

**VIRTUAL THINK TANK CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON
OPERATIONALIZING THE REVISED AFRICAN FISHERIES REFORM MECHANISM
(AFRM)
11-12 August 2021**

A virtual stakeholder consultative workshop on operationalizing the revised AFRM was organized by the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in collaboration with the Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA)-NEPAD on the 11-12 August 2021. The meeting was organised through phase two of the Fisheries Governance project (FishGov 2) with the support from the European Union (EU). The specific objectives were to (i) rationalize the AFRM working groups; review and revise the current terms of reference and criteria for membership composition (ii) review the functions of the Think tank Executive Committee, the Advisory Council and the criteria for membership (iii) share the draft terms of reference for the Sectoral Committee on fisheries and aquaculture (iv) proposals on integrating a platform for coordinating interventions within the architecture of AFRM (v) propose resource mobilization strategy for effective operationalisation and sustainability of the revised AFRM.

The consultative workshop, held virtually, was attended by **45** participants, including all the key stakeholders: representatives of **AU Member States** (Malawi, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Kenya, Tunisia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Chad, Eswatini); **Regional Economic Communities** (UMA, COMESA), Regional Fisheries Bodies (LVFO, COREP, COMHAFAT, FCWC); **Representative of the AU Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture** (Academie Regionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (ARSTM), Rhodes University, Limbe Nautical Arts and Fisheries Institute), National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research); **Independent Experts** (Dr Ruby Asmah, Prof Paul Onyango, Prof Mafa Hara, Georges MbaAsseko, Mr Edward Kimakwa, Kwame Mfodwo, Prof Gamal El Naggar; Prof Gamal Hussein Zaza); **Development and Technical Partners** (EU, IOC); **Regional Platform of Non-State Actors** (SANSABA, EARFISH); **Women Organization** (AWFISHNET); **Regional Fisheries Projects** (ECOFISH, PESCAO/ECOWAS). In attendance were staff members of AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD. Mrs Nancy Gitonga and Dr Sloans Chimatiro were the technical facilitators of the meeting.

The opening session comprised of statements by Dr Clement Adjorlolo, FishGov 2 project coordinator in AUDA-NEPAD on behalf of Dr Mamadou Diakhite. Ms Fransisca Gonah, AU-IBAR Senior Human Resources and Administration Officer, provided a welcoming and Opening statement on behalf of Acting Director AU-IBAR, Dr. Nick Nwankpa and Director, Department of Agriculture, Rural Economy, Blue Economy, Sustainable Environment (DARBE), Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa.

Dr Clement Adjorlolo provided a presentation on the objectives of the workshop and agenda. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

Technical presentations received were on:

- i. The Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanism in Perspectives; the Journey and transition to the revised AFRM by Ms. Hellen Moepi on behalf of Dr. Mohamed Seisay
- ii. Presentation of the AFRM working groups – proposals for Rationalization: Terms of Reference and Criteria for memberships by Dr. Sloans Chimatiro
- iii. Presentation of the Terms of reference of the Think Tank Executive Committee and Advisory Council by Ms. Hellen Moepi
- iv. Proposals for integrating a platform for coordinating interventions in the sector – within AFRM by Ms Hellen Moepi on behalf of Dr. Sloans Chimatiro
- v. Proposals for Resource Mobilization Strategy for effective Operationalization and sustainability of the revised AFRM by Mrs. Nancy Gitonga
- vi. Draft Terms of Reference for the establishment of Sectoral Committee on fisheries and aquaculture and the revised CAMFA (formally) Secretariat by Ms Hellen Moepi on behalf of Dr Mohamed Seisay

Three working groups discussed the technical presentations and provided inputs and recommendation:

- i. **Working Group 1** - Think Tank Executive Committee – revision of TORs and membership criteria: *Chair and rapporteur, Dr Paubert Mahatante*
- ii. **Working Group 2** - Advisory Council - revision of TORs and membership criteria: *Chair Prof Gamal El Naggat and rapporteur, Dr Sunil Sweenarain*
- iii. **Working Group 3** - Proposals for rationalization of AFRM Working Groups; revision of functions (TORs) for rationalized and membership composition: *Chair Prof Paul Onyango and rapporteurs Dr Ruby Asmah and Dr Sloans Chimatiro*
- iv. **Working Group 1**- Proposals for platform for coordinating interventions in fisheries and aquaculture sector: *Chair, Mr Emmanuel Sabuni and rapporteur, Dr Paubert Mahatante*
- v. **Working Group 2**- Proposals for Resource Mobilization Strategy for revised AFRM: *Chair Mr Kwame Mfodwo and rapporteur, Dr Ruby Asmah*
- vi. **Working Group 3**- Draft Terms of Reference for establishing sectoral committee on fisheries: *Chair Mr Kimakwa and rapporteurs Prof Pete Britz*

Meeting outcomes:

1. The AFRM working groups were reviewed and revised based on the current Terms of Reference and criteria for membership composition and adopted
2. The functions of the Think tank Executive Committee and Advisory Council and the criteria for membership were reviewed and adopted
3. The draft terms of reference for the Sectoral Committee on fisheries and aquaculture was reviewed and adopted
4. The proposals on integrating a platform for coordinating interventions within the architecture of AFRM was reviewed and adopted
5. Proposals for Resource Mobilization Strategy for effective Operationalization and sustainability of the revised AFRM was reviewed and adopted

Meeting recommendations:

- A need for a dedicated unit at AU-IBAR to help with resource mobilization of AFRM

- Develop comprehensive Business plan for the AFRM
- Promote periodic fundraising activities such as mobilise private sector in fish related business to support fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
- Pay attention to vision of AU MS and relevant international instruments
- Implement robust Monitoring and Evaluation
- A need for a dedicated communication officer and need to provide resources
- Establish a mechanism for South-South cooperation, alignment with UN Agencies, and foster PPP at the state level.

Ms Francisca Gonah gave a closing remarks on behalf of Acting Director, AU-IBAR

