

## **Resolution GFCM/45/2022/1 on empowering women in the aquaculture sector**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objective of the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM Agreement) is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of marine living resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the GFCM area of application;

*RECOGNIZING* the important contribution of women working in aquaculture and the sector's essential role in economic development and as a source of food and income for coastal communities of contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs);

*CONSISTENT WITH* the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in particular its Article 9, which, *inter alia*, requires states to develop and regularly update strategies and plans, as required, with a view to ensuring that the development of aquaculture is environmentally sustainable and to enabling the rational use of shared resources between aquaculture and other activities;

*RECALLING* the outcome document, *The Future We Want*, of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Brazil, June 2012), which reaffirmed the need to promote, enhance and support a more sustainable aquaculture that ensures food security and nutrition, provides for the livelihoods of millions of people and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters;

*CONSIDERING* the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" and SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources" and Target 14.7 "By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism";

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the 2017 Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration, which commits signatories to implementing actions in support of sustainable aquaculture development to contribute to food security and to strengthen coastal economies, and to implementing, starting from 2017, the GFCM Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture supporting, *inter alia*, the sustainable farming of food fish products and enhanced market access and trade environment, thereby creating employment opportunities and reducing the current stress on marine capture fisheries;

*RECALLING* the GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM 2030 Strategy), in particular its Target 3 "Aquaculture: a sustainable and resilient sector growing to its full potential";

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 Global Action Plan, which envisions "a world in which small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers of both genders are fully recognized and empowered to continue their contributions to poverty alleviation, human well-being and resilient and sustainable food systems through the responsible use of fisheries and aquaculture resources and socioeconomic development";

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with Articles 5 and 8 of the GFCM Agreement, the following resolution:

### **PART I Objectives**

1. This resolution encourages CPCs to promote and support the empowerment of women in the aquaculture sector through the development of relevant national and/or sectoral strategies and

policies, in order to achieve gender equality and equity in marine and inland aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

2. According to the GFCM 2030 Strategy, CPCs are invited to create the appropriate governance framework and conditions so as to ensure that the sector is fair and inclusive, providing opportunities and actively supporting the empowerment of women.

3. The GFCM will continue to engage in aquaculture capacity building dedicated to women, as well as promote and support public awareness activities on the contributions and potential of women in the sector, improve access to education for women in aquaculture, disseminate information and resources and establish partnerships to promote dialogue and activities on gender issues and women's empowerment.

**PART II**  
**Final provisions**

4. This resolution shall enter into force at the latest on 1 January 2024.