Global significance of the SSF Guidelines

PLAAS Seminar – 2 September, Cape Town, South Africa
Nicole Franz, FAO
The importance of small-scale fisheries

39.4 million capture fishers: over 90% are small-scale

Most are in developing countries

Half are women

Socio-economic function: food and nutrition security (global: 19.2kg/person/year), income, employment, GDP, trade,…

Dependency on fishing as a way of life

But:
The social and economic importance of small-scale fisheries is still not fully recognised or understood
International discussions and issues

2012: Adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
- Responsible and secure access and user rights, human rights based approach

2012: Report of Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food on fish
- Challenges: environmental sustainability, globalization of the fishing industry, promotion of human rights based approach

2012: Rio+20 ‘The future we want’
- SSFs as catalysts of sustainable development in fisheries, ensure access to fisheries, importance of access to markets, empowerment

2014: CFS HLPE report on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition
- Fish neglected in food/nutrition strategies, exposure to risks and pressures, SSF vs large-scale, fish trade, social protection and labour rights, gender equity, governance

2014: 31st Session of Committee on Fisheries
- Endorsement of the SSF Guidelines
SSF Guidelines: Development process

**2008:** First Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries, Bangkok

**2010:** Regional consultations on bringing together responsible fisheries and social development

**2011:** 29th COFI recommends development of international instrument

**2011 – 2013:** National, regional, international consultations, workshops, events

**2013:** Technical Consultation

**2014:** Resumed Session of the Technical Consultation

**2014:** 31st COFI – Endorsement of the SSF Guidelines

Over 4,000 stakeholders directly involved
Conclusion: Global significance of the SSF Guidelines

• First ever **international instrument** entirely dedicated to SSF

• Bring together social development and responsible fisheries → **beyond fisheries**

• Complement important international instruments
  – Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
  – Right to Food Guidelines
  – Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

→ Common grounding in **human rights principles**
Conclusion: Global significance of the SSF Guidelines ctd.

Influence on policy processes:

– Committee on Global Food Security: *Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems* (CFS RAI – para. 19, para 25.ii)
– NEPAD’s policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
– Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), Resolution WECAFC/15/2014/8
– …

→ Need to seize the momentum and IMPLEMENT to:
  – Create awareness about rights and responsibilities;
  – Claim rights and
  – Realize rights
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

For more information:

- SSFGuidelines@fao.org