

June 28, 2022

Oral Statement – Interactive Dialogue 5: Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

Dear chair, distinguished delegates,

I would first like to thank the governments of Portugal and Kenya for hosting this important Conference and the organizers of this dialogue for providing the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) with the opportunity to make a statement.

GSSI is a public-private partnership working together to achieve more sustainable seafood for everyone. Our core objective is to operationalize internationally negotiated instruments, as such promoting alignment between businesses, NGOs, governments, and international organizations to accelerate sustainability and the implementation of the UN SDGs. Successful examples of this are our benchmark tools for environmental seafood certification and social compliance schemes.

Providing pathways for continuous improvement and bridging the gap between the seafood industry and small-scale operators - who often lack the means, resources, and incentives they need to thrive - has never been more critical than it is today. To support this, GSSI is co-creating Seafood MAP with more than 100 stakeholders globally and with the support of the UN FAO and UNIDO. Through a powerful combination of storytelling and measuring impact against the SDGs, Seafood MAP is a digital platform that provides new ways for producers all over the world to learn, connect to markets, find technology solutions, and understand investment opportunities. Seafood MAP has the power to mobilize dynamic public-private collaboration to achieve the UN SDGs and transform the way the world connects and thinks about seafood sustainability.

In addition, in celebration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, this week The Lexicon and GSSI, with the support of the FAO, announced a global storytelling initiative called 'A Greener Blue'. A Greener Blue uses human stories to shine a light on the diversity of people working to improve a foundational aspect of our global food systems. The stories captured in this initiative will later be integrated into Seafood MAP, harnessing the visibility of smallholders and providing a tangible tool to help deliver the vision of IYAFA.

Thank you.

Eva Margrete Mudde
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