

**FEDERATION OF FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS
UGANDA**

ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR THE PURPOSE

OF

FORMING A SELF-REGULATORY BODY

FOR

GOOD PRACTICES

Drawn by:

Fisheries Associations (Members)

P.Box 3116, Kampala (U)

PREAMBLE

From ancient times, fishing has been a major source of food for humanity and a provider of employment and economic benefits to those engaged in this activity. The wealth of aquatic resources was assumed to be an unlimited gift of nature. However, with increased knowledge and the dynamic development of fisheries after the Second World War, this myth has faded in face of the realization that aquatic resources, although renewable, are not infinite and need to be properly managed, if their contribution to the nutritional, slightly over 28,000 square kilometres or 41% of Lake Victoria is within the boundary of Uganda. Its estimated annual production is between 300,000 and 400,000 tonnes (Lyimo et. al. 1990) although this has not yet been precisely determined. The total commercial catch in 1990 was estimated at 120,000 tonnes which was an increase of over 1000% over the catches prevailing twenty years ago. The substantial increase in the catch levels in the recent years owes in large part to the upsurge of the introduced Nile Perch, (*Lates niloticus*) and Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) populations in the lake. The predetermined trend of these fisheries has been a remarkable success story in terms of employment, nutrition, earnings and other production within the industry.

Open-access into the fisheries prevails on the lake. However, as the fishing effort continues to increase, many important in-shore stocks are noticeably becoming heavily exploited. The undesirable consequences of heavy fishing are occasionally reflected in production loss per unit of effort, diminishing revenues, tendencies to fish farther offshore, the use of redundant inputs and decreasing profitability.

Knowledge of the ecology of fish stocks, the various aspects of the artisanal fisheries and their socio-economic characteristics is vital to management. This facilitates the determination of the regulatory measures most appropriate in terms of probable impact and applicability.

The fishing industry on Lake Victoria is characterized by being primarily artisanal in nature, featuring legions of small-scale operators working with gill nets. Most of the fishing crafts are planked canoes. A lake-wide total of 8674 active canoes was recorded during a recent frame survey (Tumwebaze and Coenen ed., 1990) with about 20% of the units being equipped with outboard engines. Industrial trawling operations are just beginning as pilot schemes. This is in the form of a large-scale pair trawling on the lake. Other characteristics of the dominant artisanal fisheries include limited fishing range, composite ownership of fishing units, relative lack of development resources available to fisher folk, extensive social and financial linkages between the harvesting sector and the post-harvest sector, resistance to change, pauperization of fishermen and the suspicion and fear of government authorities as these are often identified with law enforcement and tax collection.

Having cognizance of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its Nineteenth Session in March 1991, having called for the development of new concepts which would lead to responsible, sustained fisheries.

FFOU, in accordance with its mandate, is fully committed to assisting member affiliates, in the efficient implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and will report to the relevant stakeholders; local and international community on the progress achieved and further action required.

INTRODUCTION

Fisheries, including aquaculture, provide a vital source of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic wellbeing for people throughout the world, both for present and future generations and shall therefore be conducted in a responsible manner. This Code sets out principles and standards of behaviour of the deferent fisheries associations cane together to form a Self-Regulatory Body for good practices with a view to ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of water resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity. The Code of conduct recognises the nutritional, economic, social, environmental and cultural importance of fisheries sector, and the interests of all FFOU members in fisheries sector. The Code of conduct takes into account the biological characteristics of the resources and their environment and the interests of FFOU members and all those involved in fisheries are encouraged to apply and become FFOU members to comply with this Code and give effect to it.

Table of Contents

PREAMBLE	1
INTRODUCTION	4
1.0 NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT	7
2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE CODE	8
3.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS	9
4.0 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND UPDATING	11
5.0 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF FFOU	12
6.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLES	12
7.0 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	17
7.1 General	17
7.2 Management objectives	19
7.3.0 Management framework and procedures.....	21
7.4 Implementation	22
7.4.6 Minimum Size Regulations	24
7.4.7 Prohibited Fishing Methods and Gears	24
7.4.8 Closed Areas and Seasons	24
7.4.9 Fish Introductions.....	25
7.4.10 Fish Processing and Fish Trade	25
7.4.11 Additional Rules and Regulations.....	25
7.4.12 Pollution	25
7.4.13 Law Enforcement	26
7.5 Need for the Harmonization of Fisheries Regulation.....	26
7.6 Data gathering and management advice	27

7.7	Precautionary approach	28
8	FISHING OPERATIONS.....	29
8.1	Duties of FFOU.....	30
8.1.2	Duties of FFOU affiliates.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
8.1.3	Fishing activities	30
8.2	Energy optimization.....	31
8.3	Protection of the aquatic environment	32
8.4	Protection of the atmosphere	33
8.5	Harbours and landing places for fishing vessels.....	33
8.6	Abandonment of structures and other materials	34
8.7	Artificial reefs and fish aggregation devices	34
9	AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT.....	35
9.2	Responsible development of aquaculture including culture-based fisheries within Trans boundary aquatic ecosystems	36
9.3	Use of aquatic genetic resources for the purposes of aquaculture including culture-based fisheries.....	36
9.4	Responsible aquaculture at the production level	37
10	POST-HARVEST PRACTICES AND TRADE	38
10.1	Responsible fish utilization	38
10.2	Responsible international trade.....	40
10.3	Laws and regulations relating to fish trade.....	42
11	FISHERIES RESEARCH	43

1.0 NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of conduct is voluntary and binding all FFOU association members affiliated to it. However, certain parts of it are based on relevant articles of FFOU Constitution/Articles, rules of national and international laws. The Code also contains provisions that may be or have already been given binding effect by means of other obligatory legal instruments amongst the Parties, such as the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, 1993, which, according to FAO Conference resolution 15/93, paragraph 3, forms an integral part of the Code.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

(CITES), to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Uganda is a Member of the

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Uganda accessed to the Kyoto Protocol and ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. At a regional level, Uganda is a Party to the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The FFOU Code of conduct is a national in scope, and is directly toward member's their conduct, management and development of fisheries sector, such as fishers, those engaged in fishing, processing and marketing of fish and fishery products and other users of the aquatic environment in relation to fisheries.

The Code of conduct provides principles and standards applicable to the conservation, management and development of all fisheries. It also covers the fishery capture, processing and trade of fish and fishery products, fishing operations, aquaculture, fisheries research and the integration of fisheries into coastal area management.

In this Code, the reference to FFOU in matters within its competence, and the term fisheries applies equally to capture fisheries and aquaculture.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE CODE

The objectives of the Code of conduct are to:

- a. Bring together and coordinate all fisheries associations to form a Self-Regulatory Body under the Federation of Fisheries Organizations Uganda (FFOU)
- b. Establish principles, in accordance with FFOU Constitution, the relevant national law, for responsible fisheries and fisheries activities, considering all their relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental and commercial aspects;
- c. Establish principles and criteria for working under a Self-Regulatory Body (FFOU) and implementation of its constitution, national laws, regional policies for responsible conservation of fisheries resources and fisheries management and also development;
- d. Serve as an instrument of reference to help FFOU and its member affiliates (associations) in fisheries activities to establish or to improve the legal and institutional framework required for the exercise of responsible fisheries and in the formulation and implementation of appropriate measures;
- e. Provide guidance which may be used where appropriate in the formulation and implementation of member's agreements and other legal instruments, both binding and voluntary;
- f. Facilitate and promote technical, financial and other cooperation in conservation of fisheries resources and fisheries management and development;
- g. promote the contribution of fisheries to food security and food quality, giving priority to the nutritional needs of local communities;

- h. promote working together as one, protection of living aquatic resources and their environments;
- i. promote the trade of fish and fishery products in conformity with relevant international rules and avoid the use of measures that constitute hidden barriers to such trade;
- j. promote research on fisheries as well as on associated ecosystems and relevant environmental factors; and
- k. Provide standards of conduct for all FFOU members involved in the fisheries sector.

3.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The FFOU Code of conduct is to be interpreted and applied in conformity with the relevant rules of local, national and international laws, as reflected in Fish and Crocodiles Act 1964. Nothing in this Code prejudices the rights, jurisdiction and duties of fishing communities.

At an international level, Uganda is a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Uganda is a Member of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Uganda accessed to the Kyoto Protocol and ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. At a regional level, Uganda is a Party to the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

FFOU Code of conduct is also to be interpreted and applied:

a. In accordance to the basic policy underlying our existing fisheries regulations contained in the Fish and Crocodiles Act 1964 of the Laws of Uganda summarized as follows: “to manage the fishery resources so that we can obtain the maximum net benefits from them.” This implies an obligation on the part of Government to manage the fisheries for the common benefit of the citizenry. The common benefit referred to here which is reckoned largely in economic, social and nutritional terms accrue at different levels:

To the fishermen, the fish processor, the fish trader, the consumer, the producer of fishing and fish processing inputs, and to the public treasury.

In general terms, then, the management may restrict the fishing effort to limit costs and increase catch per fishermen; it may impose high fees so that the benefits accrue to the country as a whole; it may restrict exports in order to maintain supplies and reduce prices to consumers; and/or it may even remove barriers to fishing in order to increase social benefits through employment.

b. In conformity to regulations or as conditions for license as provided for in the Fish and Crocodiles Act 1964. For Lake Victoria, provisions for gear ban, mesh size regulations, closed seasons and areas, places and time for landing of fish, licensing, taxes on effort, access fees, fishing and fish processing, transfer of fish and eggs, pollution, immature fish, buoying of set nets, obstruction to navigation, and for private marks. Section 43 of the Act (Chap. 228 of the Laws) empowers the Minister concerned to gazette Statutory Instruments to amend or strengthen the Fishing Rules.

c. In a manner consistent with the relevant provisions of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

- d. in accordance with other applicable rules of international law, including the respective obligations of FFOU pursuant to international agreements to which Uganda is party; and
- e. In the light of the 1992 Declaration of Cancun, the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in particular Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and other relevant declarations and international instruments.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND UPDATING

All FFOU members, fishing entities/communities and relevant local and regional entities and/or individuals, all persons concerned with the conservation, management and utilization of fisheries resources and trade in fish and fishery products shall collaborate in the fulfilment and implementation of the objectives and principles contained in this Code.

FFOU, in accordance with its role within its mandate and in-line with Uganda's legislative system and in collaboration with all stakeholders, will monitor the application and implementation of the Code and its effects on fisheries and the Secretariat will report accordingly to the relevant FFOU Committees on Fisheries (COFI). All relevant stakeholders, whether members or non-members of FFOU, as well as relevant national, and international organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental shall actively cooperate with FFOU in this work.

FFOU, through its competent bodies, may revise this Code of conduct, considering developments in fisheries as well as reports to FFOU on the implementation of this Code.

Parties to this code; FFOU Association Members from local or international organizations and individuals shall promote the understanding of the Code among those involved in fisheries, including, where practicable, by the introduction of new schemes which would promote voluntary acceptance of the Code and its effective application.

5.0 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF FFOU

The capacity of FFOU to implement the recommendations from its members shall be duly considered.

In order to achieve the set objectives of this Code and to support its effective implementation, Uganda, relevant international and national organizations, whether governmental or nongovernmental, and financial institutions shall give full recognition to the special circumstances and requirements of FFOU, including in particular its grass-root affiliates (members) among them.

Uganda, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and financial institutions shall work for the adoption of measures to address the needs of FFOU, fishers and fishers' communities especially in the areas of financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, training and scientific cooperation and in enhancing their ability to develop their own fisheries as well as to participate in modern fisheries, including access to such fisheries.

6.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

FFOU members (Fishers associations) and users of living aquatic resources shall conserve aquatic ecosystems. The right to fish carries with it the obligation to do so in a responsible manner so as to ensure effective conservation and management of the living aquatic resources.

FFOU members shall promote the maintenance of quality, diversity and availability of fishery resources in sufficient quantities for present and future generations in the context of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Management measures shall not only ensure the conservation of target species but also of species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon the target species.

FFOU members shall prevent overfishing and excess fishing capacity and shall implement management measures to ensure that fishing effort is commensurate with the productive capacity of the fishery resources and their sustainable utilization. FFOU shall take measures to rehabilitate populations and fishing communities as far as possible and when appropriate.

Conservation and management decisions for fisheries shall be based on the best scientific evidence available, also considering traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors.

FFOU members, shall assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the trans-boundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, FFOU shall encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

FFOU members shall apply a precautionary approach widely to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment, taking account of the best scientific evidence available. The absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take measures to conserve target species, associated or dependent species and non-target species and their environment.

Selective and environmentally safe fishing gear and practices shall be further developed and applied, to the extent practicable, in order to maintain biodiversity and to conserve the population structure and aquatic ecosystems and protect fish quality. Where proper selective and environmentally safe fishing gear and practices exist, they shall be recognized and accorded a priority in establishing conservation and management measures for fisheries. FFOU members, shall minimize

waste, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species.

The harvesting, handling, processing and transportation of fish and fishery products shall be carried out in a manner which will maintain the nutritional value, quality and safety of the products, reduce waste and minimize negative impacts on the environment.

All critical fisheries habitats in marine and fresh water ecosystems, such as wetlands, mangroves, reefs, lagoons, nursery and spawning areas, shall be protected and rehabilitated as far as possible and where necessary. Particular effort shall be made to protect such habitats from destruction, degradation, pollution and other significant impacts resulting from human activities that threaten the health and viability of the fishery resources.

FFOU members shall ensure that their fisheries interests, including the need for conservation of the resources, are considered in the multiple uses of the shore line/landing sites and are integrated into shore area/landing site management, planning and development.

Within their respective competences and in accordance with national legislation, policies and bye-laws and international law, including within the framework of local, national, subregional or regional fisheries conservation and management organizations or arrangements.

FFOU members shall ensure compliance with and enforcement of fisheries and management measures and establish effective mechanisms, as appropriate, to monitor and control the activities of fishing vessels and fishing support vessels.

FFOU in collaboration with national bodies authorizing fishing and fishing support vessels to fly their flags shall exercise effective control over those vessels so as to ensure the proper application of this Code. They shall ensure that the activities of such vessels do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures taken in

accordance with international law and adopted at the national, Sub Regional, regional or global levels. FFOU shall also ensure that vessels flying their flags fulfil their obligations concerning the collection and provision of data relating to their fishing activities.

FFOU and all her affiliates shall, within her respective competences and in accordance with national, regional and international law, cooperate at Sub Regional, regional and global levels through fisheries management organizations, other international agreements or other arrangements to promote conservation and management, ensure responsible fishing and ensure effective conservation and protection of living aquatic resources throughout their range of distribution, taking into account the need for compatible measures in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction.

FFOU shall, to the extent permitted by her constitution and guidelines and regulations, ensure that decision making processes are transparent and achieve timely solutions to urgent matters. FFOU, in accordance with appropriate procedures, shall facilitate consultation and the effective participation of affiliates, industry, fishers, environmental and other interested organizations and individuals in decision making with respect to the development of principles, rules and policies related to fisheries management, regulation and development.

Fish and fishery products shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, rights and obligations established by national law, regional agreements, international covenants i.e. World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement and other relevant agreements. FFOU and its affiliates shall ensure that their policies, programmes and practices related to fishing, processing, transportation, trade in fish and fishery products do not result in obstacles to this trade, environmental degradation or negative social, including nutritional, impacts.

FFOU affiliates and all relevant stakeholders shall cooperate in order to prevent disputes. All disputes relating to fishing activities and practices

shall be resolved in a timely, peaceful and cooperative manner, in accordance with applicable ethical code of conduct, FFOU constitution, local, national, regional and international agreements or as may otherwise be agreed between the parties. Pending settlement of a dispute, the affiliates of parties concerned shall make every effort to enter into provisional arrangements of a practical nature which shall be without prejudice to the final outcome of any dispute settlement procedure.

FFOU, recognizing the paramount importance to fishers and fish farmers of understanding the conservation and management of the fishery resources on which they depend, shall promote awareness of responsible fisheries through education and training. They shall ensure that fishers and fish farmers are involved in the policy formulation and implementation process, also with a view to facilitating the implementation of this Code.

FFOU Members shall ensure that fishing facilities and equipment as well as all fisheries activities allow for safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions and meet internationally agreed standards adopted by relevant international organizations.

Recognizing the important contributions of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security, FFOU shall appropriately protect the rights of fishers and fish workers, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood, as well as preferential access, where appropriate, to traditional fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction.

FFOU shall consider aquaculture, including culture-based fisheries, as a means to promote diversification of income and diet. In so doing, FFOU shall ensure that resources are used responsibly and adverse impacts on the environment and on local communities are minimized.

7.0 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- Article 7.1 General
- Article 7.2 Management objectives
- Article 7.3 Management framework and procedures
- Article 7.4 Data gathering and management
- Article 7.5 Precautionary approach
- Article 7.6 Management measures
- Article 7.7 Implementation

7.1 General

FFOU and her affiliates and all those engaged in fisheries management shall, through this ethical code of conduct and in conformity to all appropriate policies, legal and institutional frameworks, adopt measures for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources. Conservation and management measures, whether at local, national, sub-regional or regional levels, shall be based on the best scientific evidence available and be designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of fishery resources at levels which promote the objective of their optimum utilization and maintain their availability for present and future generations; short term considerations shall not compromise these objectives.

Within areas under FFOU's jurisdiction, shall seek to identify relevant domestic parties having a legitimate interest in the use and management of fisheries resources and establish arrangements for consulting them to gain their collaboration in achieving responsible fisheries.

For trans-boundary fish stocks, straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks, where these are exploited by two or more FFOU, in collaboration with national bodies concerned, shall cooperate to ensure effective conservation and management of the resources. This shall be achieved,

where appropriate, through the establishment of a bilateral, sub-regional or regional fisheries organizations or arrangement.

The member associations activities shall include representatives of FFOU in whose jurisdictions the resources occur, as well as representatives from member-based organizations/associations, local and international organizations which have a real interest in the fisheries on the resources outside national jurisdictions. Where a local, district, Sub Regional or regional fisheries management committee/association or arrangement exists and has the competence to establish conservation and management measures, those parties (associations, organizations and or individuals) shall cooperate by becoming members of such organization or a participant in such arrangement, and actively participate in its work.

An association that is not a member of FFOU, shall not be a participant in FFOU, Sub Regional or regional fisheries management arrangement shall nevertheless cooperate, in accordance with ethical code of conduct, local, national regional and international agreements and international law, in the conservation and management of the relevant fisheries resources by giving effect to any conservation and management measures adopted by such organization or arrangement.

Representatives from relevant member organizations, shall be accorded the opportunity to take part in FFOU top organ meetings of local district, regional and national fisheries management and arrangements as observers or otherwise, as appropriate, in accordance with the FFOU procedures or arrangement concerned. Such representatives shall be given timely access to the records and reports of such meetings, subject to the procedural rules on access to them.

FFOU shall establish, within her respective competences and capacities, effective mechanisms for fisheries monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement to ensure compliance with her conservation and management

measures, as well as those adopted by Sub Regional or regional organizations or arrangements.

FFOU and its members shall take measures to prevent or eliminate excessive fishing capacity and shall ensure that levels of fishing effort are commensurate with the sustainable use of fishery resources as a means of ensuring the effectiveness of conservation and management measures.

FFOU and its members shall ensure transparency in the mechanisms for fisheries management and in the related decision-making process.

FFOU shall give due publicity to conservation and management measures and ensure that laws, regulations and other legal rules governing their implementation are effectively disseminated. The bases and purposes of such measures shall be explained to users of the resource in order to facilitate their application and thus gain increased support in the implementation of such measures.

7.2 Management objectives

Recognizing that long-term sustainable use of fisheries resources is the overriding objective of conservation and management, FFOU shall, inter alia, adopt appropriate measures, based on the best scientific evidence available, which are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including

The current development policy of the Government with respect to food production geared towards ensuring the supply of adequate and balanced fish through the attainment of Self-Regulatory Body (FFOU) and the reduction of post-harvest losses.

In the case of fisheries, including but not limited to

- (i) Maximization of fish production to increase animal protein production and per capita consumption;
- (ii) Reduction of post-harvest losses;
- (iii) Maximization of net earnings from fisheries over and above what it costs society to produce;
- (iv) Maximization of employment opportunities in the sector, and
- (v) Maximization of foreign exchange earnings from surplus production of fish and fish products traded locally, regionally and internationally.

Fisheries regulations, fisheries research and monitoring of the exploitation through routine collection of fish catch and marketing statistics are, therefore, essential if the above objectives are to be realized.

Such measures shall provide inter alia that:

- a) Excess fishing capacity is avoided and exploitation of the stocks remains economically viable;
- b) The economic conditions under which fishing industries operate promote responsible fisheries;
- c) The interests of fishers, including those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, are considered;
- d) Biodiversity of aquatic habitats and ecosystems is conserved and endangered species are protected;
- e) Depleted stocks are allowed to recover or, where appropriate, are actively restored;
- f) Adverse environmental impacts on the resources from human activities are assessed and, where appropriate, corrected; and
- g) Pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species are minimized, through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques.

7.3.0 Management framework and procedures

Management measures

FFOU and its affiliates shall ensure that the level of fishing permitted is commensurate with the state of fisheries resources.

FFOU and its members shall adopt measures to ensure that no vessel be allowed to fish unless so authorized and licensed by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), in a manner consistent with national legislation, policies, regulations and standards and international law or covenants.

Where excess fishing capacity exists, mechanisms shall be established by all parties to reduce capacity to levels commensurate with the sustainable use of fisheries resources so as to ensure that fishers (members) operate under economic conditions that promote responsible fisheries. Such mechanisms shall include monitoring the capacity of fishing vessels.

The performance of all existing fishing gear, methods and practices shall be examined and measures taken to ensure that fishing gear, methods and practices which are not consistent with responsible fishing are phased out and replaced with more acceptable alternatives provided by FFOU to its members. In this process, particular attention shall be given to the impact of such measures on fishing communities, including their ability to exploit the resource.

FFOU shall regulate fishing in its members such a way as to avoid the risk of conflict among fishers using different vessels, gear and fishing methods.

When deciding on the use, Department of fisheries resources shall recognise FFOU and shall be given support to implement its code of conduct as appropriate, in accordance with national laws and regulations, to the traditional practices, needs and interests of indigenous people and local fishing communities which are highly dependent on fishery resources for their livelihood.

In the evaluation of alternative measures, their cost-effectiveness and social impact shall be considered.

The efficacy of conservation and management measures and their possible interactions shall be kept under continuous review. Such measures shall, as appropriate, be revised or abolished in the light of new information.

FFOU and its members shall take appropriate measures to minimize waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and negative impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species. Where appropriate, such measures may include technical measures related to fish size, mesh size or gear, discards, closed seasons and areas and zones reserved for selected fisheries, particularly artisanal fisheries. Such measures shall be applied, where appropriate, to protect juveniles and spanners. FFOU in collaboration with other sub-regional or regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements shall promote, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective gear and techniques.

FFOU and other relevant stakeholders, in the framework of their respective competences, shall introduce measures for depleted resources and those resources threatened with depletion that facilitate the sustained recovery of such stocks. They shall make every effort to ensure that resources and habitats critical to the well-being of such resources which have been adversely affected by fishing or other human activities are restored.

7.4 Implementation

FFOU shall ensure that an effective legal and administrative framework among her affiliates and parties to this code, as appropriate, is established for fisheries resource conservation and fisheries management.

UFFOU shall ensure that laws and regulations governing her affiliates provide for sanctions applicable in respect of violations which are adequate in severity to be effective, including sanctions which allow for the refusal, withdrawal or suspension of authorizations to fish in the event of non-compliance with conservation and management measures in force.

FFOU, in conformity with her constitution, rules and guidelines, national laws and international instruments, shall implement effective fisheries monitoring, control, surveillance and law enforcement measures including, where appropriate, observer programmes, inspection schemes and vessel monitoring systems. Such measures shall be promoted and, where appropriate, implemented by her affiliate members, law-enforcement agencies, Sub Regional or regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in accordance with procedures agreed by such organizations or arrangements.

FFOU, her affiliates and parties to this code of conduct as appropriate, shall agree on the means by which the activities of FFOU will be financed, bearing in mind, inter alia, the relative benefits derived from the fishery and the differing capacities of different stakeholders and fisher communities to provide financial and other contributions. Where appropriate, and when possible, such organizations and arrangements shall aim to recover the costs of fisheries conservation, management and research.

7.4.5 Restrictions on Fishing Gears and Methods

FFOU and all her affiliates and all parties to this ethical code of conduct shall conform to general restrictions on types, mesh-sizes regulations and dimensions of fishing gears and methods of fishing which are considered destructive to the fish stocks are sufficiently selective so as to minimize waste, discards, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species. Additionally,

limited entry and licensing, and closed seasons as well as adhere to a ban on destructive fishing methods, closed areas in identified breeding places, fixed prices for fish landed, and stiff punishment for violations of any of the rules.

FFOU and relevant institutions shall collaborate in developing standard methodologies for research into fishing gear selectivity, fishing methods and strategies, dissemination of the results of such research programmes and the transfer of technology.

7.4.6 Minimum Size Regulations

FFOU and all her affiliates including all parties to this ethical code of conduct shall abide by the Fish and Crocodile Act as amended by Statutory Instrument No. 15 of 1981 that sets out minimum legal size at which fish are to be taken in accordance with Section 35 of the Act. Including rules referring to Nile Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and Nile Perch (*Lates niloticus*) and other commercially important fish species such as *Hydrocynus*, *Alestes*, *Bagrus*, *Clarias*, *Barbus*, and other Tilapine species as well as *Rastrineobola*.

7.4.7 Prohibited Fishing Methods and Gears

That FFOU affiliates and all parties to this ethical code of conduct prohibit the use of other destructive methods such as poisons, explosives, noxious substances, lamp, light, fluorescence torch or electrical devices for fishing is forbidden under the Act (Sec. 9) except in cases where permission is granted in writing by the Commissioner for Fisheries, such as in the case of light fishing for *Rastrineobola*. It is important that the use of these other devices be prohibited.

7.4.8 Closed Areas and Seasons

These measures which aim at improving the productivity of the resource by ensuring the uninterrupted spawning and growth of juvenile fish have

not been introduced on all Lakes. They can also be used to control total effort and catch. Despite the inconveniences these methods provide, they are being proposed for all Lakes, particularly with respect to closed areas.

7.4.9 Fish Introductions

The prohibition against introduction or transfer of fish or eggs without prior consent in writing of the Commissioner for Fisheries will be extended to include other fisheries resources such as aquatic animals and plants including illegal diversion of waters of any lake, river, stream, pond or private waters in which fish has been introduced.

7.4.10 Fish Processing and Fish Trade

Restriction on fish processing and marketing shall be in conformity with specifications in Section 8 of the Fish and Crocodiles Act taking into account fish product standards which shall include legal authority to certify the quality of fish products destined to both local and export consumer markets. That expansion of production capacities shall not occur without obtaining advice on the situation of fish stocks and on the national policy on access to the exploitation of the nation's natural resources.

7.4.11 Additional Rules and Regulations

Laws regarding the collection of fisheries statistics, fisheries research, and pollution are being strengthened in the Act. Section 38 (a) and 39 of the Act which provided for the collection of statistics is being reinforced through providing for stiffer punishment for obstructions and misinformation. It is being proposed that industrial fishermen (trawlers and purse seiners) be required to fill out statistical survey forms and submit monthly returns on catch, effort, costs and prices.

7.4.12 Pollution

The discharge of industrial and domestic effluents directly into the waters of Lake Victoria to such an extent as to cause any waters thereof to be

poisonous or injurious to fish, or to the spawning grounds, spawn, or food of fish was prohibited under the Lake Victoria Fisheries Act, 1950. This is being revived in the proposed Amendment Act. Installation of waste treatment plants by industries discharging liquid pollutants shall also be a requirement.

7.4.13 Law Enforcement

As provided for in the Act, FFOU and her affiliates, shall work in collaboration with “responsible Ministry, Authorised Officers including; Fisheries Officers, a Chief Magistrates, Magistrates of any grade, a Police Officers of or above the rank of corporal or any employee of the Fisheries Department authorised in writing in that behalf by the Chief Fisheries Officer - The Commissioner for Fisheries.” These officers are, under the Act, authorised to enforce the content of the Act, code of conduct and the Rules thereof. This role shall not however, conflict with the role of fisheries personnel as extension workers.

7.5 Need for the Harmonization of Fisheries Regulation

Lake Victoria is shared by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. FFOU recognises the importance of establishing a regional mechanisms for co-ordinated or joint management in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' Sub-Committee of the Committee for the Inland Fisheries of Africa established in 1968 for the Management and Development of the Fisheries of Lake Victoria, the three countries are formulating an integrated fisheries policy with a single regulatory code that is applicable within the internal legislations of each nation. With the assistance from UNDP/FAO Regional Project based in Bujumbura, Burundi, the riparian FFOU are involved in (a) the formulation of common regulations or general conventions accompanied by detailed enforcement measures, and (b) the formulation of a general agreement covering all the problems related to the management of the lake basin and its fisheries. It is hoped that these actions shall be followed by (a) the adoption of the

convention and (b) the conclusion of the convention for the sole purpose of establishing a joint Independent Commission.

7.6 Data gathering and management advice

When considering the adoption of conservation and management measures, the best scientific evidence available shall be taken into account in order to evaluate the current state of the fishery resources and the possible impact of the proposed measures on the resources.

Research in support of fishery conservation and management shall be promoted by all parties to this ethical code of conduct, including research on the resources and on the effects of climatic, environmental and socio-economic factors. The results of such research shall be disseminated to interested parties.

Studies shall be promoted which provide an understanding of the costs, benefits and effects of alternative management options designed to rationalize fishing, in particular, options relating to excess fishing capacity and excessive levels of fishing effort.

FFOU shall ensure that timely, complete and reliable statistics on catch and fishing effort are collected and maintained in accordance with national laws, policies and applicable international standards and practices and in sufficient detail to allow sound statistical analysis. Such data shall be updated regularly and verified through an appropriate system. FFOU shall compile and disseminate such data in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements.

In order to ensure sustainable management of fisheries and to enable social and economic objectives to be achieved, sufficient knowledge of social, economic and institutional factors shall be developed through data gathering, analysis and research.

FFOU shall compile fishery-related and other supporting scientific data relating to fish stocks under her jurisdiction in an internationally agreed format and provide them in a timely manner to relevant stakeholders. In cases of stocks which occur in the jurisdiction of more than one State and for which there is no such organization or arrangement, FFOU and parties concerned shall agree on a mechanism for cooperation to compile and exchange such data.

FFOU and her affiliates shall compile data and make it available, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, in a timely manner and in an agreed format to all member affiliates and other interested parties in accordance with agreed procedures.

7.7 Precautionary approach

FFOU and her member affiliates shall apply the precautionary approach widely to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment. The absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.

In implementing the precautionary approach, FFOU and her member affiliates shall take into account, inter alia, uncertainties relating to the size and productivity of the stocks, reference points, stock condition in relation to such reference points, levels and distribution of fishing mortality and the impact of fishing activities, including discards, on non-target and associated or dependent species, as well as environmental and socio-economic conditions.

FFOU and her affiliates and Sub Regional or regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements shall, on the basis of the best scientific evidence available, inter alia, determine:

- a. stock specific target reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded; and
- b. stock-specific limit reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded; when a limit reference point is approached, measures shall be taken to ensure that it will not be exceeded.

In the case of new or exploratory fisheries, FFOU and her affiliates shall adopt as soon as possible cautious conservation and management measures, including, inter alia, catch limits and effort limits. Such measures shall remain in force until there are sufficient data to allow assessment of the impact of the fisheries on the long-term sustainability of the stocks, whereupon conservation and management measures based on that assessment shall be implemented. The latter measures shall, if appropriate, allow for the gradual development of the fisheries.

If a natural phenomenon has a significant adverse impact on the status of living aquatic resources, FFOU shall adopt conservation and management measures on an emergency basis to ensure that fishing activity does not exacerbate such adverse impact. FFOU shall also adopt such measures on an emergency basis where fishing activity presents a serious threat to the sustainability of such resources. Measures taken on an emergency basis shall be temporary and shall be based on the best scientific evidence available.

8 FISHING OPERATIONS

- Article 8.1 Duties of FFOU
- Article 8.2 FFOU Affiliate duties
- Article 8.3 Fishing activities
- Article 8.4 Protection of the aquatic environment
- Article 8.5 Harbors and landing places for fishing vessels
- Article 8.6 Artificial reefs and fish aggregation devices

8.1 Duties of FFOU

FFOU, with the assistance of relevant national, international organizations and government shall endeavour to ensure through education and training that her affiliates and all those engaged in fishing operations be given information on the most important provisions of this Code, as well as provisions of relevant national, regional and international conventions and applicable environmental and other standards that are essential to ensure responsible fishing operations.

8.1.1 Fishing activities

FFOU and her affiliates shall ensure that fishing is conducted with due regard to the safety of human life and in conformity to national legislation, protection of the marine environment and the prevention of damage to or loss of fishing gear.

FFOU and her affiliates shall prohibit dynamiting, poisoning and other comparable destructive fishing practices.

FFOU and her affiliates shall make every effort to ensure that information with regard to fishing operations, retained catch of fish and non-fish species and, as regards discards, the information required for stock assessment as decided by relevant management committees/bodies, is collected and forwarded systematically to FFOU Data Centre. FFOU shall, as far as possible, establish programmes, such as observer and inspection schemes, in order to promote compliance with applicable measures.

FFOU and her affiliates and all parties to this code shall promote the adoption of appropriate technology, taking into account economic conditions, for the best use and care of the retained catch.

FFOU and her affiliates and all parties to this code, with relevant groups from industry, shall encourage the development and implementation of technologies and operational methods that reduce discards. The use of fishing gear and practices that lead to the discarding of catch shall be discouraged and the use of fishing gear and practices that increase survival rates of escaping fish shall be promoted.

FFOU and her affiliates and all parties to this code shall cooperate to develop and apply technologies, materials and operational methods that minimize the loss of fishing gear and the ghost fishing effects of lost or abandoned fishing gear.

FFOU and her affiliates and all parties to this code shall ensure that assessments of the implications of habitat disturbance are carried out prior to the introduction on a commercial scale of new fishing gear, methods and operations to an area.

Research on the environmental and social impacts of fishing gear and, in particular, on the impact of such gear on biodiversity and coastal fishing communities shall be promoted.

All FFOU affiliates shall promote responsible fishing, use of fishing technology including ABAVUBI Mobile Application as the only way to improve on data collection and business, maintain Market price, trends based on posts and sales available to all fishers and retailers.

8.2 Energy optimization

FFOU and her affiliates and all parties to this code shall promote the development of appropriate standards and guidelines which would lead to the more efficient use of energy in harvesting and post-harvest activities within the fisheries sector.

FFOU and her affiliates and all parties to this code shall promote the development and transfer of technology in relation to energy optimization within the fisheries sector and, in particular, encourage owners, charterers and managers of fishing vessels to fit energy optimization devices to their vessels.

8.3 Protection of the aquatic environment

FFOU and her affiliates and all parties to this code shall introduce and enforce laws and regulations based on national legislation including Lake Victoria Fisheries (Amended) 1954, all fisheries laws applicable and (Immature Fish) Instrument No. 15 of 1981. Statutory Inst. No. 15 of 1981. p. 24, the Fish and Crocodiles Ordinance, 1950. Uganda Protectorate, Entebbe. 12 p, the Fishing Rules, 1951. Fish and Crocodiles Ordinance, 1950. Legal Notice No. 59 of 1951 and 7 p, the Lake Victoria Fisheries Act, 1950. Act No. 3 of 1950 p. 1–9.

Owners, charterers and managers of fishing vessels shall ensure that their vessels are fitted with appropriate equipment as required by law and shall consider fitting a shipboard compactor or incinerator to relevant classes of vessels in order to treat garbage and other shipboard wastes generated during the vessel's normal service.

Owners, charterers and managers of fishing vessels shall minimize the taking aboard of potential garbage through proper provisioning practices.

The crew of fishing vessels shall be conversant with proper shipboard procedures in order to ensure discharges do not exceed the levels set by law. Such procedures shall, as a minimum, include the disposal of oily waste and the handling and storage of shipboard garbage.

8.4 Protection of the atmosphere

FFOU shall adopt relevant standards and guidelines which would include provisions for the reduction of dangerous substances in exhaust gas emissions.

Owners, charterers and managers of fishing vessels shall ensure that their vessels are fitted with equipment to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances. The responsible crew members of fishing vessels shall be conversant with the proper running and maintenance of machinery on board.

Competent authorities shall make provision for the phasing out of the use of chlorofluorocarbons and transitional substances such as hydro chlorofluorocarbons in the refrigeration systems of fishing vessels and shall ensure that the ship building industry and those engaged in the fishing industry are informed of and comply with such provisions.

Owners or managers of fishing vessels shall take appropriate action to refit existing vessels with alternative refrigerants to CFCs and HCFCs and alternatives to Halons in firefighting installations. Such alternatives shall be used in specifications for all new fishing vessels.

FFOU and all her affiliates and parties to this code shall follow national laws, regulations, regional and international guidelines for the disposal of CFCs, HCFCs and Halons.

8.5 Harbours and landing places for fishing vessels

FFOU and all her affiliates and parties to this code, national governments, national and international organizations, owners, charterers and managers of fishing vessels as well as fishers shall take into account, inter alia, the following in the design and construction of harbours and landing places:

- a. Safe havens for fishing vessels and adequate servicing facilities for vessels, vendors and buyers are provided;
- b. Adequate freshwater supplies and sanitation arrangements shall be provided;
- c. Waste disposal systems shall be introduced, including for the disposal of oil, oily water and fishing gear;
- d. Pollution from fisheries activities and external sources shall be minimized; and
- e. Arrangements shall be made to combat the effects of erosion and siltation.

FFOU and all her affiliates and parties to this code, national governments, national and international organizations shall establish an institutional framework for the selection or improvement of sites for harbors for fishing vessels which allows for consultation among the authorities responsible for coastal area management.

8.6 Abandonment of structures and other materials

FFOU shall ensure that the standards and guidelines for the removal of redundant offshore structures issued by the International Maritime Organization are followed. FFOU shall also ensure that the competent fisheries authorities are consulted prior to decisions being made on the abandonment of structures and other materials by the relevant authorities.

8.7 Artificial reefs and fish aggregation devices

FFOU and all her affiliates and parties to this code where appropriate, shall develop policies for increasing stock populations and enhancing fishing opportunities through the use of artificial structures, placed with due regard to the safety of navigation, on or above the seabed or at the surface. Research into the use of such structures, including the impacts on living marine resources and the environment, shall be promoted.

FFOU and all her affiliates and parties to this code, national governments, national and international organizations shall ensure that, when selecting the materials to be used in the creation of artificial reefs as well as when selecting the geographical location of such artificial reefs, the provisions of relevant national, regional and international conventions concerning the environment and safety of navigation are observed.

FFOU and all her affiliates and parties to this code, national governments, national and international organizations shall, within the framework of coastal area management plans, establish management systems for artificial reefs and fish aggregation devices. Such management systems shall require approval for the construction and deployment of such reefs and devices and shall take into account the interests of fishers, including artisanal and subsistence fishers.

9 AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Article 9.1 Resp. dev. of aquaculture under national jurisdiction
- Article 9.2 Resp. dev. Within intra & trans boundary aquatic ecosystems
- Article 9.3 Use of aquatic genetic resources
- Article 9.4 Responsible aquaculture at the production level

In regard to attainment of responsible development of aquaculture, including culture-based fisheries, in areas under national jurisdiction, FFOU commits to;

Establish, maintain and develop an appropriate legal and administrative framework which facilitates the development of responsible aquaculture.

Promote responsible development and management of aquaculture, including an advance evaluation of the effects of aquaculture development on genetic diversity and ecosystem integrity, based on the best available scientific information.

Produce and regularly update aquaculture development strategies and plans, as required, to ensure that aquaculture development is ecologically sustainable and to allow the rational use of resources shared by aquaculture and other activities.

Ensure that the livelihoods of local communities, and their access to fishing grounds, are not negatively affected by aquaculture developments.

Establish effective procedures specific to aquaculture to undertake appropriate environmental assessment and monitoring with the aim of minimizing adverse ecological changes and related economic and social consequences resulting from water extraction, land use, discharge of effluents, use of drugs and chemicals, and other aquaculture activities.

9.2 Responsible development of aquaculture including culture-based fisheries within Trans boundary aquatic ecosystems

FFOU shall in collaboration with her partners and stakeholders establish appropriate mechanisms, such as databases and information networks to collect, share and disseminate data related to their aquaculture activities to facilitate cooperation on planning for aquaculture development at the national, Sub-Regional, Regional and Global level.

Ensure cooperation in the development of appropriate mechanisms, when required, to monitor the impacts of inputs used in aquaculture.

9.3 Use of aquatic genetic resources for the purposes of aquaculture including culture-based fisheries

That FFOU with her affiliates and parties to this code shall;

Conserve genetic diversity and maintain integrity of aquatic communities and ecosystems by appropriate management. In particular, efforts shall be undertaken to minimize the harmful effects of introducing non-native species or genetically altered stocks used for aquaculture including

culture-based fisheries into waters, especially where there is a significant potential for the spread of such non-native species or genetically altered stocks into waters under FFOU jurisdiction as well as waters under the jurisdiction of regional FFOU. That FFOU shall, whenever possible, promote steps to minimize adverse genetic, disease and other effects of escaped farmed fish on wild stocks.

Cooperate in the elaboration, adoption and implementation of national and international codes of practice and procedures for introductions and transfers of aquatic organisms.

Shall, in order to minimize risks of disease transfer and other adverse effects on wild and cultured stocks, encourage adoption of appropriate practices in the genetic improvement of brood stocks, the introduction of non-native species, and in the production, sale and transport of eggs, larvae or fry, brood stock or other live materials. FFOU shall facilitate the implementation of appropriate national codes of practice and procedures to this effect.

Shall promote the use of appropriate procedures for the selection of brood stock and the production of eggs, larvae and fry.

Shall, where appropriate, promote research and, when feasible, the development of culture techniques for endangered species to protect, rehabilitate and enhance their stocks, taking into account the critical need to conserve genetic diversity of endangered species.

9.4 Responsible aquaculture at the production level

That FFOU in collaboration with relevant stakeholders shall;

Promote responsible aquaculture practices in support of rural communities, producer organizations and fish farmers.

Promote active participation of fish farmers and their communities in the development of responsible aquaculture management practices.

Promote efforts which improve selection and use of appropriate feeds, feed additives and fertilizers, including manures.

Promote effective farm and fish health management practices favouring hygienic measures and vaccines. Safe, effective and minimal use of therapeutants, hormones and drugs, antibiotics and other disease control chemicals shall be ensured.

Regulate the use of chemical inputs in aquaculture which are hazardous to human health and the environment.

Require that the disposal of wastes such as offal, sludge, dead or diseased fish, excess veterinary drugs and other hazardous chemical inputs does not constitute a hazard to human health and the environment.

Ensure the food safety of aquaculture products and promote efforts which maintain product quality and improve their value through particular care before and during harvesting and on-site processing and in storage and transport of the products.

10 POST-HARVEST PRACTICES AND TRADE

- Article 11.1 Responsible fish utilization
- Article 11.2 Responsible international trade
- Article 11.3 Laws and regulations relating to fish trade

10.1 Responsible fish utilization

FFOU and all her affiliates and all parties to this code in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders shall adopt appropriate measures to ensure the right of consumers to safe, wholesome and unadulterated fish and fishery products.

FFOU and all her affiliates and all parties to this code in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders shall establish and maintain effective national safety and quality assurance systems to protect consumer health and prevent commercial fraud.

FFOU and all her affiliates and all parties to this code in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders shall set minimum standards for safety and quality assurance and make sure that these standards are effectively applied throughout the industry. They shall promote the implementation of quality standards agreed within the context of the national legislation and standards, FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and other relevant organizations or arrangements.

FFOU and all her affiliates and all parties to this code in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders shall cooperate to achieve harmonization, or mutual recognition, or both, of national sanitary measures and certification programmes as appropriate and explore possibilities for the establishment of mutually recognized control and certification agencies.

FFOU and all her affiliates and all parties to this code in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders shall give due consideration to the economic and social role of the postharvest fisheries sector when formulating national policies for the sustainable development and utilization of fishery resources.

FFOU and her affiliates with support and collaboration with relevant organizations shall sponsor research in fish technology and quality assurance and support projects to improve post-harvest handling of fish, taking into account the economic, social, environmental and nutritional impact of such projects.

FFOU and her affiliates in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, noting the existence of different production methods, shall through cooperation and by facilitating the development and transfer of appropriate

technologies, ensure that processing, transporting and storage methods are environmentally sound.

FFOU and her affiliates shall encourage those involved in fish processing, distribution and marketing to:

- a. Reduce post-harvest losses and waste;
- b. Improve the use of by-catch to the extent that this is consistent with responsible fisheries management practices; and
- c. Use the resources, especially water and energy, in particular wood, in an environmentally sound manner.

FFOU and her affiliates in partnership with national and international partners shall ensure that international and domestic trade in fish and fishery products accords with sound conservation and management practices through improving the identification of the origin of fish and fishery products traded.

FFOU and her affiliates in partnership with national and international partners shall ensure that environmental effects of post-harvest activities are considered in the development of related laws, regulations and policies without creating any market distortions.

10.2 Responsible international trade

The provisions of this Code shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with the principles, rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement.

International trade in fish and fishery products shall not compromise the sustainable development of fisheries and responsible utilization of living aquatic resources.

FFOU and her affiliates in partnership with national and international partners shall ensure that measures affecting international trade in fish and

fishery products are transparent, based, when applicable, on scientific evidence, and are in accordance with internationally agreed rules.

Fish trade measures adopted by FFOU to protect human or animal life or health, the interests of consumers or the environment, shall not be discriminatory and shall be in accordance with internationally agreed trade rules, in particular the principles, rights and obligations established in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytol-sanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade of the WTO.

FFOU and her member affiliates shall cooperate to promote adherence to, and effective implementation of relevant international standards for trade in fish and fishery products and living aquatic resource conservation.

FFOU and her affiliates in partnership with national and international partners shall cooperate to develop internationally acceptable rules or standards for trade in fish and fishery products in accordance with the principles, rights, and obligations established in the WTO Agreement.

FFOU and her affiliates in partnership with national and international partners shall cooperate with other like-minded organisations and actively participate in relevant national, regional and multilateral fora, such as the WTO, in order to ensure equitable, non-discriminatory trade in fish and fishery products as well as wide adherence to multilaterally agreed fishery conservation measures.

FFOU and her affiliates and other relevant international organizations actively involved in fish sector, shall ensure that their policies and practices related to the promotion of international fish trade and export production do not result in environmental degradation or adversely impact the nutritional rights and needs of people for whom fish is critical to their health and wellbeing and for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily available or affordable.

10.3 Laws and regulations relating to fish trade

Laws, regulations and administrative procedures applicable to international trade in fish and fishery products shall be accessible to all parties to this code in a transparent, as simple as possible, comprehensible and, when appropriate, based on scientific evidence.

FFOU and her affiliates in partnership with national and international partners, in accordance with her constitution, rules and regulations, facilitate appropriate engagement, advocacy, consultation with and participation in the development and implementation of laws and regulations related to trade in fish and fishery products.

FFOU shall simplify laws, regulations and administrative procedures applicable to trade in fish and fishery products to all her affiliates and relevant stakeholders.

In case of introduction to changes to national legal requirements affecting trade in fish and fishery products, sufficient information and time shall be requested to allow the FFOU member associations and producers affected to introduce, as appropriate, the changes needed in their processes and procedures. In this connection, consultation with affected stakeholders on the time frame for implementation of the changes would be desirable. Due consideration shall be given to requests from member affiliates for temporary derogations from obligations.

FFOU shall periodically review laws and regulations applicable to international trade in fish and fishery products in order to determine whether the conditions which gave rise to their introduction continue to exist.

FFOU and her affiliates in partnership with national and international partners shall harmonize as far as possible the standards applicable to international trade in fish and fishery products in accordance with relevant internationally recognized provisions.

FFOU and her affiliates in partnership with national and international partners shall collect, disseminate and exchange timely, accurate and pertinent statistical information on international trade in fish and fishery products through relevant national institutions and international organizations.

11 FISHERIES RESEARCH

FFOU and her affiliates recognize that responsible fisheries require the availability of a sound scientific basis to assist her and other interested parties in making decisions. Therefore, FFOU shall ensure that appropriate research is conducted into all aspects of fisheries including biology, ecology, technology, environmental science, economics, social science, aquaculture and nutritional science.

FFOU in collaboration with her partners including government shall ensure the availability of research facilities and provide appropriate training, staffing and institution building to conduct the research, taking into account the special needs of her affiliates and fisher communities.

FFOU in collaboration with her partners shall establish an appropriate institutional framework to determine the applied research which is required and its proper use.

FFOU in collaboration with her partners, shall ensure that data generated by research are analysed, that the results of such analyses are published, respecting confidentiality where appropriate, and distributed in a timely and readily understood fashion in order that the best scientific evidence is made available as a contribution to fisheries conservation, management and development. In the absence of adequate scientific information, appropriate research shall be initiated as soon as possible.

FFOU in collaboration with her partners shall collect reliable and accurate data which are required to assess the status of fisheries and ecosystems, including data on bycatch, discards and waste. Where appropriate, this data shall be provided, at an appropriate time and level of aggregation, to relevant stakeholders.

FFOU shall monitor and assess the state of the stocks under their jurisdiction, including the impacts of ecosystem changes resulting from fishing pressure, pollution or habitat alteration. FFOU shall also establish the research capacity necessary to assess the effects of climate or environment change on fish stocks and aquatic ecosystems.

FFOU shall conduct research into, and monitor, human food supplies from aquatic sources and the environment from which they are taken and ensure that there is no adverse health impact on consumers. The results of such research shall be made publicly available.

FFOU shall ensure that the economic, social, marketing and institutional aspects of fisheries are adequately researched and that comparable data are generated for ongoing monitoring, analysis and policy formulation.

FFOU shall carry out studies on the selectivity of fishing gear, the environmental impact of fishing gear on target species and on the behaviour of target and non-target species in relation to such fishing gear as an aid for management decisions and with a view to minimizing non-utilized catches as well as safeguarding the biodiversity of ecosystems and the aquatic habitat.

FFOU shall in collaboration with relevant stakeholders investigate and document traditional fisheries knowledge and technologies, in particular those applied to small-scale fisheries, in order to assess their application to sustainable fisheries conservation, management and development.

FFOU shall promote the use of research results as a basis for the setting of management objectives, reference points and performance criteria, as well as for ensuring adequate linkages between applied research and fisheries management.

FFOU shall promote the adoption of uniform guidelines governing fisheries research conducted under her jurisdiction.

FFOU shall, where appropriate, support the establishment of mechanisms, including, inter alia, the adoption of uniform guidelines, to facilitate research at the local, national, Sub Regional or regional level and shall encourage the sharing of the results of such research with other local, national, regional and international partners.

FFOU, either directly or with the support of relevant international organizations, shall develop collaborative technical or research programmes to improve understanding of the biology, environment and status of intra and Trans boundary aquatic stocks.

FFOU and relevant international organizations shall promote and enhance the research capacities of developing countries, inter alia, in the areas of data collection and analysis, information, science and technology, human resource development and provision of research facilities, in order for them to participate effectively in the conservation, management and sustainable use of living aquatic resources.

DECLARATION

Hence forth, we the representatives of the fisheries Associations whose names and addresses are herein subscribed are desirous of being Member Associations of FFOU agreed to form a self-regulatory body under this code of conduct for responsible fisheries to govern our fisheries associations to safe guard our natural resources (LAKES and LIVERS)

NAMES, ADDRESS AND OCCUPATION OF EACH SUBSRIBER

NAME	ORGANISATION & ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	SIGNATURE

Dated this Day of 2022

Witness to the above signature;

Name.....

Address.....

Occupation

Signature