

BRIEFING FOR THE MEETING OF THE 2015 AGENDA INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION ON THE SDGs, NEW YORK, 23-27 MARCH, 2015

OBJECTIVE 14: OCEANS – INDICATORS PROPOSED BY FUNDACIÓN LONXANET FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHING

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Target 14.1 (Pollution):

Indicator 14.1.1: Add concentrations of chlorinated pesticides and heavy metals in seafood with the aim of their minimization.

Indicator 14.1.2: Replace plastics “entering the ocean” (difficult to measure), by “concentration of plastics y micro-plastics in water and fauna”.

Target 14.2 (Ecosystem management):

Indicator 14.2.1: We regret the absence of reference to areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Indicator 14.2.2: Should not be restricted to the Ocean Health Index which is not robust enough; our preference goes for action-oriented indicators (i.e. the level of good governance in marine ecosystem management).

Target 3 (Acidification):

Indicator 14.3.1: It is important to clarify that this indicator should be developed in collaboration with communities whose livelihoods and economies are dependent upon the affected ecosystems, with and by experts so that time scales and references be taken into account.

Indicator 14.3.2: In order to be more precise and practical we suggest “monitoring of the state and health of coral reefs and other affected marine species”.

Target 4 (Fishing):

Indicator 14.4.1: We are surprised by the absence of action against IUU and destructive fishing, which are however included in Target 4. A robust indicator could be the number of countries having ratified and implemented the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).

Indicator 14.4.2: To be practical and in line with contemporary concepts, we propose “capacity building for monitoring and management of fisheries from an ecosystemic approach”.

Target 5 (Marine Protected Areas):

Indicator 14.5.1: We are missing a reference to the different types of MPAs. We especially value those that follow co-management models to empower artisanal fishers and facilitate their sharing of responsibilities with public administrations.

Indicator 14.5.2: It would be useful to distinguish MPAs within Exclusive Economic Zones from within the high seas (ABNJ).

Target 6 (Subsidies):

Indicators 14.6.1 and 14.6.2: The issue of subsidies is of great concern for artisanal fishers because it can distort future fishing opportunities and markets. But what is proposed by the Statistical Commission is confusing. We believe it is important to make reference to the need to extreme transparency in this area, and to distinguish between different types of subsidies. The document on indicators should recognize that subsidies for good practices and research are useful and beneficial, and that those contributing to overcapacity and overfishing are disastrous.

Target 7 (SIDS and LDCs)

Indicators 14.7.1 and 14.7.2: The fact that artisanal fishing is of paramount importance to Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is well known to all. We would like to express our acknowledgement and gratitude for the leadership of these countries in creating Marine Protected Areas. As part of the indicators, it would be good to encourage the replication of the decision of the Republic of Palau to prohibit industrial fishing within its jurisdictional waters.

Target/Mean of Implementation 14.a (Science and research)

Indicator 14.a.2: We find it is important to be precise as to which types of technologies should be encouraged, as not all may support the Objective to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans for sustainable development”, but even sometimes the opposite. In order to improve fisheries science, the support and collaboration of fishers is indispensable.

Target/Mean of Implementation 14b (Artisanal fishing)

Indicator 14b, of special interest for the communities with which the Lonxanet Foundation works. The language proposed does not appear acceptable. To certify a fisheries is expensive and we are a low income sector. We cannot but express our surprise that this certification criteria would apply to us but not to industrial fishing.

Target/Mean of Implementation 14c (International law)

Indicators 14c.1 and 14c.2: Instead of the generalities proposed by the Statistical Commission, it seems to us that reference should be made here to the ratification and implementation of international agreements and instruments relevant to each State, as proposed in the comments issued by the Global Ocean Commission.¹

¹ See: http://www.globaloceancommission.org/wp-content/uploads/GOC_Post2015_Ocean-indicators_final.pdf