



## MEETING OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY GROUP IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

10<sup>TH</sup>-13<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY, THAILAND

### FINAL WORKSHOP'S STATEMENT

Historical injustice of the fisher people continues, although the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014 committed to bring about a positive change by endorsing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). We are aware of the hard time we are living in. The current liberal blue transformation era is hindering any efforts towards the SSF Guidelines implementation process, denying our customary rights over our marine and inland resources.

This is all the more alarming in the light of how Covid-19 pandemic has severely hit small-scale fisher and indigenous communities, whose very survival is at stake, being squeezed by lack of healthcare, loss of work and livelihoods. These emergencies impact us even more, as it comes on top of the already irreparable damage that climate change is causing to water bodies and oceans.

In this context, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and their human-rights based approach is more relevant and urgent than ever. It is for this reason that, the Regional Advisory Group of Asia and the Pacific, represented by members of the World Forum of Fishers People (WFFP), the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) and La Via Campesina (LVC) together with two members of the SSF-GSF Advisory Group and other regional civil society organizations<sup>1</sup>, from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, gather in Ampawa District, Samutsongkram province, in Thailand, from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, to advance and contribute to the SSF People Centered Methodology to assess the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, developed by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty.

The members decide as follows:

- To use the SSF People Centered Methodology to assess the implementation of the Guidelines to enhance the SSF principles through the lens of the UNDROP (2018) and CBD (30 x 30) in

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<sup>1</sup> National Fisheries Solidarity Organization - NAFSO (WFFP) from Sri-Lanka; Serikat Petani Indonesia - SPI (LVC) and Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia - KNTI (WFFP) from Indonesia; Sustainable Development Foundation - SDF (WFFP) from Thailand, East Coast Fish Workers Union - ECFWU (WFF) and National Fishworkers Forum - NFF (WFFP) from India





order to secure and ensure the customary rights of the Fisherfolks, Fisher People, Fish workers and the essential and yet too often neglected contribution of women, over the Fisheries, Land and Forest including Human Rights, Food Sovereignty, Gender Equity and Socioeconomic Fishers' Wellbeing.

- To enhance and shape collectively from the national to the regional level the SSF People Centered Methodology through consultations within IPC movements networks.
- To gather virtually for dissemination workshop on the SSF Guidelines and SSF People Centered Methodology with representatives from the Regional Advisory Group of Asia and the Pacific and broad participation of the IPC's regional civil society networks.
- To draft an action plan to ensure effective implementation of the SSF People Centered Methodology at national level through joint alliance committee of WFFP, WFF and LVC and all the members' constituencies of IPC's civil society networks at the national level.
- To develop SSF Guidelines-Fisher People assessment reports both at national and regional level though the SSF developed People Centered Methodology.

