with 114 curves which was initially built during the First World War.

Delegates also experienced the fauna and flora of Cape Point, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. They heard many stories of ancient and more recent fishing communities.

The day ended with a dinner of fish and chips in Kalk Bay, which has a historic fishing harbour.

It was a fitting end to a very productive week.



## ***DRAFT PROGRAMME***

### **WFFP - 6<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY - SOUTH AFRICA**

**1- 5 September 2014**

|                          |                                |            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
|                          | <b>SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2014</b>   |            |
| <b>Afternoon Session</b> | Participants arrive / check in | 11.00- 5pm |
|                          | <b>Formal Registration</b>     | 5.00 - 7pm |
|                          | DINNER                         | 7.00- 9pm  |
|                          | Pre GA -CC meeting             | 8 - 10pm   |

|                          |  |               |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>DAY ONE (1)</b>       | <b>MONDAY - 1 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>   |               |
| <b>Morning session</b>   | <b>Orientation</b>   | 8.20 - 8.30   |
|                          | <b>Opening Ceremony:</b><br>Moderators for Opening Ceremony Naseegh Jaffer and Sherry Pictou<br><b>Welcome:</b><br>Moderators (Flag ceremony)<br>Cultural Item - SA National Anthem<br>Masifundise - Mr Bongo<br>Coastal Links - Ms Hoffman<br>Cultural Item<br>Keynote Address: Dr Seth Macinko<br>Tribute to Thomas Kocherry<br><b>Report - WFFP General Secretary</b><br><b>Discussion on report</b><br><b>Report - WFFP Treasurer</b><br><b>Discussion on report</b> | 8.30 - 10.45  |
|                          | TEA  | 10.45 - 11.05 |
|                          | <b>WFFP - Member Feedback - 5mins p/p</b>  | 11.05 - 13.00 |
|                          | LUNCH  | 13.00 - 14.00 |
|                          | <b>WFFP - Member Feedback - 5mins p/p</b>  | 14.00 - 16.00 |
|                          | TEA  | 16.00 - 16.20 |
| <b>Afternoon session</b> | <b>SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES</b>   | 16.20 - 17.30 |
| <b>Evening session</b>   | FREE TIME AND DINNER   |               |

|                        |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| <b>DAY TWO (2)</b>     | <b>TUESDAY - 2 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>  |  |
| <b>Morning session</b> | <b>Opening Remarks</b>   | 8.30 - 8.50  |
|                        | <b>Presentation 1: Ocean Grabbing - Mads Barbesgaard, Afrika Kontakt</b> | 8.50 - 9.30  |
|                        | <b>Discussion in small groups</b>  | 9.30 - 10.45   |
|                        | TEA  | 10.45 - 11.15  |
|                        | <b>Groups report back</b>  | 11.15 - 12.30  |
|                        | <b>LUNCH</b>   | 12.30 - 13.30  |
|                        | <b>Introductions to: Strategies of resistance</b>                        | 13.30 - 13.40  |
|                        | <b>Discussion in small groups</b>  | 13.40 - 14.50  |
|                        | <b>TEA</b>   | 14.50 - 15.20  |
|                        | <b>Groups report back</b>  | 15.20 - 16.30  |
|                        | Free time  | 16.30 - 17.30  |
|                        |  |  |
|                        | <b>Afternoon session</b>   | <b>PLAAS seminar: Associate Professor Moeniba Isaacs - see special programme</b> |
| DINNER                 |  | 19.30 -21.00   |

|                      |  |               |
|----------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>DAY THREE (3)</b> | <b>WEDNESDAY -3 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>   |               |
|                      | Opening remarks  | 7.30 - 7.50   |
|                      | Tribute to Chandrika Sharma  | 7.50 - 8.10   |
|                      | <b>Presentation 1: <u><a href="#">Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries - by Nicole Franz, FAO</a></u></b> | 8.10 - 8.50   |
|                      | <b>Presentation 2: Gap analysis of synthesis document vs. Guidelines - by Serge Raemaekers, University of Cape Town</b>                  | 8.50 - 9.20   |
|                      | <b>TEA</b>   | 9.20 - 9.40   |
|                      | <b>Discussion in small groups</b>  | 9.40 - 10.45  |
|                      | <b>Groups report back</b>  | 10.45 - 12.00 |
|                      | COLLECT PACKED LUNCHES- BOARD BUSES  | 12.00 - 12.15 |
|                      | <b>FIELD TRIP TO LANGEBAAN</b>   |               |
|                      | Arrive - 14.30   | 14.30         |
|                      | Walk through the fishing community to the Lagoon   | 14.30 - 16.00 |
|                      |  | 16.00 - 18.30 |
|                      | Trip to National Park  | 19.00 - 21.00 |
|                      | Dinner   | 21.00         |
|                      | Return to Cape Town  |               |

|                          |  |               |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>DAY FOUR (4)</b>      | <b>THURSDAY - 4 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>   |               |
| <b>Morning session</b>   | Opening remarks  | 8.30 - 8.50   |
|                          | <b>Reflections of ICSF workshop in India, July 2014 - by Jackie Sunde, University of Cape Town</b> | 8.50 - 9.10   |
|                          | <b>Introduction to continental group discussions - by Naseegh Jaffer</b>                           | 9.10 - 9.20   |
|                          | TEA  | 9.20 - 9.40   |
|                          | <b>CONTINENTAL GROUP DISCUSSIONS</b>   | 9.40 - 11.40  |
|                          | TEA  |               |
|                          | <b>Continental groups - report back</b>  | 11.40 - 13.00 |
|                          | LUNCH  | 13.00 - 14.00 |
| <b>Afternoon session</b> | <b>Official session of the General Assembly as per Article 11 of the WFFP Constitution</b>         | 14.00 - 15.30 |
|                          | Free time - prepare for the closing ceremony   | 15.30 -19.00  |

|                                 |   |               |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>DAY FOUR - CONTINUED (4)</b> | <b>THURSDAY - 4 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>  |               |
| <b>Evening session</b>          | <b>CLOSING CEREMONY - Dinner Party</b><br><b>Cultural item</b><br><b>Guest Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Senzeni Zokwana</b><br><b>WFFP Elections</b><br><b>WFFP Pledge</b><br><b>Cultural Item</b><br><b>Dinner</b> | 19.00- LATE   |
| <b>DAY FIVE (5)</b>             | <b>FRIDAY - 5 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>  |               |
|                                 | <b>WFFP CC Meeting</b>  | 7.30 - 9.00   |
| <b>All day</b>                  | <b>Fishers Tour - Cape Town</b>   | 9.00 - 19.00  |
|                                 | DINNER  | 19.00 - 21.00 |
| <b>DAY SIX (6)</b>              | <b>SATURDAY - 6 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>  |               |
|                                 | <b>DEPARTURE</b>  | 6.00 - 17.00  |

# 6<sup>th</sup> WFFP General Assembly Attendants List

## Special Invitees

| <i>Name</i>         |              | <i>Organization</i>                                      | <i>Contact</i>   |
|---------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Ms. Nicole Franz    | Italy        | FAO  | nicole.franz@fao.org                                       |
| Mr. Senzeni Sokwana | South Africa | National Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries | http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/About-Us/Ministry/Minister |
| Mr. Seth Macinko    | USA          | University of Rhode Island                               | SethMacinko@gmail.com                                      |

## Delegates

| <i>Name</i>              | <i>Country</i> | <i>Organization</i>   | <i>Contact</i>            |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|---------------------------|
| Ms. Marizelha Lopes      | Brazil         | Movimento dos Pescadores e Pescadores (MPP)                   | mppbrasil@gmail.com       |
| Mr. Raimundo Silva       | Brazil         | Movimento dos Pescadores e Pescadores (MPP)                   | mbrandao@live.com         |
| Mr. Arthur Bull          | Canada         | Bear River First Nation                                       | arthbull@gmail.com        |
| Ms. Sherry Pictou        | Canada         | Bear River First Nation                                       | sherrypictou@eastlink.ca  |
| Mr Alexis Fossi          | France         | Resource Person   | alexosfossi@gmail.com     |
| Mr. Dawda Foday Saine    | Gambia         | National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators (NAAFO) | dawda_saine@yahoo.com     |
| Mr. Jorge Varela Marquez | Honduras       | Association of Fisherfolk of the Gulf of Fonseca (APAGOLF)    | jvarelahnd@gmail.com      |
| Mr. Moises Osorto        | Honduras       | Association of Fisherfolk of the Gulf of Fonseca (APAGOLF)    | apagolf@gmail.com         |
| Mr. Gilberto Rodrigo     | India          | National Fishworkers Forum                                    | gilbertorodrigo@gmail.com |
| Ms. Magline Peters       | India          | National Fishworkers Forum                                    | maglinep@gmail.com        |
| Mr. Manickam Ilango      | India          | National Fishworkers Forum                                    | milango1955@gmail.com     |
| Mr. Aziz Misbahul Munir  | Indonesia      | Indonesian Fisher Folk Union                                  | ijecksyah@yahoo.com       |
| Mr. Joslyn LeeQuay       | Jamaica        | The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation              | joslee_56@outlook.com     |
| Ms. Nadine Orchid        | Jamaica        | The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation              | nadine_nem@yahoo.com      |



|                               |              |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Ms. Christiana Louwa          | Kenya        | El Molo Forum  | clouwa@yahoo.com / christianasaiti@gmail.com |
| Mr. Djafara Diarra            | Mali         | Association des pecheurs et du Mali                        | djafaradiarra@gmail.com                      |
| Mr. Sid Ahmed Abeid           | Mauritania   | Federation Nationale de Peche, Mauritania                  | abeid11957@hotmail.fr                        |
| Mr. Patrick Fortuno           | Mauritius    | Fisher Apostolat of the Sea                                | patrickfortuno@yahoo.com                     |
| Ms. Miromiro Kelly            | New Zealand  |  | emiroanei@gmail.com                          |
| Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah         | Pakistan     | Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum                                  | malishah56@gmail.com                         |
| Ms. Sylvia Mallari            | Philippines  | Pamalakaya   | kindsoul0@gmail.com                          |
| Mr. Peter Gonzales            | Philippines  | Pamalakaya   |  |
| Mr. Andy Johnston             | South Africa | Artisanal Fishers Association                              | artfishersworldonline@gmail.com              |
| Mr. Naseegh Jaffer            | South Africa | Masifundise Development Trust                              | naseegh@masifundise.org.za                   |
| Ms. Maria Hoffman             | South Africa | Coastal Links South Africa                                 |  |
| Ms. Maria Del Mar Pombal Junc | Spain        | Asociación Galega de Mariscadoras/es (AGAMAR)              | marpombal@hotmail.com                        |
| Ms. Natalia Laino Lojo        | Spain        | Asociación Galega de Mariscadoras/es (AGAMAR)              | natalia.laino@gmail.com                      |
| Ms. Grace Matilda Fernando    | Sri Lanka    | National Fisheries Solidarity Movement                     | 0775316988                                   |
| Mr. Herman Kumara             | Sri Lanka    | National Fisheries Solidarity Movement                     | hermankumara@gmail.com                       |
| Mr. Denke Piyada              | Thailand     | Thailand Fisherfolk Federation                             | piyada1935@windwoslive.com                   |
| Ms. Ravadee                   |              |  |  |
| Prasertcharoensuk             | Thailand     | Sustainable Development Foundation                         | ravadee.prasertcharoensuk@gmail.com          |
| Mr. Sama air Jeamudoor        | Thailand     | Thailand Fisherfolk Federation                             | 66872910225                                  |
| Mr. Seremos Kamuturaki        | Uganda       | Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA) | seremoskamuturaki@hotmail.com                |
| Ms. Ziada Katusabe            | Uganda       | Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA) | kziada@yahoo.com                             |

## Apologies for absence from the following delegates

|                           |           |                    |                               |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. Xabier Ezeizabarrena  |           |                    |                               |
| Abogado                   | Spain     | ITSAS GEROA        | xabiezeizabarrena@hotmail.com |
| Ms. Anotonella Lenatiyama | Kenya     | Gurpau Women group | gnatuyama@yahoo.com           |
| Mr. Reza Damanik          | Indonesia | KNTI               | riza.damanik@gmail.com        |
| Mr. Lider Gongora         | Ecuador   | C-CONDEM           | lidergongora@yahoo.es         |

|                             |              |   |                     |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Mr. Md. Mujibul Haque Munir | Bangladesh   | Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST Trust) | munir@coastbd.org   |
| Mr. Wudie Bake Koroma *     | Sierra Leone | Sierra Leone Artisanal Fishers Union                              | slafu2001@yahoo.com |
| Ms. Mamayawa Sandouno *     | Guinea       | Union Nationale Des Pecheurs UNPAG                                | keriwel@yahoo.fr    |
| Mr. Jean-Claude Yoyotte     | Guadeloupe   | Association de Pecheurs du Sud Basse                              | yalous@wanadoo.fr   |
| Mr. Ramzan Muhammad         | Pakistan     | Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum   |                     |
| Mr. Ali Abid                | Pakistan     | Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum   |                     |
| Ms. Fatima                  | Pakistan     | Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum   |                     |
| Mr. Hussain Sabir           | Pakistan     | Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum   |                     |

\* In August 2014, the South African government decided that travellers from the ebola affected countries could not enter at any South African port.

## Coastal Links Leaders

| <i>Name</i>             | <i>Country</i> | <i>Town / Province</i> | <i>Contact</i>  |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| Mr. Abraham Lesch       | South Africa   | Elandsbaai / WC        |   |
| Mr. Anthony Engel       | South Africa   | Arniston / WC          |   |
| Ms. Beatrice Yon        | South Africa   | Hout Bay / WC          | beatriceyon1@gmail.com                                  |
| Mr. Bethuel Sithole     | South Africa   | Matikulu / KZN         |   |
| Mr. Burchell Adams      | South Africa   | Colchester / EC        |   |
| Ms. Busisiwe Sithole    | South Africa   | Nzimakhwe / KZN        |   |
| Ms. Camelita Mostert    | South Africa   | Saldanha Bay / WC      |   |
| Ms. Cathy Sauls         | South Africa   | Gansbaai / WC          |   |
| Ms. Cathy Thomas        | South Africa   | St. Helenabay / WC     |   |
| Mr. Christiaan Adams    | South Africa   | Mamre / WC             | cjadams1976@gmail.com                                   |
| Mr. David Gongqose      | South Africa   | Dwesa / EC             |   |
| Mr. Dawie Phillips      | South Africa   | Port Nolloth / NC      | dawiephillips@gmail.com                                 |
| Mr. Donovan van Heyden  | South Africa   | Hout Bay / WC          |   |
| Mr. Enerst Titus        | South Africa   | Lambertsbaai / WC      |   |
| Ms. Florina Albertyn    | South Africa   | Hawston / WC           | florinaalbertyn@gmail.com /<br>florinalbertyn@gmail.com |
| Mr. Harmanus Fredericks | South Africa   | Saldanha Bay / WC      |   |
| Mr. Harvey Tshoko       | South Africa   | WAVECREST / EC         |   |
| Ms. Hilda Adams         | South Africa   | Mamre / WC             |   |
| Ms. Hloniphani Phahla   | South Africa   | Mthwalume / EC         | hildadams3@gmail.com                                    |

|                        |              |                      |                                       |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mr. Isak Philander     | South Africa | Velddrift / WC       |                                       |
| Mr. Israel Mbhele      | South Africa | Mthwalume / EC       | Boysiembhele@gmail.com                |
| Mr. Jacob Mbokzai      | South Africa | Nkundusi / KZN       |                                       |
| Mr. John Grandfield    | South Africa | Struisbaai / WC      |                                       |
| Ms. Joyce Mbuyazi      | South Africa | Mabibi / KZN         |                                       |
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