

Fisheries outcomes MC14

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It was indicated early on that Fisheries Subsidies was going to be a lower priority for members at the Ministerial, as such they were not negotiating on the 'overfishing and overcapacity' text only on what the Ministerial Decision would be. The final decision, found [here](#), generally celebrates Fish 1 while calling on negotiations to continue on Fish 2 with a view to concluding at MC15.

The decision text was largely supported by Members however Indonesia was insisting on the inclusion of a reference to the rights already given to members under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), something that the US and some others were refusing to allow in. This threatened to scuttle the whole decision at MC14 until eventually settling on Indonesia having a statement including in the documentation of MC14.

The [statement itself by Indonesia](#) is very strong and appears to seek to position the rights of parties to UNCLOS as not subservient to any commitments made in the WTO. This aims to protect the rights and obligations that members have to fish in their own waters, something that could be curtailed under the WTO fish agreements. There is some support from other governments on the issue of UNCLOS but there ongoing work to build support around this issue.

Fisheries subsidies talks now head back to Geneva to continue. There is a tension between members about opening up the existing texts as some feel that any progress will be lost or made worse (the US has some aggressive proposals) however as it currently stands it is inadequate and dangerous for fishers.

The involvement of fishers at the Ministerial add their voices to the conversations that were happening. This included in strategy days before and after MC14 but also to speak with local media and government meetings. WFFP and WFF spoke with a number of government delegations as well as at the Our World Is Not For Sale (OWINFS) press conference.

La Via Campesina also held an assembly in Cameroon in parallel with MC14 to discuss and consult on issues of trade and food sovereignty. WFFP and WFF were also able to attend and contribute fisher perspectives into the discussion, including into LVC's Yaoundé Declaration which can be seen [here](#).