



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

A call to Action from artisanal fishing communities, essential users of the oceans

28 June 2022, 9 :30, Tejo Restaurant, Oceanário de Lisboa

Organized by: Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA), CoopeSoliDar, African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Professional Organizations (CAOPA), ICCA Consortium, Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (LMMA), Blue Ventures.

Background

During this breakfast meeting, twenty men and women living from small scale fishing in Africa, Indonesia, Central and South America, Pacific and Europe shared their common perspective on challenges and priorities for establishing sustainable small-scale fisheries and resilient coastal communities. The event was attended by 120 participants, including Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson, Ghana Minister of Fisheries, and H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary-General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and his team.

Key Issues discussed

Small-scale fishers (SSF) are the most numerous ocean users, and their major contributions to livelihoods, employment, food security and revenue, stand in contrast to their marginalisation in decision-making. To ensure healthy and resilient fishing communities, SSF require secure and preferential access to healthy oceans and ecosystems to effectively play their key roles as guardians of the ocean and contributors to food security and nutrition.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.b calls on states to secure access to marine resources and markets for small-scale fisheries. SSF demand that governments address the lack of science based, transparent, participative fisheries management and threats posed by pollution, competition for space and resources by other blue economy industries, and to invest in long-term resource management, ecosystems restoration and innovations introduced by women and men from fishing communities. Action is urgently required to address the following key

challenges to ensure that small-scale fisheries are protected and restored, and that they continue contributing to economies, health, culture and wellbeing.

Recommendations for action

To build resilient small-scale fishing communities by developing national strategic plans to implement the following actions by 2030. These plans must be adequately funded and guided by the FAO Guidelines to Secure Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and other relevant regional policies.

- Urgently secure preferential access and co-manage 100% of coastal areas
- Guarantee the participation of women and support their role in innovation
- Protect SSF from competing blue economy sectors
- Be transparent and accountable in fisheries management
- Build resilient communities to face climate change and offer prospects to youth

For more details on the issues discussed and recommendations:

<https://www.cffacape.org/ssf-call-to-action>