

FEBRUARY 2024

# INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FISHERIES

## COPENHAGEN, 2-3 NOVEMBER 2023

The world's oceans provide nutrition and employment to millions of people around the world, contributing, among others, to the enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to adequate food, for many across the globe. Beyond its "commodity value", the ocean and its aquatic ecosystems and resources form an integral part of the culture and spiritual beliefs of Indigenous fishing-dependent and many coastal communities.

However, the degradation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, pollution, ocean acidification and other phenomena connected to climate change and environmental degradation are having a significant impact on ocean health. Due to the interconnectedness of human life and nature, this affects, among others, the enjoyment of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the right to adequate food, the right to water and the right to take part in cultural life.

In the last years, national, regional, and international actors have made efforts to draw attention to the human rights violations connected to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. They have increasingly documented the human rights implications and impacts of laws, policies and practices which negatively impact and violate the human rights of fishing-dependent communities, fishers, and fish workers. There is also a growing recognition of the risks and abuses faced by those who defend their customary rights to access marine resources and to protect the marine environment. Against this backdrop, in November 2023, the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) organised the International Expert Meeting on Human and Fisheries with support from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The overall objective of this meeting was to take stock of relevant developments on human rights issues as related to small-scale fishers, Indigenous Peoples, fish workers and fishing-dependent communities. The meeting also aimed at facilitating knowledge-sharing between key actors and exploring emerging opportunities on these topics. The meeting brought together participants from key UN human rights mechanisms and agencies, the international human rights system, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), representatives of fishers and fishing-dependent communities, civil society organisations, companies, and academia. The participants discussed the importance of fisheries for the realisation of human rights, the human rights impacts associated with the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, as well as strategies and opportunities to address these through multi-stakeholder dialogue and joint actions at national, regional, and global levels. This is the outcome document of the meeting. Each section reflects on the gaps and opportunities identified and outlines proposed actions.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND MECHANISMS

### GAPS

- Over recent years, international human rights mechanisms have provided some guidance to States on their human rights obligations in relation to small-scale fishers and fishing-dependent communities. Amongst others, they have done so through the concluding observations and general comments of UN Treaty Bodies and thematic reports of UN Special Procedures. However, much more can be done by these bodies to systematically question states on their related human rights obligations during, for example, the consideration of State reports. In addition, compared to other issues, UN human rights mechanisms receive limited information from NHRIs, representatives of fishing-dependent communities, and other stakeholders on human rights and fisheries. These bodies need reliable documentation and research to build stronger human rights recommendations and guidance on fisheries and human rights for the purposes of increased accountability at the national level.
- There have been important developments in environmental law for addressing the implications and impact of the triple planetary crisis on the human rights of small-scale fishers and fishing-dependent communities, including Indigenous Peoples. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the recently adopted Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) offer important platforms with relevant guidelines. However, environmental law frameworks often focus on incremental change, lack clarity on State obligations, including minimum required standards for State conduct, and have a vague concept of equity.
- Although the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) refers to human rights, this regime does not ensure meaningful participation and does not address the negative impacts of climate financing on the human rights of groups in vulnerable situations. Thus, it is important to call for a more human rights-based implementation of the UNFCCC. Amongst others, there is a need to ensure that climate financing, the loss and damage fund, and national adaptation plans address the human rights of those in vulnerable situations, including fishers and Indigenous fishing communities.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- The openness of UN human rights bodies and mechanisms to receive information from, among others, NHRIs, small-scale fishers, fishing dependent communities, and Indigenous fishing communities on the human rights violations and abuses they face.
- The opportunities for human rights standards and law to influence the implementation of environmental law and standards, particularly in terms of:
  - Defining minimum standards of conduct for States;
  - Providing a human rights-based interpretation of equity based on the human right principle of equality and non-discrimination;
  - Clarifying extra-territorial human rights obligations; and
  - Offering strong legal accountability for non-compliance.

At the same time, guidelines emerging from, for example, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), can help inform the content of States' human rights obligations to avert, mitigate, and avoid human rights harm in this regard.

- The adoption of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable

environment offers a 'Systems thinking' on environmental issues. It can provide a framework for a human rights-based programmatic approach.

- The potential to contribute with a human rights and fisheries perspective to the following human rights guidelines, reports, and mechanisms in 2024:
  - A new General Comment on the triple planetary crisis from the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR);
  - A report by the UN Secretary General on averting, minimising, and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;
  - A report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the necessary measures for minimizing the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food;
  - The consideration of State reports by relevant UN treaty bodies; and
  - The new UN Working Group on the rights of peasants and

- other people working in rural areas.
- The forthcoming adoption of a new human rights-based programme for the CFS and the current commitment of several members states, including Brazil, Colombia, Germany, and Switzerland.
- The CBD and the Global Biodiversity Framework provide an important platform for conservation and human rights groups to work more together for a human rights-based approach to conservation.
- The review in 2024 by the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) of the following SDGs which are particularly relevant for fisheries and human rights:
  - SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere);
  - SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture);
  - SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts);
  - SDG 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels); and
- SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).
- The recent adoption of the United Nations High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty or BBNJ treaty, is a legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. It offers an important framework for protecting the global common marine resources and regulating access and benefit-sharing.
- The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) are, among others, anchored in international human rights standards. The SSF Guidelines explicitly refer to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This anchorage in states' human rights obligations offer an important accountability framework under the human rights regime for

furthering the implementation of the provisions in the SSF Guidelines.

## PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Use relevant human rights standards and mechanisms to hold States accountable for the realization of human rights in fishing-dependent communities, including those related to their cultural rights. Relevant human rights mechanisms include, but are not limited to, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the UN Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.
- Collect data and document impacts of the triple planetary crisis on the enjoyment of human rights in fishing-dependent communities for national, regional and international action.
- Contribute to and include a section on fishers and Indigenous fishing communities in CESCR's upcoming UN General Comment on the triple planetary crisis.
- Promote customary tenure and human rights in fisheries through the GBF and the United Nations Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ treaty) and align implementation with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) and the underlying human rights treaties.
- Include human rights issues faced by small-scale fishers and Indigenous fishing communities in frameworks for climate mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Adopt a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to loss and damage frameworks and target marginalized groups in needs assessment and climate change financing.
- Map customary marine and land tenure rights of small-scale fishers and Indigenous Peoples and ensure protection of these rights, including within the framework of national adaptation plans.
- Engage more with the CFS to secure and support a more human rights-based orientation to their work.
- Advocate for changes in national and regional laws, regulations and plans on conservation, marine resources, and the Blue Economy, so they directly contribute to the realization of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and to economic, social and cultural rights.
- Promote special measures for marginalised groups to access their rights to marine resources and respect

- their rights to participation, information, and access to remedy.
- Move beyond community consultation and support communities to be agents of change in the design of their own solutions and co-management arrangements.
  - Create alliances to pilot a HRBA to fisheries management and conservation in the context of the triple planetary crisis.
  - Carry out human rights capacity-building on the use of human rights standards and mechanisms for those engaged in fisheries and aquaculture

## SMALL-SCALE FISHING COMMUNITIES

### GAPS

- Small-scale fishers are overlooked in many national fisheries regulations, policies, and programmes. They compete with the fishing industry over access to marine resources. States often prioritise the economic interests of the fishing industry over the need to fulfil their legal human rights obligations towards recognizing and protecting small-scale fishers' rights.
- States often fail to provide adequate legal recognition of the customary resource rights of small-scale fishers.
- Marine fishery resources, which are the source of livelihoods in small-scale

and strengthen outreach between NHRIs and fishing-dependent communities.

- Translation and interpretation in more languages should be supported by UN mechanisms to secure greater inclusion within their mechanisms, particularly regarding Indigenous Peoples.
- Ensure the inclusion of human rights references and standards in the upcoming guidance on social responsibility in the global fisheries and aquaculture supply chain to being developed by the FAO.

fishing communities, are in decline.

According to the FAO, fishery stocks within biologically sustainable levels decreased from 90 per cent in 1974 to 64.6 per cent in 2019.

- Among the challenges small-scale fishers face is lack of support from governments in respect of the exercise of small-scale fishers' rights to public participation, access to information, access to justice, freedom of expression and other fundamental freedoms at the national, regional and global levels due to language and financial barrier.



## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Community-based management initiatives.
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) provides a framework for governments to take the necessary measures to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of peasants and rural workers, including fishers.
- The active promotion of the human rights of small-scale fishers by NHRIs through the implementation of activities such as community outreach.
- The promotion of a common definition of small-scale fishers.
- The development or strengthening of mechanisms and initiatives to assist communities in the 'translation' of UN instruments and to facilitate the participation of small-scale fishers in policymaking and programming.

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

- Move beyond fisheries policies and ensure that all oceans-related policies take the human rights of small-scale fishers into account.
- Seek remedy for violations of economic, social, and cultural rights in fishing communities through national, regional, and international human rights mechanisms.

- Use all relevant human rights and labour standards to give legal recognition to small-scale fishers' customary rights to lands, territories, and resources; to redistribute access to marine resources; and to promote community-based management initiatives.
- Establish mechanisms for meaningful public participation that assist in "translating UN language" to communities.
- Promote and protect the human rights of small-scale fishers by reviewing all relevant existing laws and enhancing their protection through new laws.
- Adopt a gender transformative approach when addressing issues in communities and the fisheries sector.
- Promote the development of international, regional, and national legally binding standards on the human rights of small-scale fishers with a focus on their collective rights, in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).
- NHRIs actively promote and protect the human rights of small-scale fishers through dedicated activities, such as community outreach programmes, developing and disseminating human rights education materials, leading human rights investigations, developing thematic studies, and

through delivering advice and recommendations to their governments on human rights issues facing small-scale fishers.

- NHRIs promote the SSF Guidelines and offer advice on the interpretation of human rights for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Document and report human rights violations to national, regional, and international human rights mechanisms, including NHRIs, CESCR, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Special Rapporteurs and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- Engage actively in the different stages of the development of thematic reports and country visits of Special Rapporteurs.

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

### GAPS

- The customary rights to lands, territories and natural resources of Indigenous Peoples are often not respected and protected to a level where Indigenous Peoples can enjoy their individual and collective human rights.
- The expansion of industrial fisheries and aquaculture, resource extraction, tourism, infrastructure development and the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) undermine or violate human rights related to the traditional livelihoods and culture of Indigenous Peoples.
- Restrictions on Indigenous Peoples' fishing have a direct impact on the transfer of traditional knowledge and practices and undermines the enjoyment of their right to culture.
- Industrial fisheries and aquaculture often take over the traditional fishing grounds of Indigenous Peoples and harm entire ecosystems. This leads to the depletion of marine resources.
- Ecosystems are interconnected. The ocean cannot be separated from the land and the people. What happens on land affects the ocean and vice versa. Climate change is one of the strongest examples of this, as consequences such as flooding, storms and ocean acidification demonstrate – with various implications for fish stocks and livelihoods. Indigenous Peoples that manage and safeguard ecosystems cannot be overlooked and should not be removed from the management of these ecosystems.
- The Arctic is changing rapidly due to climate change. Ice-dependent species are disappearing as the ice melts. It is



increasingly difficult for Indigenous Peoples who depend on fish to access resources. This impacts the local economy and food security. Traditional livelihoods and culture are not sufficiently protected.

- Decisions on fishing bans and the establishment of marine conservation areas are often taken without adequate consideration for and consultation with Indigenous Peoples, resulting in the criminalization of traditional fishing practices.
- The interests of large-scale fishing vessels and recreational fisheries tend to be prioritised in the allocation of marine resources over the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- While the ILO Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (No. 169) is widely ratified in Latin America, it is not as widely ratified in other parts of the world. Thus, there is a need for more advocacy for the ratification of this instrument. ILO Convention 169 currently has 24 ratifications.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure and the SSF Guidelines are relevant tools that can be used more for advocacy.

- Promote alignment of laws and policies with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Promote the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 169.
- Promote collaboration with unions and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco, and Allied Workers' Association that can represent indigenous peoples' issues in tripartite social dialogues between unions, employers and States in relation to the implementation of ILO Conventions.
- The development of Biocultural Community Protocols as a tool for Indigenous Peoples to assert their rights to engage with government, as it is done in South Africa.
- Indigenous Peoples'-led natural resources management regimes.

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

- Ensure the legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' collective right to lands, territories and natural resources in line with the UNDRIP and ILO Convention No. 169.
- Ensure the legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination, the recognition of their autonomous Indigenous institutions, and promote collaboration between

States and Indigenous institutions and mechanisms in fisheries management and marine conservation.

- Promote and recognise Indigenous Peoples-led fisheries management regimes and marine conservation in national policies and plans.
- Use other relevant international standards, such as the ILO Convention No. 111, the UNDRIP, and the SSF Guidelines, to further the rights of Indigenous Peoples in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Use the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing to claim rights via the development of biocultural community protocols.
- Acknowledge the interconnectedness of land and oceans and ensure that access to marine resources is not hindered.
- Increase transboundary collaboration on fisheries management and conservation between States and Indigenous Peoples.
- Collaborate with unions and Indigenous Peoples in the use of the ILO Convention concerning Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) No. 111. ILO Convention No. 111 provides standards for preventing, addressing and remedying discrimination in employment and occupation. It covers both remunerated work as well as

independent and own account work, including the traditional occupations practiced by Indigenous Peoples. It can thus be used by Indigenous Peoples who traditionally engage in fisheries and aquaculture to defend the right to continue doing so – which implies securing access to lands, territories and resources, elimination of biased approaches enshrined in law and policies, etc.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

### GAPS

- Companies that engage in business activities related to ocean resources, such as fisheries and aquaculture, can be a source of wealth generation due to their ability to create employment and contribute to economic growth. However, these business activities are also often linked to harmful practices, such as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF), the destruction of mangroves, pollution, and encroachment on the traditional fishing grounds of Indigenous Peoples.
- Workers in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors can be confronted with severe violations of labour rights due to physical, sexual, and mental

- abuse, hazardous working conditions, and informal contracting.
- While there is increasing recognition that companies have responsibilities as duty bearers to respect human rights alongside States' human rights obligations, human rights abuses and violations continue to occur in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
  - Workers in the fisheries and aquaculture industries are often prevented from joining trade unions and from negotiation with employers collectively due to barriers that many companies put in place to prevent unionisation. Migrant workers, which make up a majority of the workforce in industrial fishing and aquaculture, are particularly at risk of experiencing violations of their rights to freedom of association and to collective bargaining.
  - Due to the informality, seasonality and hazardous nature of the sector and remoteness of the work in fisheries and aquaculture, agreements on contracts, the nature of the work, wages and working hours are often not formalised. This can lead to passport and wage withholding, extremely low salaries, long hours, hazardous working conditions, physical, mental, and sexual violence, and human trafficking. Furthermore, due to their status, migrant workers are often excluded from minimum wage laws.
  - The rights of children and women and girls are particularly at risk of being violated by business activities. Amongst others, these human rights risks include child labour, lack of access to grievance mechanisms, unequal and discriminatory tenure rights, and barriers to education.
  - The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), a non-binding framework endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, is an important framework for companies on what measures to take to ensure their responsibility to respect human rights. The UNGPs outline a process of human rights due diligence (HRDD). While many companies are increasingly practicing HRDD, the fisheries and aquaculture sectors are generally lagging compared to other sectors.
  - While international instruments exist such as the ILO Convention concerning Work in Fishing (No. 188), the ILO Convention No. 169 and other labor rights conventions, enforcement has been weak.
  - Many companies in the sector rely on certification schemes to demonstrate social compliance. While such certifications can contribute to data collection as well as some change

within the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, these schemes do not necessarily detect and address core human rights and labour issues due to the nature of certification audits.

- Consumer awareness as a driver for change is only relevant for a minority of consumers in developed countries. While there is ample space for consumer-driven, reputation-enforced approaches, these need to be underpinned by an effective regulatory system.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- There are various legal developments underway to make HRDD mandatory for companies. Countries such as France and Germany already have national laws that mandate companies of a certain size and revenue to assess their adverse impacts and report on these.
- Where violations have been found, NGOs and unions have filed lawsuits against companies.
- EU level legislation in the form of the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) is under development. The fisheries sector is considered a high-risk sector under the CSDDD. This development will directly affect EU companies and their global value chains. The CSDD can be an

important opportunity to further the protection of human rights through procedures to avoid, mitigate and remedy human rights harm.

Partnerships between businesses and civil society organizations will be the best way to implement robust and credible due diligence processes.

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

- Strategize on how to hold companies accountable for removing barriers to collective organising.
- Push for greater accountability of the commercial fishing sector. Use the UNGPs to assess, address, mitigate and prevent human rights risks in fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
- Governments can include sections on fisheries and aquaculture in National Action Plans on Business and Human rights (NAPs).
- Governments can support a Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights for Transnational Companies.
- Companies should address specific issues such as child labour, decent work, gender-based discrimination, freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- Build capacity on human rights and HRDD among fisheries and aquaculture companies along their full value chains.

- Companies should seek collaboration with civil society actors, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs and NHRIs while conducting human rights impact assessments and developing grievance mechanisms.
- Give visibility to human rights violations and risks in fisheries and aquaculture at national, regional, and international fora, such as the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.
- Use existing international and regional Business and Human Rights fora to build broad initiatives that involve the entire value chain and foster cooperation with other actors with a potential strategic impact on the sectors, such as NGOs, investors, banks, and insurance companies to build coherence and credibility.
- Create awareness on human rights violations and risks in fisheries and aquaculture sectors broadly and as part of the development of HRDD laws at national and regional level.
- Targeted gender-based interventions in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, drawing on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other related human rights instruments.
- Use fisheries agreements to hold parties accountable for human rights violations, for example the fisheries agreements between the European Union and the Organization of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States.
- Make use of ILO's grievance mechanism in collaboration with unions.
- Strengthen human rights standards and norms and adopt a HRBA in certification standards and certification audits in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- Develop disaggregated data and studies to account for what tasks women carry out in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to demonstrate patterns of discrimination.
- Jointly campaign for ratifications of the ILO Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection to the Right to Organize (No. 87) and the ILO Convention concerning the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining (No. 98) to allow workers to organize. Call also for wider ratification of ILO Convention No. 169 and ILO Convention No. 188.

## NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

### GAPS

- With their mandate to promote and protect human rights in their national contexts, NHRIs are uniquely placed to use their mandate and functions in relation to human rights in fisheries and aquaculture by, for instance, collaborating with relevant organisations and actors to improve livelihoods and to build specific education, training, and outreach programmes on human rights issues in fisheries and aquaculture. However, NHRI engagement with these topics is still limited due to, among others, lack of capacity.
- NHRIs and regional human rights mechanisms are not in a sufficiently close dialogue with each other on topics that concern human rights in fisheries and aquaculture.
- The human rights system comprises institutions and mechanisms at national, regional, and international levels that can contribute to enhancing accountability for human rights issues related to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. However, increased coordination, communication and capacity-building

of all parties is needed to pursue more concerted efforts.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Court cases at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR), such as a case on the Miskito divers in Honduras (Lemoth Morris et al v Honduras), reveal the relation between companies, health issues experienced by individuals, and the omission by States to regulate.
- The IACtHR can hold consultations and allow for participation and dialogue upon requests by States or by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- NHRIs have the right to take the floor at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). They can submit activity reports during ordinary sessions and use these modalities to raise issues related to human rights and fisheries.
- The African Union Directorate on Political Affairs, which includes fisheries, hosts a political forum on an annual basis where fisheries governance can be addressed.
- Regional economic communities, such as the East African community, can easily be accessed by NHRIs, as they have standing. This standing can be



used to raise human rights issues in fisheries governance.

- NHRIs can use the Pan-African Parliament to raise policy issues on human rights and fisheries. This body has decision-making and investigation powers.
- NHRIs can use strategic litigation and can have standing in courts to intervene (*amicus curiae*).
- The ongoing process for the development of an ASEAN Environmental Rights Framework due to be adopted in 2024.

## PROPOSED ACTIONS

- NHRIs can reach out to fishing-dependent communities and Indigenous Peoples to raise awareness on human rights and of their possibilities for seeking remedies, including through NHRIs' human rights complaint procedures.
- NHRIs can monitor and report on human rights issues faced by small-scale fishers and fishing-dependent Indigenous communities and facilitate dialogue between relevant duty-bearers and small-scale fishers and fishing-dependent Indigenous communities.
- NHRIs can join initiatives on data collection and documentation of the human rights issues faced by fishing-

dependent communities. Amongst others, this can be done through Memoranda of Understanding between academia and NHRIs.

- Develop joint efforts between NHRIs and other actors to follow up on decisions and judgements from regional courts and support strategic litigation on human rights and fisheries.
- Make suggestions to relevant state authorities to involve NHRIs in the development of National Action Plans for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Use the Inter-American human rights system and the African human rights system for agenda-setting on human rights and fisheries through thematic hearings and reports. Ensuing recommendations from these regional human rights bodies can then be followed-up at national levels.
- Make strategic use of country visits by international and regional Special Rapporteurs. These Special Procedures can assist in building a national agenda and new political commitments on human rights and fisheries.
- Support the development of an inter-NHRI inquiry mechanism on transboundary issues to address climate change and business conduct in the absence of a regional human rights protection mechanism in Asia.

- Develop and conduct capacity-building workshops on the SSF Guidelines for human rights actors, including NHRIs.
- Strengthen collaborations among different actors on the implementation of recommendations to States by national, regional, and international human rights actors.
- Conduct trainings for NHRIs on human rights and fisheries by using the regional NHRI networks.
- Collaborate on raising issues related to the implementation of the human rights-based approach to sustainable small-scale fisheries, including the recognition and protection of the rights of small-scale fishers, at the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the CFS.
- Create collaboration by NHRIs, affected communities, civil society groups, academia, and others to address barriers to participation of fishing-dependent communities, to improve access to information, and sharpen the quality of NHRI reports and recommendations to the State and to the different human rights, environment, and climate change mechanisms of the UN system.

## OVERALL ACTIONS OF COLLABORATION

### PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Create spaces for mutual learning and capacity-building.
- Map overlaps, interest, themes, working areas, and geography to identify opportunities for collaboration on human rights.
- Establish a community of practice to capture learning, the development of methodologies and minimum standards, and to invite others to learn and to give critical scrutiny and feedback.
- Conduct a virtual clinic meeting once a month for training and experience-sharing.
- Collaborate on in-country processes and projects that promote human rights in fisheries.

## ANNEX: PARTICIPANT LIST

### IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)
Conservation International	Defensoría del Pueblo Colombia (NHRI of Colombia)
FIAN International	Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) (NHRI of Denmark)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Comisionado Nacional del los Derechos Humanos Honduras (CONADEH) (NHRI of Honduras)
Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity (HIFMB)	OHCHR, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section
Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI)	One Ocean Hub
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Pacific Community (SPC), Human Rights & Social Development Division
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Working Group on Fisheries	Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP)
International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)	Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission
International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)	SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)	Saami Council
Marine Tenure Initiative	WWF, Coastal Communities Initiative

## **ONLINE PARTICIPATION**

Bolton Food

FIAN Uganda

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)

NHRI of the Philippines, Commission on  
Human Rights (CHR)

OHCHR, Environment and Climate Change

OHCHR, Right to Food mandate, Special  
Procedures Branch

Soulfish Research & Consultancy

University of Greenland

University of Magdalena