Session: Implementation of the gender elements of the Voluntary Guidelines on Small-scale Fisheries

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Collaborative Review

“Challenges and strategies for the implementation of the Voluntary Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines Gender Equity and Equality Principle”

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Gender in the Guidelines

Gender language includes:

**SSF Value Chain:** Recognizing the participation of women and men in all aspects of SSF value chain (in often ecologically, economically, culturally distinct ways).

**Human well-being:** Understanding the centrality of gender to other intersecting issues (human rights, food security and climate change).

**Governance:** Understanding and changing gender social and cultural systems perpetuating gender inequality, particularly in participation in governance.

Supporting implementation is the current priority
## Barriers to Gender Equity & Equality

<table>
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<th>Barriers</th>
<th>VGSSF section</th>
<th>Major Gender Issues</th>
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| SSF value chain              | Tenure rights (5.3-5.4)             | • Fishing policy can deny women equal tenure rights.  
• Fishing policy can displace women fishers.  
• Women may be less likely to be granted lease or tenure over fishing resources.  
• Women may be denied membership to fisher groups that are given tenure rights. |
| Access to fishing resources  | (6.4)                              | • Women may not, or are less likely to, own fishing gear.  
• Household owned fishing gear might not be available to women. |
| Access to markets and        | markets and marketing resources     | • Fish markets may exclude or be dominated by women.  
• Women may have access to inferior product than men.  
• Women may have less access to credit or financial resources than men.  
• Women that can access credit may not have decision-making power over it. |
| (7.6)                        |                                    |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Recognition of and           | opportunities for fisheries labour  | • “Gender neutral” policies that do not take unequal gender roles into account may give women fewer opportunities than men.                        |
| (6.5)                        |                                    |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Equal pay for fisheries      | labour (7.4)                        | • Women’s fisheries labour is often unpaid, or paid less.                                                                                           |
| Human well-being             | Education (6.2)                     | • Differences in access to education can impact women and men’s fisheries labour.                                                                     |
|                              | Food security (5.2 & 7.8)           | • Women’s fishing often focused on small but reliable subsistence catch.  
• Women may have less access to food within households.                                                                                             |
|                              | Occupational health and safety      | • Men and women are often exposed to different risks due to different roles in the fisheries value chain.                                              |
|                              | (6.12)                             |                                                                                                                                                       |
|                              | Violence (6.9)                      | • Shifting gender roles in fisheries related to changes in resource availability can also lead to increases in gender based domestic violence.       |
|                              | Policy coherence (10.1)             | • Gender equity and equality cohere strongly with international CEDAW policy.  
• Major barriers may be in the will and capacity to implement existing policy.                                                                         |
|                              | Capacity development (11.7, 12.1)   | • Lack of technical and formal fisheries training programs that are targeted to or include women.  
• Women are often not recognized as stakeholders and must contend with cultural barriers to their full participation in decision-making.  
• Capacity development should include increase training for gender work in fisheries institutions.                                                    |
|                              | Research and monitoring (11.1,     | • Lack of sex-disaggregated data collection.  
• Lack of prioritization, money, and training for gender research and gender researchers.                                                            |
|                              | 11.10, 13.3)                       |                                                                                                                                                       |
Discussion Questions

1. What are the top three priorities for gender equity and equality in Small-scale fisheries in your context?

2. What is the main barrier to gender equity and equality in small-scale fisheries in your context?

3. What is the main barrier to equal participation of women and men in small-scale fisheries governance in your context?