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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
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English - Or. English

COUNCIL

Council

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE FISHERIES
COMMITTEE**

(Note by the Secretary-General)

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1. The Fisheries Committee (COFI) was created in 1961 to organise consultations on fishery policies “*with a view to promoting the harmonious development of these policies among Member countries*” (see paras. 21, 24 and 89 of the Report of the Preparatory Committee). Its mandate was first revised in 2008 in order to ensure an unambiguous basis for the setting of its policy orientation and for the evaluation of its future achievements [[C\(2008\)193/REV1](#) and [C/M\(2008\)21/PROV](#), Item 304]. This mandate was set to expire on 31 December 2013. It was first extended until 31 July 2015 [[C\(2013\)85](#) and [C/M\(2013\)16](#), Item 150] and later until 31 December 2015 [[C\(2014\)147](#) and [C/M\(2014\)13](#), Item 215] to allow the COFI to review its mandate after the results of the In-depth Evaluation.

2. The second In-Depth Evaluation (IDE) of the COFI was completed in April 2015 [[C\(2015\)34](#)]. An Action Plan to implement the Council recommendations was approved at the COFI’s 115th Session that same month [[TAD/FI\(2015\)8](#) and [TAD/FI/M\(2015\)1](#), Item 10.b)].

3. Building on the discussion of its mandate renewal at the COFI in October 2014 [[TAD/FI\(2014\)20](#)] and in April 2015 [[TAD/FI\(2015\)2/FINAL](#) and [TAD/FI\(2015\)7](#)], the Committee has agreed on new policy objectives to guide its future work for the period 2016-2020. While the objectives of the existing mandate continue to be relevant for most Members, revisions are proposed to respond to the changing nature of fisheries management and the growing importance of aquaculture. In particular, there is recognition of the need:

- To maintain a strong thematic connection to fisheries and aquaculture, while recognising and taking into account the broader marine and spatial context. In this regard, the COFI recognises that it needs to comprehend and take into account developments in other sectors which have an impact on the marine environment, and vice-versa.
- To respond to emerging issues and willingness to work with stakeholders within and outside the OECD.
- To work on all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture sustainability (biological, economic, social).
- For horizontal OECD co-operation in some areas which may be beneficial, in particular with the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC), the International Futures Programme and the Committee on Fiscal Affairs (CFA). These include marine bio-diversity, enforcement, ocean matters, Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and fisheries tax crime on which there is broad expertise in the OECD. Links with food production, food security and trade policy, long a concern of the Committee for Agriculture (COAG), are also important because of the growing public policy focus on food security. The fact that the COFI Secretariat is housed within the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD) creates opportunities for synergies with COAG.

4. Against this background, the draft revised mandate set out in the Annex to this document, approved by the COFI on 15 April 2015 [[TAD/FI\(2015\)2/FINAL](#) and [TAD/FI/M\(2015\)1](#)], proposes the following changes:

- The Preamble and the overarching objectives of the Committee have been revised to reflect the broader marine and spatial context and the importance of taking into account developments in other sectors that may impact the marine environment;
- The Working Methods section of the mandate reflects the need for strategic discussions, as recommended by the IDE;

- To conform with the current practice for Level-I committee mandates, the current mandate has been simplified by incorporating elements previously contained in the Appendix into the main text of the mandate and restructuring the text to avoid repetitions.
- In addition, the Preamble historic references and the text on non-Member participation have been streamlined to take account of the Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/FINAL](#)].

5. It is proposed that the revised mandate, as set out in the draft Resolution in the Annex, should remain in force for a period of five years, until 31 December 2020, unless the Council decides otherwise. The draft Resolution would supersede all previous provisions concerning the mandate of the Committee. The Committee would return to the Council to propose a revision to its mandate should there be any major developments that warrant such a change.

Proposed Action

6. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2015\)109](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution concerning the mandate of the Fisheries Committee as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2015\)109](#), which will enter into force on 1 January 2016.

ANNEX

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING THE MANDATE
OF THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE**

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to paragraphs 21, 24 and 89 of the Report of the Preparatory Committee concerning the creation of the Fisheries Committee on 30 September 1961, whose mandate was last revised in 2008 [[C\(2008\)193/REV1](#) and [C/M\(2008\)21](#), Item 304];

Having regard to the results of the second cycle In-depth Evaluation of the Fisheries Committee [[C\(2015\)34](#)], approved by the Council at its 1313th Session on 23 April 2015 [[C/M\(2015\)10](#), Item 75];

Having regard to the proposal to revise the mandate of the Fisheries Committee [[C\(2015\)109](#)];

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/FINAL](#)];

Considering the need to promote sustainable, well-managed, efficient and resilient fisheries and aquaculture sectors worldwide along the whole supply chain in support of sustainable livelihoods and communities, and the necessity to contribute to the objectives of food security, healthy ecosystems, and other emerging challenges;

DECIDES:

A. The Fisheries Committee (hereafter the “Committee”) is renewed with the following revised mandate:

I. Objectives

1. The objectives of the Committee are to:

- a) Promote sustainable well-managed, efficient and resilient fisheries and aquaculture that contribute to healthy ecosystems, support sustainable livelihoods and communities, and contribute to food security, responsible trade and consumption;
- b) Promote mutual understanding of developments in fisheries and aquaculture policies;

- c) Achieve sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, i.e. biological, economic and social sustainability through effective and sustainable management, good governance and sound business arrangements of fisheries and aquaculture;
- d) Improve the effectiveness and transparency of fisheries and aquaculture policies at domestic and international levels.

2. The Committee will achieve these objectives through economic analysis, policy advice and understanding of best practices. Considering that fisheries and aquaculture sectors operate within a broader context of economic activity which increasingly requires innovative cross-sector solutions, the Committee will provide a forum for the discussion of issues related to all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture developments and policies, including cross sector issues implicating fisheries and aquaculture.

II. Working Methods

3. To achieve these objectives, the Committee shall:

- a) Help Members and Partners to identify needs, options and trade-offs, advice on implementation, and best practice recommendations for improved domestic fisheries and aquaculture policy – through effective monitoring, data collection, analysis and discussion;
- b) Improve the analytical foundations of debate and agenda setting in international fisheries and aquaculture policy by holding dedicated strategic discussions and by providing data, policy analysis and advice, especially on emerging issues, with a view to developing consensus on sound marine and aquaculture management practices;
- c) Contribute to the debate on cross-cutting and cross sector issues by adding a global perspective about the management and enforcement challenges that arise in relation to a common-property, natural renewable resources, to ensure that policy advice emerging from the Committee's work is relevant to all the linked economic sectors.

III. Co-operation arrangements

4. The Committee shall:

- a) Co-operate and coordinate its activities with other OECD committees dealing with aspects related to fisheries and aquaculture;
- b) Co-operate, as appropriate, with other OECD bodies, international organisations and other stakeholders involved in fisheries and aquaculture matters;
- c) Encourage participation by non-Members in the Committee's work with a view to sharing experiences and expertise in policy development and evaluation and encouraging them to apply relevant OECD guidelines and Recommendations.

B. The mandate of the Committee shall remain in force until 31 December 2020.