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GCA +20 Conference Secretariat

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Letter of support to the draft Shanghai Declaration

The Research Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture (HAKI) of the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE) welcomes the draft Shanghai Declaration and expresses its support for it.

HAKI, as a research institute that has been involved in aquaculture development also in global scale with the assistance of FAO for decades fully supports the call of the Shanghai Declaration to make use of opportunities for sustainable aquaculture to fulfil its potential, consider aquaculture as a national, regional and global priority, and develop strategic plans that encompass all the subsets of the industry.

The commitments and strategic priorities identified by the Shanghai Declaration provide an excellent roadmap not only for governments and the industry, but also for research institutions to make further progress towards the achievements a number of sustainable development goals, in particular, SDG 2, 4, 8, 12 and 13.

HAKI, as internationally recognized research institute that has been involved in numerous aquaculture development program mainly in Europe and Asia for decades fully supports and can contribute to the Declaration's commitment for the development of an aquaculture sector that leads the way towards more productive, efficient, resilient, climate-smart and socially responsible food systems, fulfils its potential to meet the increasing demand for safe, healthy and affordable aquatic food and aquatic products, with reduced impacts on the global environment, contributes to human well-being and helps to eradicate poverty, malnutrition and hunger, and matures in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way.

HAKI expresses its special commitment to the strategic priorities of the Call for Action according to the followings:

- Stimulating demand-led and relevant research and innovations by strengthening partnerships and establishing and maintaining centres of excellence on aquaculture across the industry (private sector), academia and governmental organizations, and encourage public-private partnerships and investments.
- Assist through targeted research the adaptation of holistic and inclusive approaches, such as ecosystem approach to aquaculture, that link human, plant and animal and environmental health for a more sustainable and equitable aquaculture sector that is an integral part of a sustainable global food system.

- Research on interactions between aquaculture systems and natural environment focusing on ecosystem services of extensive and semi intensive aquaculture targeted the enhancing technologies, which can contribute to the conservation of aquatic and wetland ecosystems and improve the biodiversity.
- Research on climate neutral and resilience aquaculture systems, which can contribute to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
- Research on integrated aquaculture with other food production systems (for example integrated multitrophic aquaculture, multi-functional pond fish farming, integration with other agricultural/livestock farming practices) to enhance the sustainability, circularity, productivity, efficiency and resilience of people, communities and ecosystems.
- Assist the recognition and utilization the largely untapped potential of aquatic genetic resources and appropriate genetic technologies (both traditional and modern) to improve aquaculture production (especially in breeding), while conducting risk assessment before upscaling and dissemination of these technologies
- Research on the development and utilization of diversified and improved feeds that are precisely designed to the needs of farmed types based on age, genotype, environment and immune status.
- Providing scientific support for adopting a holistic food systems perspective, where possible, on the development of aquaculture to transcend the narrow focus of production issues, value chains and sectoral policies and achieve positive human (including economic and nutritional), social and environmental outcomes, such as equity and human wellbeing.
- Active involvement in inter-regional cooperation as a participant of multi-stakeholder platforms and initiatives like EU-Asia aquaculture partnership or the developing a Global Alliance connecting key institutions and stakeholders for sustainable aquaculture development and stronger advocacy in aquaculture.

Yours sincerely,



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director of HAKI