



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

Meeting for the preparation of the High-level meeting on small-scale fisheries

Date and Place

- Friday 2 March 2018
- German Room
FAO headquarters, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1 – 00153, Rome, Italy
- Working hours: 9:30–12:30 14:00–17:00

Background

Momentum has been gaining in recent years towards concerted action in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries at the global level, as well as in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Previous regional events carried out within the remit of the GFCM, such as the First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (November 2013, Malta) and the Regional Conference on “Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” (March 2016, Algeria), have shown the important role that small-scale fisheries play in supporting livelihoods for coastal communities.

In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, small-scale fisheries produce a high-value catch and support over 60 percent of all employment in fishing, while also being perceived to have a lower environmental impact than other fleet segments. Making up over 80 percent of the regional fleet, these fisheries represent significant cultural value and embody historic traditions, intertwining them in the region’s lucrative tourism sector. Such characteristics underline the crucial role of the small-scale sector in any strategy to improve the sustainability of the region’s fisheries within a Blue Growth perspective.

At the same time, countries have been progressively recognizing that small-scale fisheries have an impact on living marine resources that should be duly considered, including in the context of management and co-management of such fisheries. Such recognition is manifested through COFI’s adoption, in 2014, of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), but also at a regional level by the adoption of a GFCM Resolution on sustainable small-scale fisheries in the GFCM area of application (Resolution GFCM/40/206/3), the adoption of the Declaration of the high-level conference towards enhanced cooperation on Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture (“Bucharest Declaration”, October 2016) and the adoption of the Malta “MedFish4Ever” Ministerial Declaration (March 2017).

Despite their relevance and extent throughout the Mediterranean and Black Sea region, small-scale fisheries continue to play a marginal role in policy, as compared to industrial fisheries. **The time is therefore now ripe to consolidate efforts made in recent years and draw attention to the needs of the small-scale fishing sector by taking resolute, calculated and coordinated political action in**

support of these important fisheries. The High-level meeting presents an opportunity for such action. The heterogeneous nature of this sector will require a response that is holistic and multifaceted. As such, the high-level meeting on small-scale fisheries seeks to bring together all relevant political actors, not only from fisheries ministries, but also from other related ministries such as economic development, environment and tourism, to discuss and put forth concrete solutions for a sector that all agree warrants support.

Objectives

In line with the work plan adopted by the GFCM at its forty-first session, a preparatory meeting is being held in advance of the High-level meeting on small-scale fisheries. This meeting will serve as an occasion to prepare the High-level conference and, in particular, will:

- Review key messages for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
- Discuss a draft proposal of a Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea
- Define practical and organizational aspects of the High-level meeting

Languages

The meeting will be held in English and French and simultaneous interpretation in both languages will be provided.

Attendance

The meeting is open to selected experts, members of national administrations, as well as representatives from NGOs/IGOs that will play a partnership role in the High-level meeting on small-scale fisheries.

Please note that some funds are available to cover the contribution of select experts to the meeting. You are kindly invited to send an e-mail to the GFCM Secretariat (GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org) as soon as possible to request funding to support your participation.

Registration

Kindly register your participation and submit your technical contributions on the GFCM website at www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/en by 21 February 2018.

(Please note that due to extended maintenance of the FAO corporate website, the link to the “Meeting for the preparation of the High-level meeting on small-scale fisheries” is not yet available but will be online shortly.)

Visa

Participants in need of a VISA are required to independently handle their application procedures *in due time* with the Italian Embassy in their respective countries. Should an invitation letter be needed to support the application, please do not hesitate to contact the GFCM Secretariat.

Contacts

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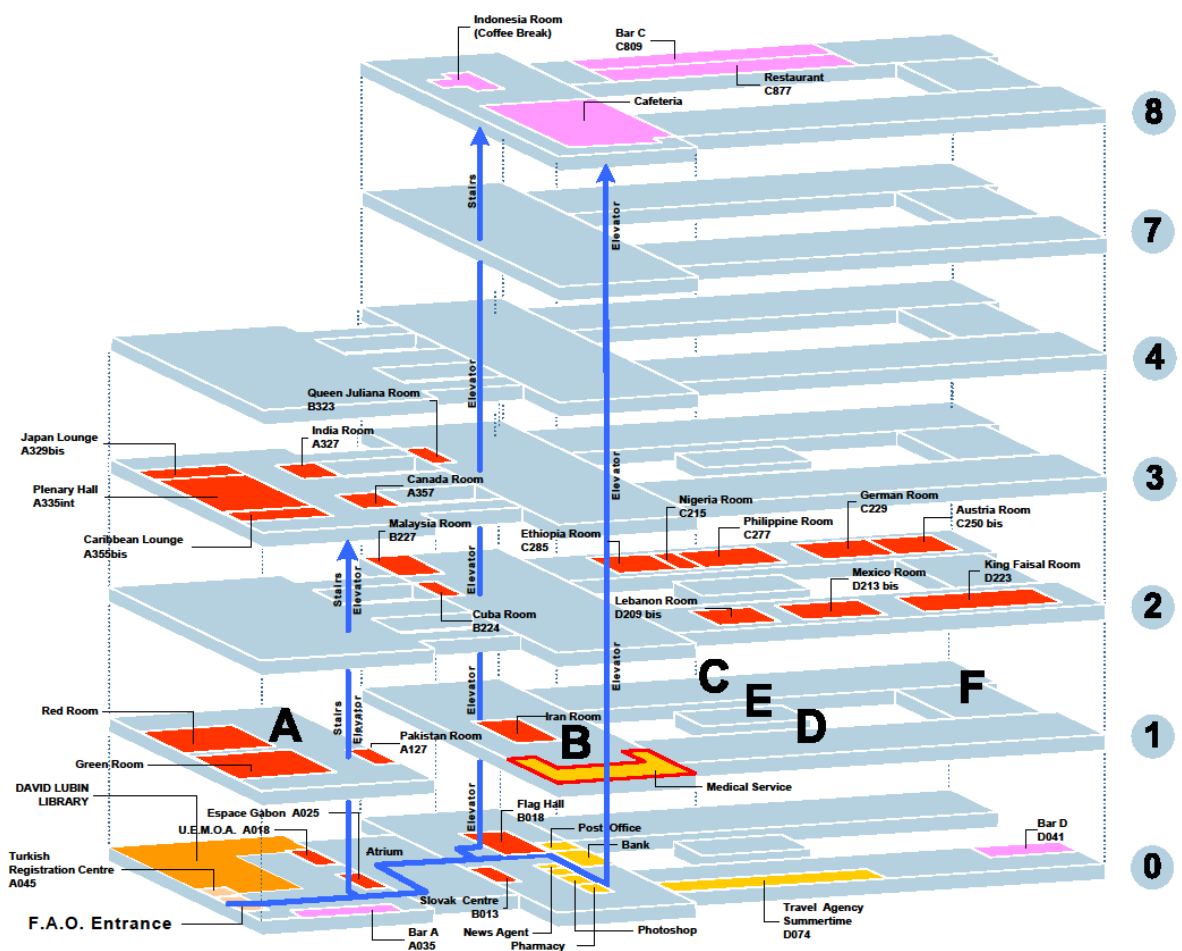
Registration at FAO HQ:

Please use the main entrance and go to the reception desk in the security pavilion. We kindly ask you to bring your identity card or passport with you. Once you have received the building pass, you will be able to enter and exit the building without going to the reception desk. The building pass is valid for the duration of the meeting and must be worn at all times. Admission to FAO premises will at all times require the presentation of your building pass.

Logistics and Room location

FAO HQ is located in: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1, 00153 Rome, Italy

- **German Room** is located on the 2nd floor – Building C



Hotels in proximity of FAO HQ

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