SUPPORTING SAFE, LEGAL FISHING

The Cape Town Agreement and the SDGs

Ratification and entry into force of IMO's Cape Town Agreement will deter the proliferation of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and establish international safety standards for fishing vessels.

Legal, sustainable fishing operations conducted by fishers in a safe and decent environment has the capacity to transform the fisheries sector and fulfil multiple Sustainable Development Goals.



Improving safety of fishing vessels and decent conditions on board as well as combatting IUU fishing will mainly help to achieve SDG 14 "Life Below Water". SDG 14 cannot be effectively achieved without addressing overfishing and preventing IUU fishing activities.



Seafood is a major source of nutrition globally. Consistent production can only be attained by requiring that fishing activities are legal, licensed, accurately reported and in line with scientific advice.



Ensuring that fishers are afforded minimum safety standards and decent working and living conditions will help realize SDG 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth".



Raising awareness of women in fisheries will help facilitate SDG 5 "Gender Equality". Women form a significant part of the world's fisheries workers, helping to both support the livelihoods of more than 120 million people and provide food for more than 1 billion people worldwide.



IMO is working with many stakeholders to achieve safe and legal fishing, including, in particular, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

