**3rd General Assembly and Bi-Annual Meeting of the Africa Platform for Regional
Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS)**
28-29 September 2021

MEETING OUTCOMES

Introduction

As part of the activities of the African Platform for Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS) which was established in 2015 under the auspices of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM), the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) alongside the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) organized the 3rd General Assembly of the platform online from 28-29 September 2021. The meeting saw the participations of 36 representatives hailing from AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs (COMESA, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA), RFBs (Regional Fisheries Commission for the Gulf of Guinea, Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea, Lake Chad Basin Commission, Benguela Current Commission, Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea…) as well as international partners (FAO, UNEP).

The objective of the meeting was to organize the Third General Assembly and conduct bi-annual consultative meetings to exchange information, review and align work plans within the framework of AFRM for synergistic implementation and enhanced coordination in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. More specifically, the meeting was designed to (i) serve as a platform for sharing work plans and activities; (ii) develop synergies in ongoing initiatives; (iii) review implementation status of APRIFAAS 2016-2018 workplan; (iv) report on the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the last two general meetings; (v) review and update the membership and operationalization of APRIFAAS Web platform/Community of Practice; and (vi) elect new bureau members.

A progress report on APRIFAAS was provided by the Chair, ECOWAS. After intense discussions on the sharing of work-plan and activities by the AU-IBAR, RECs, specialized Regional institutions and technical partners the following recommendations were made:
1. The General Assembly urged Members to build synergies and coordination between African Union institutions, RECs and RFBs as well as international partners for the implementation of Fisheries and Aquaculture related activities to avoid duplication of efforts;
2. The African Union to lead in strengthening capacities of Regional Economic Communities as well as Regional Fisheries Bodies;
3. SADC to invite the APRIFAAS Members to the next Fisheries and Aquaculture meeting;
4. UMA to contribute more to the implementation of Fisheries Governance 2 Project;
5. Set up a monitoring system for Fisheries to support the alignment at the AU level between RECs and RFBs, Regional Sea and other conventions;
6. Strengthen RECs to RECs collaboration;

7. Benguela Current Commission to invite the APRIFAAS Members to the science forum event to be held in November 2021;
8. It was recommended to generate tools for generating data in the small scale fisheries for evidence based informed decision making
9. Establish regional APRIFAAS coordination platform

The elections were conducted by Dr Clement Adjorlolo, and the following institutions were nominated with a tenure of 2 years.

No.	POSITIONS	INSTITUTION	REGION
1	Chair	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT)	NORTH AFRICA
2	1st Vice Chair	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	EAST AFRICA
3	2nd Vice Chair	Regional Fisheries Commission for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP)	CENTRAL AFRICA
4	Rapporteur	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)	WEST AFRICA
5	2nd Rapporteur	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	SOUTHERN AFRICA

The newly elected Chair, the Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO Mr Benabbou Abdelouahed thanked colleagues for entrusting ATLAFCO with this role under his leadership. He is looking forward to working with everyone in advancing the work of APRIFAAS in his region and on the continent.