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AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



Technical Report of the Workshop on the Establishment of a Continental Non-State Actors Coordination Platform in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in Africa



17th - 19th November 2021 | Accra, Ghana

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Acronyms

| | |
|-----------|--|
| AFRM | African Fisheries Reform Mechanism |
| ANAF | Aquaculture Network for Africa |
| AUDA | African Union Development Agency |
| ATLAFCO | Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean |
| AWFISHNET | African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network |
| APRIFAAS | African Platform for Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems |
| AU-IBAR | African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources |
| BMP | Best management practices |
| BMU | Beach Management Units |
| CAMFA | Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture |
| CIFAA | Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture |
| EARFISH | East African Region NSA Platform |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States i |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FCWC | The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea |
| Fishgov2 | Fisheries Governance Project 2 |
| IUU | Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing |
| IYAFA | International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture |
| LVFO | Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation |
| PRCM | Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Resources |
| MOSFA | Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MS | Member States |
| NPOA-SSF | National Plan of Action-SSF |
| NEPAD | New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NPOA | National Plan of Action |
| NSA | Non State Actors |
| OACPS | Organization of Africa Caribbean and Pacific States |
| PFRS | Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture |
| PRAPAC | Regional Platform of Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Central |

Africa

| | |
|----------|--|
| RAFEP | African Network of women in Fisheries REC Regional Economic Community |
| RFB | Regional Fishery Body |
| RFMO | Regional Fisheries Management Organization |
| SANSAFA | Southern African Regional Platform for Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture |
| SACCOS | Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies |
| SSF | Small-scale fisheries |
| SSF-GSF | SSF-GSF African regional Advisory Group. |
| WANSFAFA | West African Region NSA Platform |

I. Introduction

The Non-State Actors (NSAs) play crucial roles in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa. They maintain very intimate relationships with the wider fishing communities. At national levels, the non-state organizations established to seek and protect the interest of the fisher folks, but also perform specific functions in areas such as advocacy, processing and women's affairs, boat building, fishing, fish farming, cooperatives, amongst others. Few of these Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have also entered into various arrangements with the national fisheries administration that have earned them the recognition and perhaps institutional privilege and mandate to participate in the co-management of the sector. Arguably, their most influential role has been to act as pressure groups on the national fisheries administration to conduct affairs transparently and, more importantly, to secure the interests of the small-scale fisheries.

The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) advocates for the development of small-scale fisheries to “improve and strengthen the contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits of fishing communities”. Furthermore, the PFRS as a continental policy framework underscores the need to empower NSAs and develop an advocacy strategy to facilitate their inclusion in fisheries management and decision-making process at national, regional and continental levels. The Second Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA II) in 2014 stressed the commitment for promoting the participation of NSAs in fisheries and aquaculture decision-making processes and urged the African Union, RECs and the Member States to take action.

In that perspective, the continental partnership platform – the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM), was established aimed at facilitating coordination and coherence in the governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Specifically, the AFRM supports information sharing on lessons and best practices, enhances communication, fosters institutional collaboration, promotes partnerships, and strengthens evidence-based policy formulation. The AFRM also encourages integration or mainstreaming of the sector in the AU policy processes, increase common African positions in regional and global fora. The NSAs are effectively engaged within the AFRM Policy Structure and functions at different levels. AFRM provides a mechanism for the coordination of NSAs at regional and continental levels.

The NSAs are fundamental in ensuring the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. Indeed, they contribute to research, advocacy, lobbying, complementing public and private investments in fisheries and aquaculture. Fishing communities depend on local capability and

innovation to overcome economic and social challenges and build on their livelihoods assets. Moreover, these communities require support and partnership with NGOs, CSOs, fishers, fish farmers, socio-professional and producers' associations and these communities' effective participation in decisions that affect their future. It is, however, critical to note that there are problems and challenges, namely: the increased and ongoing proliferation of NSAs working at the interface between Governments and the fisheries and aquaculture sector; non-recognition or non-formalization of NSA roles and the extent of their contribution to sector development, lack of finance and other critical resources; inadequate institutional capacity and poor coordination. weak linkages and synergies between the various NSAs at national and regional levels, and working relationships with State actors.

1.1 Rationale

There is an upsurge in the establishment of regional CSOs in various regions of the continent, however few are properly established and have been in existence for some time. There are also noticeable clusters of regional CSOs in some regions of the continent with unclear distinction of mandates among them, lack and/or weak linkages between them and national CSOs a situation exacerbated by the absence of an overarching body to foster coordination between these organizations at regional levels. The lack of adequate information on the mandate of these organizations and poor coordination between them at regional levels is an obstacle to any practical and rational support for enhancing their capacity and empowerment. This situation calls for a need to build linkages or coordination mechanisms amongst these regional CSOs for improved and effective service delivery to their constituencies.

Accordingly, the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), through the implementation of the Fisheries Governance Project (FishGov I), supported stakeholders' participation in Fisheries and Aquaculture sector. The AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD jointly facilitated the establishment of regional NSAs platforms in West Africa (WANSFA), Central Africa (PRAPAC), East Africa (EARFISH) and Southern Africa (SANSFA) as coordinating platforms to enhance their coherent voice in the management of the sector. The establishment of these platforms strengthened capacities for coordinating National NSAs platforms and recognition by the state actors responsible for fisheries management and aquaculture development as well as Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other specialized regional institutions. These platforms significantly contribute to articulating the needs and demands of fishing and fish farming communities in national, regional and continental processes. The AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD are also aware of the existing regional platform for North African NSAs, facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) was also established in 2017 to improve the welfare, working conditions and income for women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, especially in the post-harvest component within the member states of the African Union.

1.2 Establishing a Continental Coordination platform for NSAs

AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD, with the financial support from European Union, are implementing the Fisheries Governance project phase two (FishGov 2). The project is supporting the rationalization and activities of NSAs in line with the PFRS.

There have been some challenges in operationalizing the networks largely due to lack of finance and other critical resources. Nevertheless, FishGov 2, would support the rationalization of these NSAs as well as utilize them in the implementation of selected activities. Some of such activities include: (i) act as pressure groups for the dissemination of provisions of PFRs at national and regional levels (ii) support the implementation of ministerial decisions (iii) utilize them as advocacy groups on key issues at national and regional levels, examples in the implementation of relevant global instruments, support the consumption of knowledge products (e.g. policy briefs).

Accordingly, a consultative workshop for the establishment of a continental non-state actors (NSAs) coordination platform in fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa was held in Accra, Ghana from 17th to 19th November 2021. The African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) organized the meeting. The meeting was organized through Phase Two of the Fisheries Governance Project (FishGov 2), with support from the European Union (EU) and the FAO.

1.3 Overall Objective

The overall objective of the consultative workshop was to establish a continental coordination platform of Non-State Actors in fisheries and aquaculture.

1.4 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives were to:

- i. Share lessons and perspectives on functions of NSAs in fisheries and aquaculture;
- ii. Facilitate organization and coordination of the regional NSAs at continental level;
- iii. Adopt Terms of Reference (Mandates) and Rules of Procedure for Continental Platform of NSAs in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in Africa;
- iv. Propose vital elements for the establishment of continental NSAs advocacy strategy;

- v. Develop a two-year action plan for continental coordination NSAs platform and propose roadmap;
- vi. Elect the executive bureau of the continental coordination platform.

2. Workshop Attendance

The consultative workshop, was attended by 59 participants, including all the key NSA stakeholders: five executive bureau members from 5 Regional NSA Platform (West African Regional NSA Platform, Central African Regional NSA Platform, Eastern African Regional NSA Platform, Southern African Regional NSA Platform, and Northern African Regional NSA Platform); Fisheries Networks (AWFISHNET, ANAF, MOSFA/OMPDA, African SSF-GSF Africa Advisory Group; Regional Fisheries Bodies (LVFO, COMHAFAT, FCWC; PRCM); Experts; (Prof Andrew Baio, Mr. George Mba-Asseko, and Mr. Kwame Mfodwo); Development and Technical Partners (FAO represented by Dr Gueye Ndiaga, Dr Dismass Mbabazi, Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe, Ms Sibyl Adjei). In attendance were staff members of AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD and Mrs Nancy Gitonga as the technical facilitator.

Virtually, the meeting was attended by Ms Lena Westlund (FAO), Ms Edith Lukanga (EARFISH), Ms Virginie Gorette (EARFISH), The list of participants is annexed.

3. Opening Session

Dr Mohamed Seisay, AU-IBAR, moderated the official opening of the meeting.

3.1 *Opening Statement by AU-IBAR*

Mrs Patricia Mweene Lumba delivered a speech on behalf of the Acting Director, AU-IBAR Dr Nick Nwankpa. Mrs. Lumba gave an overview of the processes that have taken place in the development of Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS). All through these processes, there was recognition, inclusion and involvement of the Non State Actors (NSAs) and the small-scale fisheries (SSF). She emphasized that the NSA platforms are independent institutions at the interface between public and private sector and reminded the delegates of ultimate responsibility to operationalize their platforms. She assured the participants that once the continental NSA platform is established and legalized it will be recognized at the AU highest level of the policy decision-making body.



3.2 *Statement by FAO*

The Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Dr Ndiaga Gueye, delivered an opening statement in which he stressed the importance of the workshop in the context of strengthening participation of fishers and fish workers in fisheries governance and management and related policy decisions, aligned with the SSF Guidelines and the African Union PFRS. He acknowledged the inclusion of women in NSA platforms as progressive but urged more women actors and organizations to join this network at all levels.

3.3 *Statement by AUDA-NEPAD*

Dr. Clement Adjorlolo delivered the opening statement on behalf of Dr Mayaki Assane Ibrahim, CEO AUDA-NEPAD. In his speech, he emphasized the need for successful operation of the continental NSA platform. He said that a coordinated, inclusive, transparent and agile effort that is responsive to dynamic and complex policy environments and diverse stakeholder needs and aspirations is required. The AUDA-NEPAD advises that this platform must be resilient to rapidly changing circumstances, and it should be able to leverage meaningful partnerships to drive the sector forward. Dr Adjorlolo assured the delegates that AUDA-NEPAD recognizes the importance of an effective NSA platform to facilitate the coordination and coherence in the governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. In this regard, he emphasized that AUDA-NEPAD and AU-

IBAR have a shared vision of the support for the NSA platform to ensure it contributes to the transformation of the African fisheries and aquaculture sector.

3.4 Official Opening of the Workshop

The Minister, Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Hon Mavis Hawa Koomson opened the workshop on establishment of a continental non-state actors coordination platform in fisheries and aquaculture sector. She delivered a keynote speech where she emphasized the role Non State Actors in fisheries governance in the Member States with respect to the protection of the interest of the small-scale fishers. She however noted that there are Non-State Actors in various Regions of the African that do not have a clear mandate and have weak linkages due to lack of a coordinating body. She therefore emphasized necessity for the Non-State Actors roles to be broadened. This would enhance their participation in decision-making in the effort to support policy formulation and implementation of the fisheries sector including involvement in negotiation of fisheries agreements. It was her hope that the workshop would assist in developing a way forward towards organization and coordination of Regional Non-State Actors at the continental level. She also stressed the need for gender diversity in the NSA and other organizations and encouraged women to take leadership roles.

The Hon Minister announced that Ghana will host the 7th Organization of Africa Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Conference of Ministers' responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Accra from 5th -8th April 2022. The theme for the Conference is Africa "Caribbean and Pacific States Blue Economy Agenda 2020: Catalysing the Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for the future". She encouraged participants to attend. The Minister then declared the workshop officially opened.

4. The Technical Sessions

4.1 Background information

Mrs Hellen Moepi-Guebama, Fisheries Officer at AU-IBAR and Dr Dismas Mbabazi, Fisheries and Aquaculture at FAO Regional office for Africa made presentations during the session I of the Technical Sessions.

4.1.1 AU-IBAR

The AU-IBAR gave the background information on the NSAs, the SSF Action plan and the PFRS process. Mrs Hellen Moepi-Guebama noted the importance of SSF, which accounts for more than 60 % of Africa's fisheries production, mainly destined for human consumption. This importance

notwithstanding, the information on SSF for formulation of management decisions is often not readily available or is inadequate. A centralized approach to managing fisheries resources has proved inadequate in preventing stock depletion and low level of organization of SSF actors and fishing/farming communities has hindered their effective participation in fisheries Governance. Taking cognisance of these weaknesses in SSF and acknowledging their importance in the sector reforms and governance, the AU has been deliberate in inclusion and involvement of the NSAs in all the fisheries sector reform processes.

The PFRS purpose is to facilitate transformation of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture for food, livelihoods and wealth. The Strategy objective is thus to provide structured guidance to Africa's fisheries to facilitate reforms towards coherent national and regional policies for sustainable social, environmental and profitable outcomes for Africa and its peoples.

Strategic actions to reform SSF are through promotion, support and coordination of sustainable development for SSF Communities: To achieve this, there is need to:

- Support fishing communities to make them autonomous and able to engage in the fisheries policy making process,
- Assess the real contribution of the SSF to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and welfare socioeconomic at national and regional level,
- Promote the preferential treatment of marginalized groups (women and youth), for the provision of services and the imposition of duties,
- Support the inclusion of the SSF in strategic sectoral policies and national planning processes for poverty reduction and sustainable development.



The PFRS prioritises the recognition of the role, and the contribution of fisheries for improved livelihoods, food and income of SS fishing communities and related operators by Member States. Other priorities include: Strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation for effective management of shared fishery resources and ecosystems; and organization of Fishers to foster good fisheries governance, sustainable development and responsible use of natural resources. The AU initiatives for SSF have leaned towards enhancing capacity development and stakeholder's participation. During the 2nd conference of CAMFA II made recommendation urging the AU, RECs and MS to facilitate the participation of NSAs in fisheries and aquaculture decision-making processes at national, regional and continental levels. The roles of NSAs are to influence and empower SSF to effectively participate in the fisheries reform process for their benefit and that of the resource sustainability.

4.1.2 FAO

In his presentation, Dr Dismas Mbabazi, gave an overview of progress towards the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) with a focus on African inland fisheries, including the Illuminating Hidden Harvests (IHH) initiative and contribution of small-scale fisheries to nutrition. The guidelines identify potential areas of action for the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, governments and partners. The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022) is a big step forward in the recognition of SSF in fisheries development.

The African Union and its members have an opportunity to continue supporting SSF Guidelines implementation and draw attention to the importance of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, including during IYAFA 2022. FAO therefore requests the African Union members, Economic Communities, governments and partners to:

- Continue supporting SSF Guidelines implementation among its members and encourage the development of SSF National Plan of Action (NPOA).
- Support the strengthening of small-scale fisheries organizations to give inland fishing communities a stronger voice in decision-making and policy processes, paying particular attention to women and their organizations, and as well as in the context of the African Union NSA platforms.
- Consider the IHH results and encourage members to build on them in terms of improving methods and capacities for small-scale inland fisheries data collection and analysis and application of the information generated.
- Promote the commemorations of IYAFA 2022 among its members by encouraging governments, organizations and partners to contribute to IYAFA initiatives such as to register their events on the IYAFA website and to engage with FAO offices in Africa to advance a regional road map for IYAFA celebrations.

4.2 Reports of the Regional NSA Platforms

The progress of the 5 Regional NSA Platforms and the African SSF-GSF Advisory Group was presented in Technical Session 2.

Through the support of the FishGov I the AU-IBAR and NEPAD Agency, the first NSA consultative meeting was held in Nairobi in 2015. Delegates representing regional and national NSAs in the five regions of Africa (North, West, Central, East and Southern) attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a framework for effective coordination of the NSAs activities and participations in sustainable fisheries management and decision-making process at the regional and national levels in Africa as key stakeholders. The main outcome of the workshop was the development of Action plans for the establishment of regional platforms for non-state actors and a Pan African Platform for non- state actors within the framework of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism.

It was important to note that the regional Platforms i.e. West, Central, Eastern, Southern and Northern have all been established but are at different stages of development. The EARFISH was established in 2017 and PRAPAC, WANSAGA and SANSAGA in 2018. Maghreb Platform of Artisanal Fishing was established in 2013 with the support from the FAO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa. It covers Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) countries: Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania. The NSA Platforms are expected to provide strategic leadership and coordination of NSAs in fisheries and aquaculture in articulating their needs and demands in diverse forums. They are also expected to engage with the RECs and RFBs to share the impacts of the NSAs in the fisheries governance and management in their various regions. It is therefore important for NSAs to take an open and pro-active approach to optimize the benefits from closer collaboration with the SSF and policy makers through dialogue, exchange of information and knowledge, funding initiatives and joint activities.

The African SSF-GSF Advisory Group could play a crucial role of advisory and advocacy but the need for restructuring of the NSAs to include other players such as trade unions was noted. The NSA advocacy role if well supported would be the change agent for the SSF.

4.2.1 Discussions and Recommendations

After presentations, very active discussions ensued where various challenges were identified and solutions suggested.

Challenges

- The weak linkages and collaboration with policy makers, researchers, managers and other players in the sector ought to be addressed.
- Poor communication amongst NSA members and SSF is a concern and a hindrance to effective and beneficial interactions.
- Undeveloped Database for NSAs
- Weak institutional and organizational capacity
- Weak collaboration between NSAs at all levels
- Political interference in the operations of NSAs

Recommendations

- Since the NSAs involvement in fisheries reform agenda is recognized and appreciated, there is need to look into development of sustainable funding mechanisms for NSA activities. Action: NSAs
- The NSAs to develop viable fundraising strategy to establish sustainable funding sources with the assistance of AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD and FAO.
- There is need to review existing NSA functions and programmes with a view to ensuring that they remain relevant and useful in the fisheries sector. The NSA Bureau to initiate the process.
- Institution strengthening for effective contribution to fisheries is critical. AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD and FAO to assist.
- There is need for advocacy and empowerment for NSAs to achieve their mandate. Action: NSAs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD and FAO

4.3 Experiences of the Networks, Media and Regional Bodies

The African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET), The Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF), Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa (MOSFA) and other institutions linked to NSAs, including the COMHAFAT, PRCM and LVFO shared their experiences and engagements with the NSAs and SSF through presentations during the Technical Session 2. In many of these experiences, although the importance of NSAs was recognized, a lot of work is still necessary to strengthen the relationships for the benefit of the sector. Financial support to strengthen collaboration is essential.

4.3.1 Networks and Media Experience with NSAs

i African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET)

AWFISHNET exists to strengthen institutional coordination and collaboration on issues that affect the interests of women fish processors and traders in Africa. It aims to enable African women fish

processors and traders to effectively manage their social, economic and political development processes to improve their livelihoods. The AWFISHNET plans to carry activities that would empower the women in fisheries trade and processing in order to achieve this. Some of these include: Partnerships with organizations involved in conservation to advocate for the conservation of fish stocks, coasts and habitats; Partnership with government fisheries agencies to educate actors in the value chain on fisheries laws and regulations; disseminate alternative green technologies for fish processing and cooling; Organize women in cooperatives to consolidate and increase their purchasing power and facilitate collective marketing; Strengthen the capacity of women leaders to influence policies.

Within the framework of women's organization at the national level, AWFISHNET has recently benefited from the support of the AU-IBAR through the FishGov 2 Project for the forming of national networks of women in fisheries in nine) countries namely: Chad, Gabon, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Zambia, South Sudan.

ii The Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF)

At the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture (CIFAA) 14th Session in 2006 it was decided that a network for Africa similar to the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA) need to be formed. In 2017, the CIFAA guided by the ANAF Member States and other AU MS recommended that ANAF be institutionalized into the African Union Structures to avoid duplicity and foster the sustainability of ANAF as a continental apex body. Under the AU, ANAF shall function as Africa's forum where both public and private sector stakeholders share information and best practices for sustainable aquaculture development. ANAF Members have met twice in Kenya and Botswana to discuss its integration into AU-IBAR structure and the network is now hosted at the Secretariat of AU-IBAR. With the institutionalization of ANAF into the AU structures all AU MS automatically become eligible members to participate in ANAF on condition that there is a written commitment to the Director of AU-IBAR.

ANAF's major objective is to promote aquaculture development through relevant research, and best management practices (BMP's) as means to achieve sustainable market-led sector growth in Africa. ANAF shall play a part in contribution to the fight against poverty, wealth creation, food and nutrition security, employment, sustainable livelihoods and development particularly in rural areas.

iii Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa (MOSFA)

The Role of media is important in advocacy of the important role the SSF play in fisheries and aquaculture development and the challenges they face. Following the recognition of this importance

of SSF fisheries, initiatives were undertaken to improve the low level of communication in the sector. A meeting of NSAs and media was launched in 2016 and since then meetings have been held every year an activity that has helped foster a fruitful relationship between NSAs and media for the benefit of SSF.

The importance of communication in raising awareness of fisheries issues, in order to increase the exposure in media spaces The Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa (MOSFA) was created in this context in 2016 during a training workshop for African journalists and communicators, held in Accra Ghana. This multidisciplinary network covers the five regions of Africa and has covered some meetings across the continent on issues of fishing, aquaculture and blue economy. The MOSFA should be used to build diversified, permanent, impactful, effective and efficient communication towards all stakeholders in the fisheries sector, and help to highlight the major concerns and achievements of the Platform of Non-State Actors.

4.3.2 Regional Fisheries Institutions Experience with NSAs

The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT) and Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO) shared their experiences and engagements with the NSAs and SSF. While there is noticeable increase in the number of NSAs, not much knowledge about patterns and trends of their participation in national, regional and global Fisheries Management Organisations/institutions is available. Experience sharing and perspectives on working with NSAs reveals that strengthening coherence, coordination, collaboration and cooperation in the management of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector requires strong collaboration with NSAs.

***i* ATLAFCO/ COMHAFAT**

ATLAFCO created in 1989, is an intergovernmental organization bringing together 22 countries. The main objective of ATLAFCO is effective cooperation between member states for the preservation of fishery resources and sustainable development of fisheries in the region. The areas of intervention are essentially training, research, trade promotion and the implementation of the regulations in force in the field of fishing. ATLAFCO contributes to the establishment and sets up both institutional and non-state networks. Similarly, under the ATLAFCO, a "MOU" was signed between institutions (FCWC, SRFC, COREP, INFOPECHE and ATLAFCO) and NSAs (REPAO, ADEPA). ATLAFCO was also elected president of African Platform for Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS) in 2021.

The role of NSAs is very important in the fisheries sector, particularly as advocates and representatives of the small-scale fisheries. Thus, the networks of NSAs in the ATLAFCO region are African Network of women in Fisheries (RAFEP) a very important women's network for ATLAFCO, MOSFA which ensures the dissemination of information and communication, REPAO for fisheries policies, WADAF for cooperation in the artisanal fishing sector, and CAOPA which is systematically represented at all ATLAFCO events. ATLAFCO intends to launch a maritime medicine promotion network very soon.

ii LVFO

LVFO established in 1994 is recognized as a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO). LVFO is Lake Victoria resource dependent and likewise NSAs in the region are either resource dependent or affiliated. The Mission of LVFO is to promote and coordinate the sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the East African Community for food security and wealth creation.

While there is noticeable increase in the number of NSAs in the Lake Victoria Region, little systematic knowledge about patterns and trends of their participation in national, regional and global Fisheries Management Organizations/institutions is available. Participation in regional governance of natural resources has been more at industrial level especially for high economic value fish species like Nile perch where the Beach Management Units (BMUs)-Community institutions have a voice in the fisheries management at the grassroots level. Participation for NSAs actors in other small pelagic fish species providing livelihood opportunities and contributing to food security in many communities around the lake region, are however still quite insignificant. Some of the NSAs collaborating with LVFO include; Associations of Fish farmers: Fish Processors and Exporters Association (UFPEA); BMUs Fisheries & Fish Conservation Association (UFCA) among others.

The Role of NSAs in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Ecosystems in general is very critical as they have been instrumental in data collection and maintenance through use of ABALOB/ABAVUBI FISHER APPLICATION app and the ABALOB MARKETPLACE app (www.fishwithastory.org). The Industry and BMUs are part of the LVFO management structures providing input in policy & management plan development. NSAs also participate in enforcement of fisheries regulations as part of interagency approaches to MCS in the Lake Victoria. They also participate in awareness raising on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and promotion of fish nutrition through fish festivals, exhibitions and school competitions.

Strengthening engagement of NSAs in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Ecosystems in general requires capacity building and empowerment of non-state actors, especially women association along the value chain.

4.4 Experts Presentations

Mr. Obinna Anozie moderated the Expert presentations on Continental NSA Platform and discussions.

- i. Sustainability mechanisms for the NSA coordination platform and linkages by Mrs Nancy Gitonga
- ii. The potential role of NSAs in the sustainable governance of the fish value chain by Prof Andrew Baio
- iii. Enhancing recognition and Institutionalizing NSA role in National Fisheries and aquaculture management by Mr Georges Mbaseko
- iv. Enhancing recognition and Institutionalizing NSA role in Regional Fisheries and aquaculture development by Dr Aboubacar Sidibe

4.4.1 Sustainability Mechanisms for the NSA Coordination Platform and Linkages

The fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa is often overlooked and undervalued in terms of its contribution to economic and social development. However, in recent years the African States have recognised the sector's potential and made commitment to support comprehensive fisheries reforms to realise this potential. The various AU resolutions and declarations demonstrate this commitment. In the Maputo Declaration in 2003, Fisheries was included in the agriculture sector growth. Fish for All Summit in Abuja in 2005, was a dedicated forum by the Heads of State to focus on action plan for the development of the sector. For the first time in history of AU, the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA I) was held in Banjul, The Gambia, from where the ministers directed the establishment of a coordination mechanism for the sector and formulation of a policy framework for fisheries and Aquaculture which was adopted in 2014 and later endorsed at the Malabo Summit of 2014. Through these commitment PFRS has been developed and AFRM is progressing well. In all these development NSAs being closest to the sector communities have been part of the reform process.

Based on the recognition of the important role the NSAs can play in the development of the sector, it is necessary that they be empowered for effectiveness. Such empowerment would include institutional reform and reorganisation of NSAs to ensure their sustainability and efficiency. The enhanced roles of NSAs would therefore include establishing continental and regional overarching platforms for coordination and fundraising to ensure they remain relevant, active and useful

participants in development and transformation of the sector. The NSA will therefore need to:-

- Establish an overarching continental coordination platform to foster coordination between various NSA organizations at the regional, national and grassroots levels.
- Establish a coordination mechanism of NSAs network in each of the 5 African regions with institutional linkages for the regional and national networks for fisheries and aquaculture.
- Assess the status of representativeness and legitimacy of NSAs and establish an inventory and depository system for NSAs programmes at the Regional level and at the AFRM Coordinating Unit at the AU-IBAR.
- Develop institutional and legal framework for the cooperation and partnership between NSAs and State actors for decision-making in the fisheries management processes of the AU MS.
- Mobilise funds to cater for NSAs functions through development of a viable fundraising strategy to establish sustainable funding sources.
- Explore various fundraising options, such as entry and annual fee contributions; investments in viable profit generating activities and projects; donor and development partners support
- Establish an overarching NSA Advisory Team that is linked to AU consisting of selected or elected Members from NSAs, national governments, Donors, development partners,
- Popularise the NSAs functions in the fisheries reform agenda through putting in place an effective communication and advocacy strategy to include establishment of an effective websites, press releases among others.

4.4.2 The Role of NSAs in the Sustainable Governance of the Fish Value Chain

Non-state actors (NSAs) are organizations and or individuals that do not belong to or allied themselves to any particular country or state government. They are not directed by or funded through the government. Examples include; corporations, private financial institutions, NGOs, professional organization, media organizations, businesses, lobby groups, religious groups, aid agencies amongst other. They yield substantial economic, political or social capital and are influential at a national and sometimes international level. Their activities could take the form of supervising implementations of programmes, organizing groups for collective action, raising awareness on burning issues, engaging in advocacy/lobbying for improvements in the fish value chain or monitoring state conduct in the light of implementing national or international conventions. By their very accessible nature operating at field level, they manoeuvre relatively easily to have access to the wider stakeholder groups. Thus, because of their malleability, they could be regarded as the fingers of development interventions rather than the thumb. As governance is about the reconciliation of value position practitioners may bring to the table, NSAs are well place to engage in such reconciliation processes and significantly contribute to the sustainable governance of the fish value chain.

It is against this setting that the presentation employs the value chain analytical framework to capitalize value at every specific scheming point in the fisheries production system from access to fisheries resources, onto disposal of the product by marketing. Some six nodes of the fish value chain have been identified ranging from access to fisheries resources; productive capital input supply; fish capture; acquisition of catch; fishing handling and processing; onto disposal of product by marketing. Thereafter, the presentation critically examined the potential role of NSAs in each of the aforementioned segment of the fish value chain. Crosscutting issues such as collection of wholesome disaggregated data, climate change etc., that permeates the entire value chain, were discussed independently. The value chain approach enabled the discernment of the possible roles NSAs could play having conceived the range of activities undertaken in each segment of the chain. The expected impacts of NSAs contribution to sustainable fisheries resource governance are that:

1. The health of fish stocks and oceans are sustained in perpetuity (sustainability ensured);
2. The fishing operations must be such that they do not adversely impacts on ecosystem health (environmental impact minimized);
3. The operations and all activities comply with laws/regulations and adapt to changing environmental circumstances (effective management is put in place)

The potential role of NSAs proposed in the presentation, positions them to contribute meaningfully to the 3-tier management standards across the value chain within the context of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) as guided by the PFRS.

4.4.3 Enhancing Recognition and Institutionalizing NSA Role in National Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

The governance and sustainable development of African fisheries go through concerted management involving the administration and state actors in the sector, which can be found in civil society, in the private sector as well as among socio-economic partners (employers and unions). In this new context of co-management of resources, non-state actors (NSAs) must, while having an official existence and an institutional status established, contribute to the definition of specific mechanisms and procedures for the recognition of NSAs (review of the law on associations, definition of the level of institutional anchoring, etc.) and strengthen cooperation, synergies and coherence between NSAs. The objective is to improve the contribution of NSAs to the objectives of sustainable development of fisheries and their inclusion in the dynamics and the process of development and implementation of public policies. Cooperation and coherence among the NSAs also strengthens their technical capacities to understand issues and challenges, as well as to carry out tasks in the field relating to awareness-raising and even the execution of projects at the local level.

4.4.4 Enhancing Recognition and Institutionalizing NSA Role in Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

There are currently several NSAs working at the interface between governments and fishing communities, but their work and roles are not recognized and/or institutionalized, and the importance of their contribution to the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector at the national and regional level is either not, or only marginally assessed. However, the African Union PFRS emphasizes the need to empower NSAs and build their capacity to facilitate their participation in the management and decision-making process in fisheries and aquaculture development at the national and regional levels. It is within this framework that one of the main expected outcomes of the FishGov-I Project was the strengthening of NSA organizations at the national, regional and continental levels and one of the main recommendations of the enlarged coordination meeting of regional NSA organizations held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 21 August 2015, was the need to establish regional platforms in the five regions of the African continent.

Furthermore, certain factors have been observed to hinder the recognition of NSAs and their actions namely: (i) weak and/or lack of organizational capacity for action, (ii) weakness and/or absence of links between the various “NSAs” at national and regional levels, (iii) inadequate working relationships with state actors and (iv) absence of a platform for coordination and accountability of actors at national and regional levels. Other factors that limit the institutionalization of the role of NSAs, include: absence of status/mandate, representativeness and legitimacy of NSAs at the national and regional levels; weakness and/or absence of an institutional framework for collaboration for the participation of NSAs in the fisheries and aquaculture development process at the regional level. Thus, as an interface between the State and the grassroots communities, NSAs must work with concrete actions for the improvement of sustainable livelihoods of fisheries and aquaculture communities, and have an unquestionable legitimacy, based on objectives, values and methods so that their actions and role are recognized and institutionalized at the regional level. The actions of non-state actors should not aim at taking power from the government or doing what state actors should do, but rather at influencing government actions in favour of local artisanal fisheries communities. Finally, it is important to set up a permanent regional framework for consultation between the NSAs and the intergovernmental organization (e.g. the case of WANSFAFA and ECOWAS).

4.4.5 Discussions and Recommendations

During the discussions after the presentations, various challenges were noted and recommendations made which would ensure the NSA Continental Platform achieves its mandate.

Challenges/Key issues

1. The NSA workshop was skewed towards SSF although there are other issues of small scale of the sector, namely aquaculture, IUU fishing environmental issues. The question is should guidelines be revised to be more inclusive?
2. Institutional reform is necessary to avoid formation of weak NSAs without clear mandate.
3. Weak link with state actors.
4. Regional difficulties to communicate with the SSF. Communication downward and upwards is a major problem that should be addressed at all levels.
5. No system for information sharing and dissemination at the continental level.
6. Challenges of accountability in some of the NSAs.
7. The real NSA actors are in the field and yet they neither attend meeting nor do they access information.
8. Elections of officials and ethics should be addressed, to ensure processes are transparent and officials are accountable
9. There is no established permanent framework and venues for discussion at the regional and sub-regional levels.
10. There is no legal framework for the NSAs platforms to enhance their influence in management and policy decision contribution.

Recommendations for the NSA

The following recommendations were made for NSA Platform to take action through the elected bureau guidance:

1. Need to revise the SSF guidelines with a view to making them more inclusive with respect to fishing, aquaculture, trade, environment and climate change.
2. Establish a technical department to prepare consultations for the framework including the establishment of continental NSAs strategy document and a two-year action plan for the continental coordination NSAs platform and a roadmap.
3. Develop and implement communication strategy.
4. Put in place systems to ensure good use of available funds
5. Develop and put in place information dissemination and feedback mechanism.
6. Develop representation links between Government and grassroots actors
7. Establish permanent framework and venues for platforms meetings and discussions. Sub-regional institutions could be used for such meetings.
8. NSA should take proactive initiatives to solicit support from the governments, AU and other partners because there is political will to support and develop NSAs.

9. Need for review and reconciliation of the Continental platform's Rules of Procedure to reflect the aspirations of members.

Recommendations for NSAs, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD and FAO

The following recommendations were made for the assistance of AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen the Continental NSA Platform:

1. Review the SSF Guidelines with a view to making them more inclusive.
2. Support the legal framework process for the NSAs platforms once the institutions have been well established and are functional
3. Develop a mechanism for NSAs inventory and repository with AFRM. This will help to eliminate the opportunistic non-performing NSAs.
4. Develop an information and data repository system at AU-IBAR (AFRM) that will also include a register of the NSAs that are recognized at the regional and continental platforms.
5. Support the institution and regional alliances to legitimize the mandate of the Continental Platform.
6. There will be need to periodically review the NSA governance framework and rules of procedure to ensure authenticity of all the Platform NSAs

4.4.6 Governance Framework and Rules of Procedure

Mr Kwame Mfodwo presented governance framework and the rules of procedure for the continental NSA platform and Dr Aboubacar Sidibe moderated the discussions.

It was agreed that these statute documents have been subjected to a lot of scrutiny and discussions by NSAs. The meeting therefore accepted and passed them as living documents, which can be reviewed and amended based on the sector and institutional dynamics. Other statutory instruments such as Regulations can be derived and developed from these documents.

The nomination of the officials of the 1st General Assembly of the Continental Platform was presided over by the nominated Chairperson Ms Dipheto Anita Lekgowa, representing the Small Scale Fisheries-Africa Advisory Group and Mr Obinna Onozie, a consultant at AU-IBAR. The aide memoir was prepared and signed by all the officials, thus officially establishing the First African NSA Platform General Assembly. The NSA General Assembly agreed that AU, which led the establishment of the continental platform in fisheries and aquaculture, should serve as observers.

The office bearers were nominated and the Coordination Committee therefore constituted as below: -

| Position | Nomination |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Coordinator | Mr Gaoussou Gueye |
| Deputy Coordinator | Mrs. Patricia Maisha Ishingwa |
| Secretary General | Mr. Okeloh W’Namadoa |
| Deputy Secretary General | Mrs. Beyene Ateba Epse Baliaba |
| Communication Officer | Mr. Chabou Mohamed Bachil |
| Regional Coordinators | |
| 1. WANSAFA | Dr. Lukman Adegoke Agbabiaka |
| 2. EARFISH | Mr. Kuliny Chuol Jiokuach |
| 3. North Africa | Mr. Sid’Ahmed Abeid |
| 4. SANSAFA | Mr. Garikai Munatsirel |
| 5. PRAPAC | Pro. Alain Souza |



Africa's NSA Platform 1st General Assembly Officials and the Coordination Committee

The presentation of the 1st General Assembly officials and the adoption of structure of the Bureau of the Continental NSA Coordinating Platform were moderated by Mrs Hellen Moepi-Guebama, Fisheries Office AU-IBAR and Dr Mohammed Seisay, Consultant AU-IBAR.

In his acceptance speech, the Coordinator of the Continental NSA Platform thanked the officials, and pledged that the Bureau shall work as a team in delivering the Platform's mandate. The

Development of a two-year action plan and a roadmap for the continental coordination NSAs platform shall be prioritized.

5. Closing of the Workshop

Mrs Patricia Lumba thanked the participants for a successful meeting and congratulated the newly elected Continental Bureau and wished them success. She then handed over to Dr Adjorlolo to officially close the meeting. Dr Clement Adjorlolo delivered the workshop closing remarks on behalf AUDA-NEPAD and AU-IBAR. He thanked the Government of Ghana for hosting the workshop and the Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Hon Mavis Hawa Koomson for finding time to personally open the important workshop. Dr Adjorlolo extended the recognition and gratitude to the moderators, the AU-IBAR and FAO representatives, the experts, the Regional NSAs and the media representatives and all the participants. He said the purpose of the meeting was achieved as we witnessed integration during the development of the Platform process. The vibrant discussions showed commitment and desire to achieve. Having witnessed clear objectivity in all the discussion, he said he was convinced that the guidelines would be developed to address any arising issues relating to the continental level. He advised that the best way to tackle common issues is to work together. He thanked all the participants for actively participating in this important workshop of the establishment of the NSA Continental Platform through which a bureau has been established. He congratulated the nominated Continental Platform Bureau first General Assembly officials and declared the workshop officially closed.

6. Annexes

6.1 Agenda

| Time | Activity | Facilitator |
|--|---|---|
| DAY ONE | | |
| 08:30-09:00 | REGISTRATION | AU-IBAR |
| OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION <i>Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Seisay</i> | | |
| 09:00-10:00 | Welcome remarks by AU-IBAR Statement: Representative, AUDA-NEPAD Statement by FAO Opening Statement: Hon. Minister, Ghana Objectives of the workshop | Cheikh Tidjane N'DONGO, FishGov 2 Project Officer, AUDA-NEPAD |
| Technical Sessions | | |
| SESSION 1 SETTING THE SCENE PRESENTATIONS <i>Moderator/Presenters</i> <i>Dr. Clement Adjorlolo, AUDA-NEPAD-FishGov 2 Project Lead</i> | | |
| 10:00-10:20 | Background information on NSAs, the PFRS, SSF action plan and the journey | Ms. Hellen Moepi, Fisheries Officer, AU-IBAR |
| 10:20-10:40 | Update on the Implementation of the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines (SSF Guidelines) and International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (IYAFA2022) | Dr Dismas Mbabazi, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, FAO |
| 10:40-11:10 | Discussions | ALL |
| 11:10-11:20 | FAMILY PHOTO AND TEA BREAK | |
| SESSION 2 INFORMATION SHARING ON ACTIVITIES BY REGIONAL NSAS AND OTHER PLATFORMS OR NETWORKS <i>Moderator/Presenters</i> <i>Mr. Seraphin Dedi, FCWC</i> | | |
| 11:20-11:40 | West African Regional NSA Platform | Mr. Gaoussou GUEYE |
| 11:40-12:00 | Central African Regional NSA Platform | Prof. Alain Souza |
| 12:00-12:20 | Eastern African Regional NSA Platform | Mr. Okelo Namadoa |
| 12:20-12:40 | Southern African Regional NSA Platform | Mr. Garikai Munatsirei |
| 12:40-13:00 | Northern African regional NSA platform | Mr. Mongi Chniter |
| 13:00-13:30 | Discussion | |
| 13:30-14:30 | LUNCH | ALL |
| CONT'D - INFORMATION SHARING ON ACTIVITIES BY REGIONAL NSAs AND OTHER PLATFORMS OR NETWORKS <i>Moderator/Presenters</i> <i>Mr. Emile Essema, COREP</i> | | |
| 14:30-14:45 | AWFISHNET – strengthening engagement of women in fisheries and aquaculture | Mrs. Beyene Beyene |
| 14:45-15:00 | Role of Media- MOSFA – in fisheries and aquaculture | Mr. Andre Naoussi |
| 15:00-15:15 | ANAF – supporting sustainable aquaculture development | Mrs. Janet Anchirinah, Ghana |
| 15:15-15:30 | TEA BREAK | |

| Time | Activity | Facilitator |
|---|--|--|
| EXPERIENCE SHARING AND PERSPECTIVES OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS ON WORKING WITH NSA- “ROLE AND HOW THEIR ENGAGEMENT CAN BE STRENGTHENED IN FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS IN GENERAL” | | |
| <i>Moderator/Presenters Mrs. Nancy Gitonga, Technical Facilitator</i> | | |
| 15:30-15:45 | Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT) | Mr. Rachid Regrui |
| 15:45-16:00 | The Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM) | Ms. Binta Konate |
| 16:00-16:15 | The Regional Fisheries Commission for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP) | Mr. Emile Essema |
| 16:15-16:30 | Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LFVO) | Dr. Shigalla Mahongo |
| 16:30-17:00 | DISCUSSIONS | |
| 17:00-17:05 | CLOSURE FOR THE DAY | |
| DAY TWO | | |
| <i>Moderator: Presenters Mr. Rachid Regrui, COMHAFAT</i> | | |
| 09:00-09:15 | RECAP | Technical Facilitator |
| | EXPERT PRESENTATIONS | |
| 09:15-09:45 | Sustainability mechanisms for the NSA coordination platform and linkages | Mrs. Nancy Gitonga |
| 09:45-10:15 | The potential role of NSAs in the sustainable governance of the fish value chain | Prof. Andrew Baio |
| 10:15-10:30 | TEA BREAK | |
| 10:30-11:00 | Role of NSAs in fisheries and aquaculture policy and institutional reform in Africa | Dr. Sloans Chimatiro President of PRNFAA |
| 11:30-12:00 | Enhancing recognition and Institutionalizing NSA role in National Fisheries and aquaculture management | Mr. Georges Mba-Asseko |
| 12:00-12:30 | Enhancing recognition and Institutionalizing NSA role in Regional Fisheries and aquaculture development | Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe |
| 12:30-13:00 | Discussions | |
| 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH | |
| GOVERNANCE INSTRUMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL COORDINATION PLATFORM | | |
| <i>Moderators/Presenters: Mr. Obinna Anozie, AU-IBAR and Dr Dismas Mbabazi, FAO</i> | | |
| 14:00-14:30 | Presentation of governance framework for NSA coordination platform | Prof. Paul Onyango |
| 14:30-15:00 | Presentations of the Draft Rules of Procedures (framework) for adaptation | Mr. Kwame Mfodwo |
| 15:00-15:15 | TEA BREAK | |
| 15:15-16:15- | WORKING GROUP SESSIONS ON GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK AND RULES OF PROCEDURES | |
| | WG 1: Governance framework for adaptation to the NSA Coordinating Platform | Prof. Paul Onyango |
| | WG 2: Rules of procedures for adaptation to the NSA Coordinating platform | Mr. Kwame Mfodwo |
| 16:15-16:45 | Plenary | |
| 16:45-17:00 | Closure | |

| Time | Activity | Facilitator |
|---|---|------------------------|
| DAY THREE ELECTION OF THE BUREAU Moderators/Presenters; <i>Dr. Clement Adjorlolo and Dr. Dismas Mbabazi</i> | | |
| 09:00-09:15 | RECAP | Technical facilitator |
| 09:15-10:15 | Presentation and adoption of structure of the bureau of the continental NSA Coordinating platform | Prof. Paul Onyango |
| 10:15-10:30 | TEA BREAK | |
| 10:30-12:00 | Elections of Bureau for the NSA Coordinating platform | AU-IBAR/FAO/AUDA-NEPAD |
| 12:00-13:00 | LUNCH | |
| 13:00-14:00 | Presentation of the new Bureau | |
| 14:00-14:30 | CLOSURE | |

6.2 Aide memoir for African NSA Coordinating Platform Bureau



AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES



AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



WORKSHOP FOR ESTABLISHING AFRICAN NON-STATE ACTORS COORDINATING PLATFORM IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

AIDE MEMOIRE

17-19 November 2021

WE, the African Non-State Actors, convening on 19th November 2021 with the support of the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

RECOGNIZING the importance role played by the non-state actors in Africa.

TAKING into consideration that all five regional fisheries and aquaculture NSAs platforms have President, an expansion of the bureau of the continental platform is not thus required.

NOTING Rule nine (9) of the statutes and rules of procedure for a continental platform of non-state actors (NSAs) for the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa, the functions of the Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator and Communication Officer will be elaborated.

The nominated Chairperson of the 1st General Assembly of the Continental NSA Coordinating Platform was Ms Diphetogo Anita Lekgowa representing the Small Scale Fisheries- Africa Advisory Group and Mr Obinna Anozie, Consultant at AU-IBAR.

The General Assembly agreed that AU-led continental platforms in fisheries and aquaculture should serve as Observers.

The nominations of the officer bearer are the following:

Coordination Committee

| Positions | Nominations |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Coordinator | Mr Gaoussou Gueye |
| Deputy Coordinator | Mrs. Patricia Maisha Ishingwa |
| Secretary General | Mr Okeloh W'Namadoa |
| Deputy Secretary General | Mrs BEYENE ATEBA Epse BALIABA |
| Communication Officer | Mr Chabou Mohamed Bachir |
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| 1. WANSAFA | Dr Lukman Adegoke Agbabiaka |
| 2. EARFISH | Ms. Kuliny Chuol Jiokuach |
| 3. North Africa | Mr Sid'Ahmed Abeid |
| 4. SANSAFA | Mr Garikai Munatsirei |
| 5. PRAPAC | Prof. Alain SOUZA |

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