



Recent multilateral policy trends in advancing Trade related aspects of SDG 14

Sustainable Fisheries Team of Specialists

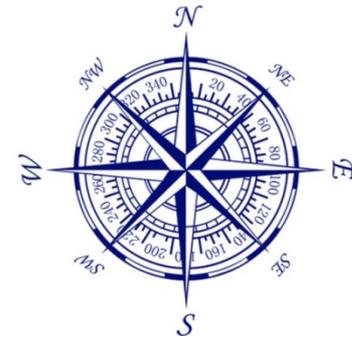
UNECE

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David Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer
Trade, Environment, Climate Change
and Sustainable Development
Branch, DITC UNCTAD

Setting the course



- Trade related aspects of 14 (focus on SDG 14.4, SDG 14.6)
- Main outcomes of the UN Oceans Conference (June 2017) related to the sustainability of fisheries and seafood
- Outcomes of the WTO Ministerial Conference on Fish Subsidies negotiations
- Possible future scenarios and advantages and disadvantages of not having a fish subsidies agreement
- The 2018 UN Oceans Forum (July 2018): seafood value chains



SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources



Trade related targets:

Target 4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce MSY as determined by their biological characteristics

Target 6: By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to (IUU) fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

Target b: Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets



Relevant outcomes relevant seafood certification (Call for Action, 2017)

- Enhance **sustainable fisheries management**, (...) through the implementation of science-based management **measures, monitoring, control and enforcement**, supporting the consumption of fish sourced from sustainably managed fisheries,
- End destructive fishing practices and IUU fishing, addressing their **root causes** and holding actors and beneficiaries accountable by taking appropriate actions, so as to deprive them of benefits of such activities, **and effectively implementing flag State obligations as well as relevant port State obligations**
- Accelerate further work and strengthen cooperation and coordination on the development of **interoperable catch documentation schemes and traceability of fish products**



Relevant outcomes relevant seafood certification (Call for Action, 2017)

- Act decisively to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies to IUU fishing and refrain from introducing new ones, including through accelerating work to complete negotiations at the WTO, recognizing that appropriate and effective S&DT for developing & LDCs should be an integral part of those negotiations
- Strengthen **capacity-building and technical assistance provided to small-scale and artisanal fishers in developing countries**, to enable and enhance their access to marine resources and markets and improve the socioeconomic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management

Voluntary commitments

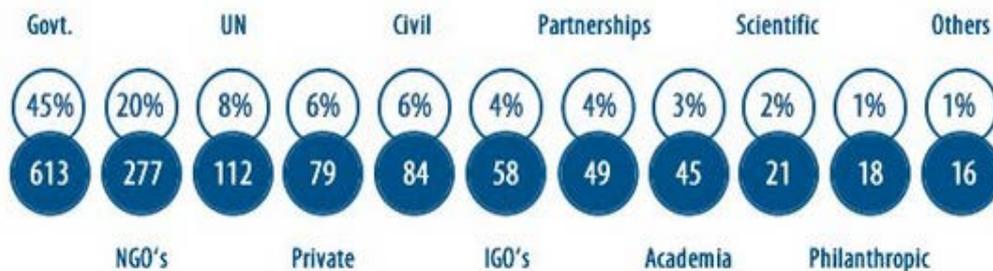
Voluntary Commitments can address multiple targets and ocean basins.

1372 Total Commitments

Ocean Basin Breakdown



Entities



- This number has increased by 100 more commitments since June 2017
- **"Trade"** is mentioned in 90 voluntary commitments (i.e. UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP contribution to support implementation of trade related aspects of SDG 14)
- **"Standards"** are mentioned in 52 voluntary commitments (i.e.. UNECE: Promoting standards for sustainable fisheries management and traceability of fish products on a global scale)



Fisheries subsidies at WTO MC11

WTO Ministerial Decision on Fish Subsidies (Dec 2017):

- **"to continue to engage constructively** in the fisheries subsidies negotiations, with a view to adopting, by the Ministerial Conference in **2019**, an **agreement on comprehensive and effective disciplines"**
- **"to re-commit to existing notification obligations** under Article 25.3 under the WTO Subsidies and Countervailing Duties Agreements

Comments:

- Only a **"procedural"** Ministerial Decision was possible...
- **Links with other issues** affected any possible outcome
- **By 2019** (just before the 2020 target of SDG 14.6). A final deadline for an agreement on fish subsidies disciplines?
- **Comprehensive** (meaning wide-encompassing)
- **Effective** (meaning potentially enforceable under the WTO DSU) disciplines
- Notifications, if actually happen, will increase transparency and trade effects of measures and their operation may be understood



Post WTO MC 11 scenarios

Political scenarios for 2018 on WTO fish subsidies negotiations:

- The first possibility sees **the completion of a binding multilateral agreement by or before 2019 in the WTO**.
 - For that purpose, it would be necessary to convene a WTO "mini-ministerial" meeting by late 2018 and ahead of the next scheduled full ministerial meeting in 2019
- The second possibility could be to **fast-track a plurilateral agreement inside or outside the WTO** (But we need critical mass)
- A third possibility could be the negotiation of a **treaty under the UNCLOS** with the support of UNCTAD, the Food and FAO, UN Environment and DOALOS
- Create a **special review process** within the **UN High Level Political Forum** to review national implementation of SDG 14.4 and SDG 14.6



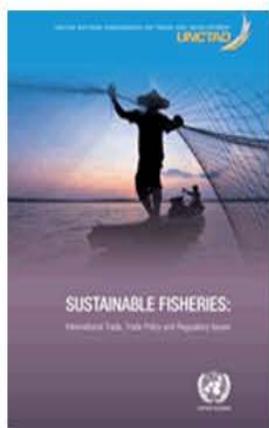
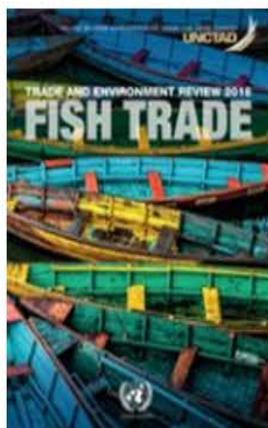
The second United Nations Oceans Forum on trade-related aspects of SDG14 (2018)

- **Theme:** *Enabling sustainable and integrated seafood value chains and related services*
- **Objective:** *Explore options, under the lens of SDG 14, to strengthen the position of developing countries to add value, seize trade opportunities, enable diversification and improve environmental and social sustainability within the seafood value chain and related services*
- **Main issues areas:**
 - *the role of trade in seafood value chains*
 - *Making marine based value chains more sustainable*
 - *Addressing barriers to value chain integration*
 - *The role of transport, port and logistical services in seafood value chains*
- **Place and dates:** Palais de Nations Geneva, 16-17 July 2018



Many thanks

"the only problem with nature is human nature..."



For more information, see: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-and-Environment/Oceans-Economy.aspx>