

25.09.23

WFFP RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE WFFP COORDINATING COMMITTEE AT THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 20-27 SEPTEMBER 2023

At the annual meeting in Istanbul, the WFFP Coordinating Committee (CC) met and discussed the multiply crisis affecting the lives of its members across the world. In response, the CC endorsed the below resolutions. These are aligned with and elaborate on the resolutions endorsed by the 7th. WFFP general assembly in Delhi, 2017.

1. Criminalization

Fishers are increasingly criminalized for defending their rights, their fishing grounds and their livelihoods. The Governments around the world are cracking down on human rights activists. Marine Protected Areas and in particular the new 30by30 agenda of the new Global Biodiversity Framework are leading to the expropriation of fishing communities from their territories and resources. Furthermore, the multiple forms of Ocean Grabbing (see resolution nine) is further acceleration expropriatio of fishing communities. In effect, fisher peoples are labelled as trespassers and met with repression measurers by increasingly militarised authorities. The different forms of criminalisation spans from denial of fisher peoples livelihoods, imprisonment, physical violence, sexual harassment of women, and killing of fishers entering territories from which they have been expropriated as well as killing of fisher peoples who stand up to defend their human rights.

1.1 We denounce all forms of criminalization of fisherfolk and fisher activists at every opportunity. WFFP should highlight these human rights violations in national and international fora and take strong measures to protect human rights defenders.

1.2. We will continue to form alliances with other movements and organisations in the defence of our rights, including active involvement in Human Rights response networks of which we are part.

1.3. We will develop guidelines for our members on how to respond to crisis situations.

1.3. we will take measures to prepare our members for self-defence where necessary. This will include training on tools and tactics to defend ourselves.

1.4. We stand in solidarity with our fisherfolk in Gaza (Palestine) and demand and end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

2. Women in fisheries

Women play a huge role in fishing communities, yet are often invisibilized or excluded from decision making spaces and social services of the state. In many countries, women are not

recognised by law as fisherpeople and therefore not entitled to certain social services including health and pensions. Gender inequality permeates every aspect of fisheries. Women are disproportionately impacted by ocean grabbing and climate change and their invisibilization should be seen as a kind of grabbing. The WFFP general assembly in 2017 decided to form a women's assembly to address these issues.

2.1 Gender equality and equity is a key principle within WFFP, but this must be constantly worked towards. This means constantly prioritizing women's leadership and challenging patriarchy externally and even within our movements.

2.2. We have established a women's working group with women leaders from the current coordinating committee as well as women leaders from our other members. The women's working group, currently led by the National Fishworkers Forum of India, will:

- Convene meetings on a regular basis and generate policy proposals
- serve as a space to address and seek solutions to patriarchal structures within our own movements as well as in the external spaces in which we engage
- plan for the Women's Assembly at the forthcoming general assembly. The Women's Assembly is for women only.
- Plan the agenda item of women in fisheries at the forthcoming general assembly
- celebrate International Women's Day every year.

2.3 The WFFP programs dedicated to learning about gender issues should not only target women, but should also educate men on gender justice.

2.4 Though WFFP believes in equal participation of men and women in leadership and representation in general assemblies. This must be ensured in the forthcoming general assembly.

3. Alliances and global solidarity

Our strength lies in our ability to stand united against the threats faced by our community. We must fight together against ocean grabbing and criminalisation, for gender equality and equity, food sovereignty, the implementation of ssf guidelines and the fight for climate justice.

3.1. WFFP members should be open to forming tactical alliances with friendly governments and politicians and to educating them about ocean grabbing, gender inequality and ssf guidelines

3.2 We must strengthen our international and national alliances including allying with media, researchers and lawyers.

3.3 We should further strengthen our alliances with peasants and other small-scale food producers, working people, student movements and trade unions.

3.4 We will use strategic dates to make statements and/or organise global marches about specific threats, especially on World Fisheries Day.

4. Building stronger organizations

To broaden and deepen our struggle we must continue to strengthen our movement.

4.1 We will build on our members experience on rolling out fisher peoples tribunals on ocean/blue economy (Brazil, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Thailand) and support other members in the planning and implementation of peoples tribunals in their countries.

4.2. We will continue to strengthen our knowledge and capacity on issues such as policy development and implementation, people centred monitoring, and people centred solutions including food sovereignty

4.3 We will promote and develop fishers' autonomy and alternatives to the corporate global food system. These will build on the principle of food sovereignty and on collaboration with peasants movements. WFFP will further explore, document and visualize the real solutions.

4.3 We must support and strengthen the role of indigenous fisher organizations in our movements.

4.5 We have taken measures to expand communication in additional languages spoken by our members. We will continue to give high priority to ensure communication in all the member languages so that all can understand and participate actively in WFFP. No member should be excluded from participation due to language barriers.

5. Participation in decision making

For WFFP it is not about us without us!

5.1 WFFP insists on the importance of democratic processes, that create space for participation and consultation of small scale fishers. Women, indigenous peoples, local fishing communities, customary fishers and youth should be empowered to participate equitably in policy processes.

5.2 Multi-stakeholderism as advanced in numerous spaces such as the annual Our Ocean Conferences (organised by governments outside the UN system) and the UN Ocean Conferences (addressing SDG14) is rejected. We take into recognition the unequal power balances and the immense influence of big corporations in many international spaces.

5.3. Decision making should be taken according to the principle of free, prior and informed consent of small scale fishers and fisher organisations themselves.

5.4. WFFP has solutions and policy proposals, which draw on the traditional knowledge of small scale fishers. It is important to demand space for community based management, grassroots solutions and alternatives that are from and for small scale fishing communities.

6. Strengthen the process of documentation, information sharing

6.1 The international secretariat will appoint an information and communications officer. The officer will contribute to:

- Improving information sharing with our members on a regular basis
- Updating our website.
- Ensuring communication between our members and the Coordinating Committee.
- Disseminate information (statements, reports, articles) with members, allies and other target groups where and when appropriate.

6.2 WFFP will continue to create publications, resources and documentation about issues faced by small scale fishers.

7. Strengthening secretarial functions

7.1 The coordinating committee has explored ways to strengthen the secretarial operations. The international secretariat, working under the direction of the general secretary, will appoint three persons to fulfill the following secretarial functions:

- Communication and information
- administration and logistical support
- fundraising and finance management

8. WTO and Transnational Corporations

8.1 Before the UN General Assembly endorsed the SDGs, negotiations on over-fishing and illegal unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing were located in the Committee on Fisheries. This changed with the endorsement of SDG 14.6 which aims to “prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies”. Subsequently, the mandate to address fisheries subsidies was shifted to the WTO and over the past few years the negotiations have advanced and poses a threat to fishing communities.

8.2 Our fishers’ need support from our governments in the form of direct and indirect subsidies, in order to further strengthen our localized value chains and provide healthy and nutritious food for people.

8.3 WFFP has deep concerns about the WTO subsidy negotiations. These negotiations have unfolded without any meaningful opportunity for our members to participate. The WTO does not pay due consideration to human rights, and cultural and social development. Its free trade agenda has enriched transnational corporations and facilitated the further concentration of ownership of territories and natural resources in the hands powerful corporations.

Furthermore, the procedures of the WTO are not carried out in participatory, democratic way on par with the Committee on Fisheries.

8.4 WFFP is therefore of the view the negotiations on fisheries subsidies must be brought back to the COFI to ensure IUU fishing and over-fishing is addressed in a democratic manner, and where we have an opportunity to contribute to negotiations.

8.5 To bring necessary attention on WTO-Fisheries Subsidy schemes among fisher organizations and fishers, conduct online petition campaign based on online awareness raising program.

9. Ocean and land grabbing

We perceive ocean and land grabbing as any development that leads to the expropriation of our fisher communities from our territories and resources and negatively impact on our environment. Over the recent years, ocean and land grabbing has accelerated as a direct result of the expansion of extractive industries (mining, oil and gas); continuation of destructive industrial fishing, construction of big infrastructure projects (water ways, wind farms, land based transport ways, pipelines, smart cities and reclamation projects, port construction and more); acceleration of conservation schemes such as the 30by30 agenda (recognising the positive contribution of fisher centred conservation schemes/MPAs); marketisation and privatisation of nature and its resources; and transformation of food systems including corporate aquaculture and forest clearance by corporate agribusinesses.

9.1 We are alarmed by the rhetoric and narratives used to drive capitalist development such as 'blue growth', 'blue economy', 'blue transformation' and similar blue framings. These blue terms are coupled with a promise of sustainable development. In reality, the 'blue' agenda's contribute to more ocean and land grabbing and amount to 'green' or 'blue' washing. We therefore oppose these so-called blue narratives.

9.2 Ocean grabbing is also accelerated by Marine Spatial Planning. MSP has become a favoured tool by governments, conservation agencies and corporations. The MSP processes are dominated by economically and politically powerful actors with no examples of small-scale fisher organisations being able to autonomously participate in MSP. In essence, MSP resembles a tool for the governments and corporations to carve up the ocean and divide territories and resources between the big ocean economy sectors (tourism, conservation, aquaculture, oil and gas, shipping, urban development, port construction, Special Economic Zones and more). As rolled out, MSP represents a threat to small-scale fishing communities.

9.3 WFFP members must demonstrate against ocean, land and water grabbing in their countries and build alliances with media to draw more attention to the impacts on fishers, natural resources and environment. The SSF guidelines provide one way of protecting fisher people from ocean grabbing.

9.4. Through fisher peoples tribunals and similar initiatives WFFP will continue to present empirical evidence from our communities, and document and expose the various forms of ocean grabbing taking place in our territories. At the same time WFFP will further develop and articulate

people centred solutions emerging from the tribunal processes and our people centred research on food sovereignty.

9.5. WFFP should organize an international conference with fisher movements on ocean grabbing so that we can educate communities and build strategies to tackle this threat.

9.6 Our Ocean Grabbing working group will:

- convene regular meetings on Ocean and Land Grabbing
- convene online information sessions for all WFFP members and allies on MSP, 30by30, debt-for-ocean swaps and other key topics to be identified
- share experiences and document examples of how to apply the guidelines in our political struggle.
- contribute to a new report on Ocean Grabbing. The report should be released in 2024, ten years after we co-published the Global Ocean Grabbing Primer.
- Plan a one day session on ocean grabbing at the forthcoming general assembly
- Plan collective (WFFP and where appropriate strategic allies) actions nationally, regionally and globally against ocean grabbing.
- Launch World Fisheries Day Campaign beginning from World Food[less] Day with the theme of, “Ensure Land, Water, Food and Climate Justice.”

10. Debt-for-ocean and debt-for-nature swaps.

Over the past decade, international strategies for ocean conservation have changed radically. Increasingly, conservation projects are based on raising money through financial markets and are, therefore, intended to provide investors with profitable returns. Many refer to this as ‘blue finance’. International support for this is growing, and it is considered a critical way to bridge an imagined funding gap to save marine biodiversity.

What can be understood as the *financialization of conservation* has produced so-called innovative financial instruments, including debt-for-ocean swaps. These are now being heavily promoted across the world and have become closely aligned with global ambitions for the 30x30 target.

Despite overwhelming international support for blue finance, there are several reasons why debt swaps pose risks to small-scale fishing communities. They can be opaque financial transactions that manipulate the debts of Southern countries, leading to a transfer of wealth and power to unaccountable US conservation organisations, now working in close partnership with investment firms and the banking sector. They further entrench the reckless view that saving nature must produce never-ending profits for the private sector. Some WFFP members are already wary of the impact of the 30x30 agenda, and the threats this causes may be amplified where this is driven by the needs of private capital.

Confronting blue finance is a daunting prospect. The lack of transparency and public participation surrounding these deals must be exposed. A lack of finance is not the root cause of the biodiversity and climate crisis. These are crises of affluence and short-term profiteering, which are existential problems driven by poorly regulated global financial markets. Lasting solutions that

promote livelihoods and food security must, therefore, come from political and cultural change, not through manipulating debt.

WFFP therefore reject the debt-for-ocean swaps and demand for the abolition of illegitimate debt.

11. SSF Guidelines

11.1 The approval of the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines (SSF Guidelines) in 2014 was a major victory for WFFP. The next phase of the struggle is about implementation at the national level. WFFP must now fight for the guidelines to become obligatory, to become law in our different countries. It is global in nature, but upon implementation it is local in character. We should find the opportunities in each country, state and province for implementation.

11.2 In 2022, twenty members of the WFFP contributed to the report on the monitoring of the implementation of the SSF guidelines. The report was developed by the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) of which we are part, and presented at the SSF summit convened prior to COFI in 2022. The report concludes:

“Without exception, the state of implementation of the SSF guidelines is nowhere near where it should be. Some countries have reported on progress, but this monitoring process revealed that the implementation of the guidelines is reduced to a few cases of integrating references to the guidelines into a national legislation or policy, setting up various committees that remain ineffective, or conducting training sessions or other minor, albeit positive, initiatives. However, these have not yet materialised in any meaningful implementation of the SSF guidelines on the ground.

The almost complete neglect of the SSF sector at large stands in glaring contrast to the political and economic support states are providing for other economic sectors. The ocean and inland water economies, sometimes called ‘the blue economy’, have expanded significantly over the past decades, and added pressure on, and competition for, marine territories and resources. All survey respondents have reported on the violation of tenure rights (5) as a direct result of the infringement on territories and resources by other economic sectors, including large-scale fisheries and aquaculture; tourism; nature conservation often in the form of Marine Protected Areas, oil and gas exploitation; shipping and ports and offshore wind energy. “

11.3 In this light, we must think of the guidelines as another tool in our tool box. The guidelines are a tool not an end. We need to look at it through the needs of the SSF. This is a tool to review our national policies and frameworks. We protest, we demonstrate, we campaign, we advocate. We can use these guidelines in that work to guarantee our access to the sea and inland water bodies. It is likely that others will take our guidelines and decide to implement them in another manner. We must be ready to take the initial steps to make sure that implementation is carried out in the way we want. And we must be sure that we are equipped to keep these other sharks at bay. We can't stop them from coming in, but we must be ready.

11.4 Implementation will necessarily be different and specific to the national policy context of each country. Many authorities do not know about the guidelines, so WFFP must engage, lobby and educate them. National level FAO offices should also be incorporated into this work and WFFP should demand their support.

11.5 To be ready, we must create awareness amongst ourselves. To do this we need to be sure the guidelines are available in local languages; develop things like accessible versions or a popular manual for using the guidelines, and toolkit. We should plan national level workshops and train the trainers meetings to raise awareness about guidelines among movements, media, local and national authorities, businesses, justice system, and encourage student projects on the topic.

11.6 We must pursue implementation of the SSF Guidelines in a way that draws on the solidarity among relevant groups. Implementation should always be struggled for in marine *and* inland fisheries, in ways that link up efforts among WFFP members. This coordination should be developed strategically in between members in the same regions. We should also explore the use of the Tenure Guidelines to strengthen our work to protect fishers' rights and to strengthen alliances with other communities whose livelihoods depend on natural resources.

11.7 Better than anyone small scale fishers hold the knowledge about the realities in their communities and the status of implementation of the guidelines. Therefore, WFFP should generate the information that can feed into multi-layered monitoring efforts including: a WFFP observatory on the SSF Guidelines; an annual report card for the government, grading them on how much they have implemented the guidelines; national task forces - inclusive of various actors i.e. local, state, national; the official COFI questionnaires prepared by member states.

11.8 All WFFPs activities and resolutions about work on the SSF Guidelines should be communicated to the media.

12. Climate Justice

The SSF community is at the front lines bearing the brunt of impacts from climate change such as natural disasters, sea level rise and erosion. We are seeing changes in fish migration patterns, in the currents and in the temperature of our waters. Our lives and our livelihoods are under threat, but these issues are minimally represented in the national or international level discussions on climate justice.

12.1 WFFP should highlight the impacts faced by fishers because of climate change and lobby for solutions to be developed in consultation with local communities, recognition of the specific impacts on women who play multiple roles, developing accountability of polluters and the establishment of a global fund. To do so, WFFP should take a more active role in the convergence space around climate justice with La Via Campesina and other social movements.

12.2 We should push the principles of agroecology and food sovereignty as a real solution and in defence against capitalistic agendas that currently drive the conversation around climate justice.

12.3 The climate crisis is being used as an opportunity for vested interests to propagate false solutions like blue carbon, so-called 'nature based solutions', seawalls, the 30by30 agenda, debt-for-ocean swaps and more. WFFP should fight back against this trend by strengthening campaigns that seek to educate policy makers and communities against false solutions and instead push for real solutions that are developed in consultation with the affected communities.

12.4 WFFP's coordinating committee should explore the possibilities of developing global reports on themes elaborated above, to assist with the international lobbying efforts.

13. Food sovereignty and Agroecology

13.1 We believe that to confront the global threats and challenges to fisher livelihoods, environments and culture, food security is too simplistic. We need to look more deeply and say that food sovereignty is the alternative paradigm that we want, it is one of the answers to ocean grabbing. The way we arrive there is through agroecological activities. This is new language, but it is already deep in our hearts. Because this is a young discussion within our movement, we need to now give greater depth to it and unpack it more. We need to be sure we translate it into all our member languages. We need to shift to an ocean and inland water based approach instead of a land centric approach, oceans and inland water-bodies are our commons and it is to be the base of food sovereignty.

13.2 The slogans that we raise should not just be shouted, but also implemented. Therefore in order to build and strengthen food sovereignty in a concrete way at the local level we should explore opportunities to sell directly to consumers and local markets in urban and rural areas in order to cut out the middlemen who concentrate the wealth in fishing economies at the expense of SSF; form and strengthen fisher cooperatives; make connections with institutions like hospitals or schools to use their public purchasing power; demand state financing for small scale fishers instead of industrial fishing; pursue alternative sources of energy for our activities.

13.3 Water, land and sea are interconnected in many ways. Many fishers are also farmers. And small scale fishers, peasants and other small scale food producers are all threatened by the corporate controlled global food system. Building food sovereignty requires working in solidarity. WFFP should continue to pursue and strengthen its alliances with other small scale food producer organizations, with cooperatives (including transport cooperatives), and workers, to support the development of a social and solidarity economy.

13.4 WFFP should explore opportunities for coordinating and/or participating in events and workshops about food sovereignty and agroecology with other groups like peasants, academics and students to build perspectives and skills.

13.5 While WFFP has worked on food sovereignty extensively, we must still work to deepen our knowledge by sharing the stories and struggles for food sovereignty among members. Resources like toolboxes that WFFP members contribute to and learn from will help develop a common goal

and vision that all WFFP members can work towards: healthy food from the people, for the people.

13.6 WFFP will continue its active participation in the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) to advance our food sovereignty agenda.

13.7 The food sovereignty working group will:

- convene meetings on a regular basis (a minimum of four meetings per year) and generate policy proposals.
- Serve as a space to further develop and expand the food sovereignty agenda within the WFFP.
- Plan for a session on food sovereignty at the forthcoming General Assembly.

14. Inland Fisheries

A significant proportion of the fishers we represent are inland fishers. At the WFFP general assembly in Cape Town in 2014, we decided to establish our Inland Fishing Working Group.

14.1 The WFFP inland fisheries working group constitutes the forum in which matters relevant to inland fisheries will be considered. The functions of the WG will be the following: coordinating the action building, by organizing events about inland fisheries, preparing reports, strategies around inland fisheries related matters; providing a forum for policy development by supporting tools for member organizations to engage with local, national and international policy processes; identify potential allies working on inland fisheries related issues and strategies; convening and fundraising for the work within WFFP.

14.2 The WG will map social movements and organizations working on topics and issues that relate to inland fisheries. The mapping will include learning about their values and positions to situate them in the political context and assess whether they share similar objectives and vision with WFFP. The second step would be to engage with aligned movements and campaigns, to build alliances and create common strategies. The CC will facilitate such engagements with the support of the WG.

14.3. The Inland Fisheries Working Group will also help to build WFFP's internal capacities on policy spaces at both national and global levels. As a recommendation, the WFFP members will coordinate and qualify the WFFP's intervention in UN agencies about inland fisheries, including in spaces and ongoing processes such as the SSF guidelines. Members are also recommended to work towards strengthening existing laws at national level.

14.4 In this perspective of building capacity, the WFFP should pursue opportunities for: the organization of fisher-to-fisher exchanges on inland fisheries; the collaboration with other social movements; the organization of a world inland fisheries conference; the participation of members in existing forums on inland fisheries; the production of education tools; the facilitation of community-based research projects; and the documentation and sharing of stories, strategies and successful practices. The WG will highlight best practices regarding recognition of human

rights, cross-cultural capacity, recognition of traditional and indigenous knowledge, food sovereignty within the inland fisheries context.

14.5. WFFP should raise awareness on protection and management of inland water bodies and oppose construction of dams and big corporate wind and solar farms for the benefit of shareholders and investors.

14.6 WFFP member organizations should be supported in advocating with their governments for the development and inclusion of inland fisheries policies, using Tenure Guidelines, SSF Guidelines and other relevant instruments. The WG will develop a toolkit to help members to engage with their government regarding development of inland fisheries policies and implementation.

14.7 The WG will develop guidelines and methodologies to help inland fishing communities to develop their own transformative research questions and analytical frameworks that honour the important role that fisher peoples play in responding to the social and ecological issues of inland fisheries. The guidelines will enable communities to provide meaningful input and direction to engage researchers and academic institutions in the design, implementation and evaluation of community-based research projects.

14.8 The Inland Fisheries working group will:

- convene meetings on a regular basis (a minimum of four meetings per year) and generate policy proposals.
- Serve as a space to address challenges and seek solutions to inland fishing.
- Plan for a session on Inland Fishing at the forthcoming General Assembly.

15. Youth

The first assembly for WFFP youth leaders was convened at the WFFP general assembly in Delhi in 2017. The youth emphasised “We are the Youth Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher People. We are not the future of our movement, we are the present. For us, the values of SSF must be equality, equity and respect.” The WFFP youth working group was established at the Delhi general assembly.

15.1 Young people working in fisher movements often face resistance from older leaders. WFFP will create spaces for youth and elders to support each other. We will trust and enable youth to take decisions in the governance of the fisheries sector, and within WFFP.

15.2 Knowledge must be transmitted from elders to young leaders. At the same time, elders need to recognize they can also learn from young people. They understand how the neo-liberal system and globalization affect our communities. Loss of knowledge and traditions affect youth in specific ways, but we want to connect innovations with our ancestral knowledge.

15.3 WFFP's youth have energy and ideas to get things done. They are connected via self-managed virtual platforms and spearheading more active information sharing among members. WFFP commits to strengthening youth empowerment in the fisher movements in general.

15.4 WFFP and its member must develop capacity building and training programmes for youth, drawing on our allies for support and inspiration.

15.5 WFFP values the knowledge, strategies and solutions are proposed by its youth. They are aware and disproportionately affected by of the impacts of Climate Change and environmental issues. We support our youth as leaders in the advancement of agroecological practices connected to SSF for the next generation and future generations to reach food sovereignty.

15.6 WFFP's young people are the agents of change when it comes to fighting against patriarchy. Within fishing communities and even our organizations, young women are marginalized. Youth are leading the fight for gender equality and equity.

15.7 WFFP demands that the rights of children in fishing communities are recognized. We need to ensure that children have access to education, before working in fisheries, because we know how education alongside knowledges is important to develop a better understanding of our society.

15.8 The Youth working group will:

- convene meetings on a regular basis (a minimum of four meetings per year) and generate policy proposals.
- Serve as a space to address and seek solutions to structural challenges within our own movements as well as in the external spaces in which we engage.
- Plan for the the Youth Assembly at the forthcoming General Assembly. The assembly is for Youth only.

16. Indigenous peoples assembly

16.1 WFFP needs to have a small working group for indigenous fisherfolk that will map out the indigenous fishers of the world and in our countries. This work can serve as a starting point for expanding representation in our movement.

16.2 WFFP must ensure the presence of indigenous fisherfolk in different international fora. We need to participate in the UN permanent forum of indigenous issues in New York.

16.3 WFFP needs to have a presence as indigenous fishers at the FAO. We should also engage with the ILO and every space where indigenous rights are discussed.

16.4 The Indigenous Peoples working group will:

- convene meetings on a regular basis (a minimum of four meetings per year) and generate policy proposals.
- Serve as a space to address challenges and seek solutions for WFFP Indigenous Peoples.
- Plan for the session on Indigenous Peoples at the forthcoming General Assembly.

17. ESCR Net

ESCR Net or The International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is a network of over 250 NGOs, social movements and advocates across 75 countries which works towards building a global movement for obtaining human rights and social justice for all. ESCR-Net members work on several issues - Women and ESCR, Corporate Accountability, Strategic Litigation, Economic Policy, Monitoring of ESCR and Social Movements. ESCR-Net also coordinates a System of Solidarity (SOS), harnessing the collective power of the Network to address urgent threats to human rights defenders. This network is a key ally of the WFFP. They plan to launch a campaign to build a global movement on human rights. The key points from the charter outlining their campaign can be found in the document 'Our Common Future' in ESCR-Net Website. We propose to engage with them to participate in the launch and carry forward the campaign in collaboration to ensure the economic social and cultural rights of fishing communities. The CC will facilitate that engagement.

17.1 Plan for collaborative actions with ESCR-Net common campaign based on the charter "Our Common Future" as appropriate as possible.

17.2 Direct member organizations to engage with various campaigns based on working groups of ESCR-Net

17.3 Promote WFFP Member organizations to take the membership of ESCR-Net

18. Farmers' Forum [FAFO]

The Farmers' Forum, established in 2005, is an on-going, bottom-up process of consultation and dialogue between smallholder farmers' and rural producers' organizations from all over the world and IFAD and our Member States. IFAD, one of the Rome based organizations is a lending organization. In that space WFFP, WFF and La Via Campesina as well as pastoralists, women's organizations are all present. WFFP has been part of the steering committee since the beginning. Now we are coming to a stage of regionalization. Every other year they have convened a gathering in Rome, but now they are trying to minimize the travel to Rome and proposing to host gathering as subgroups in other regions. WFFP is currently part of the Asian regional group. We propose that other WFFP members participate in the other regional processes. WFFP should nominate representatives from each of the continental fora to do so and maintain our presence at the global level with IFAD.

18.1 Direct WFFP member organizations to attend the IFAD regional/ continental for of FAFO

19. Civil Society Mechanism

Fishing communities worldwide suffer from malnutrition and food insecurity. The Committee of World Food Security (CFS) is a relevant space within the United Nations that develops global interventions that could bring benefit to fishers, provided it considers the real conditions that communities face, including ocean grabbing, climate injustice, inequalities in gender and other social relations. The Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) is a platform primarily for global social movements and support NGOs who subscribe to the principles advanced by social movements, commonly referred to in this space as constituencies representing fisherfolk, peasants, women, pastoralists etc, to engage with various arms of the CFS (bureau, plenary, working groups, etc.). WFFP believes that the CSM is an appropriate mechanism to bring forward the voice of fishers, and in that space WFFP has had a good relationship with other social movements.

WFFP remain committed to this space and the CC has, at its meeting in Turkey, nominated its WFFP representative to the CSM.

20. Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition

We, the members of the WFFP are in solidarity with The Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition, and other small scale food producer allies to promote the right to food and nutrition as well as food sovereignty and denounce all false solutions to hunger and malnutrition. These false solutions are a violation of the human right to food and nutrition. We reaffirm the primacy of human rights and its indivisibility. We demand the recognition and respect for the right to food and nutrition in small scale fishing communities.

WFFP remain committed to participate in the GNRtFN and the CC will nominate a WFFP leader to represent WFFP at the network

21. Peasants Rights Declaration

The Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and People who Work in Rural Areas is an important project initiated by La Vía Campesina, but that includes many other social movements including WFFP. This declaration sets out to protect the rights of peasants, fishers, farmers, pastoralists and others.

21.1 This process is an opportunity to consolidate our power and strengthen our struggle in order to exercise our rights to food and build food sovereignty, agroecology and small scale fishing. WFFP must continue participating in this process.

22. Marine Spatial Planning

22.1 Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) resembles a policy tool carving up the seas and coastlines into sites for particular use or exploitation. It has become the preferred form of governance to continue expanding the ocean economy.

22.2 In theory, MSP allows for broad participation of all actors with a 'stake' in the ocean and can be used to balance economic growth with environmental protection and social development. However, in practice MSP is being used as a tool to privatise the ocean and

allocate concessions to the most powerful actors and to date, WFFP is unaware of one single case where fisher movements have been involved in MSP processes in any meaningful manner.

22.3 The exclusion of our members from MSP and decision-making processes on the ocean economy remains a larger controversy that is rooted in contemporary power imbalances and the long history of capitalist development that has resulted in the centralisation of economic wealth and political power.

22.4 The unequal power-balance between our members on the one hand, and the transnational corporations and other powerful actors (e.g. governments and international conservation NGOs) on the other turns MSP into a rigged decision making space which serves the interest of the rich and results in more ocean grabbing.

22.5 As rolled out, MSP represents a threat to small-scale fishing communities. WFFP therefore reject MSP until such time governments democratize the process and recognise fisher people before profit.