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Technical Report of the Consultative Workshop on Operationalization of the Revised African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM)

By: Nancy K. Gitonga, Fisheries Consultant
11th - 12th August 2021 AU-IBAR - VIRTUAL MEETING



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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.2	Workshop Objectives	1
1.3	Workshop Preparation	1
2.	The Workshop Opening Session	2
2.1	The Workshop Attendance	2
2.2	Official Opening of the Workshop	2
3.	The Workshop Technical Sessions	5
3.1	Workshop Groups Sessions	5
4.	The Workshop Meeting Outcomes	14
5.	Closing of the Workshop	14
6.	Rationalised Functions of the AFRM Organs and Composition of Memberships	16
6.1	Think Tank Executive Committee	16
6.2	The Advisory Council	17
6.3	The AFRM Working Groups	18
7.	Annexes	25
	Agenda of the meeting	25
	List of participants	27

I. Introduction

A virtual stakeholder consultative workshop on operationalizing the revised AFRM convened by the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in collaboration with the Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA)-NEPAD was held on the 11-12 August 2021. The Workshop was organized through Phase Two of the Fisheries Governance Project (FishGov 2) supported by the European Union (EU).

1.2 Workshop Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop was to develop mechanisms for effective operationalisation of the revised AFRM.

The specific objectives were to:-

1. introduce the revised AFRM and its various organs;
2. rationalize the AFRM working groups; review and revise the current Terms of Reference and Criteria for Membership Composition;
3. review the functions of the Think tank Executive Committee, the Advisory Council and the Criteria for Membership;
4. review functions of the secretariat of the Sectoral Committee on fisheries and aquaculture (formerly CAMFA secretariat) including terms of reference;
5. make proposals on integrating a platform for coordinating interventions within the architecture of AFRM; and
6. make proposals for resource mobilization strategy for effective operationalisation and sustainability of the revised AFRM.

1.3 Workshop Preparation

There were consultations between the Technical Facilitators and the Fisheries and Aquaculture personnel at the AU-IBAR, through which the Agenda of the workshop was developed, relevant documents and reports on the AFRM establishment process were sourced. The Facilitator and the AU-IBAR fisheries and Aquaculture personnel, refined and prepared workshop documents that included the Terms of Reference of each AFRM organs as well as the rationalised four (4) AFRM Working Groups. These documents were availed to the participants before the commencement of the Workshop.

Three (3) breakout workshop working groups were established prior to the workshop and participants notified. The participants were distributed to respective break out groups according to

their expertise and language proficiency for maximum utilisation of time and the group discussions outcome.

2. The Workshop Opening Session

2.1 *The Workshop Attendance*

The consultative workshop, held virtually, was attended by 45 registered 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 (SANSFAFA, EARFISH); Women Organization (AWFISHNET); Regional Fisheries Projects (ECOFISH, PESCAO/ECOWAS).

Staff members of AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD; and the technical facilitators, Mrs. Nancy Gitonga and Dr. Sloans Chimatiro were in attendance.

2.2 *Official Opening of the Workshop*

Ms Hellen Moepi, Fisheries Officer at AU-IBAR, facilitated the opening session.

2.1.1 **AUDA-NEPAD Opening Statement**

Dr Clement Adjorlolo, FishGov 2 project coordinator in AUDA-NEPAD on behalf of Dr Mamadou Diakhite gave an opening statement on behalf of Dr Mayaki Assane Ibrahim, Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).

In his statement, Dr Adjorlolo expressed his gratitude to the African Union, particularly AUDA-NEPAD and AU-IBAR, for conducting this stakeholder workshop to discuss the operationalization of the revised African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM). He reminded the participants that the fisheries and aquaculture sectors play a significant social and nutritional role in the well-being of Africans as demonstrated by the AUDA-NEPAD and FAO study that showed the gross value of the African fisheries and aquaculture sectors is estimated to be over 26 billion US dollars in 2015. This

value provides evidence of the economic benefits that could be sustained from Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sectors, in line with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS) in Africa.

Dr Adjorlolo said that the recognition by Africa's leadership of the need to address these issues over a decade ago during the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) in Banjul Gambia in 2010, stimulated a coordinated and far-reaching effort. The Ministers recommended that the African Union develop and implement a coordination mechanism among the AU RECs and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and initiatives with the regional economic integration agenda. They therefore recommended that the AU implement a mechanism for broad-based participatory policy dialogue and fisheries management, particularly for the non-state actors. At the continental level, the African Union, through the African Union Commission's offices, including the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR); as well as the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), provide leadership of the sector, steering it within the framework of the AU's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS) that was adopted by African Heads of States and Governments in 2014. The African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) represented an integral part of the PFRS and was conceptualized as a coordination mechanism to provide strategic guidance to ensure the coherence of fisheries policies and initiatives and foster reforms and strengthen institutional arrangements for improving the productivity of fisheries and aquaculture. The AFRM thus provides a platform for: coordination and collaboration; information sharing; communication and knowledge generation; advocacy; policy development; performance monitoring and resource mobilisation.

He emphasized on the need for effective operationalization of the AFRM to promote continental coherence and meaningful participation of stakeholders in policy and legislative reforms. He reminded the participants that the Ministers at the 2019 meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE) adopted the proposed revised structure and recommended that the AU establish mechanisms to fully achieve the objectives of the AFRM.

Dr. Adjorlolo informed the meeting that the AUDA-NEPAD recognizes the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) as a continental partnership platform that would facilitate the coordination and coherence in the governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The shared vision of the AUDA-NEPAD and AU-IBAR is to operationalize the revised AFRM, minimize duplication, and improve progress in African fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Africa. He reiterated that the AUDA-NEPAD is fully committed to collaborating with all our partners, through AU-IBAR,

towards the successful operationalization of the revised African Fisheries Reform Mechanism. He appreciated the organisers of the meeting and wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

2.1.2 AU-IBAR Opening Statement

Ms Francisca Gonah, Senior Human Resources and Administration Office welcomed the participants and gave an opening statement on behalf of the Acting Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Nick Nwankpa, and the Director, Department of Agriculture, Rural Economy, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE), Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa.

In her statement, she reminded participants that the operationalization of the AFRM is a recommendation by Hon. Ministers at the 2019 meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-DARBE). She commended the participants for their commitment and support to the African Union in its endeavour to reposition the sector for sustainable contribution to food security, livelihoods and wealth creation. The AFRM was developed through an evolving consultative processes that saw the final architecture of African Fisheries Reform Mechanism, a product of partnership consultation between African Union, Development Partners (World Bank, EU, FAO, and World Wide Fund for Nature), RECs, Regional Fisheries Bodies, AU member states, and Non State Actors at a meeting held in 2012, Nairobi, Kenya.

The mechanism was designed to respond to some of the challenges facing the fisheries and aquaculture sector that include weak coordination, coherent governance and collaboration of the sector. She said that the full, effective functioning of the AFRM was limited by weak operationalization of some of the associated organs, including the working groups, necessary in the support of support of evidence-based policy generation and decision making within the AU policy framework.

She told the participants that several factors have necessitated the revisions of the functions and memberships of the AFRM organs and also the functions of the proposed STC (Specialized Technical Committees) Sectoral Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture. With the support of the World Bank to AU-IBAR in 2019, through the Bank's Regional Partnership for African Fisheries Policy Reform (RAFIP) flagship programme, a revised African Fisheries Reform Mechanism was developed through consultative processes and endorsed by the 2020 African Union Executive Council. She expressed her delight that the workshop will look at the revised AFRM with a view to reviewing and rationalising the functions of its organs to ensure effectiveness, relevance and sustainability of the AFRM for accelerated development of the aquatic food systems in Africa, in support of the Malabo Declaration. In conclusion of her statement, Ms Gonah expressed her

gratitude to the EU and the World Bank for their support to this reform mechanism and all other partners' institutions. She also acknowledged the role of the AU Member States, RECs, RFBs, Experts, Non-State actors and the ongoing partnership between AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD in the operationalization of the AFRM.

3. The Workshop Technical Sessions

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

The technical sessions comprised of the setting the scene presentations and working groups sessions. During this session the following presentations were made: -

- 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. In his presentation, Dr Seisay, highlighted the history of the AFRM process and the necessity for a coordination Mechanism.
- ii. The AFRM Working Groups proposals for Rationalization of the Terms of Reference and Criteria for Memberships by Dr Sloans Chimatiro for review and discussion.
- iii. The Think Tank Executive Committee and Advisory Council Terms of Reference and Criteria for membership proposals for rationalization were presented by Ms. Hellen Moepi for review and discussion

3.1 Workshop Groups Sessions

3.1.1 The Group Session to Rationalize Functions of AFRM

Technical facilitator for this meeting presented the objectives of the Workshop Group sessions. The Group's task was to review the revised functions and Criteria for Membership of various AFRM Organs to come up with an agreed and rationalized Terms of Reference and membership Criteria for each Organ. The participants were organised into three breakout groups according to their expertise strengths and language proficiency. Thus the three groups represented Francophones, Anglophones and bilingual participants. Each group was presented with the revised Terms of Reference and Criteria for membership of the Organs of the AFRM for discussion. These AFRM Organs include the Think Tank Executive Committee; the Advisory Council and AFRM Working Groups. Each group appointed the chair and rapporteur.

Working Group 1:

This group discussed the revision Terms of Reference and membership criteria for the Think Tank Executive Committee. The Chair was Mr Emmanuel Sabuni and rapporteur was Dr Paubert Mahatante.

The group agreed with the Terms of Reference of the Committee. However in terms of membership, the group recommended that under Representatives of Regional Organizations, there should be only one representative from the consultative committee since the specialized regional organizations are mandated by the committee.

Working Group 2

This group discussed the revised the Terms of Reference and Membership Criteria of the Advisory Council. The group's Chair was Prof Gamal El Naggar and the rapporteur, Dr Sunil Sweenarain.

After deliberations, the group agreed with the proposed Terms of Reference but recommended adding one sweeping function to cover any other contingent activities. With regard to membership Criteria, the group was agreeable to 10 members and recommended that co-opted members should be geographical represented and be selected based on thematic areas and issues.

Working Group 3

This group discussed Proposals for rationalization of AFRM Working Groups; to include revision of functions (TORs) for rationalized and membership composition. Chair of the group was Prof Paul Onyango and rapporteurs were Dr Ruby Asmah and Dr Sloans Chimatiro.

This group discussed all the four proposed AFRM WGs: Policy, Governance & Institutions; Sustainable Aquaculture Development; Trade and Enterprise Development; and Small scale fisheries Development

Group recommended as follows: -

i. Policy, Governance & Institutions WG

- The Working Group will cover both marine and inland fisheries governance
- Look at Fisheries in the lens of the Blue Economy to ensure utilization of fisheries for the its development
- On Fisheries access, ensure development of the Minimum Terms and Conditions for access by the AU MS
- Sustainable management of fisheries including reducing and combatting IUU fishing (policy

law, governance, compliance & enforcement) is key and require political support.

- Policy dimensions are always changing and therefore the need for adequate capacity in implementing policies.
- ii. Sustainable Aquaculture Development WG
- Develop strategies to guide aquatic animal health in order to safeguard investments
- iii. Trade and Enterprise development WG
- Consolidate findings from the FishTrade Programme and FishGov I into recommendations for technical and policy reforms, especially informal trade
 - Generate knowledge to inform strategies for integration of fisheries and aquaculture in African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
 - Develop capacity for compliance with SPS, including strengthened intra-regional conformity assessment to ensure food safety
 - Promote intra-regional fish trade and share of trade related information
 - Fish trade working groups can support countries to agree on quota allocation and source of origin for transboundary stocks.
- iv. Small-scale Fisheries Development WG
- Develop strategies to guide aquatic animal health in order to safeguard investments
- v. Cross-cutting/Ad hoc
- Unfortunately the continent has a number of pandemics and therefore the need for inclusivity by addressing health and social issues rather than isolating a few such as HIV. The Health and Social protection of community of fishers is key.

3.1.2 The Technical Session on Sustainability of AFRM

1) PRESENTATIONS

Dr Clement Adjorlolo moderated the sessions. During this session, there were three technical presentations, which included the following:

- i. Proposals for integrating a platform for coordinating interventions in the sector – within AFRM by Ms Hellen Moepi on behalf of Dr. Sloans Chimatiro.
- ii. Proposals for Resource Mobilization Strategy for effective Operationalization and sustainability of the revised AFRM by Mrs. Nancy Gitonga.
- iii. 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.

The same three working groups with the same members were maintained:

i PROPOSALS FOR INTEGRATING A PLATFORM FOR COORDINATING INTERVENTIONS IN THE SECTOR – WITHIN AFRM.

The presentation highlighted the proposals for integrating a platform for coordination within the AFRM through partnerships, which would create a new coherent, AU-based regional partnership platform that is currently lacking, to guide transformation of Africa's fisheries towards environmental, economic and social sustainability through management and governance reforms.

Proposed Functions of the AFRM:

- To be a new, coherent, AU-based regional partnership platform
- To facilitate the development, adoption and implementation of reforms in fishery governance and management
- To guide transformation of Africa's fisheries from current levels of overexploitation and overcapitalization towards environmental economic and social sustainability
- Purpose of the Platform for Coordination: Communication & Knowledge Management
- To collect, synthesize, report and disseminate lessons from success and failure from fisheries reforms at country and regional levels (all donor-funded projects encouraged to submit reports)
- To establish a "AFRM Partnership Platform" and meet regularly
- To align stakeholders around a common understanding of the reforms necessary to transform Africa's fisheries
- To put in place Communication Strategy and Approach
- To create a functional Knowledge Exchange Platform (including website)
- To produce Knowledge Products, including Policy Briefs and Technical Guides on fisheries-related and CAADP work
- To produce a biannual Pan-African Fisheries Digest (or African Fisheries Report)
- Inform STC as required
- Provide technical support mechanisms (including a rapid response team) to facilitate country level preparation of reform programme investments

ii PROPOSALS FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY FOR EFFECTIVE OPERATIONALIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE REVISED AFRM

In her presentation, Mrs. Gitonga proposed various sources of funding to include: Core funding, External (mainly project) Funding, and fees and levies. She also in her presentation proposed target groups and ways of popularizing AFRM.

Summary of Proposals for Resource Mobilization Strategy for AFRM

The funding strategy for AFRM will need to focus on sustainability to ensure resources are mobilised for long-term functioning of the programme. To this end, AFRM should receive AU core funding to demonstrate AU commitment for AFRM, which in turn will enhance the ability of AU-IBAR to raise additional funds from external donors. The AU should use its convening power and its technical partnerships to reflect the sectoral focus on fisheries and aquaculture.

There are several options for funding the AFRM:-

- Core funding (from Member States via the AU)
- External funding through donor-supported time-bound projects
- Possible use of levies on projects and programmes coordinated through the AFRM
- Donations.
- A combination of funding sources

Core Funding: This is the basis for sustainability of the mechanism and will therefore be absolutely essential that the AFRM is core-funded by AU through AU-IBAR to demonstrate that the AU gives importance to the fisheries and aquaculture sector and also that the role of the AFRM is supported at the political level. Lack of core funding would likely negatively affect the willingness of donors to provide additional resources and this would threaten the sustainability of the AFRM. The core funding should cover an operating budget for functions and activities, such as WG meetings, studies, monitoring and evaluations.

Some of the key activities for carrying out the AFRM functions include:

- Organisation of meetings, workshops and discussion fora
- Engagement with broad-based Think Tank events and other multi-stakeholder consultations on specific technical issues.
- Provision of support to RECs on fisheries and aquaculture matters, including workshops, training and facilitation of REC-RFB linkages.
- Support to the PFRS and CAADP processes
- Support to programme and projects planning including participation of relevant AFRM organs in project formulation missions, inception meetings and peer review processes.
- Support to closing the knowledge gap in areas such as gender and vulnerable groups aspects, small-scale fisheries, the post-harvest, ecological sustainability, etc., by support to or commissioning of specific studies or pilot projects.
- Development and implementation of an M&E system, including identification of key indicators that would allow monitoring of progress towards set objectives.

External Funding: This will also be necessary for AFRM to ensure fisheries and aquaculture achieves a recognisable impact. Funding for fisheries programmes at AU-IBAR and NPCA have so far been through projects designed as single or multi-donor programmes. Income generation and fund raising should be a clearly defined task for the core-funded team of the AFRM.

It will be important to prepare a strategic document for approval by the AU and existing partners and as soon as AFRM starts to function, more targeted efforts to present to other potential donors and partners should be made. AFRM capacity to prepare funding proposals for donors and development partners will be essential. External donors should be approached with well-prepared proposals, a role that can be performed by the relevant WGs and other AFRM organs especially for budget-support type of funding. AFRM will be in a position to ensure a programmatic approach to projects which is usually the preferred approach by donors.

Levies and Fees: All pan-African projects whether coordinated by AFRM through AU-IBAR or RECs can be required to pay a fee to AU-IBAR for AFRM for oversight role. The fee would ensure coherence in the Pan Africa fisheries projects from inception to implementation, which is currently lacking. The proposal to finance AFRM fisheries and aquaculture activities through a 'service fee' will however require more thought and is likely to only be a complementary option in the longer term when the AFRM is already well established and users can clearly see its advantages. AFRM should therefore investigate modalities on how to implement such a scheme including possible examples from other organisations, lessons learnt and good practices should be identified to inform this process. It will be important that donors are approached with regard to their willingness to pay such overheads and what services they could expect.

Operationalizing and popularizing AFRM

Upon establishment of AFRM organs through appointed memberships, the work of the WGs should commence immediately. The strategy document should be accompanied by business plan type of document that outlines the contents and expected results in a way all stakeholders would be brought on board. More targeted efforts such as making appointments and discussing directly with selected potential donors through organisation of donor/stakeholders round table will be required. Opportunities should be sought to present the strategy not only to the traditional donors but also to other interested parties that have access to funding, such as international NGOs. Along with this there will be need to present the strategy in relevant meetings such as the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) sessions.

Communicating the programme intentions in public media, press releases, articles in relevant newsletters, will enhance exposure of the AFRM and therefore the need to develop a communication strategy to be managed by communication experts.

Since AFRM operationalization will have costs, the possibilities to mobilise funds for fund-raising activities within the AU and existing programmes, such as FishGov 2 will be necessary. The appropriate human resources with fund raising competences will also be essential for this purpose. Potential donors should be informed of the establishment of the AFRM and how funding the initiative will allow for this new structure to settle and bridge gaps before more long-term funding is identified.

iii DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE AND THE REVISED CAMFA (FORMALLY) SECRETARIAT

The proposed TORs for the establishment for Secretariat for Sectoral Committee on fisheries and aquaculture were presented for discussion and adoption.

Summary of presentation of the Terms of Reference for STC Sub-Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture

The revised African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) was endorsed by the 2020 (Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec. 1074 (XXXVI) aimed at facilitating coordination and coherence in the governance of fisheries and aquaculture sector. Giving the importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as well as AU-IBAR role in spearheading the implementation of the PFRS, The Executive Council further recommended to strengthen the STC on ARDWE by establishing a Sectoral Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Institutional Arrangements and functions of the STC-ARDWE Sectoral Committee on fisheries and aquaculture (ST-ARDWE- SCFA):

- a. The (ST-ARDWE- SCFA) will be located at AU-IBAR within the Fisheries and Aquaculture Unit
- b. The statutory members of STC-ARDWE-SCFA will comprise of AU ministers in charge of fisheries and aquaculture in the AU member states. The technical experts to the STC-ARDWE SCFA will comprise of Directors in charge of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
- c. STC-ARDWE SCFA Secretariat to strengthen the STC-ARDWE process in its role of influencing continental, regional and national fisheries and aquaculture policies within the framework of revised AFRM

- d. To ensure best practices in fisheries and aquaculture are consolidated, disseminated and mainstreamed into STC-ARDWE process to ensure evidence-based continental, regional and national policies within the framework of revised AFRM
- e. To act as the interface between policy synthesis and STC-ARDWE and to ensure that policy recommendations are appropriately articulated for attention of STC-ARDWE policy processes
- f. Approval of experts recommendations from technical session of the SCFA for onward transmission to STC-ARDWE
- g. The committee to monitor and facilitate the implementation of and promotion at political level of relevant Ministerial Decisions, relevant AU instruments
- h. To facilitate on implementation of relevant Executive Council Decisions

2) **GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Mrs Gitonga, the technical facilitator of the workshop, guided the group discussions. The summaries of the relevant presentations were provided for each group for review and inputs. The three working groups established on the first day were maintained and discussed the topics of the three presentations:

Working Group 1:

The group discussed Proposals for a platform for coordinating interventions in fisheries and aquaculture sector. The Group's Chair was Mr Emmanuel Sabuni and rapporteur, Dr Paubert Mahatante. The group made the following recommendations: -

- Include the participation of the NSAs in rationale management and equal sharing of water and aquaculture resources.
- Performance indicators should be developed for each Member States. The Coordination platform to contribute in analysis, monitoring and diagnosis for each AU MS

Working Group 2:

This group discussed Proposals for Resource Mobilization Strategy for revised AFRM. The WG Chair was Mr Kwame Mfodwo and rapporteur, Dr Ruby Asmah.

The group made the following recommendations: -

- Maintain neutrality in AU
- Clear roles of AFRM need to be defined to avoid overlap
- AU funding commitment is welcome
- Multiplicity and duplication of efforts should be avoided
- Some core activities such as Monitoring and evaluation can be addressed through External

funding of projects and activities.

- Popularising AFRM among stakeholders and policy makers is important. Reaching out to stakeholders can be achieved through conducting national events to highlight activities of AFRM.
- Important to develop a Communication and visibility strategy
- Ensure External funding is in alignment with the interests of the AFRM

Working Group 3:

The group discussed Draft Terms of Reference for establishing sectoral committee on fisheries. The Chair was Mr Kimakwa and rapporteurs Prof Pete Britz. The group made the following recommendations: -

- **Coordination.** The ST-ARDWE-SCFA is a responsibility of the AU. There is therefore a need for strong coordination to enhance the effectiveness of the institution, which requires strong leadership. The group proposed that the secretariat be technically supported from other relevant AU institutions (AUDA-NEPAD, DARBE) to enhance its effectiveness.
- **Communication.** There will be need for the STC-ARDWE-SCFA to work closely with the RECs and regional fisheries bodies. A clear communication channel is thus required.
- **Reporting and review.** Regular review and reporting of the performance of the Committee is recommended. This needs to be institutionalised, visibly report to the STC for the ARDWE. A good example is the CAADP biannual review report as a standard. It is recommended to adopt an annual reporting cycle with biannual review of performance. The recommendation for performance review is by an independent body and not the AU staff.
- **Institutional acronym.** Suggestion to add 'F' for "Fisheries" into ARDWE (ARDFWE) to emphasise the importance of the fisheries sector. There is still concern over marginalisation of the fisheries sector that must be addressed. There is likelihood of the sector being absorbed within the agricultural sector.
- **Integration.** Need for inter-sectoral integration and harmonisation e.g. into the blue economy, SDGs, and the 'food systems' approach.
- **Inclusivity in the constitution of the Committee.** All relevant designated groups should be represented e.g. gender, vulnerable groups and so on.

3.1.3 Plenary Discussions and Recommendations

The three working groups made their presentations in the plenary followed by discussions and the following recommendations were made:

- 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.
- Dedicated unit at AU-IBAR to help with resource mobilization of AFRM
- Develop comprehensive Business plan for the AFRM
- Promoting 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
- Secretariat of SCFA should be based on AU-IBAR, The AFRM WG can be located, at the RECs but this will require further discussion process.
- It will be important that the Monitoring and Evaluation sticks to calendar for reporting
- Establish a dedicated communication officer, with adequate resources.

4. The Workshop 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 were reviewed and adopted.

5. Closing of the Workshop

The two day workshop was closed by the acting Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Nick Nwankpa and his closing remarks were delivered by Ms Francisca Gonah.

Ms Gonah expressed her gratitude to the participants for their individual efforts that were demonstrated in the quality the inputs and in group and plenary discussions towards realisation of

the objectives of this workshop. She expressed his delight and acknowledgement that the realisation that the decisions of the 3rd session of the Specialized Technical Committee on agriculture, rural development, water and environment (STC-ARDWE) are being implemented. She was happy that through the vibrant and enriching discussion, the Participants have collectively agreed on the Terms of Reference of the AFRM working groups, Think tank executive committee and Advisory Council in line with clear membership and criteria.

She acknowledged the commencement of the internal process of establishing the Sectoral Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture and confirmed that the inputs from the workshop will enrich Sectoral committee functions. She assured the participants of her commitment to ensure that resources are mobilized to strengthen the secretariat and ascertain sustainability of AFRM operations. She said she will support the proposal for a platform for coordinating interventions in the sector within AFRM and will ensure that it is established and functional.

In conclusion, Ms Gonah thanked the technical experts Mrs Nancy Gitonga and Dr Sloans Chimatiro for spearheading this process decades ago and for the continued support to the establishment of AFRM. She expressed her gratitude to AU MS, RECs, Regional Fisheries Bodies, Representatives of the AU Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture, Independent Experts, Development and Technical Partners, Representatives of Regional Platform of Non-State Actors and Women Organization and representative of Regional Fisheries Projects for their active participation in this process.

She recognised and appreciated WorldBank for supporting the Regional Partnership for African Fisheries Policy Reform (RAFIP) project which brought up the revised AFRM; and to the EU for their support in implementing phase two of Fisheries governance project that is continuing to address reforms in the fisheries and aquaculture within the framework of AFRM.

In closing she thanked the sister organisation, AUDA-NEPAD for excellent collaboration and congratulated AU-IBAR for a successful meeting and declared the meeting closed.

6. Rationalised Functions of the AFRM Organs and Composition of Memberships

After discussion and consensus the rationalized organs are as follows:

6.1 *Think Tank Executive Committee*

6.1.1 *Functions of Think Tank Committee*

The Executive Committee informed by the Think Tank process (evidence generation, policy synthesis and policy recommendation) provides the engine of the AFRM. The Executive committee fulfils the following functions:

- Works closely with Think Tanks on prevailing and emerging issues on continental fisheries and aquaculture
- Manages, directs and supervises Think Tanks and Ad - hoc WGs and specialized WGs
- The Committee ensures research findings and debates are translated into feasible policy options that are taken forward into the political domain by the Advisory Council and Sectoral secretariat
- The Executive Committee, through Think tank events, will have the responsibility for consulting with all AFRM partners and stakeholders in developing the process for prioritizing themes and convening events
- The Committee provides the Advisory Council and Sectorial Secretariat with policy recommendations relevant to Sectoral Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (SCFA) and other forums (including international meetings where a single 'African Voice' may be seen as advantageous)

6.1.2 *Membership Composition of Think Tank Committee*

There are two categories of membership to the executive committee that shall comprise not more than 25 members; statutory membership and co-opted membership. Statutory members to the executive committee shall be drawn from:

- i. A relevant professional agency or organ of the African Union.
- ii. Development agency with long and proven history or record of support or engagement in African fisheries and aquaculture development programs, especially in regional programs.
- iii. A multilateral agency and /or constituted body of member states with a known record or history of dedicated involvement and support in African Union initiatives in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and partnerships for African development.

- iv. A Representative of regional organizations constituted or recognized by AU member states and /or recognized by AU.
- v. Representatives of specialized regional fisheries or aquaculture bodies constituted or recognized by AU member states.
- vi. Representatives of AU established and functional AFRM working groups in the sector.
- vii. Representative a fisheries and aquaculture knowledge based institutions (e.g AU Centers of Excellence)
- viii. Co-opted members shall be drawn upon as required from:
 - a. Selected AU member states
 - b. Individuals with proven and extensive experience in African and global fisheries and aquaculture sector respectively
 - c. Organizations with extensive experience in funding and implementing fisheries and aquaculture projects at sub regional or regional levels.

6.2 *The Advisory Council*

6.2.1 *Functions of the Advisory Council*

The Advisory Council, comprising of a limited number of high-level experts, is responsible for the examination of policy options and the transformation of these as recommendations for the consideration of Sectoral Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Advisory Council fulfils the following functions:

- To act as the interface between policy synthesis (by the Executive Committee and SCFA).
- To ensure that policy recommendations are appropriately articulated in preparation for SCFA meetings
- Identify and advice on issues and upcoming events in international fisheries, aquaculture and related disciplines where the ‘AfricanVoice’ needs to be articulated, increased and strengthened
- In tandem with the SCFA Secretariat, will also support political advocacy and lobbying to facilitate adoption of policy recommendations by SCFA.
- Advisory Council and the SCFA Secretariat will foster and strengthen partnerships, linkages and coherence with other non-AFRM partners
- Should develop resource mobilization mechanisms to support the AFRM
- Initiate independent performance evaluation of the various organs of the AFRM
- And any other functions deemed appropriate

6.2.2 *Membership Composition of the Advisory Council*

The Advisory Council shall responsible for examining policy options and recommendations for

SCFA. It shall be limited to not more than 10 high level experts as statutory members who may come from:

- i. The Chair is proposed to be the Secretariat of SCFA
- ii. A multilateral agency (Donors and Development partners) and or constituted body of member states with known record or history of dedicated involvement and support in African Union initiatives in African and aquaculture sector and a known record of strong partnerships for African development
- iii. Representatives of managers or coordinators of multilateral funded project with AU involved
- iv. Chairs of AFRM working groups
- v. Co-opted Members of the Advisory Council selected based on thematic areas and issues and geographically represented shall be called upon to discuss contingent issues. They shall be drawn from:
 - a. Representatives of regional organizations constituted by AU member states and /or recognized by AU
 - b. Representatives of specialized regional fisheries or aquaculture bodies constituted by AU member states
 - c. Individuals with proven and extensive experience in African and/or global fisheries and aquaculture sector

6.3 The AFRM Working Groups

There shall be 4 Working Groups of AFRM comprising of:-

- i. Policy, Governance and Institutions
- ii. Sustainable Aquaculture Development
- iii. Fish Trade and Enterprise Development
- iv. Small-scale Fisheries Development

6.3.1 Functions of the AFRM Working Groups

i. POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The Governance WGS is expected to address approaches and strategies for efficient and effective implementation of the PFRS. The major issues that constrain the effective management of fisheries and the responsible development of aquaculture in the continent will be identified. The WGS will address the following major thematic issues:

- The Working Group will cover both marine and inland fisheries governance
- Identify strategies for inclusive Policy Coherence and Legal Framework, including policy gaps

and recommending appropriate support

- Interrogate regional and international fisheries arrangements;
- Identifying strategies through which institutional arrangements and regional cooperation and coordination between RFBs, RECs, NSAs are strengthened;
- Evaluate emerging management tools and technology applicable to the African fisheries context
- Identify the best approaches to implementing the Fisheries and Aquaculture data collection, analysis, and information sharing and dissemination.
- Identify best practices for sustainable fisheries and environmental resources management in line with global instruments (e.g. CCRF, FAO VGSSF)
- Increase and consolidate the participation of Africa in the management of high seas fisheries including well developed national and regional MCS to ensure the protection of fisheries resources for enhanced benefits
- Provide technical support at national and regional framework on combating IUU fishing through strengthening capacity building and information sharing system that include provision of databases, networking and sharing of intelligence
- Review the human capacity capabilities in institutions responsible for fisheries management and other stakeholders organisations in African countries with respect to the key stewardship approaches
- Develop formal and informal training programmes (both formal and informal) to develop capacity especially in the socio-economic perspective of fisheries stewardship
- Identify strategies and mechanisms for knowledge sharing in fisheries and aquaculture and build synergy between local ecological knowledge and scientific knowledge to enhance the sharing of stewardship vision across the fisheries sector.
- And any other functions deemed appropriate

ii. **SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The aquaculture WGS is expected to address approaches and strategies for efficient and effective implementation of the PFRS. The major issues that constrain the effective development of sustainable aquaculture in the continent will be identified. The WGS will address the following major thematic issues:

- Develop strategies to guide aquatic animal health in order to safeguard investments
- Support countries to domesticate aquaculture provisions of the PFRS, in line with Regional Aquaculture Strategic Plans (e.g. SADC/EAC Regional Aquaculture Strategy)
- Identify strategies for inclusive Policy Coherence and Legal Framework (especially coherence with the Aquaculture Article of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries)
- Carry out studies to strength Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF) and AfriFishnet

including providing database and promotion of aquaculture networks to accelerate aquaculture development

- Identify strategies to ensure that aquaculture initiatives undertaken in national and shared waters bodies meet international environmental best practices; should be environmentally friendly aquaculture, including application of EAA and bio-security measures, as examples
- Synthesise development impacts of aquaculture in regions where there have been clear direct impact on food supply, income, employment and consumption opportunities as well as increase in supply which has been coupled by relatively stabilised prices;
- Assist member states in identifying opportunities and priorities for aquaculture development through supporting development of National Aquaculture Strategic Plans
- Consolidate findings from the FishGov I into recommendations for technical and policy reforms
- Identifying strategies through which institutional arrangements and regional cooperation and coordination between RFBs (share Water Bodies), RECs, NGOs and CSOs are strengthened;
- Evaluate emerging management tools ,technology and best practices applicable to the African Aquaculture context
- Identify the best approaches to implementing the aquaculture data collection, analysis, and information sharing and dissemination.
- Provide guidelines for technology transfer mechanisms from countries advanced in aquaculture to other countries in the continent. This includes providing linkages for national/regional/international best practices of aquaculture production in Africa (e.g. Nigeria/Egypt) and others]
- Develop policy resources, awareness-raising and information outputs to update the PFRS
- Encourage mainstreaming of Aquaculture strategies and plans into national and regional development goals (e.g. CAADP)
- Carry out value chain analyses to improve the aquaculture development in the continent.
- And any other functions deemed appropriate

iii. FISH TRADE AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The trade and marketing WGS is expected to address approaches and strategies for efficient and effective implementation of the PFRS. The major issues that constrain the effective development of fish and aquaculture products trade and marketing in the continent will be identified. The WGS will address the following major thematic issues:

- Consolidate findings from the FishTrade Programme and FishGov I into recommendations for technical and policy reforms, especially informal trade.
- Update data on cross-border and international trade in fish, fisheries and aquaculture products;
- Identify strategies to facilitate adoption by countries of sustainable trade policy and legal frameworks applied to trade in fish and aquaculture products;

- Contribute, through the recently adopted Doha Round Trade Facilitation Package), to the development of national and regional trade facilitation strategies;
- Carry out feasibility studies on strengthening the existing Fish and aquaculture products marketing information (weekly price indicators, monthly market trends and yearly structural data); including the promotion of efficient fish trade information networking system.
- Assess the coherence of the national fisheries policies to international trade-related instruments (WTO-NAMA, EU-IUU Fishing Regulations, Eco-labelling, etc);
- Generate knowledge and experiences of the impact and benefits of certification schemes, especially EcoMark-Africa and other third-party schemes, and share this information with decision makers
- Identify the strategies to facilitate the adoption of the African Ecolabelling Mechanism labels. To also encourage market based approaches to fisheries and aquaculture development, including eco-labelling
- Identify strategies to facilitate the use of the WTO trade marketing tools and technology to boost the African fish intra-regional trade and marketing;
- Generate knowledge to inform strategies for integration of fisheries and aquaculture in AfCFTA
- Develop capacity for compliance with SPS, including strengthened intra-regional conformity assessment to ensure food safety
- Identify strategies facilitating synergy work between different projects, institutions conducting work on removing road blocks along identified trade corridors in the continent
- Identify strategies to develop and disseminate to the small scale fisher-folks illustrated guidelines on Regional trade Areas and new bilateral trade agreements, including the EPA between the RECs/EU
- Prepare recommendations on how AU can work with RECs to facilitate integration of fish production and markets in neighbouring states in order to allow for forward and backward linkages across the borders
- Identify strategies to facilitate the production and development of value added fish and aquaculture products; this includes awareness creation and building capacity on quality and safety standards to better access regional and international markets.
- Carry out value chain analysis for aquaculture products to improve competitiveness including identifying areas of strategic intervention and also including value addition.
- Undertake some research which presents the current status of and options for investment in the sector in Africa – particularly with reference to SMME organisations
- Facilitate investment and incentives for fisheries and aquaculture development by seeking opportunities and partnership at national and regional level
- Encourage the establishment of the development of fisheries and aquaculture development

fund at national and regional level

- Provide mechanism for accessing funds to finance fisheries and aquaculture development
- And any other functions deemed appropriate

iv. SMALL SCALE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

The Small Scale Fisheries WGS is expected to address approaches and strategies for efficient and effective implementation of the PFRS. The major issues that constrain the effective management of fisheries and the responsible development of aquaculture in the continent will be identified. The WGS will address the following major thematic issues:

- Identify strategies for inclusive Policy Coherence and Legal Frameworks
- Identify strategies and mechanisms to facilitate the integration of migrant fishers in host countries;
- Consolidate findings from the FishGov I into recommendations for technical and policy reforms
- Evaluate emerging management tools and technology applicable to the African small scale fisheries context. This would entail improving fisheries governance through participatory management (co-management)
- Identify and encourage alternative livelihood for small scale fishers
- Identify the best approaches to implementing the Small Scale Fisheries data collection, analysis, and information sharing and dissemination.
- Carry out value chain analyses to improve the small scale fisheries sustainable development in the continent
- Streamlining the contribution of small scale fisheries in the national economies of African countries
- Strategies and mechanisms for gender mainstreaming; youth participation as well as the inclusion of other stakeholders;
- Develop strategies to guide aquatic animal health in order to safeguard investments
- And any other functions deemed appropriate

6.3.2 Membership Composition of the AFRM Working Groups

The total numbers of members, including the chair, should not exceed 10. It is important to take into consideration the Regional balance when constituting the working groups. It is proposed that the Members will be drawn from:

1. Representatives of the African Union Member States
2. Representatives of the RECs
3. Representatives of RFBs
4. Representatives of RFMOs

5. Representatives of IGO (e.g. FAO, etc.)
6. Representative of AU Centers of Excellence and/or Specialized knowledge based intergovernmental fisheries and aquaculture institutions (including other universities to ensure comprehensive monitoring of performance management regimes).
7. Non-state actors such as Fishermen Professional organizations, CSOs, Women's groups, private sector youth groups.
8. Individual Experts with proven expertise and knowledge in relevant areas of the WGs
9. In addition, non- African experts could appointed as members working group sessions in appropriate (WGs to have a mixture of local and external experiences)

AD-HOC WORKING GROUP

In addition to permanent working groups established under the AFRM, there was general acknowledgement that, when necessary, an Ad HOC working group may be convened to address the following issues:

- Climate Change
- Youth and Gender
- Research and Development
- HIV/AIDS
- Mainstreaming fisheries and aquaculture in CAADP

MODUS OPERANDI OF THE WORKING GROUP

The WGS will realize their functions by one or a combination of the following methods as appropriate:

- Correspondences [Telephone conference, Electronic communication (email, WebEx)]
- Physical and virtual technical meetings
- Physical and virtual workshops/seminars
- Ad hoc (back to back with other meetings)
- Preparation and dissemination of policy briefs, notes, work plans and undertake periodic evaluation of the WG

APPOINTMENT OF WGS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Director of AU-IBAR, upon recommendations based on technical capabilities of the individual will appoint members of the Working Groups

- For each of these matters the members of the WGs will develop their detailed Terms of reference and work plans
- The WGs shall elect a chairperson whose term of service is two years

- The WGs shall have no more than 10 members; six of who will be permanent. The term will be two years. The replacement of permanent members will be done on a rotational basis to ensure that at any one time at least three members will remain to retain institutional memory. The co-opted members invited on the basis of their expertise and the subject area
- Every effort shall be made to reflect a regional and gender balance in the composition of the WGs.
- The WGs shall also canvass for the resources to ensure the continuation of their activities.
- The WGs shall produce at the end of each technical meeting or activity a report as well as an annual report highlighting the main achievements and the constraints.
- The WGs members are encouraged to be members of the Policy Research Network and other existing networks such as ANAF

7. Annexes

Agenda of the meeting

DAY 1 Time	Activity	Facilitator
12:30 – 13:00	Opening of the Zoom Platform	Jemima AU-BAR
	Official Opening Session	Chair: Ag. Director AU-BAR
13:00 – 13:30	<p><u>Welcome remarks</u> Dr. Nick Nwankpa – Ag. Director, AU-BAR</p> <p><u>Statement:</u> Dr. Mamadou Diakhite – Representative, AUDA-NEPAD</p> <p><u>Opening Statement:</u> Dr. Godfrey Bahigwa Director, Department of Agriculture, Rural Economy, Blue Economy, Sustainable Environment (DARBE)</p> <p>Objectives of the workshop</p>	<p>Ag. Director, AU-BAR</p> <p>Dr. Clement Adjorlolo</p>
Technical Sessions		
	Session 1	Moderators/Presenters
	Setting the Scene Presentation:	Prof. James Wabacha
13:30 – 13:45	The Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanism in Perspectives; the Journey and transition to the revised AFRM	Dr. Mohamed Seisay
13:45 – 14:00	Presentation of the AFRM working groups – proposals for Rationalization: Terms of Reference and Criteria for memberships	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro
14:00 – 14:15	Presentation of the Terms of reference of the Think Tank Executive Committee and Advisory Council	Ms. Hellen Moepi
	Session 2	Moderators/Presenters
	Working Group Session	Prof. James Wabacha
14:15 – 14:25	Objectives of the WG Session and organization	Technical facilitator – Mrs. Nancy Gitonga
14:25 – 15:10	Working Group 1 – Think Tank Executive Committee – revision of TORs and membership criteria	
	Working Group 2 – Advisory Council – revision of TORs and membership criteria	
	Working Group 3 – Proposals for rationalization of AFRM Working Groups; revision of functions (TORs) for rationalized and membership composition	
15:10 – 15:40	Plenary – Presentations	WG Rapporteurs
15:40 – 15:55	Discussions	ALL
15:55 – 16:00	Closure for the day	Moderators/Presenters

Day 2: 12 August 2021

12:30 – 13:00	Opening of Zoom Platform	ALL
13:00 – 13:30	Proposals for integrating a platform for coordinating interventions in the sector – within AFRM	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro
13:30 – 13:45	Proposals for Resource Mobilization Strategy for effective Operationalization and sustainability of the revised AFRM	Mrs. Nancy Gitonga
13:45 – 14:00	Draft Terms of Reference for the establishment of Sectoral Committee on fisheries and aquaculture and the revised CAMFA (formally) Secretariat	Dr. Mohamed Seisay
14:00 – 14:30	<p><i>WG sessions</i></p> <p><i>Working Group 1 Proposals for platform for coordinating interventions in fisheries and aquaculture sector</i></p> <p><i>Working Group 2 Proposals for Resource Mobilization Strategy for revised AFRM</i></p> <p><i>Working Group 3 Draft Terms of Reference for establishing sectoral committee on fisheries</i></p>	Technical facilitator – Mrs. Nancy Gitonga
14:30 – 15:00	Plenary – presentations:	WG Rapporteurs
15:00 – 15:15	Discussions	ALL
15:15 – 15:25	Synopsis of Workshop outcomes	Mr. Cheik Tijane
15:25 – 15:30	Closure	Ag. Director, AU-BAR

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