



## **International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty Working Group on Fisheries Biodiversity**

### MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Esteemed members of the Governmental Delegations, Dear COFI observers,

My intervention is on behalf of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty.

We understand mainstreaming biodiversity is a central approach for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is now working in synergy with FAO and the COFI. However, just as large-scale agriculture threatens local farms, industrial fish farming and aquaculture is impacting our communities' income and wellbeing and is releasing contaminants into our ecosystems.

The promotion of aquaculture has created benefits for a few and damages for many. It has subtracted land and ocean areas to coastal and inland communities dependent on small-scale fishing. It has created new and exacerbated old conflicts over control of and access to coastal and marine resources. It has marginalized coastal communities and displaced them elsewhere, neglecting their customary rights and right to free, prior informed consent and putting their livelihoods, cultures and traditions in danger.

Moreover, the 'monoculture' nature of aquaculture has also dangerous implications for the resilience and adaptability of marine ecosystems we have for centuries protected and sustainably used. The pollution brought by aquaculture activities releases in the water's chemical substances necessary for the survival of cultivated fish but dangerous for wild fish.

Until these conditions are not taken into consideration, the 30x30 land and MPA target will bring dangerous consequences and could be very harmful to biodiversity, deny small-scale fishers' rights, farmers' rights, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples whose human rights need to be upheld when the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework is adopted and implemented.

In order to be effective and equitable, costs and benefits should be fairly distributed. This process includes the recognition of the importance of SSF communities and Indigenous Peoples' customary rights, as well as their rights to participate in the decision-making and management processes.