

**Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and  
the Law of the Sea  
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**Discussion Panel A: Fisheries and their Contribution to Sustainable Development**

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**I. Introduction**

tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

**III. Measures to improve the contribution of fisheries to sustainable development**

5. Evidently, artisanal and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture make significant contribution to sustainable development, particularly in labour-surplus coastal economies by sustaining coastal communities and indigenous peoples whose livelihoods, quality of life and culture depend on aquatic ecosystems. The following measures could improve the contribution of fisheries, particularly:

10. A recent Workshop *Sustainable Fisheries and Livelihoods in Latin America* organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and CeDePesca with the support of FAO, in Santa Clara, Argentina, from the 1 to 4 March 2005, attended by fishworker organizations and NGOs from

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standards within established legal frameworks that they can cost-effectively comply with. Here again, it should be recognized that there are several means to an end, and that industrialized countries should not impose their standards on developing countries. However, efforts should be made to ensure that the ultimate goal of trade in fish and fish products is to contribute to better human development of fishing communities.

15. Fifthly, government financial assistance to the fishery sector, for example, to introduce effective management measures, to retrain fishers, to introduce food safety and environmental standards, and to improve safety of fishing operations should be seen as subsidies contributing to sustainable development, and therefore, they should be positively dealt with under the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies at the World Trade Organization. Moreover, in the absence of effective fisheries

**(viii) Recognize the importance of implementing a coherent management framework**

20. Lastly, a challenge in moving towards sustainable fisheries is how to develop, and implement, a coherent management framework for the entire range of fishing operations within the EEZ in a consultative and participatory manner, taking into account the environmental, ecological, social and economic dimensions of fishing, fish resources and fish habitats. A still greater challenge would be how to effectively address threats to fisheries sustainability arising from non-fishery factors, which are indeed a major issue in many countries. In this context, effective inter-agency mechanisms are required for effective fisheries management and habitat protection. Thus, for sustainable fisheries,

**Conclusion**

21. In conclusion, small-scale fishing employing selective gear are less threatening to the marine ecosystems than are large-scale fishing, because it often uses low quantities (and greater diversity) of gear that are often passive and selective, and in accordance with the fisheries resources seasonably accessible to its fishing gear. Considering its potential to contribute to long-term sustainability of fisheries resources and better protection of fish habitats, and its substantive contribution to