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On behalf of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS), I would like to congratulate you and all the FAO team for the accomplishment of integrating the “Shanghai Declaration: Aquaculture for food and sustainable development”, which will guide the vision of aquaculture worldwide for the next decade.

WAS strongly believes that aquaculture plays and will continue to play a crucial role in global food security, and that aquaculture will continue to grow through enhanced productivity, modernization, expansion, and intensification. But, to feed a population expected to reach 10 billion by 2050, eliminate hunger, and reduce poverty and inequality, aquaculture will need to become more sustainable by increasing resource efficiency and reducing its environmental footprint throughout the value chain.

Aquaculture is as diverse as the regions of the world. Numerous species are produced in countless environments with a variety of approaches and goals in farms of different sizes with varying levels of technology. Aquaculture has had the fastest growth rate in the food production industry over the last five decades. In 2019 alone, aquaculture contributed 85.3 million tonnes of fish and 34.8 million tonnes of aquatic plants. WAS has played a major role in promoting the educational, scientific, and technological advances of aquaculture; gathering and disseminating technical information on aquaculture; and encouraging aquaculture research, development, and educational activities. In WAS, as in FAO, we believe that goals are better achieved when working together, and we are looking forward to strengthening our partnership with FAO and all its members.

WAS supports the vision of the participants of the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium +20 for an aquaculture sector that leads the way toward more productive, efficient, resilient, climate-smart, and socially responsible food systems. We agree that the vision can be achieved through the overarching commitments to:

1. Promotion of responsible aquaculture development,
2. Promotion of good aquaculture governance,
3. Strengthening of partnerships to generate and share knowledge, information, and technology,
4. Investment in aquaculture innovation, research, and development, and
5. Creation of open and transparent communication about sustainable aquaculture.

WAS supports the strategic priorities required to accelerate sustainable aquaculture development and subscribes to the Call for action, which identifies the following actions as priorities:

- a. Aquaculture needs to become a priority at a national, regional, and global level.
- b. Thorough strategic planning must encompass various subsets of the industry such as marketing, service providers, capacity building, investment and financing, seafood consumption promotion, digitalization, seafood trade negotiations, development of trade cooperatives and associations, and regional cooperation.
- c. Capacity building programs should aim for the professionalization of the industry in all the value chain and at all levels including government personnel to keep up with new technological advances.
- d. Investment funds dedicated to aquaculture need to be generated with public and private funding. Promoting and financing aquaculture projects at a competitive rate will be a key factor that could define the pace at which aquaculture develops.
- e. Fish protein and fish oil need to be reduced or eliminated from aquatic feeds to allow the continued growth of aquaculture.
- f. Solid genetic programs need to continue to address adaptability of species, disease resistance, and desirable production traits such as growth rate and food conversion ratio.
- g. We must build a solid and resilient industry. Aquaculture does not need to adapt and take preventive measures for only climate change, but also for financial and multi-variable crises such as Covid-19.
- h. Aquaculture needs to be an instrument to improve the quality of life for the people engaged in it. It should be a good tool to promote the inclusion of women and the young in rural development, thus reducing rural migration.
- i. We must invest in research and development for utilizing cultured aquatic plants as feed ingredients for terrestrial livestock to reduce the pressure on agricultural land and reduce enteric methane emission from livestock.

We hope the following decade will continue to see the WAS consolidate as the most important international association of professionals in the aquaculture sector. Our vision is to continue to play a major role as the most important global platform facilitating the dialogue through which producers, service providers, academia, consumers, financing agencies, decision makers, and all stakeholders work together. Our Society is committed to disseminating knowledge and supporting scientifically sound aquaculture to promote the Blue Growth agenda and build a solid future for aquaculture. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with FAO and its members and spreading the contents of the Shanghai Declaration through our magazine, journal, and our global and regional conferences.

Sincerely,



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