



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

UN Ocean Conference

Interactive Dialogue 5

Promoting and Strengthening Sustainable Ocean Based Economies, in particular for SIDS and Least Developed Countries

FAO Statement
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10:00-13:00

Tejo Hall, Altice Arena, Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Co-Chairs, Excellencies.

1. Thank you for giving FAO the floor.
2. For SIDS/LDC countries, proteins from aquatic foods are vital. In Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and some SIDS, aquatic foods contribute 50% or more of their total animal protein intake.
3. FAO's programmes help ensure this contribution is not lost or degraded and all countries can achieve the 2030 Agenda.
4. This includes support for the SAMOA Pathway through the FAO Global Action Programme for Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS; the biennial SIDS Solutions Forum: the FAO Hand-in Hand Initiative; and our Blue Transformation strategy.
5. A good example of this support is the FISH4ACP programme, a 47 EUR million value chain improvement project active in 12 SIDS/LDCs that upgrades fish value chains to improve the social, economic and environmental outcomes of aquatic food systems.
6. In Cabo Verde and other SIDS we provide support to strengthen their capabilities in addressing the effects of climate change in key sectors of the Ocean Economy.
7. FAO looks forward to actively participating in the implementation of the newly approved Doha Programme of Action for LDCs as well as the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs.
8. SDG 14 is crucial to these programmes, given its accent on food security and building opportunities to move towards a sustainable, resilient, ocean-based economy.

9. FAO promotes increased capacities to trade aquatic foods, highly important to SIDS where aquatic food exports comprise a large proportion of GDP. We congratulate the WTO on achieving a long awaited agreement on fishing subsidies.
10. As my sister Director General Okonjo-Iweala highlighted, FAO is prepared to support the implementation of the agreement and we look forward to working with all you here today.
11. In these programmes we must not forget the need to support the small-scale fishing and fish farming communities, in SIDS and LDC and ensure that benefits from sustainable aquatic foods are distributed equitably among producers, workers and consumers.
12. This week we are sharing with you some of our success stories. Now it is time to scale up these impacts and work together to ensure that opportunities from a sustainable ocean economy are achieved, so we can deliver SDG 14 in SIDS/LDCs and beyond.