




## Proposal for a Side Event at the 2023 Review Conference on the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA)

### Title: Part VII of UNFSA and Capacity Building for Sustainable Fisheries

 1:15 to 2:45 PM

 22 May 2023,

 Conference Room E

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The side event will highlight the requirements under Part VII of the Agreement and some examples of important capacity-building efforts which can strengthen fisheries management in line with the requirements of Part VII. It will also highlight synergies with capacity-building undertaken under different instruments, including the Port State Measures Agreement, the new WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and regional instruments. It aims to inform participants about current initiatives and provide a forum to discuss capacity building needs, gaps and opportunities. This event will include brief presentations by the speakers followed by an interactive discussion.

#### BACKGROUND

The United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), as an implementing agreement to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), strengthens the implementation of the legal regime set out in UNCLOS for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. It provides a framework for cooperation in the conservation and management of those resources and promotes good order in the oceans through the effective management and conservation of high seas fisheries. However, there has been uneven progress in its implementation, with intensively managed fisheries seeing decreases in average fishing pressure and increases in stock biomass, including some reaching biologically sustainable levels, while fisheries with less-developed management remain in poor shape. This uneven progress highlights an urgent need to replicate and re-adapt successful policies and measures in the light of the realities of specific fisheries and to strengthen implementation of and participation in existing regimes.

While there are a multitude of reasons why some stocks may be managed better than others, lack of capacity, scientific and technical knowledge remains a key area to be addressed. Indeed, UNFSA, in its Part VII on “Requirements of developing States” requires States to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States in relation to conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and development of fisheries for such stocks. Part VII sets out particular forms of cooperation with developing States to address these requirements, including through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other international organizations. Part VII of UNFSA provides for an obligation to provide assistance to developing States, either directly or through appropriate international and regional organizations and bodies, and the obligation to cooperate to enhance the ability of developing States to conserve and manage straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. The need to ensure full and effective implementation, including through capacity building, was also recognized at the 2016 Review Conference.

There are currently a number of important capacity-building initiatives in the field of fisheries, in relation to different processes and instruments, which can contribute to strengthening the long-term conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

## **PART VII OF THE UNITED NATIONS FISH STOCKS AGREEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

### **Programme**

#### **Introductory remarks:**

**Mr. Dmitry Gonchar, Principal Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (1:15-1:20pm)**

#### **Speakers:**

Capacity-building under Part VII of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement:  
Requirements, challenges and opportunities

**Mr. Michele Ameri, Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (1:20-1:35)**

Capacity building under the Agreement on Port State Measures and its synergies with implementation of Part VII of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

**Ms. Minmin Lei, Fisheries Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1:35-1:50)**

Capacity-building in support of the new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, including complementarities with United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

**Ms. Clarisse Morgan, Director of the Rules Division, World Trade Organization (1:50-2:10)**

Capacity-building initiatives for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks in the Mediterranean – synergies with the implementation of Part VII of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

**Mr. Miguel Bernal, Executive Secretary, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)(2:10-2:25)**

**Interactive discussion and questions (2:25-2:45)**

