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Report of the

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE
MEASURES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION
EXCHANGE**

Paris, France, 10-14 March 2025

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FIFTH MEETING OF THE AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TECHNICAL WORKING
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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the report of the fifth meeting of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE), which was held in Paris, France, from 10 to 14 March 2025.

ABSTRACT

This document contains the report of the fifth meeting of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Open-Ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE), which was held in Paris, France, from 10 to 14 March 2025.

The TWG-IE welcomed the increased number of Parties that have designated national contact points urging those that have not done so to expedite efforts to complete this to ensure an adequate and efficient communication among Parties on PSMA matters. The TWG-IE agreed on the importance of clarifying the roles and responsibilities of National Contact Points and urged all Parties to designate their ports or indicate where it may not be relevant to do so.

The TWG-IE noted the increased use of the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) in its first year of operation and commended the recent establishment of an automatic connection with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) electronic port State measures (e-PSM) system. The TWG-IE encouraged Parties without access to any e-PSM systems to consider utilizing GIES to fulfil the relevant provisions of PSMA.

The TWG-IE discussed the role of the GIES in support of the implementation of complementary instruments to the PSMA and welcomed additional developments and refinements including the migration of NCPs and Designated Ports (DPs) to the GIES, the advance request of port entry (ARPE), the vessel profile, the user management function, the live chat function, the transshipment and landing declaration forms and other developments on functionalities to support the work of port State Parties using GIES for information exchange.

The TWG-IE discussed the general approach as well as individual indicators proposed for the monitoring of the implementation of the PSMA and agreed that these need further discussion and recommended to the Fifth meeting of the Parties to task the Strategy Working Group to consider the proposed indicators (or alternatives) in monitoring the effective implementation of the PSMA, based on information from the GIES, the PSMA questionnaire, and other information sources.

The TWG-IE welcomed the Secretariat's proposed workplan and strategy for the implementation of the GIES and recommends that efforts are made to further support Parties that wish to use GIES for information exchange under the PSMA as well as to progress the work on interoperability for establishing connections with existing systems.

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OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The fifth meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) established by the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) was held in Paris, France, from 10 to 14 March 2025. The meeting was attended by 87 participants from 40 Parties to the PSMA, 5 participants from other FAO Members, 4 inter-governmental organizations, and 2 international non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is attached in Appendix 2.
2. Mr Matthew Camilleri, Leader, Global and Regional Processes Team, FAO, opened the meeting.
3. Mr Mayeul de Drouas, Deputy-Head of fisheries resources, delivered opening remarks. His opening statement is attached in Appendix 3.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

4. The floor was opened for nominations for the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the meeting.
5. Mr Olivier Dion (France) was elected chairperson and Mr Brito (Benin), Mr Rodchevid (Thailand) and Mr Raicebe (Fiji) were elected Vice-chairpersons.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

6. The TWG-IE adopted the agenda without modification, as shown in Appendix 1.

STATE OF AFFAIRS OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS AND DESIGNATED PORTS

7. Ms Alicia Mosteiro, Technical Secretary to the TWG, introduced this agenda item summarizing section I of TWG-IE/5/2025/3 indicating improvements in reporting national contact points (NCPs) and designated ports (DPs) and highlighting the need to discuss and agree on the roles and responsibilities of NCPs for both communication and operational aspects of the PSMA.
8. The TWG recognized various situations specific to each Party that deserve attention to support an adequate implementation of the PSMA.

STATUS AND UPDATES ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES)

9. The Secretariat introduced this agenda item relevant to section II of TWG-IE/5/2025/3 and provided additional updates indicating that approximately 30 percent of Parties were making use of the Global Information Exchange System (GIES), totaling around 1600 port inspection reports (PIRs) of vessels from more than 40 different flag states including 36 percent of fishing vessels, 37 percent of carriers and 27 percent unknown vessel type. Around 50 percent of the vessels reported are present in the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record). The information included 1 percent of denials of entry or use of port (DENs) and 2 percent of infractions detected in the PIRs. Asia was reported to be the most active region in GIES.

Overview of information exchange through the GIES since its operationalization

10. The TWG appreciated the working document prepared by the Secretariat and welcomed the advances in implementation of the GIES. Individual Parties reported on matters related to the use of GIES and provided additional feedback to the Secretariat.

Reports by Parties on Information Exchange

11. Individual Parties, non-Parties and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) provided information on the processes, mechanisms and particularities of sharing information under the PSMA in specific national and regional contexts.
12. The TWG recognized that the current information presents a partial and limited view of the information shared by Parties under the PSMA as not all Parties are currently using the GIES.
13. The TWG discussed some of the benefits of the use of GIES including access to the vessel profile and easing the data entry burden through the use of the advance request of port entry (ARPE) form for the port State,

and acting as the one-stop-shop of all relevant PIRs for each flag State, State of nationality of the captain and relevant coastal State, or regional fisheries management organization (RFMO).

14. The TWG provided feedback on the use of GIES and encouraged completion of the information. It also highlighted the need for coordination at national level and the need for user manuals and training.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEMS AND CONNECTIONS TO GIES

15. The Secretariat introduced this agenda item updating the TWG on the status of connections to regional, sub-regional or national systems, as per Appendix 4, as well as on indications by some RFMOs of the possibility of using the GIES as their regional electronic port State measures system (e-PSM). Additionally, the Secretariat reported that the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) regional e-PSM is fully connected to the GIES and information relevant to Parties is now also available through GIES.

16. The RFBs attending the TWG reported on their conservation and management measures (CMMs) or processes in relation to port State measures (PSM) and more specifically on information sharing processes and mechanisms relevant to PSMs.

17. The TWG recalled that it is the Parties responsibility to share information, including through the use of different mechanisms depending on each Party specific situation.

ROLE OF THE GIES IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPLEMENTARY INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

18. The Secretariat reported on the imminent launch of two supplementary forms in the GIES, i.e., the transshipment declaration form and the landing declaration form in support of due diligence of port states when verifying the information and conducting risk analysis further to a request of entry or use of their designated ports. A demonstration of the GIES was delivered by the Secretariat followed by a discussion on the usefulness of these new forms, particularly for developing State Parties.

19. Additionally, the Secretariat recalled the role that PSMA can play in the implementation of other international instruments including the WTO, BBNJ, the FAO Compliance Agreement and the UNFSA, as well as of regional CMMs on PSM.

REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONALITIES OF THE GIES AND ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS TO BE DEVELOPED

20. The Secretariat introduced the new functionalities launched since TWG-IE4 described in TWG-IE/5/2025/3 section V.

21. The TWG welcomed the new functionalities and commended the Secretariat for the work done in developing a fully-fledged system which is benefiting the implementation of PSMA.

INDICATORS TO MONITOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PSMA

22. The Secretariat introduced this agenda item referring to section VI of TWG-IE/5/2025/3.

23. The TWG discussed the general approach as well as individual indicators proposed for the monitoring of the implementation of the PSMA and agreed that these need further discussion.

WORKPLAN AND STRATEGY FOR INCREASED INFORMATION EXCHANGE THROUGH THE GIES

24. The Secretariat presented the workplan for 2025 spelled out in Section VII of the TWG-IE/5/2025/3.

25. The TWG welcomed the workplan stressing the importance of supporting further participation to the GIES and of progressing in connecting with existing electronic systems.

ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING STATES

26. The Secretariat introduced this agenda item listing the assistance provided to Parties specific on information exchange (section VIII of TWG-IE/5/2025/3).

27. The TWG commended the Secretariat for the support provided and further encouraged donors, FAO and other Parties and organizations to increase efforts to expand capacity development support for information exchange under the PSMA.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

28. The TWG-IE:

- welcomed the increase in number of Parties that have designated NCPs and urges those Parties and non-Parties that haven't done so to expedite efforts to designate NCPs.
- agreed on the importance of clarifying the roles and responsibilities of NCPs to ensure an adequate and efficient communication among Parties on PSMA matters whilst ensuring operational management of information exchange through the GIES at national level.
- urges all Parties to designate their ports or indicate where it may not be relevant to do so and welcomed the new functionality in the GIES to report this scenario and to specify which services are provided in each port.
- noted the increasing use of GIES in its first year of operations including the number of inspection reports shared and highlights the importance of submitting complete information.
- welcomed the additional developments and refinements in the GIES including the migration of NCPs and Designated Ports (DPs) to the GIES, the advance request of port entry (ARPE), the vessel profile, the user management function, the live chat function, the transshipment and landing declaration forms and other developments on functionalities to support the work of port State Parties using GIES for information exchange.
- commended the recent establishment of an automatic connection for data transfer between the IOTC e-PSM and the GIES and encouraged the Secretariat to progress the work for establishing such connections with any other relevant systems of regional and sub-regional fisheries bodies to streamline automated data sharing and minimize duplication of efforts for data sharing.
- encouraged Parties without access to any e-PSM systems to consider utilizing GIES to fulfil the relevant provisions of PSMA.
- recommended that the Secretariat proceeds with the development of GIES user manuals and descriptions of relevant data fields to facilitate data entry and adequate reporting.
- recommended that the Secretariat consider adding a functionality to the GIES allowing Parties to authenticate users, including vessel operators/agents, to ensure that only verified users can submit data.
- agreed that the indicators to monitor the implementation of the PSMA proposed thus far by the Secretariat, and reviewed on the basis of discussions of the TWG ¹, will need further discussion and further testing and revision, and be cautiously used as part of an ongoing evaluative process, led by the Parties in the Strategy and Monitoring Group, to monitor the implementation of the PSMA and its effectiveness in fighting IUU fishing.
- concluded that indicators based on the GIES and the questionnaire can provide complementary information showing, the extent to which the GIES is being used but acknowledged that, at this stage of utilization of the GIES and of its connection with other systems for exchanging information at national, regional and subregional levels, these indicators should be used and presented with great caution in full awareness of their limited relevance for assessing the extent to which GIES data align with self-assessed information.
- welcomed the Secretariat's proposed workplan and strategy for the implementation of the GIES and recommends that efforts are made to further support Parties that wish to use GIES for information exchange under the PSMA as well as to progress the work on interoperability for establishing connections with existing systems.

¹ See Appendix 5 for reviewed version

- commended the Secretariat and donors for the support provided for an adequate implementation of GIES and invited them to continue providing assistance to developing states, especially SIDS, on information exchange through in-country missions to improve the capacity, international training courses, backstopping support through the help desk and increase collaboration with additional potential donors and organizations.

29. Recommendation for MOP

- MOP5 to task SWG3 to consider the proposed indicators (or alternatives) in monitoring the effective implementation of the PSMA, based on information from the GIES, the PSMA questionnaire, and other information sources.

DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

30. The Secretariat noted that the next meeting will take place in 2026 and encouraged interested Member States who wish to host to contact the Secretariat.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

31. The conclusions and recommendations of the report were adopted on 14 March 2024.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

32. The meeting was closed at 16:30 hours on 14 March 2025. Mr Dion, Head of the Fisheries Control Office, gave closing remarks on behalf of the hosting country, France.

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**Monday 10 March***Morning, 9:30 – 12:30*

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
3. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the meeting
4. State of affairs of national contact points and designated ports

Afternoon, 14:00 – 17:00

5. Status and updates on information exchange
 - The PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES)
 - Overview of information exchange through the GIES since its operationalization
 - Reports by Parties on information exchange

Tuesday 11 March*Morning, 9:30 – 12:30*

6. Review of regional information exchange systems and connections to GIES
7. Role of the GIES in support of the implementation of complementary international instruments

*Afternoon, 14:00 – 17:00**(Global Record Working Group will convene)***Wednesday 12 March***Morning, 9:30 – 12:30*

8. Review of the functionalities of the GIES and additional components to be developed

Afternoon, 14:00 – 17:00

8. Cont.

Thursday 13 March*Morning, 9:30 – 12:30*

9. Indicators to monitor the effective implementation of the PSMA

Afternoon, 14:00 – 17:00

10. Workplan and strategy for increased information exchange through the GIES
11. Assistance to developing States

Friday 14 March

Morning, FREE

Afternoon, 14:00 – 17:00

12. Adoption of conclusions of the meeting
13. Date and venue for the next meeting of the Working Group
14. Closure of the meeting

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OUVERTURE DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL TECHNIQUE DU PSMA SUR L'ÉCHANGE D'INFORMATION PAR MAYEUL DE DROUAS, SOUS-DIRECTEUR DES RESSOURCES HALIEUTIQUES

Monsieur le directeur général, Messieurs les directeurs, Madame, Messieurs les sous-directeurs,

Au nom de la Ministre de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de la Transition écologique, chargée de la Mer et de la Pêche, je vous souhaite la bienvenue à Paris pour cette cinquième réunion du groupe de travail technique sur l'échange d'information dans le cadre de l'Accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'Etat du port, le PSMA.

En tant que vice-présidente de la réunion des Parties du PSMA pour la région Europe pour la période 2023-2025, la France est honorée d'accueillir cette réunion. Comme vous le savez, la France a ratifié le PSMA une première fois au titre d'Etat membre de l'Union européenne, (et je me réjouis de la présence de la Commission parmi nous aujourd'hui), et une seconde fois au titre de ses Pays et Territoires d'Outre-Mer.

La direction générale des affaires maritimes, de la pêche et de l'aquaculture (DGAMPA), qui pilote la police des pêches au niveau national, représente la France dans le cadre de cet accord. Le chef du bureau du contrôle des pêches de la DGAMPA est en effet le représentant français à la réunion des parties de l'Accord, et vous accompagnera toute cette semaine. Sa délégation française ici présente sont heureuses de vous accueillir à Paris pour renforcer le PSMA et ses outils que sont le fichier mondial des navires et le système mondial d'échange d'information, le GIES.

J'ai l'honneur d'ouvrir ce groupe de travail technique du PSMA dans un contexte exceptionnel. En effet, 2025 est une année importante pour la lutte contre la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non représentée (INN). Nous nous retrouverons en effet régulièrement au niveau international sur ce thème. 2025 sera en effet d'abord l'année de la cinquième réunion des parties du PSMA, sous présidence équatorienne, à Manta, en avril. Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier les autorités équatoriennes pour leur accueil.

La France, qui a déclaré 2025 « année de la mer » au niveau national, accueillera ensuite la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Océan (UNOC 3), à Nice, courant juin. Cette conférence sera l'occasion de porter la lutte contre la pêche INN comme priorité de l'agenda international.

La pêche INN représente en effet une menace pour nos océans, nos ressources halieutiques, nos sociétés et nos économies. Ce n'est qu'ensemble, grâce à la coopération internationale et à la mise en œuvre de mesures de contrôle par l'Etat du port mais aussi en tant qu'Etats du pavillon, Etats côtiers et Etats importateurs et exportateurs de produits de la pêche, que nous pourrons combattre ce fléau qu'est la pêche INN.

La France fait de la promotion de la ratification du PSMA une priorité, et cette position sera notamment portée dans le cadre de l'UNOC. En vertu de sa nature contraignante, cet Accord est l'un des principaux outils dont nous disposons pour combattre la pêche INN. Il doit être développé, aux côtés d'autres outils que sont par exemple les schémas d'inspections en haute mer qui relèvent des organisations régionales de gestion des pêches (ORGP). La France organisera ainsi, en marge de l'UNOC, un sommet des secrétaires généraux des ORGP pour travailler ensemble au renforcement des ces instances essentielles pour la gestion des pêches et les contrôles en haute mer. L'objectif est que le maximum d'ORGP puissent se doter à termes de schémas d'inspection en haute mer.

Le précédent groupe technique à Panama City a déjà démontré l'importance cruciale du partage d'information pour prévenir et contrecarrer les activités de pêche INN. Je me réjouis qu'autant de délégations, de représentants des ORGP et d'observateurs soient présents aujourd'hui, témoignant du fort engagement dans la lutte contre la pêche INN. Je tiens à remercier les autorités islandaises pour leurs contributions financières au GIES, permettant à certaines délégations d'être aujourd'hui parmi nous.

Je remercie particulièrement le secrétariat du PSMA pour le développement du GIES ainsi que pour sa collaboration dans l'organisation et la tenue de ce groupe de travail. J'espère que cette session sera fructueuse et que la réunion des Parties à Manta le mois prochain tirera profit de ses discussions et conclusions.

Je vous donne enfin rendez-vous à Nice, en juin prochain, pour porter le sujet de la lutte contre la pêche INN dans le cadre de l'UNOC.

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APPENDIX 4

STATUS OF CONNECTIVITY OF GIES WITH REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES

GIES Connections (31/03/2025)	Form (Denial / Inspection)	Data Requirement s (Data fields)	Standards (Reference / code lists)	Format ² Structured /Unstructured	Connection Mech. FLUX / API	Ongoing work	Expected Connection date
RFB¹							
NEAFC 6/6 (100%)³	DEN			S	API	Test connection ongoing (dummy data)	Tentatively 2025
	PIR			U	-	Compatibility analysis carried out	Timeline not currently established
IOTC 22 / 29 (76%)³	DEN			S	API	Fully Operational	Completed on Q3 2024
	PIR			S	API	Operational (few standards under review)	Completed on Q1 2025
GFCM 16 / 23 (70%)³	DEN				API*	Revision of data fields expected in 2025 in coordination with GFCM CPCs	To be discussed with GFCM CPCs
	PIR			S	API*, FLUX P1000-8**	Technical discussions with GFCM CPCs (data confidentiality, general guidance)	To be discussed with GFCM CPCs
FFA 8 / 17 (47%)³	DEN			S	API	Full e-PSM.	Expected Q2 2025
	PIR			S	API	Full e-PSM.	Expected Q2 2025
SPRFMO 13 / 17 (76%)³	DEN			U	-	No system in place. SPRFMO Contracting Parties considering use of GIES for information exchange related to PSM CMM	-
	PIR			U	-		-
ICCAT 38 / 52 (73%)³	DEN				-	Ongoing discussions and exchange of documentation on data fields and reference lists	-
	PIR				-		-
WCPFC 14 / 26 (54%)³	DEN	-	-	-	-	PSM CMM under review	-
	PIR	-	-	-	-	PSM CMM under review	-
		LEGEND		N/A	Unknown	Partial Correspondence	Full Correspondence

NOTES

1. This is a non-exhaustive list. Collaboration with other RFBs is envisioned, as applicable.

2. How the forms are being exchanged. 'Structured' meaning data is defined and searchable such as computed through an online form. 'Unstructured' meaning data is not searchable, for example using a pdf

3. Ratio of Contracting Parties to PSMA Parties as of 31/03/2025

DISCUSSIONS AT TWG-IE5 REGARDING INDICATORS (SUMMARY PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT)

A discussion was held at TWG-IE5 concerning indicators to monitor the implementation of the PSMA and its effectiveness in fighting IUU fishing. This included a review of tables of dashboard statistics, performance indicators and IUU fishing detection indicators prepared by the Secretariat (TWG-IE/5/2025/3 Tables 5.1a, b and c). In addition to the conclusions and recommendation adopted at TWG-IE5, points raised during the discussion were noted as follows:

- In some cases, particularly where data are limited, indicators may be measuring the initiation or intensity of effort, rather than the quality of that effort, and thus may be unreliable measures of the PSMA's effectiveness.
- Any use of GIES data to populate indicators should be caveated by the fact that Parties are free to use other forms of information exchange and therefore such indicators will not necessarily reflect the situation across all Parties. However, the GIES information will become more representative as connections to other information exchange systems (e.g. RFMOs and sub-regional systems) are established.
- The periodicity of the indicators requires further consideration given the questionnaire is currently only conducted every four years
- Although all of the indicators in Tables 5.1a, b and c were discussed, some can be set aside for now and perhaps revisited later when there are more data and/or greater clarity on their interpretation. The remaining or modified indicators, captured in Table 1 below, have potential for further consideration by MOP5 and/or SWG3 and may serve as the basis for further development of these or other metrics.

Table 1. Indicators discussed at by TWG-IE5 and their potential information sources.

Original Table Reference*	Indicator(	Potential Information Sources		
		GIES (*)	Questionnaire (†)	Other (~)
5a, #1	Number of States bound by the PSMA			✓
-	Number of Parties responding to the questionnaire		✓	
5a, #2	Number of Parties actively exchanging information on PIR and DEN	✓	✓	
5a, #3	Number of Parties with DPs	✓	✓	
5a, #4	Number of inspections reported	✓	✓	
5a, #6	Number of foreign vessel entries into DPs	✓	✓	
5a, #7	Number of vessels on the GR			✓
5a, #8	Number of FAO-led PSMA-related training courses/missions			✓
5a, #8	Number of participants in FAO-led PSMA-related courses/missions			✓
5a, #8	Number of Parties whose nationals have received training			✓
-	Number of connections between GIES and other PSMA information exchange systems			✓
-	Percentage of Parties that have DPs	✓	✓	

-	Percentage of Parties entering/updating vessels on the GR			✓
5b, #1	Average inspection rate	✓	✓	
5b, #2	Percentage of Parties reporting inspection results to the flag State	✓	✓	
5b, #3	Percentage of flag States taking action after determination of IUU fishing		✓	
5b, #5	Percentage of Parties with either 100% inspection -OR- a standardized method for evaluating ARPEs		✓	
5b, #5	Percentage of Parties which have a process under Article 12 to prioritize inspections		✓	
5b, #6	Percentage of Parties that have process for handling force majeure		✓	
5b, #7	Percentage of Parties that have a process in place for denial of port entry		✓	
5b, #8	Percentage of Parties that have a process in place for denial of port use		✓	
5b, #9	Percentage of Parties participating in PSMA meetings			✓

* Please refer to TWG-IE/5/2025/3. Some indicators were modified during the TWG-IE5 discussion.
 “-“ indicates a new proposal arising from the discussion