

## SDG 14: OPENING DOORS FOR A SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (The National Human Rights Commission of Chile)



NHRIs have a mandate to work on the full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Hence, their role is not limited to SDG 16 (which mainly comprises civil and political rights), but it can underpin the implementation and monitoring of all 17 SDGs.

Around 800 million people or 10% of the world's population depend on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods and the realisation of a range of human rights including the right to food, to an adequate standard of living, to work, etc. Regrettably, these sectors are characterised by increasing overexploitation of resources, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, limited access to marine resources and markets of small-scale fishers, and lack of respect for indigenous peoples' rights. Labour rights violations within these industries, including forced labour, child labour and hazardous working conditions, are documented in a number of countries. These human rights violations greatly impact fish workers, small-scale fishers and indigenous coastal communities.

The 2030 Agenda, and in particular SDG 14, represents a new push for the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. It also offers a unique framework for coherence and for effective partnerships that enable collective action and responsible business conduct in these sectors.

NHRIs are engaging with global seafood companies, small-scale fishers, governments, UN agencies and development organisations to document the human rights impact and implications in this field. Through this work, NHRIs are taking an active role in building the bridge between human rights and SDG 14 to ensure a human rights-based approach to the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

In 2018, Chile's National Human Rights Institution (Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Chile) and the Danish Institute for Human Rights initiated a partnership on Sustainable Oceans (SDG 14), pursuing a human rights-based approach to fisheries and aquaculture. The Chilean NHRI is conducting a Sector-Wide Impact Assessment on the implications of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to the human rights of affected populations, including small-scale fishers and indigenous coastal communities.

The documentation emerging from this assessment will be the basis for a series of activities led by the NHRI, which includes national and global dialogues, training of other NHRIs, and the promotion of policies and strategies for sustainable development and responsible business conduct.

Moreover, the Chilean and Danish NHRIs will jointly develop recommendations, tools and guidance for a human rights-based approach to the implementation and monitoring of SDG target 14.b (provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets), as well as recommendations and guidance for responsible business conduct and on how companies can assess and address their human rights impact in these sectors.

These resources will be developed and based on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>29</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, underlining the mutually-reinforcing nature of both instruments.



29 Read more about the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: <https://bit.ly/2Bva4uB>

30 Learn more about the major groups and other stakeholder at the HLPF-related processes: <https://bit.ly/2XlbQol>

31 A/RES/70/1, 74 (d)