

Promoting social sustainability in seafood value chains

DECENT WORK FOR BLUE GROWTH



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Social sustainability in seafood

Fisheries is a key sector for **food security, trade, employment generation and poverty alleviation**

BUT: child and forced labour; gender inequality, unfair distribution of benefits, poor occupational safety and health in processing and on board fishing vessels. Increased use of migrant labour, abandonment, violence

Human rights issues and decent work deficits are prominent

Link with natural resources: decline of fish stocks, lower catches and co-occurrence of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing on board vessels



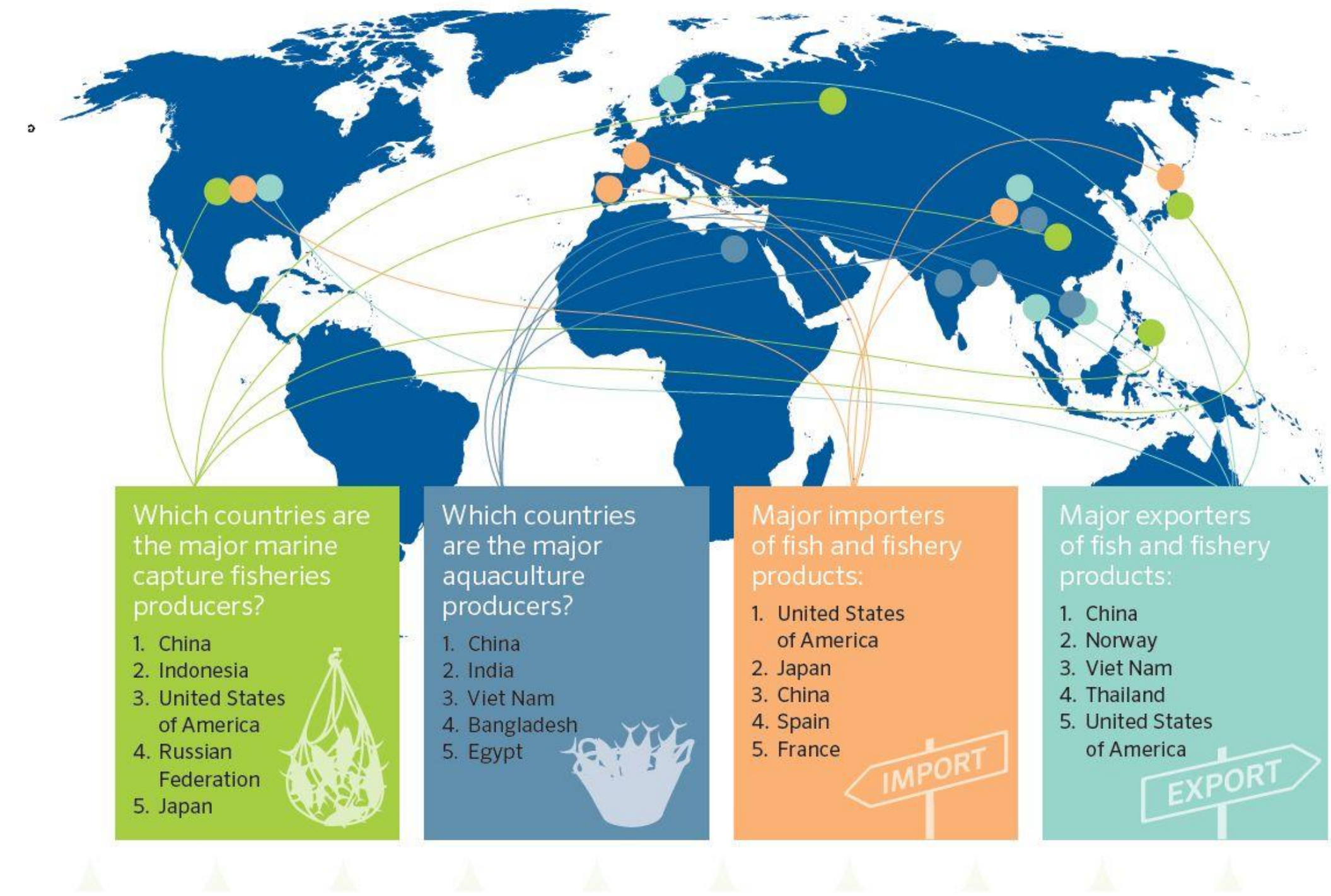
Why? A fragmented and global sector

Poor institutional capacity of flag and coastal states to enforce regulations (use of FoC registries and PoC);

Low domestication and enforcement of ILO core labour standards and sector specific standards at national level;

Labour and human rights issues are global in scale across the whole value chain - *Not only a developing countries problem;*

Lack of transparency and traceability in seafood business - (transshipment, fragmented value chains)





Rationale for FAO engagement

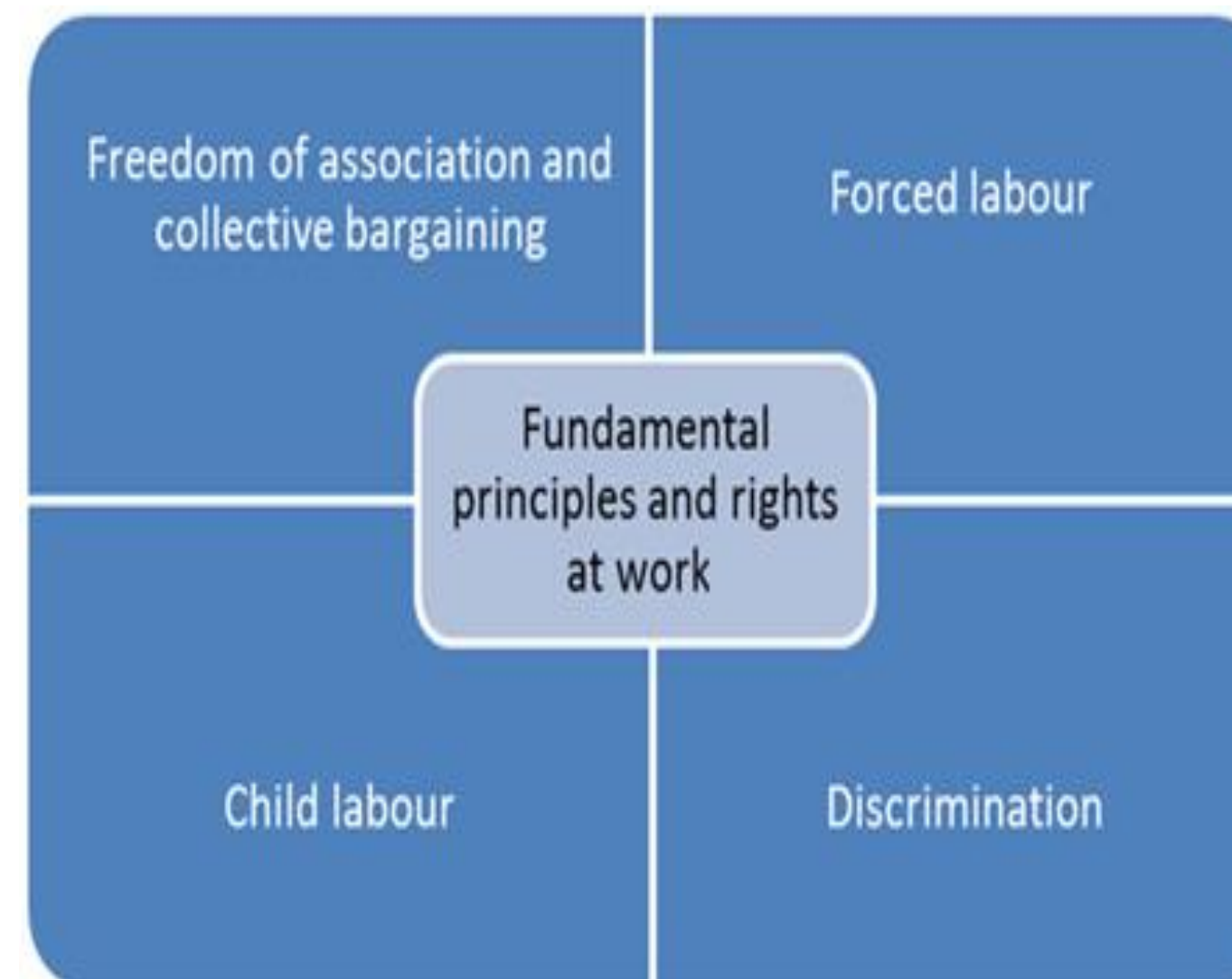
FAO Mission: Reduce hunger and rural poverty while promoting sustainable use of natural resources

- **1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)**
Flag states to ensure safe working conditions (Art 6.7)
- **FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)**
Social development, employment, decent work; value chains, post-harvest and trade – Guiding Principles, are based on human rights.
- **FAO Strategy on Rural Poverty Reduction**
Policy support to member states to design *decent rural employment and social protection* strategies in the **fisheries**, forestry, agriculture
- COFI recognized **the linkages between IUU fishing, safety-at-sea and forced labour**
- 3rd Joint IMO/FAO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU fishing and related matters



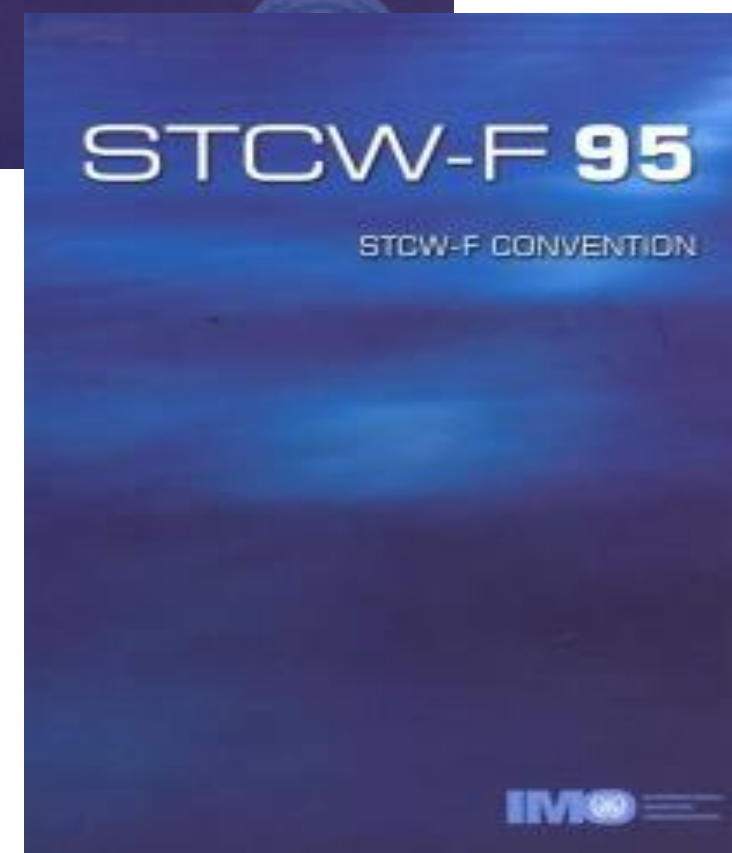
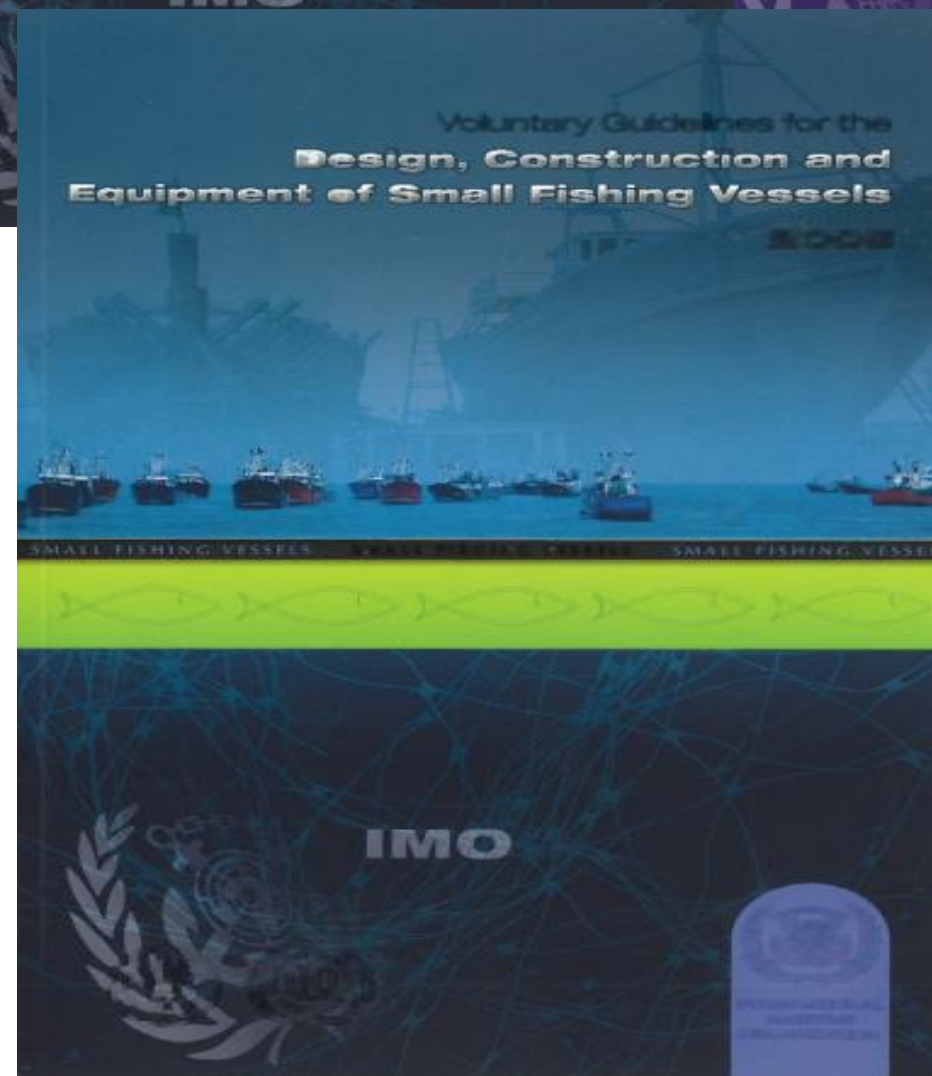
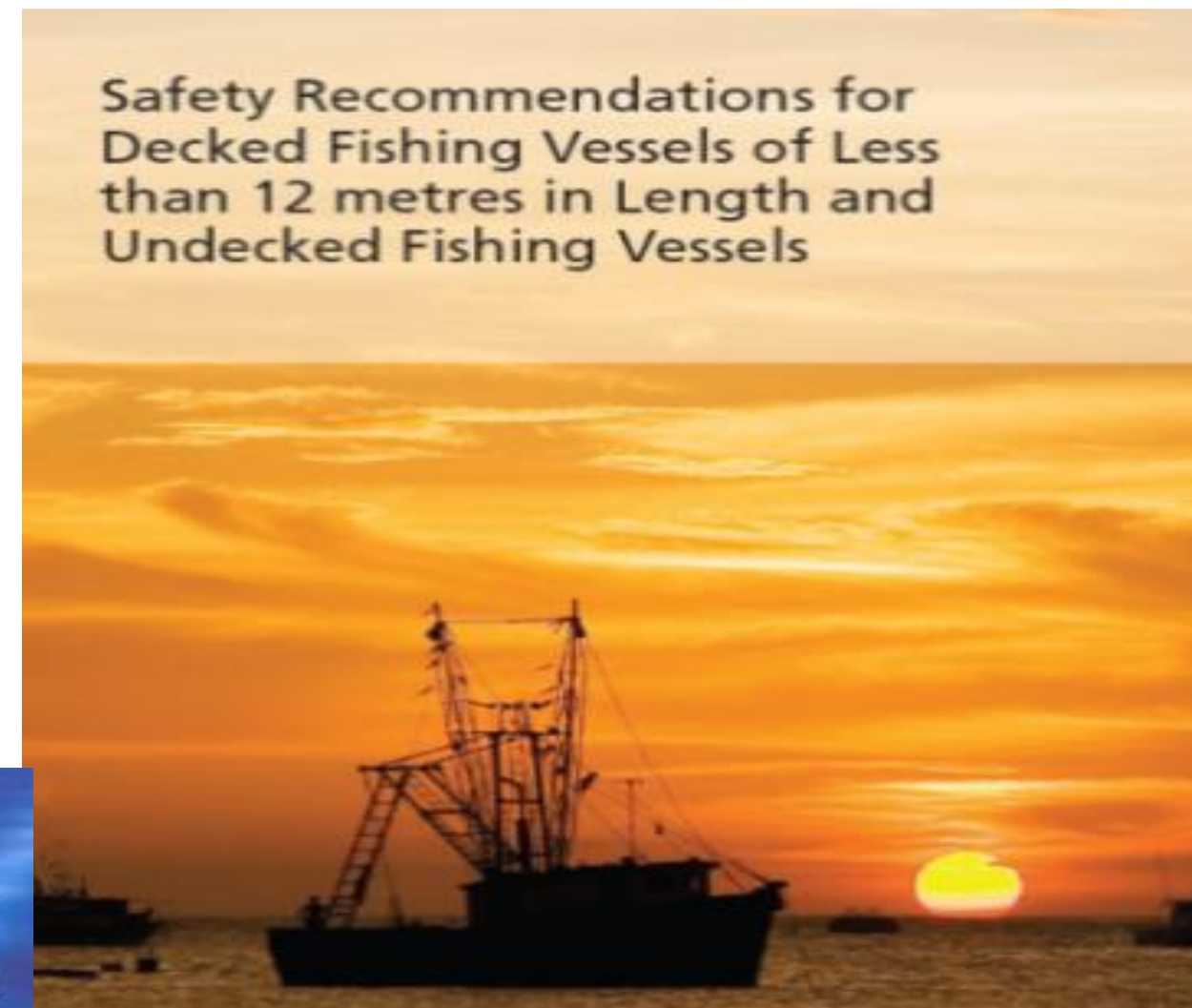
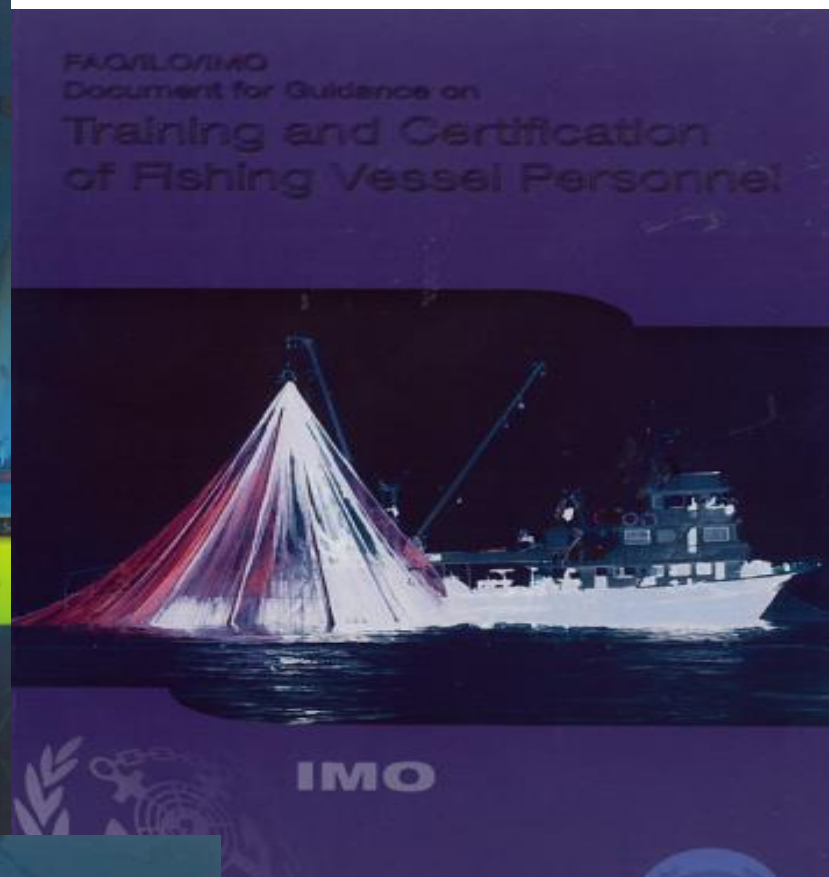
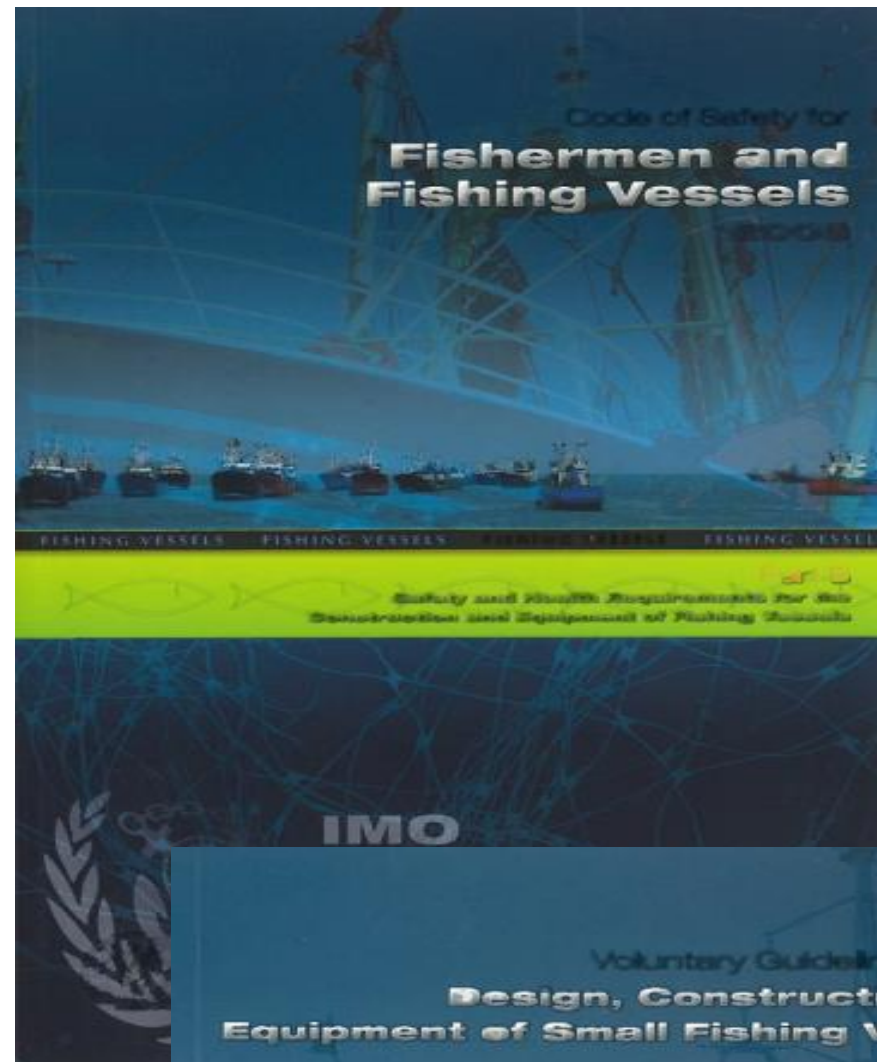
The International Legal Framework

- 1992 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- 2008 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- 2007 ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188)
Guidelines for Flag States and Port States inspections – Work and living conditions on board fishing vessels of any size.
- 1995 IMO Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Fishing vessels personnel (STCW-F)

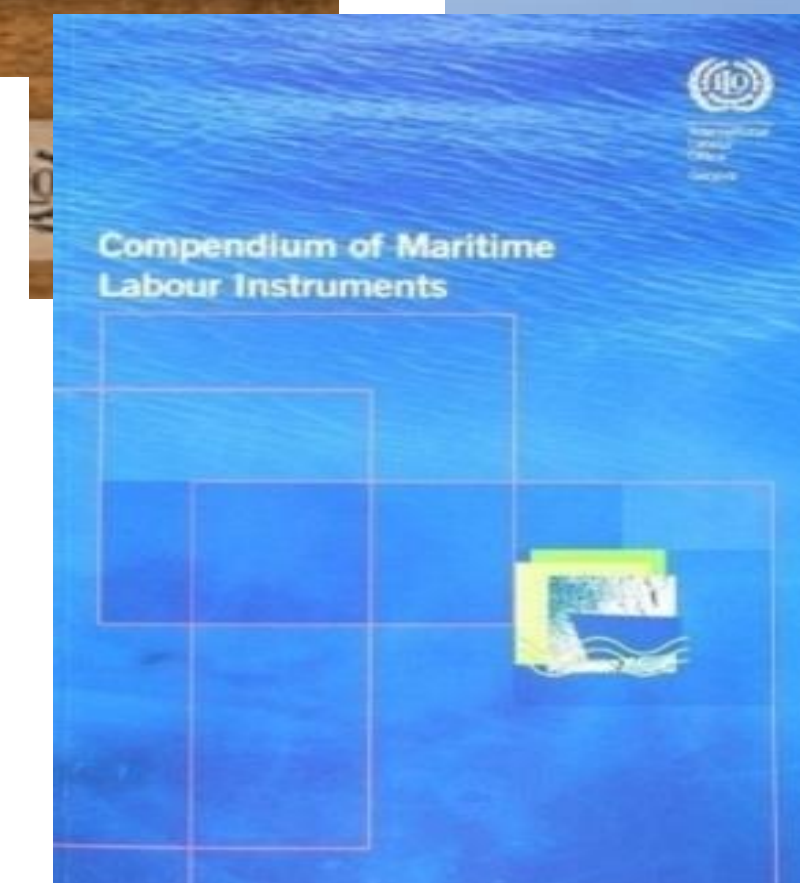




Examples of FAO-ILO-IMO cooperation



CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT OF 2012 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE TORREMOLINOS PROTOCOL OF 1993 RELATING TO THE TORREMOLINOS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS, 1977





Labour rights are human rights

(2001) UN 'Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights' Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework beyond Tier One to the whole seafood chain

Corporate responsibility to protect

- Independent responsibility and distinct from the State Duty to Protect
- Extends to **all companies**: all sizes, ownership and in all sectors
- Not limited by national law – international standards
- Companies need to **know and show** that they respect human rights and should conduct **Due diligence** – for example working with trade unions (affected stakeholders)

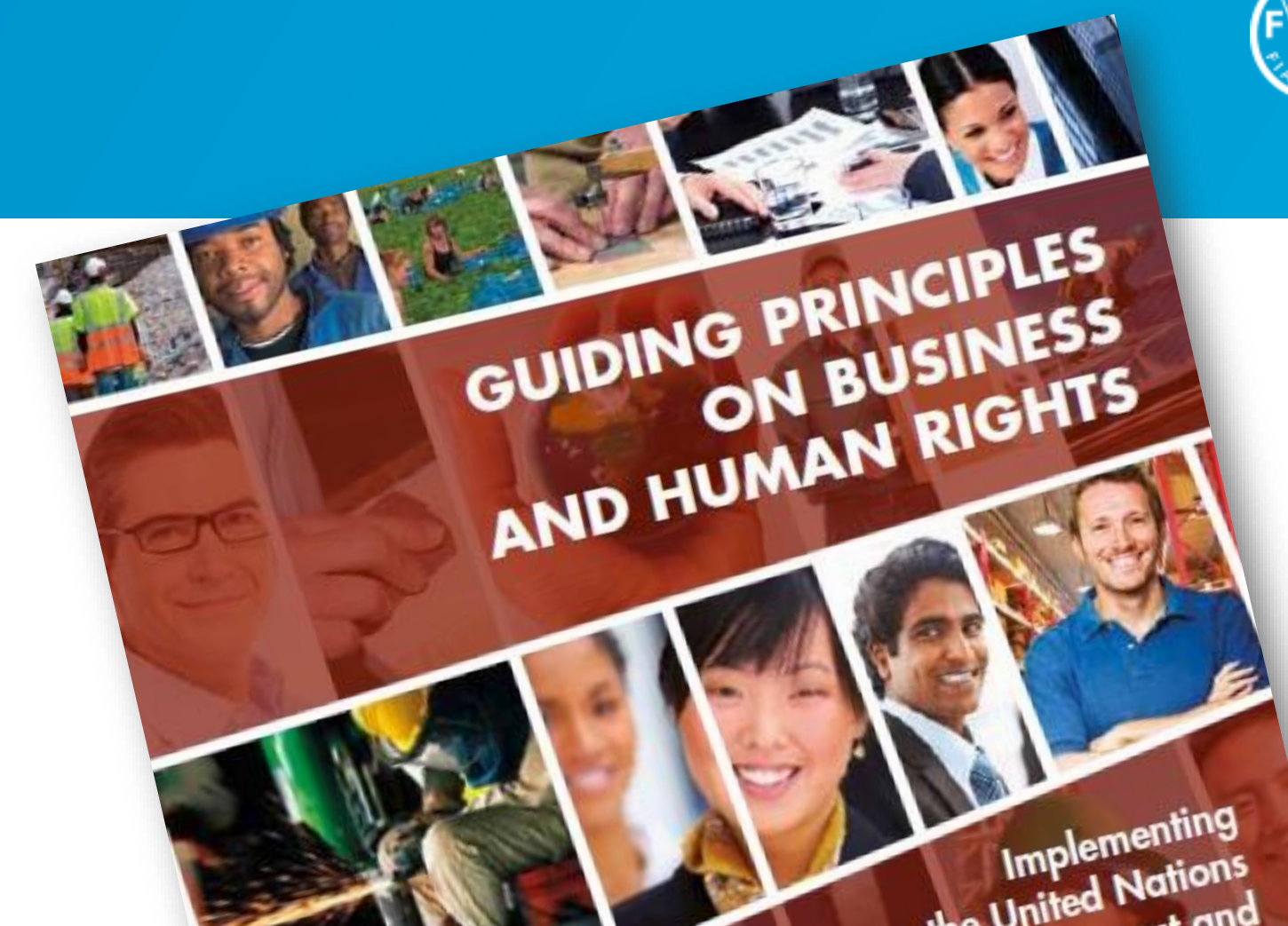
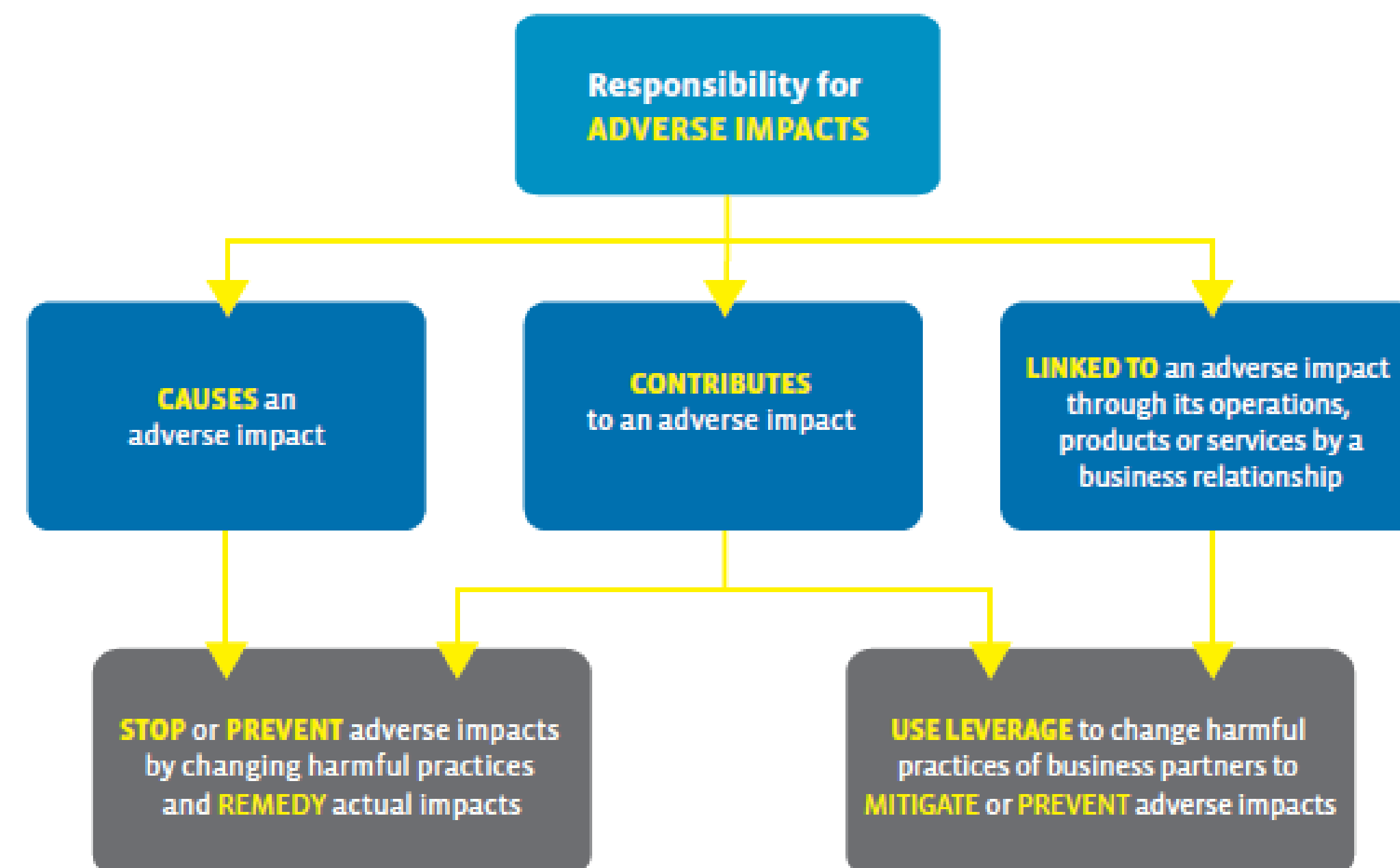


FIGURE 2.1: Responsibility for Adverse Impacts





Sustainability concerns are here to stay

Significant media attention > growing pressure from NGOs, consumers and retailers

Addressing human rights concerns is an opportunity to reduce reputational risk, as well as increased competitiveness on global markets and diversification

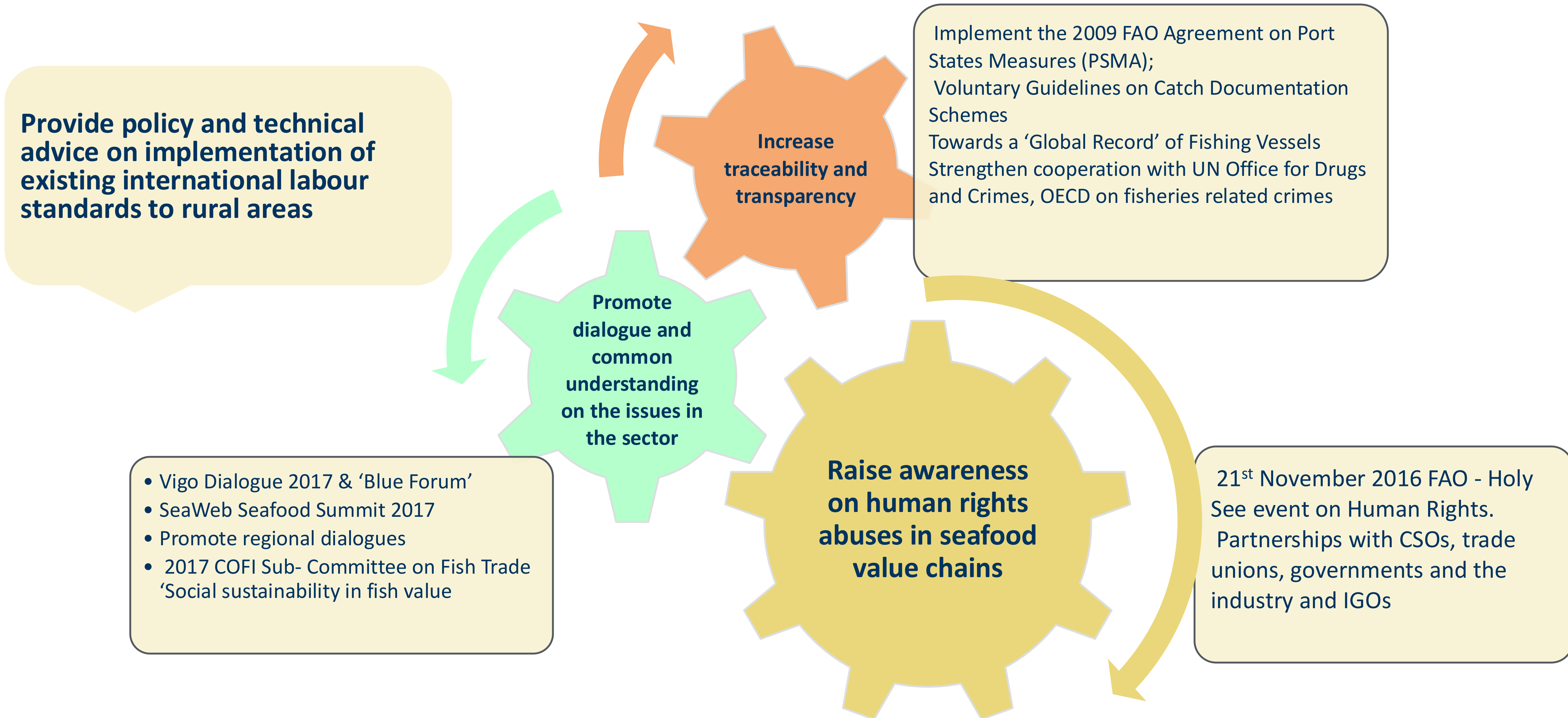
Increasingly market states regulations/initiatives focus on respect of human rights and labour rights

- E.U: GSP+; IUU regulation
- U.K: Modern Slavery Act
- U.S.A: Trafficking in Person (TIP) report; Anti Slavery Act

‘Sustainable seafood markets are surging but labour/social issues are missing from certification programs’. (IISD, 2005)

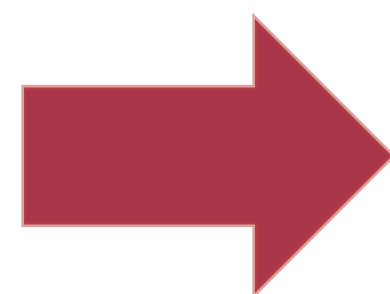


What is FAO doing?





Contributing to the Agenda 2030



Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms





The *Vigo Dialogue* 2016

What? A multi stakeholder annual meeting back to back CONXEMAR exhibition

Who? Representatives from private sector, civil society organizations, business, governments, certifications programs.

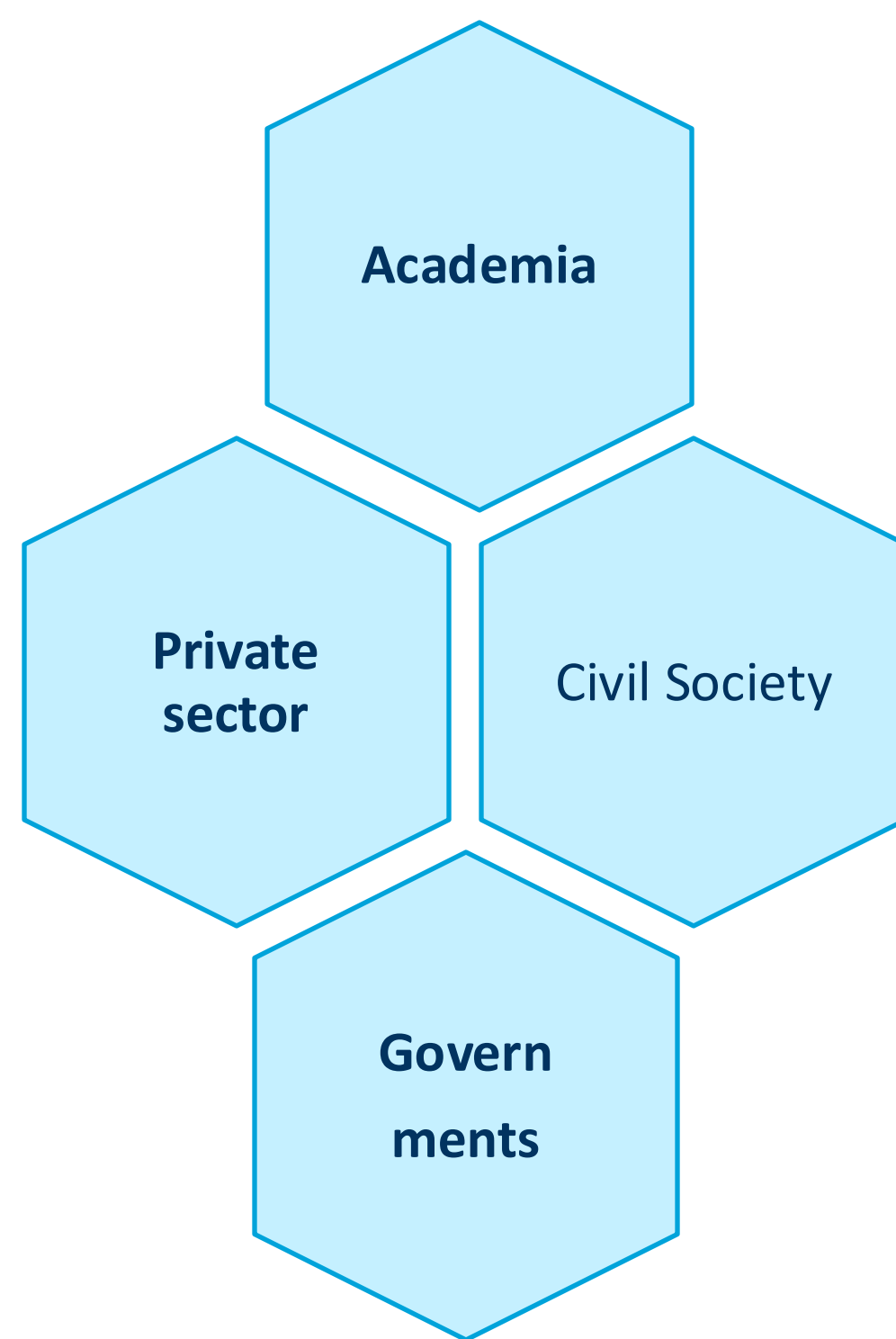
Around benefits & challenges of promoting decent work in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and due diligence

- Government responsibility to apply and enforcing international labour standards as **level playing field** for the industry (in particular sector specific standard in relation to safety and working conditions in FI)
- **Market led approaches** – including certifications – **should reinforce governments' efforts**
- Establishing synergies to avoid duplication and confusions in emerging initiatives, such as in eco-labelling
- **Labour rights are fundamental human rights** and should be respected regardless of governments' ratification
- Key to address **IUU fishing, as a means to combat also abused on board fishing vessels**



Looking ahead: The Blue Forum

WHAT? The Blue Forum could be a platform for sharing information, dialogue, advocacy, and development of strategic alliances to promote the implementation at regional and country level of successful practices. The BLUE FORUM would aim at encouraging actions requiring from the involvement of all stakeholders to reach satisfactory outcomes.



Economic: Sustainability thus eradicating extreme poverty and hunger within the sector

Social: Human Rights (labor rights, health, and safety at work) & Gender Equality

Environmental: Sustainability, including uncontrolled environmental impact

Global Partnership for Development: Blue Projects



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GRACIAS !!

More info at: decent-fish-work@fao.org