



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Solutions and partnerships to promote sustainable fishing and strengthen implementation of international instruments to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing

29th June, 11.00-12.45 – Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) - Palácio de Penafiel, R. de São Mamede 21, 1100-534 Lisbon

Organized by: Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)

Background on the event

The ecological, economic and social impact caused by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is reflected in SDG 14 in two targets that would have to be achieved by 2020: in target 14.4 which, among others, aims to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices; and in target 14.6 which, among others, aims to eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing. **These targets have not been met yet and the international community needs to keep up the effort**

Key Issues discussed

- **Strengthen the implementation of international policy and legal frameworks:** The framework of international instruments and tools governing fisheries has been emerging in recent decades and lays out the responsibilities of flag, coastal, port and market States, regional fisheries management organizations and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, maintaining their diversity and availability for present and future generations, including by preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing. These instruments are based on the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Among the legally binding instruments, the [FAO Agreement on Port States Measures \(PSMA\)](#)

is the first to specifically target IUU fishing by closing ports to foreign flagged vessels that have been engaged in IUU fishing activities and by keeping IUU caught fish out of the markets.

- **Tools and systems for the effective implementation of the PSMA:** Information is key to make informed decisions leading to the right actions against vessels that have been engaged in IUU fishing. The Parties of the PSMA have agreed to use global tools such as the [Global Record](#) providing certified information from flag States on their flagged vessels and their activities and the [Global Information Exchange System](#) where information on denials of port entry or use and previous inspection reports are being made available to fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance officers. Other relevant tools include the [PSMA application for designated ports and contact points](#) and the e-PSM systems developed by RFMOs.
- **Eliminating Government Support to IUU fishing:** The implementation of the PSMA and better regulation and monitoring of transshipment are among the 8 priorities to effectively eliminate subsidies to IUU fishing. The [WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies](#), reached at 12th Ministerial Conference (15-17 June 2022) was welcomed by committing its members: to eliminate subsidies to vessels or operators engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing (art. 3.1) and to report to the WTO the policies they have in place to do so (art. 3.5).
- **Capacity development:** To address the special requirements of developing States, reflected in Article 21 of the PSMA, FAO launched the [Global Capacity Development Programme](#) to support the implementation of the PSMA, complementary international instruments and regional mechanism and tools to combat IUU fishing. To date the Programme has supported 55 countries worldwide.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- **Partnerships:** The setting up of a [Portuguese Speaking Countries cooperation network for the promotion of sustainable fishing and the prevention, combat and elimination of IUU fishing](#) at the [III Extraordinary Meeting of the Ministers of Sea Affairs of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries \(CPLP\)](#), that took place immediately after the side event, constitutes a good example of cooperation that builds on the common challenges of 9 countries and promotes the adoption of cooperative solutions to enhance their capacities through harmonisation of policy and legal frameworks, training and strengthening of technical and operational resources.

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)