

Box 1.1. OECD Committee for Fisheries Study of Fisheries Globalisation

As agreed at the 95th Session in 2005 when the Committee for Fisheries set out to do a study of Fisheries Globalisation the project:

“.....should outline the broad range of consequences of globalisation for the sector, actual and potential inhibitions to adjustment to globalisation, and how these might be addressed. The project should focus on particular issues including how uneven regulation and management of fisheries worldwide gave rise to a range of opportunities and risks from the process of globalisation. The costs of policy inaction, the linkages between OECD and non-OECD countries as well as policy coherence were also highlighted as areas of concern. The value chain approach was found to be a useful way to frame the project.” [AGR/FI/M(2005)1].

5. A number of papers were subsequently developed and discussed by the Committee. Furthermore, in April 2007 the Committee hosted (jointly with the FAO Secretariat) a Workshop on the Challenges and Opportunities of Fisheries Globalisation⁴. These elements constitute the substantive material on which this report has been developed.

Defining Globalisation

6. In a written submission to the United Kingdom House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs inquiry into the global economy, the former Chief Economist of the OECD suggested that⁵:

At the OECD, globalisation is interpreted as a process towards closer economic integration of markets. Viewed from this perspective, globalisation is not a new phenomenon, but an ongoing process that has been, by and large, accelerating over the past decades. More integrated markets offer potential benefits that improve our material well-being, but also imply adjustment costs and pose challenges for policy. Perfect integration would imply identical prices for identical goods and services. Defined in this way, the evidence suggests that we are still far from a globalised or fully integrated world economy. There are no compelling reasons, however, to suggest that, spurred by new information and communication technologies as well as by business strategies and public policies, the process will not continue to evolve.

7. As demonstrated in the above quotation, it is the closer economic integration of markets that matters in globalisation. Closer economic integration of markets occurs through traditional trade (e.g. the increased cross-border movement of goods), increased foreign direct investments (e.g. establishing processing plants abroad) and the use of foreign services (e.g. processing parts of products abroad, the use of service facilities abroad). In essence, transborder production networks will emerge where different elements of the value chain, to varying degrees, contribute to the globalisation process by using the most profitable location or source for their activities.

⁴ Proceedings are published as *Globalisation and Fisheries: Proceedings of an OECD-FAO Workshop* (OECD, 2007).

⁵ Written submission by Ignazio Visco, OECD Chief Economist, October 2001, available on the OECD website on http://www.oecd.org/NewsArchives/0,2552,en_2649_37443_1_1_1_13_37443,00.html