



WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES(WFFP)

Forum mondial des populations de pêcheurs

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Political Resolutions adopted by the 8th General Assembly of the WFFP

20 November 2024

Preamble

We are fisher peoples, diverse in identity, gender, race, geographical origin and united in our traditional way of life. There is no singular definition of fisher peoples. Depending on the geographical region and country, gender, cultures and identities we use different terms for who we are. These include ocean, water, mangrove and/or fisher peoples; traditional fishers, fishermen, and fisherwomen; artisanal fishers, fishermen, and fisherwomen; men and women seafood, shell and shell-fish collectors and gatherers; Indigenous Peoples fishers; coastal, marine, inland, and/or mangrove fishers; small-scale fishers and other terms.

Our strength lies in this diversity. We share common characteristics: deep connections to nature; reliance of minimal capital and energy; family, household or cooperative labour; near-shore fishing; strong community roots and forms of collective action. Many of our fisher peoples have been forced to migrate to cities or other countries, yet we maintain a strong connection to our fishing communities. Our fishing practices throughout the value chain are labour-intensive, less mechanized, and have minimal ecological and carbon impact compared to industrial fisheries. In these resolutions, we use the inclusive term "fisher peoples" to represent our diverse community.

1. Industrial fishing

1.1. Industrial fishing practices -including trawling (bottom, pelagic, beam, bull, and para), purse-seining, drift-netting, long-lining, dredging, fish aggregating devices (FADs), factory vessels, and at-sea transshipment- are destroying marine ecosystems worldwide. These methods devastate habitats, breeding grounds, and fish stocks. The industry largely exploits workers, clash violently on land and at sea with our fisher peoples, threatening and undermining our food sovereignty. Yet, governments and intergovernmental institutions continue supporting the industry and its destructive practices both financially and politically.

1.2. While "Illegal Unregulated and Unreported" (IUU) fishing can apply to industrial vessels, authorities often misuse this term to criminalize our traditional and artisanal fishers, particularly where customary and traditional

fishing rights are denied. We reject the use of IUU to criminalise our fisher peoples, and maintain our opposition to all industrial fishing, legal or illegal.

1.3. Industrial fishing and aquaculture are interlinked, as growing volumes of industrially caught fish are converted into aquaculture feed, intensifying pressure on wild fisheries and undermining our food sovereignty.

1.4. Industrial fishing drives down prices of wild caught fish and thereby undermine our livelihoods and food sovereignty as fisher peoples.

1.5. Some industrial fisheries are certified as “sustainable” under different schemes. We denounce false certifications such as MSC that legitimate destructive practices and do not recognise or respond to our rights and needs as fisher peoples.

1.6. Fisher peoples and younger generations are being forced out of traditional fishing with no option but to find alternative ways of fulfilling basic needs. Many end up as a cheap labour force in the industrial fishing sector, both at sea and in processing. This transition often subjects our fisher peoples to work in situations of slavery or indentured labour, being forced to work without income for their families and forced into debt to their employers. This also lures them into drugs to endure the heavy working hours. We stand in solidarity with these precarious workers exploited by industrial fishing corporations.

WFFP will:

1.7. Continue to denounce these destructive forms of industrial fishing; lobby governments to regulate destructive fishing practices; and fight for solutions that protect the livelihoods and advances the food sovereignty of fisher peoples while countering the destruction caused by industrial fishing.

1.8. Expose and resist the processing of wild-capture fish into fish-oil and fish-meal for aquaculture feed. We will advocate against this destructive practice at the UN Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and other national and international policy making forums and processes.

2. Industrial Aquaculture

2.1. Industrial aquaculture is being promoted by governments, UN bodies, transnational corporations and their lobby organisations, and international environmental NGOs. Industrial aquaculture is NOT fishing; it is privatizing, fencing and destroying our territories; dispossessing fisher peoples from the lands and waters; polluting water and coastal ecosystems with dangerous chemicals; driving ocean grabbing and climate change; and contributing to the criminalisation of and violence against fisher peoples.

2.2 Industrial aquaculture or “fish factories,” sometimes described as “aquatic foods” or “blue foods” are presented as a sustainable alternative to capture fisheries and as a way to feed the world population. These terms serve as window dressing, to cover up for the criminal destruction of nature and

devastation to people. The proponents of industrial aquaculture, and in particular the transnational corporations, continue to promote myths as a means to protect their multi billion dollar industry and accumulate more profits.

2.3. Transnational corporations, including finance corporations, involved in industrial aquaculture continue to spin profits and accumulate capital. The entire value chain of industrial aquaculture benefits from national *ocean economy* or *blue economy* plans, instrumentalizing Marine Spatial Planning, policy reforms, and subsidy schemes to expand their means of production and territorial control. As a result, the world's middle and high income markets are flooded with cheap and unhealthy aquaculture products –in particular salmon and shrimp– which drives down prices of wild caught fish and thereby undermine the livelihoods and food sovereignty of fisher peoples.

2.4. The expansion of industrial aquaculture is leading to increased violence against our communities, especially our fisherwomen, women shellfish collectors and gatherers, who are excluded from our traditional territories and collection grounds; subjected to gendered violence, harassment, criminalization, and abuse; and deprived of our traditional livelihoods and food sovereignty. In areas where the industry has proliferated for decades, our fisher peoples are subjected to divide and conquer tactics, which foster mistrust, weakening our social mobilization and resistance.

2.5. Around 60% of the world's mangrove forests have been destroyed. While there are several reasons for this destruction, industrial shrimp farming is the main contributor. The precious mangrove ecosystems provide protection against flooding and storm surges; act as natural nurseries for many species; and make up a part of ocean and water peoples' sacred and traditional territories and identities. When fisher peoples resist the shrimp factories as a strategy to defend their territories and protect their own livelihoods, they are confronted by policy or private security guards. In the context of industrial aquaculture, as fisher peoples we are frequently subjected to armed violence with evidence of human rights violations, including shootings, killings, harassment, and intimidation by armed security.

2.6. The expansion of industrial aquaculture relies on wild caught fish as well as on grain and soybean industries. While the proportion of wild-capture fish ingredients (oil and meal) in fish feed have decreased over the past decades, the total volumes of wild-capture fish used in aquaculture continue to rise. This is because of the continued growth rate in aquaculture production at large. Industrial aquaculture is increasing pressure on wild fish stocks and agricultural land, also driving deforestation. Thus, taking food out of the mouths of millions rural communities and our fisher peoples.

2.7. Pollution and disease from industrial aquaculture operations endanger wild ecosystems. Industrial aquaculture makes extensive use of pesticides, antibiotics, fungicides, growth promoters, disinfectants and other chemicals. The excessive use of these chemicals is causing massive destruction of coastal habitats and mangrove forests, leading to the death of local populations of crustaceans, molluscs and fish. The chemicals –some of which a prohibited but

still being used illegally- are harmful to both workers in the industry, coastal peoples living in proximity and interacting with polluted waters, as well as the people consuming farmed products and wild fish. Several of the chemicals are carcinogenic and used in countries with less stringent health regulations. The excessive use of chemicals is a direct cause of environmental destruction, food insecurity, impoverishment of communities and severe health problems among workers and people living in areas close to aquaculture factories.

2.8 Many of our fisher peoples are forced to work in the aquaculture industry, including on the industrial fishing vessels sourcing the ingredients for feed, to make a living. Disenfranchised, marginalised and exploited workers are not our enemy. Rather, we focus our attention on those who promote, and profit from, industrial aquaculture: governments, corporations, international organisations and investors.

WFFP will:

2.9. Continue to resist the UN Committee on Fisheries (COFI) agenda on aquaculture, including its flagship “Blue Transformations” programme. This implies lobbying the COFI county delegations; the COFI Bureau; the COFI sub-committee on Fisheries Management. WFFP will play an active and leading role as a member of the International Planning Committee of Food Sovereignty (IPC) in the fight against industrial aquaculture.

2.10. Initiate a process for all WFFP members to document the destructive impacts of industrial aquaculture and expose the name of the corporations, financiers, research organisations, governments and international environmental NGOs who are driving this industry forward. WFFP will partner with key allies towards this aim, including FIAN and the Transnational Institute.

2.11. Launch a global campaign to denounce industrial aquaculture.

2.12. Launch the first ever Global Ocean, Water and Fisher Peoples Tribunal, with a strong focus on aquaculture. The Global Ocean, Water and Fisher Peoples Tribunal will be convened in connection with the next WFFP General Assembly.

3. Privatisation of fisheries

3.1. Privatisation and commodification of fisheries leads to centralization of fishing rights with an elite minority and the de facto exclusion of the majority of our fisher peoples. Over a decade ago, the term 'Individual Transferable Quotas' (ITQs) was introduced, but later became widely criticised because of the clear evidence of how this privatisation scheme has resulted in an almost complete shut-down of small-scale fisheries in numerous countries. In response to the critique to ITQs, the proponents of privatisation changed the language and narratives as a means to continue the same agenda. Terms such as Catch Shares, TURFs (Territorial User Rights in Fisheries) and Rights Based Fishing have been used since then.

3.2. Several big environmental organisations are attempting to convince our fisher peoples to walk down the privatisation of fishing rights path, with some of the more dangerous groups being the Environmental Defence Fund, Rare, and WWF. They attempt to win fishers over on their side by explaining the prospects of big economic gains once their boats, fishing grounds or quotas becomes private assets protected by new laws. This resembles a divide-and-conquer strategy and has resulted in deep conflicts between those few who benefit (almost always the elite) and those who end up with nothing (often the poor, lower caste, women, Indigenous and racialised peoples).

3.3. The World Bank continues to push for the privatisation and commodification of fisheries. The Global Partnership for Ocean was launched by the bank in 2012 and supported by groups such as Oceana, Environmental Defence Fund, Rare, WWF, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and numerous other environmental organisations, as well as a long list of transnational corporations. It was the first ever global coalition with a primary focus on privatising and commodifying fisheries all over the globe. Following strong critique of the blatant privatisation agenda of the coalition, it ceased to exist. Yet, the World Bank and the rest of the partners of the coalition have persistently pursued the exact same ideology of turning our fishing territories and fisheries into commodities that can be sold, bought and leased by its new owners.

WFFP will:

3.4. WFFP reiterates its clear position against privatisation and commodification of our fisheries and fishing territories and denounces the actors including big environmental organisations, the World Bank and regional Development Banks and corporations who persistently push this agenda.

3.5. We will continue to resist government's efforts to pursue policy reforms for the privations of fisheries and will not collaborate with any of the big conservation organisations, including Environmental Defence Fund, who promote the privatisation of our fisheries.

3.6. Continue to push for policy reforms that builds on principles of Food Sovereignty and the SSF Guidelines (see resolution 19) instead of privatisation of our fisheries and territories. WFFP insists on the recognition and participation of its members in national level policy formulation and, at the same time, reject the involvement of foreign actors that push for the privatisation of our customary fishing rights.

4. WTO and Transnational Corporations

4.1. The comprehensive WTO agreement on fisheries subsidies, once concluded, will have serious implications for the future of our fisher peoples and Indigenous peoples across the world.

4.2. The WTO is aiming to discipline subsidies that contribute to harmful and unsustainable fishing aggravating the rapid deletion of marine resources.

However, as the current situation with the negotiations of the text we do not see effective disciplines on the industrial fishing fleets responsible for the state of the oceans today. On the other hand, exemptions for fisher peoples to access government support for fishing and infrastructure is being restricted by imposing irrational conditionalities.

4.3. The current texts allows for advanced fishing countries that have the ability to meet monitoring and other criteria to escape any commitment to cut subsidies. This is discriminating against poorer countries and in particular our fisher peoples. The text being negotiated has more loopholes that allows to maintain the status quo and perpetuate the current state of very concentrated control over our oceans and marine resources.

4.4. The biggest concern lies with the very limited special and differential treatment provision that proposes exemption for WFFP members and other fisher peoples across poorer countries. It is important to point out that defining exemptions for fisher peoples based on non-industrial characteristics does not amount to actual disciplines on industrial fishing. Efforts to bring in disciplines on large-scale or industrial scale fishing has been strongly and consistently resisted by countries which have used such fishing to establish their commercial domination over marine resources in foreign countries for centuries.

4.5. We continue to express concerns as fisheries is not an issue that belongs in the WTO. The current negotiations on the current agreement are confirming these concerns. It remains unfair and unbalanced and is at the risk of delivering exactly the opposite of its stated objectives.

WFFP will:

4.6. Continue to demand that fisheries subsidies negotiations should be kept out of the WTO, and any negotiations should be brought to the UN Committee of Fisheries (COFI). This is the forum which has the expertise to deal with any policy decisions related to fisheries.

4.7. Continue to lobby our national level governments including the country delegations to the WTO and the COFI to support our position.

5. Extractivism: oil, gas, and mining

5.1. The extractivist model is killing our fisher peoples and destroying our waters and territories. Mining, oil, gas exploration and exploitation violates the rights of fisher peoples including Indigenous communities. Corporations falsely promise jobs and development while violating peoples' rights to free, prior and informed consent. They make use of 'divide and conquer' strategies, create conflict within our communities and fuel corruption. Extractive industries pollute our fish, territories and bodies; disconnect people from their traditional fisheries and communities; drive migration, indebtedness, and substance abuse; and push fishers from traditional fishing to precarious and insecure labour.

5.2. Deep-sea mining and other forms of offshore extraction with unknown but likely devastating consequences is being promoted by governments and transnational corporations. The International Seabed Authority is one of leading intergovernmental bodies paving the way for more extraction in waters beyond natural jurisdiction (beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone). We are united in raising concerns over the impacts that deep-sea mining will have in our mother ocean and life on Earth. We resist deep-sea mining and other forms of offshore extraction.

5.3. We also reject new extractive projects, offshore, in coastal areas and inland, including but not limited to: oil and gas extraction, 'green hydrogen' production, mineral extraction and sand mining. These projects cause pollution and contamination, destroying fish stocks, sickening local communities and driving people off traditional territories. They also have wider impacts, on downstream communities (especially in the case of mines located at river headwaters), over large areas (especially in the case of tailings disasters or oil spills), and on the global climate. Some mining and gas projects are falsely justified as contributing to a 'green energy transition' but they strengthen corporate control and create new forms of environmental destruction, rather than advancing climate justice.

5.4. Fisher peoples have been mobilising, protesting, and demanding the protection of their rights using legal instruments and fisher peoples' tribunals. In response they are subjected threats, harassment, intimidation, and killings. We raise our deepest concerns with the extreme violations of the rights of fisher peoples. We demand an end to such violations of our human right and end to impunity.

5.5. Land reclamation projects, industrial port developments, tourism developments, the creation of special economic zones, and renewable energy projects can have the same destructive effects, and adhere to the same extractivist logic, as fossil fuel or mining projects. We reject these damaging activities, falsely described as "development" and call instead for genuine community-led and rights-based development projects, shaped by the demands and solutions of the fisher peoples.

5.6. Dams have a very high social and environmental cost, causing displacement of thousands of families and compromising communities' access to water for drinking and other purposes. Dams alter the course of rivers and block the natural flows of the current, preventing fish from migrating and reproducing. This has disastrous consequences for fish stocks, including the elimination of fish species, which negatively impacts the availability of healthy and nutritious food for our local communities, destroying local economies. There is a wide recognition among governmental agencies and the mining industry that tailing dams resembles high-risk infrastructure. Yet, tailing dams are not prohibited and widely employed by the industry. Dams, whether for mining, hydroelectric generation or other purposes, serve the interests of capital at the expense of the needs of communities.

5.7. Gold mining continues to devastate ecosystems and communities worldwide despite gold having no critical industrial or social necessity. The environmental toll is staggering: massive water pollution from toxic chemicals like cyanide and mercury, destruction of landscapes through open-pit mining, and acid mine drainage that poisons waterways for generations. Mining just one ounce of gold generates tons of toxic waste, yet most extracted gold simply sits in bank vaults or is used for jewelry. We therefore call for an end to gold-mining.

5.8. WFFP joins other civil society groups in raising concerns over IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining and its associated independent audit system, which are often used to “greenwash” the devastating impacts of industrial mining while failing to protect and benefit impacted fisher peoples and coastal communities.

WFFP will:

5.9. Continue to denounce these destructive forms of extractivism. WFFP will build alliances and join campaigns with allied movements and organisations in efforts to stop the expansion and halt existing destructive mining projects.

5.10. Together with allies, WFFP will continue to research these extractive corporations, understanding how they work and building alliances with other affected communities in order to mobilise more effectively against extractivist corporate violence.

6. Climate Crisis and Justice

6.1. We, the ocean, water and fisher peoples of the world are on the front lines of the climate crisis, exposed to extreme weather events such as rain bombs, flooding, droughts, violent hurricanes, sea level rise and erosion, which threaten our lives and impact our ability to fish. Our traditional knowledge and relationships to our territories mean we are acutely aware of changes in animal behaviour, ocean currents and water temperatures, and of the loss of biodiversity. This destruction is a direct result of the failure of our governments to change policies and reduce emissions, which is caused by the concentration of economic and political power in the hands of relatively few transnational corporations, their investors and shareholders. At the same time, we are subjected to the dangerous effects of corporate “false solutions” which promise to address the climate crisis but instead dispossess our fisher peoples from our territories, and undermine traditional practices of ocean, water and territorial stewardship.

6.2. Our lives and our livelihoods are under threat. People are dying in our territories or are forced to migrate and seek precarious work. Historically marginalised groups of fisher peoples, in particular women and Indigenous Peoples, are disproportionately impacted. These injustices are minimally represented in the national or international level discussions, and governments rarely recognise our fisher peoples as among the most affected by the climate crisis.

6.3. Together with our allied social movements we have fought outside and inside the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Our experience shows that governments offer space to movements in these convenings only to “check the box” on participation. Our solutions and demands are ignored by the Governments and Corporations who rule the COPs, while false solutions that further endanger and dispossess us are widely supported. This pattern continues while we are convening our 8th General Assembly in Brazil.

6.4. Many so-called experts and scientists – often funded by corporations responsible for the climate catastrophe – continue to promote solutions based on capitalist market logics. We reject the advice and science used by these so-called experts and scientists. Instead, we reiterate that as traditional custodians of our oceans, waters and coasts, we have the knowledge and wisdom, we know the underlying problems and we have the solutions.

WFFP will:

6.5. We reject false climate solutions such as 30by30 (top-down Marine Protected Areas), “Blue Carbon”, carbon and biodiversity offsets or credits, so-called ‘Other Effective Area-based Conservation Methods’ (OECM), geo-engineering (promoted under UNFCCC) as well as industrial aquaculture and “fortress conservation” and the financialisation of conservation: our nature and our waters are not for sale. We demand the recognition of fishers’ traditional tenure rights.

6.6. We resist the massive wind farms that are being constructed around the world, appropriating our waters, territories and fishing grounds in the name of ‘green energy,’ while following the same violent and extractive logic as fossil fuel projects. We will continue to fight against the corporations and governments promoting these false climate solutions.

6.7. We resist and denounce the many big environmental organisations who are driving false climate solutions while effectively enabling the criminalisation of our fisher peoples and our traditional way of life. Some of the most prominent of these include: The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Conservation International, Flora and Fauna, and Birdlife who are all part of the 'Business for Nature Alliance'. These eco-fascist organisations bear responsibility for the expropriation of our fisher peoples from our territories and the militarisation of our oceans and waters, subjecting us to increased violence and human rights abuses, including the killings of our traditional fishers.

6.8. We reiterate the need for real climate solutions, advanced by our fisher peoples around the world, including a rapid phase out of fossil fuels, the abolition of industrial fishing (which releases emissions while destroying the seabed), and the regeneration of our ecosystems and territories (including priceless mangrove ecosystems) through traditional and artisanal fishing

practices, Indigenous knowledge and lifeways, and community-led conservation.

6.9. We call on governments to provide timely and adequate support for all fisher peoples impacted by the climate crisis, prioritising responses which allow us to remain in our territories, lead dignified lives and remain as custodians of our oceans and rivers.

6.10 WFFP will mobilise forces with allied social movements in the Peoples COP that will be convened parallel to COP30 in Brazil 2030. We will unite with our allies in other constituencies, including farmers, pastoralists, herders, migrants, landless, Indigenous movements, food producers, feminist and women movements and other politically aligned peoples.

6.11. We continue to highlight and document the impacts faced by fisher peoples because of the climate crisis and further develop and articulate solutions through engagement with our local communities.

6.12. WFFP and its members will advocate from the local to the international level to denounce false solutions and resist the grabbing of our territories, also when this is justified with fraudulent “green” or “blue” claims. We resist the commodification of our oceans, waters, and coasts. We are the oceans, we are the waters, we are the people!

6.13. WFFP’s coordinating committee will explore the possibilities of developing global reports on the 30x30 agenda, debt-for-nature swaps and other issues elaborated in our resolutions, to ensure our members have access to proper information. This is necessary to counter the dominating narratives and false solutions we are confronted with today. We will explore ways of collaboration with political aligned organisations towards this effort.

7. The 30x30 agenda: Marine Protected Areas and Conservation

7.1. The target of conserving 30% of the oceans (and land) by 2030 - known as 30x30 and endorsed by the UN Convention on Biodiversity in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2023 - is a threat to traditional fishers. This top-down approach has been lobbied for by large environmental NGOs (ENGOS) including The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation International and Oceana at international forums including the Climate COP and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

7.2. Although the target states that conservation should recognize Indigenous and traditional territories, in practice Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are used as tools to commodify nature, dispossess fisher peoples and grab their traditional territories. 30x30, including “Other Effective Conservation Measures” (OECMs), is increasing the financialization of conservation, putting political control of territories into the hands of ENGOS, and threatening the political autonomy and customary rights of fisher peoples. Although it does not

have to be this way, MPAs today are usually a form of “fortress conservation,” which excludes, targets, and criminalises traditional fishers.

7.3. WFFP rejects top-down fortress conservation, including MPAs that exclude traditional and artisanal fishers. The real driver of environmental destruction is the capitalist model of economic expansion and extractivism, not our livelihood practices. Fortress conservation is a form of eco-fascism with deep ties to colonialism and apartheid, based around violently separating people from nature.

7.4. WFFP denounces MPAs, and any other conservation initiatives, that subject traditional fisher peoples to armed violence, harassment and violence from park rangers, as well as militarisation on land, coasts, waters and oceans. We demand a halt to this violence, politics of death and the killing of our fisher peoples!

7.5 WFFP denounces market-based solutions which privatise our territories and convert them to sources of profit for corporations. Our territories are not for sale!

7.6. WFFP recognises the role of fisher peoples as traditional custodians of ocean and river territories. Fishers know better than anyone that we must protect and conserve ecosystems and territories, and we know how to do this. Conservation initiatives that restrict access and control over traditional fishing territories and undermine the knowledge and ways of living of fisher peoples cannot save our planet. Fisher peoples have used and continue to use many different legal and political tools to defend their own territories and ways of life, including people led marine protected areas (MPAs) in specific contexts. However, environmental justice lives or dies on the basis of local autonomy, effective people-centred management and democratic participation of fisher peoples in the protection and regeneration of their own territories. We are the oceans, we are the waters, we are the peoples – there can be no environmental conservation without us.

7.7. Members of WFFP, including Indigenous Peoples have been involved in countless of conservation efforts over the past many decades, including the formation of conservation zones/territories which resemble people-led marine protected areas (MPAs). There are numerous examples from across the world where fisher peoples in collaboration with local and/or national government have formed and managed such marine areas. These conservation areas serve our interest and contribute to effective nature conservation, and they are set up and managed without the interference and control of foreign agencies such as the ENGOs mentioned above (6.7 and 7.1).

7.8. WFFP calls for the full, effective and democratic participation of fisher peoples in the development and implementation of any conservation initiatives impacting them. The traditional and customary rights and territories of fishers, including the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent for Indigenous communities, must be integral to any conservation schemes.

7.9. WFFP denounces the increasing influence of ENGOs in fisher peoples' territories. Ocean, water and fisher peoples have the knowledge and wisdom to manage our own territories. Governments and international institutions should support this rather than undermining it by handing over authority to distant actors. Governments must invest in legitimate international bodies like the UNHRC and FAO, rather than letting private finance shape agendas for action. We demand accountability from our legitimate governments in all national and international processes rather than covert governance by corporations, ENGOs, and other private sector actors.

WFFP will:

7.10. Continue to advocate, at national and international levels, against fortress conservation, exclusionary MPAs, and top-down measures, and for people-centred management focused on defending the knowledge, rights and territories of ocean and water peoples.

7.11. Produce accessible materials and launch a global campaign against 30x30.

8. Debt-for-nature swaps

8.1. In recent years, the world's largest conservation organisation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), has concluded a series of "debt-for-nature swaps" in the Seychelles, Belize, Ecuador and Barbados, and is in the process of negotiating agreements in additional countries including Indonesia, South Africa, Namibia and Angola. These deals come with conditionalities for the indebted nations and are intended to expand the 30x30 agenda, Blue Carbon projects, fisheries privatisation reforms and Marine Spatial Planning.

8.2. Debt-swaps are negotiated behind closed doors and the public only get to know the conditionalities after they are signed off. In this way, public debate is bypassed, blatantly undermining democracy and completely excluding fisher peoples from having a say over how to control their own territories and resources. While The Nature Conservancy is the biggest player among the international conservation organisations today, others are following the same trajectory.

WFFP will:

8.3. WFFP rejects debt-for-nature swaps and denounces the eco-fascist conservation organisations and other consultancy and finance corporations behind this new wave of debt-restructuring deals.

8.4. WFFP insists on the abolition of illegitimate sovereign debt.

8.5. WFFP will collaborate with allies to do more analysis and documentation on the debt-for-nature swaps with the aim of informing all our members about the

threats of these deals and mobilising forces in efforts to block any new deal from being concluded.

9. The UN Ocean Conference

9.1. The third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) in 2025, hosted by Costa Rica and France, operates through an undemocratic governance structure based on 'equal partnership' between corporations, states, and environmental NGOs. This idea has gained momentum since the adoption of the Agenda 21 in 1992 in Brazil, which stated that: "Governments, business and industry, including transnational corporations, should strengthen partnerships to implement the principles and criteria for sustainable development". This form of governance contrasts sharply with the democratic UN bodies such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on World Food Security and the UN Human Rights Council where governments set the agenda, lead negotiations and take decisions without direct corporate involvement. Instead, UNOC resembles a World Economic Forum-style venue where CEOs, international conservation NGOs and donors control both the agenda, terms of reference, and speakers.

9.2. The main outcomes of the UNOC include a non-binding conference statement and a torrent of voluntary commitments by the participating actors, for which the UN has admitted there is no systematic monitoring and follow up. It reinforces consensus on SDG14, 'blue foods' and industrial aquaculture, the 'sustainable blue economy' and the Global Biodiversity Framework. Furthermore, the UNOC serves as a space for CEOs and senior officers of transnational corporations to meet with governmental officials and ministers in pursue of new business deals.

9.3. As fisher peoples we have been invited to participate in the previous two UN Ocean Conference on the terms and agenda set by the organisers. However, at the UNOC we are not free to raise our own issues and concerns. Many actors - including governments, UN bodies, philanthropic donors and international conservation NGOs- have their own interests in inviting our fisher peoples to participate. For some, this comes down to a belief in the rhetoric of 'participation' without any analysis of power imbalances, who sets the agendas and who gets to decide and what is decided upon? For others, it is a matter of ticking the participation box and "ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels" as spelled out in SDG 16.

9.4. Social movements - representing peoples of different sectors, countries and regions - are divided on the choice of tactics on how to engage or disengage the UNOCs and similar spaces. The fact that some movement representatives are 'cherry picked' and offered resources to participate, and in some instances offered a 'seat' at so-called high-level interventions, is leading to divisions and tensions between and within movements. These 'divide-and-conquer' tactics are part of the parcel when influential actors invite fishers to participate in the UNOC.

9.5. Based on analysis similar to the above and the view that participation merely serve to legitimize the undemocratic UNOC, WFFP boycotted the UNOC

in 2017 and organised a counter event to the 2022 UNOC (Conference of the Ocean People, <http://blueeconomytribunal.org/c-op-home/>).

WFFP will:

9.6. Organise a counter event to the UNOC in France, 2025, building on experiences and lessons of the counter event in 2022.

9.7. Recognizing diverse member perspectives on UNOC engagement/disengagement, WFFP's Coordinating Committee will issue a strong political statement asserting our WFFP position and participation strategy as a global movement of fisher peoples.

10. Criminalisation, militarisation and violence:

10.1. Our fisher peoples are subjected to violence, criminalisation and militarisation. Many of our fishing communities are being excluded from our traditional territories and denied our customary rights. When we resist or defend our rights, we are often subject to violence perpetrated by the police, military and paramilitary forces, private and corporate security organisations. In many places they also face violence from illegal gangs, narco-traffickers and violent agents of corrupt corporations. Women are additionally subject to gender-based violence, and people on the move due to forced or economic migration or climate disasters may be especially vulnerable. Additionally, many fisher peoples are "caught in the crossfire" of armed conflicts in their traditional fishing territories, while dealing with the devastating social impacts of increasing militarisation, judicialization, and incarceration of fisher peoples.

10.2. WFFP denounces all criminalisation of fisher peoples, including that associated with top-down conservation areas and MPAs, industrial aquaculture, coastal privatisation linked to tourism, exclusive economic zones, and extractive industries.

10.3. WFFP denounces increasing militarisation which threatens the lives of our fisher peoples in border regions and conflict zones, subjecting them to violence, with evidence of shootings, unfair arrests and growing rates of imprisonment without trial when trying to access our traditional fishing grounds and commercialise our catches. We denounce the increasing militarisation of the West Philippines Sea, which exposes our fisher peoples to unnecessary violence and risks.

10.4. We call on governments of the world to ensure that their police forces and militaries recognise their primary obligation to protect human rights, not corporate property, and undertake to protect our fisher peoples, our fishing communities, and fishing gears and tools, rather than persecuting or criminalising us. Governments must comply with international human rights obligations, including the right to freedom from arbitrary detention.

10.5. We support the right to self-determination of all peoples living under occupation.

10.6. We denounce all gender-based violence and violence against our women, including Indigenous women who are disproportionately affected by militarised and private violence. We denounce the femicide, disappearance and harassment of Indigenous women.

WFFP will:

10.7. WFFP will continue to engage with the UN Human Rights Council, including UN Special Rapporteurs on relevant topics, in order to more effectively denounce, demand the investigation, and draw attention to violations of the human rights of our fisher peoples.

10.8. WFFP will continue to investigate, document and denounce all violence and criminalisation against fisher peoples. WFFP will make use of Ocean, Water and Fisher Peoples' Tribunals, as well as other ways of investigation and documentation, to seek justice and counter the ongoing militarisation, criminalisation, and judicialisation of our fisher peoples.

11. Palestine

11.1. We the fisher peoples of the world united in WFFP are appalled by the ongoing genocide against our fellow fisher peoples in Gaza and the Palestinian population as a whole. We recognise that food sovereignty and the right to self-determination are closely interlinked. We, who make a living from the river to the sea, recognise the Palestinians in Gaza are not in need of words, they are in need of action by those who still believe in equality and freedom for all. They are not in need of our sympathy but in need for real transnational solidarity rooted in our joint struggle for humanity and justice to end the genocide and let Gaza and its people live.

WFFP will:

11.2. Condemn the genocide on the Palestinian people and urge for an end to it in all platforms of WFFP action.

11.3. Support to work towards full accountability for the perpetrators of these heinous crimes under international law.

11.4. Support the Palestinians and their right to self-determination for an independent State of Palestine.

11.5. Support the reconstruction and rebuilding of Gaza through direct support to WFFP member and Gaza fisherfolk.

11.6. Refuse the single dominant hegemonic narrative and support all efforts to raise awareness of Palestine, its people and their story.

12. Ocean, Water, and Fisher Peoples tribunals

12.1. The waves of mobilisation driven by the Ocean, Water, and Fish Peoples tribunals, which have taken place in Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, and recently in South Africa, are powerful forums of justice organised by members of the WFFP to witness and document the testimonies and experiences of human rights abuses faced by our traditional fishing communities. The tribunals are used by members of the WFFP to demand political actions, raise awareness of threats, and build domestic, regional and international solidarity to demand the protection of the rights of fisher peoples.

12.2. Although the Ocean, Water, and Fish Peoples tribunals verdicts are not legally binding, they have played a political and symbolic role denouncing the failure of states and international human right bodies in securing access to justice and the protection of the rights of traditional fishing communities. From a focus on the blue economy in the Indian Ocean, to a permanent popular tribunal on the ocean economy and the peoples of the waters in Brazil, and a fisher peoples' tribunal in South Africa; each of the Ocean, Water, and Fish Peoples tribunals involved massive mobilisations. The tribunals emerged as a platform to counter dominant narratives that minimise the struggles faced by fisher peoples, and ensure that fisher peoples' voices and articulations were at the heart of the discussions in the hearings, jury deliberations, and associated post-tribunal events. The tribunals revealed shared struggles, weaving nets of solidarity as well as amplifying political discussions and debates within the movement on key political strategies. A Report on the main findings, developed by WFFP and TNI, has already served as a powerful advocacy tool, used during the 2024 Small-Scale Fisheries Summit & COFI meeting.

WFFP will:

12.3. WFFP, with allies and supporters, will develop a methodology report to offer guidance and support to other member organisations interested in continuing the process of organising tribunals in their own regions and countries.

12.4. WFFP encourages all members to make use of the Tribunal Report, which has already been translated to English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, in advocacy spaces where this is relevant, to highlight the human rights violations and other issues foregrounded by the report. This resource is made freely available to all members to adapt, print and distribute as they see fit.

12.5. The WFFP will campaign and mobilise for an International Ocean, Water, and Fish Peoples Tribunal within the framework of the next WFFP General Assembly, seeking to globally dignify and demand a halt on the destruction, violence and the protection of fisher peoples' identities, territories and ways of living.

13. Political Formation

13.1. WFFP, as a transnational fisher movement, brings together fisher peoples from all cultures and regions to build political power and defend our rights, our territories, our lives and our livelihoods. This is complicated political work which

requires confronting entrenched power structures and rapidly evolving political dynamics at the local, national and international level. Therefore, there is an important need for ongoing processes of political formation and education within and between WFFP members, mutually strengthening our analysis, understanding and practices and ensuring inter-generational and inter-regional exchange.

WFFP will

13.2. Ensure that participation in the Coordination Committee (CC) offers the opportunity for CC members to continue developing their political expertise and skills through targeted trainings and political formation.

13.3. Continue to develop spaces of inter-regional and inter-generational exchange including webinars, trainings and in-person meetings.

13.4. Together with key allies, continue to develop accessible publications on key topics of political relevance such as many of those mentioned in these resolutions.

13.5. The CC will establish a working group on political formation, with strong participation from youth delegates, in order to identify opportunities and priorities for political formation or training.

14. Indigenous Peoples

14.1. The WFFP recognizes the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) which includes all Indigenous Fishers around the world and commits to not replicating the same imperialist structures that exist within the institutions that our movements are up against. Today there are institutions and organisations that use Indigenous Peoples as their 'poster child' for their false solutions to the climate crisis to get funding and resources, claiming these are intended for Indigenous communities. The reality is that all too often these resources gathered in the name of Indigenous Peoples rarely trickle down to Indigenous communities or help reduce our suffering. Instead, in reality Indigenous Peoples are harmed even more because it delays real solutions and real leadership from Indigenous Peoples in spaces where our futures are being discussed without us.

14.2. The WFFP recognizes that our Indigenous Peoples suffer the most under capitalism and imperialism. Governments have separated the land from the sea through policy reforms and development projects, yet Indigenous Peoples have coexisted with nature and protection of our ecosystems since time immemorial. For Indigenous Peoples the land and the sea are intricately connected, not surprisingly the Indigenous territories often encompass the highest levels of biodiversity worldwide.

14.3. Today, Indigenous Peoples are becoming 'conservation refugees,' displaced from their own land and fishing grounds in the name of conservation by people, organizations, and corporations that claim to care about the environment and see Indigenous Peoples as separate from the environment.

This is completely unacceptable and we reject false solutions like 'Blue Bonds' and the '30x30' agenda. As emphasised in resolution 7.7, Indigenous Peoples bring forward their own proposals for nature conservation. These should be recognised as supported as real solutions.

WFFP will:

14.4. WFFP stands behind Indigenous Peoples in holding institutions accountable for their commitments to our Indigenous Fishers, including demanding for Indigenous Peoples to be involved in decision making in fisheries regulatory bodies (nationally and internationally) and asking for financial reparations.

14.5. WFFP will ensure the involvement and participation of our Indigenous Peoples in decision making within our movement. Indigenous Peoples knowledge and fishing practices are at the core of the vision for our collective future.

14.6. WFFP commits to bringing Indigenous knowledge-based education to the youth and its membership so that this inherent understanding of the interconnectedness between species and ecosystems remains strong for generations to come. The passing on of knowledge and wisdom from elders to our youth is central in the fight against the erasure of Indigenous knowledge and the protection of our oceans, inland waters, coasts, and mangroves. Indigenous Peoples are our conservation experts and are best equipped to lead and implement climate mitigation strategies informed by Traditional Ecological Knowledges and their ancestral and ongoing connection to waters, places, and species in their traditional territories.

15. Inland Fishing

15.1. Rivers, the lifeblood of ecosystems and communities, are under relentless assault. Over half of the world's rivers now face declining water levels and sixteen major rivers are drying up due to climate change, pollution, dam construction, interlinking of rivers, aquaculture, and unchecked industrial activities.

15.2. Lakes are under similar threats but also experience rising water temperatures which severely and negatively affects aquatic life. Many lakes experience dropping water levels whereas others, such as lake Turkana in Kenya, experience periodic drastic rises in water levels.

15.3. Rivers and lakes are intrinsically connected to the sea. The destruction of rivers also negatively affects estuarine and coastal ecosystems, with devastating sociocultural impacts that threaten our traditional fishing ways of life. Adding to this is the grabbing and leasing of our inland waters for industrial aquaculture, dam construction, among other initiatives that destroy and pollute our fishing territories, displacing our fishing peoples. Pollution carried from the upstream, kills marine life and prevents reproduction of many fish and shell-fish species. The construction of dams prevents fish from – e.g. Salmon – from migrating and reproducing.

15.4. The catastrophic degradation of rivers and lakes is driving biodiversity loss, displacing our fishing communities, and threatening our lives and the livelihoods of hundreds of million inland fisher peoples dependent on these waters.

15.5. Governments worldwide prioritize the Blue Economy, favouring corporate and private interests over community livelihoods. Across the globe, rivers and lakes have been privatised or diverted, displacing countless of our fisher peoples while silencing their voices.

15.6. The role of women in inland fishing, including in fish processing and trade, is increasingly compromised as fish resources are dwindling and inland territories are appropriated by corporations, private actors, and governments to give way for so-called economic development. The construction of roads, dams, wind farms and other infrastructure projects are some of the main drivers of expropriation of millions of people under the banner of a sustainable Blue Economy.

15.7. We reiterate our opposition to the Blue Economy and similar terms which continuously undermine our human rights. We resist this Blue Washing.

WFFP will:

15.8. Inland fisheries must be explicitly acknowledged in national and international frameworks, ensuring their inclusion in policies, addressing food sovereignty, climate adaptation, and ecological restoration. The WFFP will give priority to inland fishing in its engagement intergovernmental spaces and processes, including UN bodies, and with a particular emphasis on climate change.

15.9. WFFP will advocate for sustainable, community-based resource management and advance community-led restoration initiatives such as mangrove reforestation, ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration of our social and cultural rights.

15.10. Strengthen inland fisher peoples through capacity building, grassroots mobilisation, and advocacy for local governance with emphasis on recognising and supporting the critical role of women in the production and reproduction of inland fisheries and ways of life.

15.11. Hold governments and corporations accountable for pollution, habitat destruction, and community displacement. Demand compliance with human rights obligations and reparations for affected communities.

15.12. WFFP will strengthen the Inland Fisheries Working Group to enhance coordination, facilitate knowledge sharing, and advocate for meaningful policy reforms. Together with key allies, WFFP will conduct robust research on inland fisheries, emphasizing the collection and documentation of WFFP's own data and narratives. A study of laws that protect nature and inland fisheries should also be conducted. In the context of climate change, our traditional inland

fisheries knowledge should be integrated into fisheries policies at all levels. The Inland Fisheries Working Group will be coordinated by an inland fisher member.

16. Youth Assembly 16.1. Fisher peoples youths are excluded from leadership roles and decision-making processes within the community and also outside the fisheries sector. This exclusion silences our perspectives and leaves critical issues unaddressed.

16.2. The struggles and socio-cultural stigmas associated with fishing have driven many of our young fisher peoples to transition to precarious job opportunities away from their fishing territories, often leading to migration to urban areas or to other countries, making us migrants not by our choice. This migration is threatening our heritage and culture, diminishing the work and knowledge base within communities, threatening their long-term viability. Our youths are facing major challenges associated with the loss of traditional ways of life, which is leading to mental health issues, increased substance abuse and violence with uneven impacts on girls and women. The lack of economic incentives and social support for our fisher peoples' youth in fishing exacerbates this.

WFFP will:

16.3. It is in this context the Youth Assembly of WFFP have agreed on the importance of forming a WFFP Youth Working Group (YWG). To operationalise the YWG, a coordination group consisting of one youth for each of the four WFFP regions will be formed. The Youth Assembly will propose names for the representatives to the coordination group of the YWG.

16.4. Conduct training for youth fisher peoples on the use of human rights instruments tools like the SSF Guidelines, UNDROP and other UN mechanisms to advance youth struggles in fishing communities.

16.5. Develop political education schools to strengthen collective political understanding and action among our fisher peoples' youth in the fisheries sector. School curriculum should include topics addressing fisheries, aquaculture and other themes addressed in these resolutions.

16.6. Provide training in critical areas such as safety at sea and legal rights, in collaboration with fisher organisations and other institutions.

16.7. Advocate for the inclusion of traditional fishing in school curricula, similar to agriculture, to highlight its importance and inspire interest among students and our new generations of fisher peoples.

16.8. Educate our fisher peoples youth and their families about the power and significance of customary tenure rights to ensure their reclaiming, protection and understanding.

16.9. Organise workshops that use art, such as drawing, songwriting, poetry, and dance, to connect our youth with fishing and allow them to express their experiences, struggles, and aspirations.

16.10. Explore and use technologies that can strengthen local markets, making fishing ways of life more sustainable and viable livelihood for our younger generations of fisher peoples.

16.11. Identify and share success stories from fishing communities to inspire and motivate younger generations through documentation and knowledge exchanges among fisher peoples' youth as well as intergenerational exchanges and mentorship.

16.12. WFFP will amend its constitution to ensure the inclusion of a minimum of two of our youth representatives on the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee will form a committee to propose amendment to the constitution to address this matter and table the amended constitution for endorsement at the 9th General Assembly. The committee should include a minimum of one youth representatives nominated by the YWG.

16.13. The WFFP Coordinating Committee to will thrive at ensuring sufficient resources are allocated to the YWG in order to implement the above actions.

17. Women Assembly

17.1. Fisher women, women shell-fish collectors and gatherers play a historic role in the protection, reproduction and caring of fishing ways of life, and have undergone historical and ongoing forms of oppression, which intersect with racialised, cast-based, ageist, ableist forms of oppression. We believe in the union of women of diverse fishing cultures and ways of life to lead the way to empowering our traditional fishing communities.

17.2. WFFP calls on our governments to protect the dignity and rights of fisherwomen, women shell-fish collectors and gatherers everywhere, including the right to education and social security – health, pension, caring, disability support. Women's rights are fishers peoples' rights, and human rights.

17.3. WFFP asserts that 'Fisherwomen', 'women fish gatherers', 'seafood collectors' are core parts of our global movement, and aims to ensure that their identities and struggles are recognised and included in all the communications, and to guarantee the use of gender-inclusive language.

17.4. WFFP and its member organisations reject all forms of gendered violence and discrimination within and beyond our communities. We aim to recognise and support fisherwomen representatives fighting against patriarchy and mobilising food sovereignty within our communities, fisher organisations, the fisher movement, and in any regional and global forums.

WFFP will:

17.5. WFFP affirms the vital importance of guaranteeing the safety of, and respect for women representatives in all WFFP spaces and will strive to realise

the principle of equal representation at all levels of decision-making within WFFP and its member organisations.

17.6. WFFP will continue to support the Women's Assembly; will ensure the Women's Assembly will take place at each and every General Assembly and will support the organisation of Fisher Women's Assemblies across all the Regional Fora.

17.7. WFFP declares November 5th as the International Day of Fisherwomen and will convene action campaigns in celebration of this day every year.

17.8. WFFP, with the leadership of the Women's WG, will initiate a global campaign in the lines of 'Reclaiming the Waters, Reimagining Earth Future' - a programmatic and outreach programme for all member countries that will challenge the various blue economy projects, oil and gas, thermal projects, coast and ocean mining projects.

17.9. WFFP commits to combating gendered violence within and beyond the movement by development and implementation of a gender equality policy and strategy against women discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse.

17.10. WFFP affirms its commitment to women struggles and popular feminist fisher feminisms as central to food sovereignty, recognising that there is no liberation of fisher peoples without the liberation of fisherwomen!

18. Nyéléni Global Gathering

18.1. The International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty is a coalition of global food sovereignty movements representing more than 300,000 people organisations globally. WFFP is one of the leading global movements within the IPC, and has participated actively in its coordination for two decades. In 2019 the IPC, with participation from WFFP, initiated a process towards a new Nyéléni Global Gathering, which will take place in September 2025 and which will provide a space to build alliances and convergences across global movements, including feminist, anti-racist, peoples' health, climate justice, debt abolition and other key global movements. This process provides the opportunity for global grassroots movements to build their collective power and articulate common strategies and goals.

WFFP will:

18.2. Participate actively in the Nyéléni Process, including nominating delegates to participate in the Nyéléni Global Gathering; participating in the Global Steering Committee; and participating in Nyéléni Working Groups as appropriate.

18.3. Seek opportunities in the Nyéléni space and process to build new alliances, coalitions, and collective work plans with aligned international movements at the national, regional and international level.

18.4. Ensure that delegates who participate in the Nyéléni Global Gathering share insights gained in that space within WFFP, so that the whole organisation and its members can benefit from the process, and so that appropriate follow-up actions can be discussed.

19. International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) and the UN Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines

19.1. IPC is an autonomous and self-organised global platform of small-scale food producers and rural workers organisations and grassroots/community-based social movements whose goal is to advance the Food Sovereignty agenda at the global and regional level. WFFP is one of the active and prominent members of the IPC and serves on its Facilitating Committee and Fisheries Committee. IP represents more than 6000 organizations and 300 millions of small-scale food producers, who share the principles and the 6 pillars of Food Sovereignty as outlined in the Nyeleni 2007 Declaration.

19.2. The IPC Fisheries working group consists of representatives from WFFP, International Indian Treaty Council, La via Campesina and the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers. Through this platform we engage in dialogue and debate with governmental and intergovernmental officials within the UN FAO and the UN Committee on Fisheries on the process of implementing the SSF Guidelines and more. Through IPC, we have succeeded in building relations with officials within the UN FAO who continue to support our work.

19.3. IPC has formed regional structures (Latin American and the Caribbean; Africa; and Asia-Pacific) on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. We serve on these regional structures called the Regional Advisory Groups.

19.4. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean is a regional fisheries management organization connected to the FAO. With 22 member countries and the EU, its main objective is to ensure sustainable management of marine living resources in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea. WFFP does not yet serve on the GFCM.

19.5. The SSF Guidelines were endorsed in 2014. While not yet implemented – as a global study in 2022 concluded – the SSF Guidelines are used as an instrument to engage in the bi-annual COFI sessions and to engage with FAO officials and the COFI Bureau in the inter-sessional periods (between the COFI session). Together with the UN Human Rights Council (resolution 20) and CSIPM (resolution 21), the COFI and FAO resembles democratically structured UN bodies and it is crucial for WFFP to continue working with and within these particular UN bodies.

WFFP will:

19.6. As part of IPC fisheries, engage in the inter-sessional period to ensure our issues and priorities are considered in the setting of the agenda for the next COFI session.

19.7. Nominate two representatives from Europe to serve and represent WFFP on the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.

19.8. Conduct information sharing and training sessions to understand the procedures and structures of the FAO and COFI. This applies for both the WFFP representatives to the IPC as well as the entire member base.

19.9. 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, inland and Indigenous fisheries, in ways that link up efforts among WFFP members. 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.

19.10. WFFP members should continue to conduct national level assessment of the implementation of the SSF guidelines. This work should be supported and coordinated by the regional IPC fisheries bodies.

20. UN Human Rights Council and the Peasants Rights Declaration

20.1. WFFP has nominated two representatives to engage with the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR) to ensure we participate in the Inter-governmental Sessions of the UNHCR.

19.2. The Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and People who Work in Rural Areas (UNDROP) was endorsed by the UNHCR in 2019. WFFP play an instrumental role in ensuring fisher peoples participated in the process of developing this declaration together with La Vía Campesina, who initiated the process over a decade ago. The declaration sets out to protect the rights of peasants, fisher peoples, farmers, pastoralists and other constituencies.

19.3. WFFP has also successfully engaged with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and contributed with inputs to the first ever UN report on fisheries developed and presented by the special rapporteur to the UNHRC.

We will:

19.4. Continue to engage with the UN Special Rapporteurs as a means to put our issues at the agenda of the UNHCR.

19.5. Continue to engage in the UNHCR processes, including special procedures and treaty bodies as a means to put fisher peoples' issues at the centre the human rights global governance processes.

19.6. We will continue to plan and convene side events at the UNHCR sessions together with FIAN International and other allies.

21. Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism

21.1. 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 and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM) 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 will:

21.2. Continue to take active part in the CFS sessions and coordinate the fisherfolk constituency to engage in the CSIPM and CFS processes.

21.3. Take a proactive role in the CFS process of developing a new CFS fisheries policy. The Process is set to start at the CFS session in 2027, but the preparatory work starts already next year. WFFP will use this opportunity to pursue its one agenda and positions, and to counter the influence of the influence of private sector actors who will also be part of the process.

22. ESCR Net

22.1. 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.

WFFP will:

22.2. Direct member organisations to engage with various campaigns based on working groups of ESCR-Net.

22.3. Promote WFFP Member organisations to take the membership of ESCR-Net.

23. Farmers' Forum [FAFO]

23.1. 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 organisations 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 regionalisation. 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.

WFFP will:

23.2. Direct WFFP member organizations to attend and represent WFFP's political agenda at the IFAD regional/ continental for of FAFO.