

# Fisheries Subsidies: State of Play and Where to Next?

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# Introduction

- World capture fisheries in marine waters stood at 80.4 million tonnes in 2019. Of the top seven fishing countries, five are from developing countries (China, Indonesia, India, Peru and Viet Nam) (FAO 2019)
- Share of developing countries in total fishery exports was about 54% by value and 61% by quantity (FAO 2019)
- Global marine fish production has already peaked in 1996 (96.4 million tonnes)

# Low income, resource-poor and livelihood fishing

- Low income, resource-poor and livelihood fishing takes place not only in internal waters and territorial waters but also in the EEZ, therefore, the 'peace clause' under Articles 3.8, 4.4 and 5.4 (b) (ii) should apply to the EEZ as well
- The scope of low income, resource-poor and livelihood fishing should include only non-towed fishing gear and practices, especially in association with fishing vessels less than 12 m in length overall, and exclude destructive bottom trawlers in particular, regardless of size
- After a transition period, all types of fishing, including low income, resource-poor and livelihood fishing, need to adopt measures towards conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources

# Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and Fisheries Conservation and Management

- Welcome the draft text Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies from the Chair WT/MIN(21)/W/S which appears to be fairly balanced
- Need for a universal approach on fisheries subsidies to promote conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources
- Sovereign rights of the coastal States to explore and exploit living marine resources to be matched with the sovereign rights to conserve and manage these resources for present and future generations
- There are worrying signs of overfishing and it is high time “to reverse the global trend of overfished stocks” (Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General, SOFIA 2020)

Thank you