



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

COP21/UNFCCC

Oceans Day

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15:00-17:00

Rio Convention Hall / Red Zone

Panel 2 Addressing the effects of climate change on oceans and on coastal and SIDS populations: the scientific evident, scenarios and choices for decision-makers

Climate, Fisheries and Food Security

Excellencies,

Ambassador,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. It is a pleasure to be here today. Biliانا, congratulations on putting together another successful day dedicated to oceans and thank you all for your strong commitment to the oceans cause.

2. As we all know, fisheries and aquaculture support the livelihoods of 10-12 percent of the global population.

3. These include many vulnerable coastal communities where ecosystems are already under stress from pollution, habitat degradation, overfishing and harmful practices.

4. Availability of marine fish is predicted to decrease by as much as 40 percent in tropical countries due to increasing water temperatures.

5. This will have detrimental cascading effects on economic growth and jobs. For example, one model projects a 21% drop in annual value, a 50% decline in fisheries-related jobs and an

annual loss of over 310 million US dollars in 14 West African economies.

6. Small Island Developing States (SIDS)—which depend on fisheries and aquaculture for at least 50% of their animal protein intake —are particularly susceptible to natural hazards and changes in availability of fish.

7. As well, sea level rise could lead to smaller exclusive economic zone (EEZs). This would reduce SIDS' national jurisdiction and access to marine species -- with dire consequences on countries' food security and economic survival.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. FAO believes we cannot address food security without simultaneously addressing climate change, economic growth and the health of the oceans.

In this regards, we have three major priorities:

9. One. Improve the management and use of aquatic resources by actively supporting countries in implementing the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries.

10. Two. Develop sustainable aquaculture. When well-planned and managed, it holds great potential for growth in the face of climate

change, providing healthy food and nutrition with a comparatively low carbon footprint.

11. And three. Strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture and coastal communities.

12. Aware of these challenges, FAO launched the Blue Growth Initiative, aimed at harnessing the potential of aquatic ecosystems by promoting sound governance and developing good practices and investments to help boost ecosystem services and, most importantly, provide decent livelihoods for coastal communities, in particular youth and women.

13. I am proud to say the Blue Growth Initiative was showcased during the Lima-Paris Action Agenda Agriculture Day, here at COP21.

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. FAO also affirms the high potential of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities Of Action (S.A.M.O.A Pathway) whose overarching goal is for SIDS to have healthy diets from healthy ecosystems that foster economic growth.
15. Each island needs to have a food system that can cope with shocks and can adapt in the face of new and emerging challenges.
16. FAO embraces the importance of partnerships at all levels – a core principle of advancing implementation of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway.

17. Recognizing the need to facilitate the creation of an action programme involving players across all regions to address challenges facing SIDS and developing coastal states, FAO - with partners - has begun developing an action program and roadmap on food and nutrition security.

18. To this end, FAO has set up the Climate Change Trust Fund in support of food security and resilience to SIDS. With 2 million already pledged by Italy, we hope other partners will also join and contribute.

Ladies and gentlemen,

19. Count on FAO commitment towards fulfilling the goals of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Thank you.