



**DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

International Conference in the occasion of the World Fisheries Day

promoted by

**Stella Maris at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, FAO and the
Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to FAO, IFAD and WFP**

22 November 2021, 10.00 -12.00 (GMT+1)

Stopping human rights violations at sea. This is the objective of the joint commitment that the Holy See and FAO have been carrying out for years in support of sea workers engaged in the fishing sector and their families.

Despite the efforts made to implement conventions and agreements on working conditions, safety at sea and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, fishermen and workers in the sector are still victims of exploitation, forced labour, slavery and trafficking.

A condition that mortifies human dignity and with it any possibility of authentic social and economic development. Pope Francis notes in his Encyclical "Fratelli tutti" that only "when human dignity is respected and human rights are recognised and guaranteed, creativity and enterprise flourish and the human personality can deploy its many initiatives for the common good" (FT, 22).

In this framework, in his Message for the World Fisheries Day, 21 November, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Card. Peter K.A. Turkson, launches an appeal "to international organisations, governments, civil societies, the various actors in the fishing industry and NGOs to join

forces" to put an end to "too many violations of human rights at sea" and work "together to create a fishing industry in which the human and labour rights of fishers are guaranteed and upheld".

It is in order to draw attention to the plight of sea workers that Stella Maris, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, FAO and the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to FAO, IFAD and WFP are promoting a conference on the theme: "Stemming the tide: together we can stop human rights violations at sea".

This call is also necessary in view of the worsening of working conditions at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, which directly affects the fisheries and aquaculture sector, affecting workers' health and hampering socio-economic development.

Prevention and control measures have affected the fish trade, created changes in consumer demand, generated logistical problems around distribution channels and access to markets and fishing grounds, and limited the availability of migrant workers. Factors that reduce the income of fisheries workers and fisheries-dependent communities, and that can lead to reduced food budgets - with an impact on food insecurity and malnutrition - increased child labour and disempowerment of women due to loss or reduction of income.

These will be the themes of the event, which will be held in virtual form on 22 November from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (GMT+1). The event will be opened by the Prefect of the Dicastery, Cardinal P. K. A. Turkson, and the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Qu Dongyu. Mgr Fernando Chica Arellano, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to FAO, IFAD and WFP, will conclude the event.

To follow the event register here:

https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2jk1X3nKSTasu-rrqE-QcA