

7<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

**Attention:** Matthias Halwart  
Technical Secretary – COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

## **WorldFish pledge/statement of support to the Shanghai Declaration, Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium +20**

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**WorldFish fully supports the Shanghai Declaration** and the principles and strategic pathways outlined to maximize the contribution of sustainable aquaculture to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

**We fully align with the vision** for an aquaculture sector that leads the way towards more productive, resilient, climate-smart, and socially responsible food systems, meets the demand for safe, healthy, and affordable aquatic food and products, with reduced impacts on the environment, contributes to human well-being and eradicates poverty, malnutrition, and hunger, and matures in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way. WorldFish similarly **views that aquaculture has established a crucial role in global food and nutrition security**. Its production can help meet the supply-demand gap for aquatic food, complementing the role of sustainably managed capture fisheries by providing diverse sources of micro-nutrient rich aquatic foods for consumers of all income levels.

As key contributors to the development of the Shanghai Declaration, **WorldFish supports using the term *aquatic foods*** that go beyond fish to include all aquatic food production groups. These include animals, plants and microorganisms used for food, animal feeds, and synthetic alternative aquatic food protein substitutes. See these defined [here](#) in the 2030 WorldFish Research and Innovation Strategy: Aquatic Foods for Healthy People and Planet.

We support the application of the Declaration to **sustain the development of food systems** in general, and aquatic food systems specifically, towards healthy people and planet. These food systems include the entire range of actors involved in the production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food products originating from agriculture, forestry, or fisheries, and parts of the broader economic, societal, and natural environments they are embedded.

We **fully back the ten strategic priorities** to accelerate sustainable aquaculture development and contribute to the SDGs and Call for Action as detailed in Annex 1 of the Declaration. We will actively support the implementation of this through three critical research and innovation [priority areas](#) and pathways that are described in the 2030 WorldFish Research and Innovation Strategy.

### **1. CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

To achieve climate resilience and environmental sustainability, we support the following four strategic priorities. To **(B)** integrate aquaculture with the natural environment, with agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, regenerative energy, and other sectors, and within food systems for increased resilience; **(C)** improve the performance of aquaculture and its capacity to minimize the impact on natural resources and contribute to enhance ecosystem resilience; **(D)** promote aquaculture development approaches that conserve and improve ecosystems and biodiversity, and reduce the carbon intensity of food production; and **(I)** prepare for and potentially mitigate impacts from global crises, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and pandemics.

We contribute to this priority through our research to develop, test, adapt and promote science-based innovations and practices in aquaculture that reduce climate risk. These focus on (1) enabling sustainable production of diverse aquatic foods, (2) cutting down on loss and waste, and (3) enhancing climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## 2. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

To achieve social and economic inclusion, we support the following three strategic priorities. To **(E)** protect and develop aquaculture-based livelihoods and promote decent work and socially responsible enterprises; **(F)** ensure women's empowerment by enhancing full access to equal opportunities through gender-transformative policies; **(G)** promote opportunities for young women and men, and **(H)** promote Indigenous Peoples' participation in aquaculture.

We contribute to these priorities through our research to generate scientific evidence that persuades decision-makers and market actors—at all levels—to implement inclusive policies and investments in aquatic food systems. These focus on (1) leaving no one behind with an inclusive and people-centered blue economy; (2) improving the viability, accessibility, and affordability of aquatic foods for all; and (3) supporting sustainable livelihoods, decent work, and well-being.

## 3. NUTRITION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

To achieve nutrition and public health, we support the following strategic priority, **(A)** to expand the contribution of aquaculture to sustainable food systems towards nourishing nations and provide healthy, nutrient-rich, and climate-friendly food to people.

Through our research, we contribute to this priority by advancing knowledge, public awareness of aquatic foods' nutrition, safety, and health benefits. These focus on (1) informing consumer demand for nutritious aquatic foods, (2) ensuring aquatic foods are safe and healthy for human consumption, and (3) prioritizing nutrition and health for vulnerable and marginalized people.

We see aquaculture as pivotal in transforming food systems from feeding to nourishing people. We will take these actions to promote aquatic foods as a critical component of a diverse, healthy diets and support the adoption of nutrition-sensitive approaches that consider farmed aquatic foods' nutrient content. We will promote the benefits of fish in diets and the inclusion of aquatic food in food systems policies, given the role in combatting malnutrition and promote aquatic foods in national food-based dietary guidelines, feeding programs, and nutrition strategies.

As a research entity within One-CGIAR, the world's largest agricultural research and innovation network, we support strategic priority **(J)** to strengthen data and information collection to monitor aquaculture progress and contributions. We will enhance partnerships to generate and share knowledge and technology, supporting investment in aquaculture innovation, research.

We are excited to support and participate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific, in the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium + 20, and to identify policy, technology innovations, investment opportunities and areas of cooperation in aquaculture for food and sustainable development as a key output from the Shanghai Declaration.



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WorldFish Director General

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**Read our [WorldFish 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy](#)**

(available to [download here](#))