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Theme: Policy & Management

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Title: **Reforming Fisheries Subsidies: A Sustainable Development Perspective**

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Abstract: The question of how to discipline fisheries subsidies is a major issue at the forefront of the international fisheries policy agenda. The negotiations underway at the WTO to clarify disciplines on fisheries subsidies, and the call in the WSSD Plan of Implementation to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to overcapacity, underscore the importance that the international community places on the issue. It is widely recognised that some types of support programs are necessary to ensure effective management of fisheries and to assist in the transition towards sustainable fisheries. However, there are many other types of programs that have adverse economic, environmental and social outcomes. This paper presents the key findings from a recent OECD study on the effects of financial support in the sector. Each year, OECD countries provide around USD 6 billion in transfers to the sector. These transfers are used to address a range of and an integrated approach to the analysis of their impacts is necessary to ensure that the sustainable development of the sector is not hampered by incoherence between the range of objectives and policies in the sector. This integrated approach is illustrated in the paper by reference to two major categories of support: support for decommissioning programs and income support programs.