

UN/FLUX

Recent Developments in the Multilateral Trade System



Second Session of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries
Geneva, 31 January – 1 February 2019





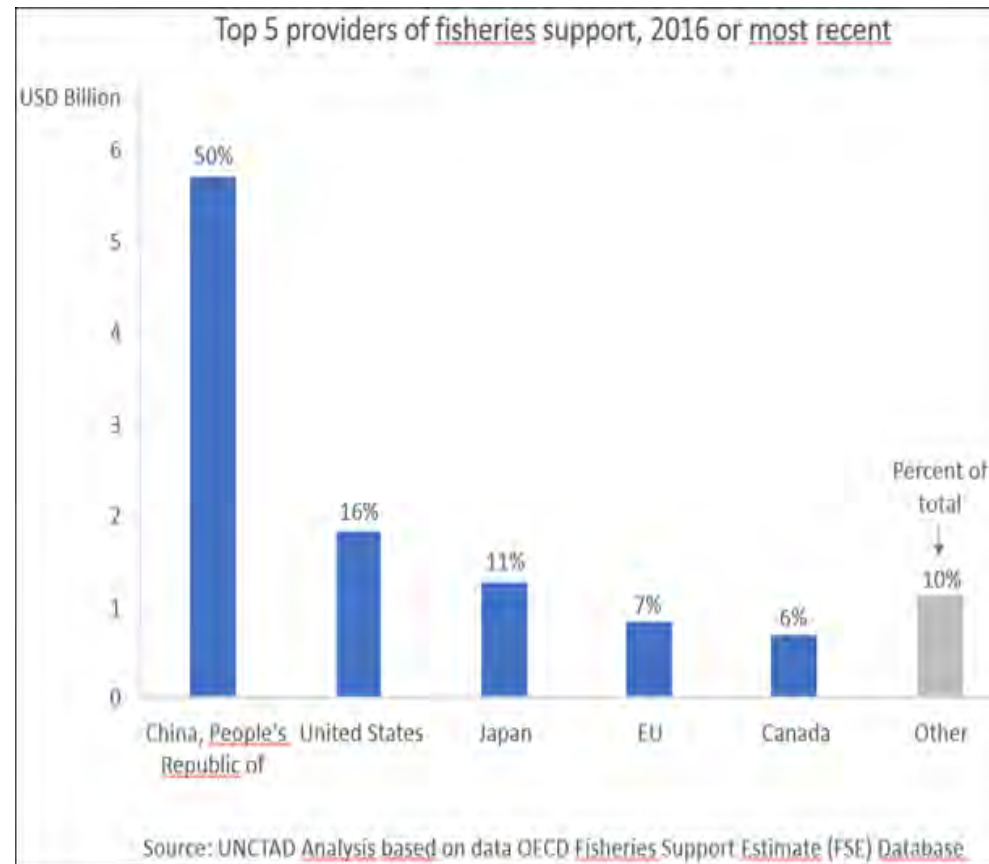
Fish subsidies negotiation mandates

SDG 14.6: By 2020, **prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies** which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that **appropriate and effective S&DT** for developing and LDC should be an integral part of the **WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation**

WTO MC11: to adopt by the MC in 2019, **an agreement on comprehensive and effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies** that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing. The decision recognizes **that appropriate and effective S&DT** for developing country members and LDCs should be an integral part of the negotiations.



- **Estimated to range between USD 11.5 to 20 billion** (depending of the data source whether OECD or the UBC and the year),
- **Top 5 nations make up 90% of all public transfers to the fishing industry. More subsidies than all other countries together** (UNCTAD, 2019 based on OECD data)
- **84% of all fish subsidies tend to only benefit large scale fleets** (Schuhbauer et al., 2017).



Significant efforts by the Chair of the WTO Rules Committee and WTO Member in 2018-19 have enabled the emergence of a **single, complete and non-attributed draft fish subsidies text** (WTO document N/RL/W/274/Rev.614 November 2018) that includes:

- Preamble
- Definitions
- Scope
- Prohibited subsidies:
 - IUU fishing
 - Overfishing
 - Overcapacity
- A standstill clause
- Proposals on special and differential treatment
- Notifications, transparency and surveillance
- Transitional arrangements
- Institutional arrangements



The Second Oceans Forum on Trade-related aspects of SDG 14



31 January - 1 February 2019

Key recommendations:

5. The urgency of SDG targets 14.4 and 14.6 to be met by 2020 highlights the necessity **to act swiftly and address overfishing, overcapacity, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing** and harmful fisheries subsidies. Existing political momentum needs to be translated into disciplines that are enforceable, practical and acceptable to all Member States;

13. Achieving the trade-related targets of SDG 14 requires the appropriate use of **policies, investment and innovation tools to restore the productive capacity of the oceans and to increase economic benefits** through sustainable marine-based value chains, particularly for coastal developing countries including SIDS and LDCs;

16. **Traceability and electronic messaging systems such as the UN/FLUX standard can help prevent illegally caught fish from entering the marketplace, reduce overfishing, and promote sustainable fisheries management, and were encouraged for adoption;**

20. **Connectivity, sustainable transport and resilient port infrastructure are essential to bring seafood and other marine products to markets at the lowest cost possible.**

Second Session of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries

5

