



International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty Working Group on Fisheries

Addressing climate change in fisheries and aquaculture: reporting on progress and elements for comment on the Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change

Esteemed members of the Governmental Delegations,
Dear COFI observers,

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

The climate crisis and natural disasters have impacted negatively on the full enjoyment of the human rights of small-scale fisheries and Indigenous Peoples, including adequate food and nutrition, housing, decent work, gender equity, and a healthy environment – as contained in the SSF Voluntary Guidelines. There is an urgent need to address the continued increase in emissions and pollution from land-based and maritime sectors

Development paradigms are still ignoring the contribution that small-scale and Indigenous Peoples' fishing practices are generally more sustainable, have a lower carbon footprint and produce more affordable fish for direct human consumption than other food production systems. We, therefore, welcome the repeated efforts to carry out research and data collection activities on a range of issues related to adaptation and mitigation of small-scale fishing people.

However, we call upon governments to carry out impact and damage studies with the direct participation of the affected small-scale fishing communities. These studies should benefit communities, and recognize the role of small-scale fisheries people and Indigenous Peoples as the stewards of coastal and inland ecosystems and biodiversity.

We also call upon COFI members to provide small-scale fishing communities with transparent access to adaptation and mitigation funds, social development projects and legal guarantees in defense of the coastal and inland territories where they operate.