

Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium+20 (GCA+20), Shanghai (China)
GCA Declaration pledges

Speech by Manuel Barange, Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO

1. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen
2. As you know the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations's main objective is to end hunger and poverty while keeping natural resources sustainable.
3. It is estimated that over 750 million people were undernourished in 2020, about 100 million more than in 2019, which gives us a painful quantitative reminder of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. We are not on target to reach the objectives of Agenda 2030, and more is needed if we are to feed 10 billion people by the middle of the century.
5. In February 2021, at the 34th meeting of the FAO Committee of Fisheries, and in the context of the 25th anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FAO members endorsed the **2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture**.
6. This Declaration was specific in terms of what members expect from Aquaculture in coming years, as part of the necessary food systems transformation to feed the world. In particular:
 - a. recognized that aquaculture has been the fastest growing food production industry over the last five decades, is responsible for the doubling of global per capita fish consumption since 1960, and is making increasing contributions to the provision of food and livelihoods for a growing population,
 - b. it recognized the potential of aquaculture for further growth, in particular through innovative practices which support environmental stewardship, as well as through inclusive sustainable aquaculture development programmes,
 - c. and noted the need for investments to support capacity building, research and extension services, with a particular attention to regions where population growth will challenge food systems most.
 - d. Finally, it also recognized the need to ensure that the sector promotes sustainable feed sources, and develops in a sustainable manner, including by improving aquatic health and biosecurity, reducing the burden of disease and encouraging the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials.
7. While the Declaration is more extensive, the above gives a clear indication of the collective vision of the 193 FAO members in relation to aquaculture.

8. This COFI Declaration has been a significant influence in the development of the **FAO Blue Transformation initiative**, now a priority programme for FAO.
9. One of the objectives of Blue Transformation is to ensure the sustainable expansion of aquaculture production, to satisfy growing demand for aquatic food, especially, but not exclusively, in food deficit regions such as Africa, which currently produces no more than 2.7% of global production.
10. The **Shanghai Declaration** discussed today is a Declaration of the Conference attendees. It has been drafted through a bottom-up approach among many participants. It is your Declaration. FAO welcomes the elements of this Declaration that resonate with the COFI Declaration of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, which is the agreed text negotiated and unanimously endorsed by FAO members.
11. Aquaculture is the present and the future of transformative food systems.
12. FAO stands ready to support its sustainable development for a world without hunger.
13. I thank you all for your efforts in the same direction, and to the organizers of this Conference for raising the profile of the subsector in the eyes of those fighting for a world without hunger, poverty and inequalities.
14. Thank you for your attention.