

Women are present in all fishing and fishing activities, however their work has scarcely been quantified and historically it has therefore been poorly recognised. Thus, favouring the disaggregation of data by sex in sectoral statistics is key in order to place value on their important role and contribution.

The traditional feminine invisibility in the sector has led to the lack of a suitable awareness of gender, impeding responding to the problems and challenges that affect these workers.

As such, all the participant countries and agents in this conference should work together in order to incorporate the gender perspective in sectoral policies and strategies, guaranteeing regulatory frameworks that endeavour to achieve equal treatment and non-discrimination, as well as instruments for monitoring and enforcing such principles.

Likewise it is necessary to fight against pre-established gender roles to enable women access to the sector, breaking down the structural barriers that hinder their incorporation to activities in which they are under-represented. In the same manner, mechanisms are needed which guarantee fair access to the productive and economic resources derived from these.

On the other hand, joint efforts must be increased in order to guarantee the protection of all workers in the sector (men and women) in social and safety issues, to thus contribute to their professional dignity. With particular regard to women, it is important to emphasise the improvement of their working conditions, fighting against precariousness, gender segregation, the wage gap and the barriers that hinder the reconciliation of work, family and personal life.

Formal training in fishing and aquaculture, as well as in other complementary areas of knowledge, is essential to promote the empowerment and professional development of these women. This would also encourage female entrepreneurship within the sector, for which public budgets must be established and the access to subventions or credit must be facilitated for these entrepreneurs.

Finally, it is important to boost female associations and leadership in the sector, guaranteeing the presence of women in the bodies of power and representation. This way, they will be able to actively take part in the decisions that affect them and to defend their rights and interests.

All these objectives are included in the Santiago de Compostela Declaration for Equal Opportunities in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors that is presented within the framework of this I International Conference of Women in Fisheries.