**Request for inputs for the thematic report of the UN Special Rapporteur (SR)** **on the right to food**

**“The Right to Food and Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries”**

Member States have been invited to submit inputs on the following aspects:

| **NO.** | **KEY QUESTIONS AND INPUTS SOUGHT** | **INPUTS BY MALAYSIA** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | How do you work to ensure gender equality in the fisheries sector? | There are no specific provisions or conditions related to gender equality in the Fisheries Act 1985.  Considering that the participation in this sector is more influenced by capacity, Malaysia does not see the need to have follow-up action on gender equality. Nevertheless, it is important to note that Malaysia’s law does not discriminate the participation of any gender in the fisheries sector. |
|  | What actions have been taken in your country to implement the **Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries** [<https://www.fao.org/3/i4356en/I4356EN.pdf>]? What are the challenges and opportunities in strengthening such implementation? | The Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia has initiated efforts to translate the guidelines into the Malay language to facilitate understanding and acceptance by the target groups. The translated version was distributed to the target groups early this year.  One of the challenges in implementing these guidelines is the lack of understanding and awareness, coupled with issues related to data collection and monitoring. |
|  | How does climate change and environmental degradation impact fisheries and small-scale fisheries in your country? | In general, climate change has potential to cause impacts ranging from reduction in catch volume, changes in catch sizes, to alterations in the composition of catch species. Environmental degradation is a serious threat to small-scale fishers whereby the reduction on their catch areas and decreased catch volume severely affected their livelihoods. However, no detailed study has been conducted by DOF Malaysia to verify these assertions. |
|  | What are the main concerns regarding working conditions in the fisheries supply chain? Which parts of the supply chain are the most dangerous or problematic? | Thus far, fishing activities at sea pose risks to fishers as they subject to weather conditions, waves, and the uncertainty of the operational environment, including technical issues with vessels. DOF Malaysia’s current measures are to provide basic safety and survival courses at sea for the relevant fishers. |
|  | What are accountability mechanisms in place for human rights abuses committed in the context of the fishing industry by large-scale fishers, illegal foreign fishers, and extractive industry? | The Fisheries Act 1985 [Act 317] generally does have specific governance provisions on workers in the fishing industry. However, based on conditions established in the licenses, every vessel owner who is eligible to employ foreign crews must adhere to the stipulated requirements, particularly the age limit of the crew and the allowable number of crew members working on the vessel. Currently, every hired crew member is required to have a Temporary Work Visit Permit, which must comply with conditions imposed by the Immigration Department and the Department of Labour, including the requirement to have an employment contract. |
|  | What is the position of your country on the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement? | We observe that the discipline imposed under the agreement is a positive step. However, there is no one size fits all approach. It is important to note that each country has its own management measures tailored to the conditions of their industry. Each country should be given the flexibility and policy space to determine the direction and planning of their fisheries industry without any interference from other countries. |

**Prepared by:**

**Government of Malaysia**