



Our Ref.:

## **Fifth meeting of the Joint FAO-IMO-ILO ad hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and related matters**

Geneva, Switzerland, 8-12 January 2024

The Joint FAO-IMO-ILO ad hoc Working Group (JWG) on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and related matters was established as a result of the call made by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, which met in April 1999, highlighting the issue of flag and port State responsibilities and the need for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to cooperate on solving problems relating to IUU fishing. Following the decision by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) at its 335th session, the ILO also formally joined the JWG in 2019. At its fourth Session held in Torremolinos, Spain from 23 to 25 October 2019, the JWG recommended that the terms of reference (TOR) of the JWG be revised. The Secretariats of FAO, IMO and ILO jointly developed the revised draft terms of reference, subsequently approved by the respective governing bodies of three Organizations.

The fifth meeting of the JWG will be convened in person from 8-12 January 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland at the Centre International de Conférences. In accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of the TOR, the JWG shall discuss, coordinate and, as appropriate, make recommendations concerning cooperation among and between flag, port, coastal, market and labour supplying States, with respect to:

- IUU fishing;
- maritime safety and security;
- decent work in the fishing sector;
- protection of the marine environment;
- capacity development; and
- other relevant topics.

In addition, the JWG shall exchange information about relevant developments, propose workplans for intersessional periods, and initiate and support FAO, ILO and IMO coordination and cooperation at global, regional and national levels.

The Meeting is open to Members and Observers of the three Organizations as specified in the TOR (Annex 1). The Meeting will be conducted in English, French and Spanish. The Provisional Agenda is attached (Annex 2). Other documents may be downloaded, as soon as they become available, from the following website: [www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/tools-and-initiatives/joint-working-group-on-iuu-fishing/en](http://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/tools-and-initiatives/joint-working-group-on-iuu-fishing/en)

Prospective participants are kindly requested to register through the INDICO System. Please use the following link to register: <https://indico.un.org/event/1008277/>. Members of FAO and IMO are encouraged to participate with representatives from fisheries, labour and maritime authorities, as called for in paragraph 8 of the TOR.



With the generous support from the Government of Germany, limited funding is available to support participants from [ODA-eligible](#) countries (one per country) on a first come first served basis, with preference given to fisheries experts. Requests for financial support should be indicated in the registration form.

Attention is drawn to the strict provisions in force regarding entry into Switzerland, including the refusal of entry to persons not having the required visas. Participants are advised to enquire at the nearest Swiss Diplomatic Mission whether visa are required to enter Switzerland, at least 30 days before the date of the meeting.

## **ANNEX 1**

### **Terms of Reference for the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO ad hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters**

#### **Background**

1. There has been a longstanding cooperative relationship among the secretariats of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on matters related to the fishing sector.
2. The establishment of the Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters (JWG) was prompted by a call from the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), in 1999, for FAO to obtain assistance from IMO, in particular, with regard to general concerns about re-flagging and IUU fishing. Also in 1999, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development highlighted the need for FAO and IMO to cooperate on solving problems related to IUU Fishing. IMO and FAO worked together to establish the JWG, and the first JWG meeting was held in 2000.
3. ILO attended JWG meetings in 2000, 2007 and 2015 as an observer. As from 2019, ILO was admitted as the third member organization of the JWG.

#### **Objective**

4. The three member organizations, i.e. FAO, ILO and IMO, shall collaborate in order to coordinate efforts to address IUU fishing and related matters. This collaborative work shall be undertaken within the context of each member organization's mandate: FAO on fisheries in general, ILO on decent work in the fishing sector, and IMO on maritime safety and security, and the protection of the marine environment. The JWG will promote global, regional and national cooperation on IUU fishing and related matters, in particular, among the various national authorities and other public actors involved.

#### **Secretariat**

5. The member organizations shall establish a joint secretariat with an identified focal point for each member organization.
6. The joint secretariat shall have the following functions:
  1. coordinate the selection of members to JWG meetings;
  2. decide on the convening of special meetings and organize the holding of JWG meetings, as appropriate;
  3. provide services to the JWG to facilitate the execution of its functions;
  4. be responsible for preparing draft agendas and the receipt, collection, circulation, submitting documents or issuing submissions received for JWG meetings;
  5. issue the JWG report, including recommendations, in cooperation with the chairperson and the vice-chairpersons, and its publication, as appropriate;
  6. be responsible for the coordination of the follow-up to the recommendations of the JWG, including coordination of technical cooperation and follow-up of work plans;
  7. maintain contacts with relevant governments, international organizations and institutions; and
  8. undertake other functions or responsibilities as may be conferred by the JWG.

## **Composition**

7. The JWG shall be composed of up to 12 members<sup>1</sup> nominated by FAO and up to 12 members<sup>2</sup> nominated by IMO, as well as four members – two representatives of employers and two representatives of workers – nominated by the ILO through the respective Employers' and Workers' groups of the ILO Governing Body.
8. Bearing in mind that one of the key objectives of the JWG is to enhance awareness and cooperation among various authorities involved in fishing and fishery management-related matters at the national level, each FAO and IMO member shall endeavour to participate with representatives from fisheries, labour and maritime authorities.
9. The FAO and IMO shall nominate their members, giving due consideration in particular to equitable geographical representation and a balance between developed and developing member States.
10. All members may submit working and information documents and may be assisted by experts and advisers when needed.

## **Functions**

11. In order to meet its objective, the JWG shall discuss, coordinate and, as appropriate, make recommendations concerning cooperation among and between flag, port, coastal, market and labour supplying States, with respect to:
  1. IUU fishing;
  2. maritime safety and security;
  3. decent work in the fishing sector;
  4. protection of the marine environment;
  5. capacity development; and
  6. other relevant topics.
12. The JWG shall exchange information about relevant developments, propose workplans for intersessional periods, and initiate and support FAO, ILO and IMO coordination and cooperation at global, regional and national levels.

## **Chairperson and vice-chairpersons**

13. The JWG shall elect among the members a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons so that all three member organizations are duly represented. These positions shall rotate from one meeting to the other.
14. The chairperson shall have the following functions:
  - (a) declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the JWG;
  - (b) direct the discussions, while being guided as much as practicable by the following order of interventions (see paragraph 7): members; member States of FAO and IMO that are not nominated as members; secretariat members of the United Nations and specialized agencies of the United Nations; intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
  - (c) put forward questions, suggestions and conclusions on recommendations;
  - (d) rule on points of order;

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of these Terms of Reference, the references to “members” include Member Nations, Associate Members and Regional Economic Integration Organizations.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of these Terms of Reference, the references to “members” include Member States and Associate Members.

- (e) control the proceedings of the meeting;
- (f) in cooperation with the joint secretariat, prepare meeting reports;
- (g) as practicable, contribute to the consideration of the outcome of JWG by member organizations; and
- (h) perform any other function that may be decided by the JWG.

15. In the absence or at the request of the chairperson, her/his functions shall be exercised by the vice-chairperson or, in the absence of the latter, by the second vice-chairperson.

### **Observers**

16. Eligible observers to JWG meetings are: (1) all member States of FAO and IMO that are not selected as members (see paragraph 7), (2) the United Nations and specialized agencies of the United Nations, and (3) IGOs and NGOs with observer status within at least one of the member organizations.

17. Observers have the right to speak at meetings, following as much as practicable the order of interventions set out in paragraph 14(b), and may submit information documents, as well as working documents, subject to co-sponsoring of the latter by at least one member identified in paragraph 7 to the joint secretariat for distribution to the JWG.

### **Recommendations**

18. The members of the JWG shall adopt the Recommendations by consensus.

### **Reports**

19. The joint secretariat shall prepare, in consultation with the chairperson and the vice-chairpersons, as appropriate, a brief report in English focussing on the recommendations of the meeting, which shall be finalized within 30 days after a meeting.

### **Follow-up actions**

20. Each member organization's secretariat shall ensure that recommendations relevant to that particular member organization are submitted to the appropriate bodies within the respective organization.

### **Meetings**

21. The JWG shall aim to hold one regular meeting every four years.

22. In general, meetings shall take place at the headquarters of one of the member organizations, which would be expected to cover the costs related to the hosting of the meeting. Time and place shall be notified in accordance with existing procedures of each member organization.

23. Registration of the participants shall be conducted by the joint secretariat in coordination with the hosting organization.

24. The member organizations may agree to invite additional experts to meetings for particular aspects.

### **Documents**

25. Working documents shall be prepared by the joint secretariat and members, as necessary. Observers may prepare and submit working documents in accordance with paragraph 17. Working documents shall in general be put on the respective websites of the member organizations nine weeks ahead of the meetings. All participants may prepare and submit information documents.

26. The meetings shall be conducted in the English language, and documents related to the work of the JWG shall be prepared in the English language. Other UN languages would be used subject to available funding.

### **Expenses**

27. In general, participants shall meet their own expenses. Necessary financial resources may be obtained by relevant funding mechanisms, in accordance with existing rules and procedures of each member organization.

### **Co-operation with the United Nations and specialized agencies of the United Nations**

28. The cooperation with the United Nations and other specialized agencies of the United Nations may be sought on particular aspects, within their competences.

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

### Monday 8 January

#### 9:00-12:00

1. Opening
2. Arrangements of the meeting
3. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Status and developments in international processes to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
  - Agreement on Port State Measures
  - Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment
  - Flag State Performance (including vessel registration)
  - WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies
  - Regional fisheries mechanisms

#### 14:00-17:00

5. Cont.

### Tuesday 9 January

#### 9:00-12:00

6. Safety and working conditions in the fisheries sector and protection of the marine environment
  - IMO Cape Town Agreement, STCW-F Convention and safety-related instruments
  - ILO Work in Fishing Convention and related work to promote its ratification, implementation and enforcement
  - Addressing forced labour and child labour
  - Safety of observers at sea
  - Environmental issues related to fisheries (MARPOL Annex V, the LC/LP, marine debris)
  - Marking of fishing gear (and ALDFG)
  - Collection and analysis of casualties' related data involving fishing vessels

#### 14:00-17:00

6. Cont.

**Wednesday 10 January**

**9:00-12:00**

7. Operational tools to combat IUU fishing and related matters
  - PSMA Global Information Exchange System
  - Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels
  - IMO Number Schemes (for ships, owners and companies)
  - Data information systems (GISIS, Equasis, etc)
  - MCS checklist
  - Vessel tracking systems
  - Compliance information and intelligence exchange
  - Fraudulent registration and registry

**14:00-17:00**

7. Cont.

**Thursday 11 January**

**9:00-12:00**

8. Interagency cooperation to promote and implement internationally-agreed measures to combat IUU fishing and related matters
  - International organisations cooperation, including with WTO, UNODC and Interpol.
  - National interagency cooperation (maritime, fisheries, labour, etc.)
  - Integration of port state measures within the broader framework of port State control (Pilot project IOMoU/IOTC, outcome of IMO PSCWS 8)

**14:00-17:00**

9. Intersessional programme of work of the Joint Working Group

**Friday 12 January**

**9:00-12:00**

10. Recommendations and follow up actions
11. Date and place of JWG 6
12. Closing