



Strengthening Institutional Capacity to
Enhance Governance of the Fisheries Sector in Africa



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

REPORT OF THE THINK TANK VALIDATION MEETING FOR THE INDICATORS AND CRITERIA FOR ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE POLICIES TO THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND REFORM STRATEGY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN AFRICA AS WELL AS GLOBAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INSTRUMENTS

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANAF	Aquaculture Network for Africa
ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
AU	African Union
AU MS	African Union Member States
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAMFA	Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCRF	FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CEBERVIRHA	Economic Community of Livestock and Fish Resources/ La Communauté Economique du Bétail de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CIFAA	Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for Africa
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COREP	Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRM	Disaster Risk assessment
EAC	East African Community
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environnemental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
INFOPECHE	Inter-governmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
MCA	Minimum Conditions of Access
MCS	Monitoring Control and surveillance
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEY	Maximum Economic Yield
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
REC	Regional Economic Community
RFB	Regional Fishery Body
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SOFIA	State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TCP	Technical Cooperation project
TURF	Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries or Territorial Use Rights in Fishing
WBC	Water Based Commissions
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature
ZAMCOM	Zambezi Watercourse Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture for Africa (PFRS) was endorsed by the Summit of African Heads of States and Governments in 2014 to facilitate position reform for increased and sustainable contribution to food, livelihoods and wealth. This recommendation was to be achieved by promoting coherence in policies and management measures in the sector.

The African Minister for Fisheries and aquaculture requested the African Union to operationalize the PFRS, assist member states and regional institutions to internalize the PFRS in their national and regional fisheries policies and aquaculture to ensure coherence. It was recognized that policy coherence would also require development partners to align their interventions in the sector with the PFRS.

Consistent with the above, the AU-IBAR, in collaboration with NPCA and AUC-DREA, set in motion a process of developing criteria and indicators that would make easy the implementations of the PFRS by AU member states, Regional institutions and development partners. Accordingly, expert and the continent-wide consultations were organized in Kampala, Uganda; Nairobi, Kenya and Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire with purpose of formulating a consensus-based criteria and indicators for alignment of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies to the PFRS. The main achievements of these consultative processes were the development of criteria and indicators as well as the mechanism for implementation of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa which together constituted a document titled 'Guidelines for implementation of the PFRS'. The Guidelines document is therefore a companion document whose main objective to facilitate the coherent and consistent implementation of the PFRS.

The specific objectives of these Guidelines are to assist:

- i. alignment to the national and regional policies to the PFRS;
- ii. monitoring of the level of implementation of the PFRS;
- iii. assessment of the medium-term and long-term impacts of PFRS and other global instruments on the success management of fisheries and aquaculture sector; and
- iv. provision of guidance for strategic implementation of the PFRS.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Think Tank Validation Meeting for the Indicators and Criteria for Alignment of National and Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Policies to the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa as well as to Global Fisheries and Aquaculture Instruments was organized by the African Union- Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in collaboration with the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) Agency with the support from European Union. The workshop was held in Belle Côte Hotel, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 9 to 12 of July, 2015.

The meeting was attended by 130 key stakeholders and representatives comprising relevant officials from Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture from African Union Member States (AU-MS), Regional Economic Committees (RECs), Regional Fisheries Management Bodies/Organizations (RFB/RFMO), Development Partners, including European Union, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nation (FAO), The regional marine and coastal conservation program (PRCM), African Development Bank (AfDB), World Wide fund for Nature (WWF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), African Eco-labelling Mechanism (AEM), members of the Working Groups of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM), Civil Society Organizations (CSO) including women processors, youth, individual experts, private sector representatives, scientists and policy makers.

1.1. Background

The fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Africa remains a potential sustainable source of food, employment and wealth creation in national economies. Approximately over 10 million people derive benefits such as employment, food security, and local economic development from fisheries resources. However in order to maintain and elevate benefits derived from the sector, coherent and coordinated policies are critical in managing the resources sustainably. This is not evident in the majority of African Union Member States (AU MS). Both sectors are characterized by weak and uncoordinated institutions and ineffective fisheries governance. Major reforms are required in the governance of the sectors most importantly at national and regional institutions to optimize potential opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture resources of the continent.

The African Union recognized the need to guide the development of the sector and put in place necessary reforms to fully exploit fisheries and aquaculture for the benefits of the citizenship. This was supported by various high political interventions such as World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Abuja Declarations of African Heads of Government at the Fish for All Summit and resolutions at the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA). These initiatives led to formulation of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa and of the establishment of the AFRM that were recently endorsed by the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2014.

The AU-IBAR through the support from the European Union is currently implementing a project 'Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Enhance Governance of the Fisheries Sector in Africa' in collaboration with NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA). The project is aimed at enhancing the contribution of fisheries resources and aquaculture to food security and economic growth in Africa. Key to the project is the implementation of the sub activity which calls to improve institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for sustainable fisheries management. This will be achieved through one of the specific activities to promote coherence and harmonization in fisheries policies and regulatory frameworks. The alignment of national and regional policies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for

Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) would support fisheries and aquaculture policy coherence on the continent. The policy framework and reform strategy for Africa incorporates essential principles of key international fisheries management and aquaculture development instruments. Thus aligning the national and regional fisheries policy instruments with the pan African policy framework is therefore a strong pathway for implementation of these international instruments by AU member states.

The first process of ensuring policy coherence and coordination among AU MS and regional institutions was initiated by the AU-IBAR through the workshop that was conducted in Kampala, Uganda from the 20-22 May 2015. The purpose of the workshop was to identify key policy indicator/criteria for aligning national and regional policies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. The workshop formulated indicators and criteria to facilitate the domestication of the provisions of Pan African policy document with national and regional policies. The main participants of the Kampala were experts of the AFRM working groups. It is important that these indicators and criteria that have been developed are validated by the end users, which are the AU-MS and the RECs for adoption as tools for alignment of the pan African policy document.

Consequently the Coordinators and Co- coordinators or their representatives of the Working Group of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism further refined and harmonized the policy parameters and indicators for PFRS alignment at a Retreat held in Nairobi from 13 -15 June 2015. The retreat generated a set of Criteria and Indicators consistent with the range of a refined Immediate Expected Policy Outcomes and according to the Policy Arenas of the PFRS. The summary of the outcome of this retreat formed the core of the document on Draft Guidelines for implementation of the PFRS presented at the Think Tank Validation Workshop in Abidjan.

The CAMFA II in Addis Ababa, April, 2014 strongly recommended institutional strengthening arrangements for policy coherence; alignment of interventions to support implementation of the PFRS; prioritization and development of action plans to realize its implementation; and development of mechanism to monitor its implementation with regular reports to MS. These recommendations were later adopted at the Summit of the African Heads States and Government meeting held in June, 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

It is against this backdrop, that AU-IBAR conducted the “Think Tank” meeting to validate the policy indicators and criteria that were identified for alignment of national, regional and continental policies.

1.2. Overall Objective

The major objective of this broad-based and inclusive think tank meeting was to validate the policy indicators and criteria developed for alignment of national and regional policies to the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa by the expert consultative meeting in Uganda. The identified indicators are to be used to measure level of success in the implementation of policy.

1.3. Specific Objectives

Other specific objectives were to:

- i. Review the draft formulated indicators and criteria identified for alignment of national and regional policies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy;
- ii. Validate the policy indicators and criteria for adoption as tracking tools for alignment of pan African policy document with national and regional instruments by AU MS and Regional organization;
- iii. Develop action plans and clear roadmap for the alignment at national and regional level.

1.4. Expected Results

The workshop was organized and envisaged to achieve the following results;

- i. Validation and endorsement of the indicators and criteria for adoption as tracking tools for alignment of national and regional policies to the pan African policy by AU MS and Regional organizations;
- ii. Develop action plans and a clear roadmap with timelines to guide and track the domestication process of the pan African policy document as well as of international fisheries management and aquaculture development instruments.

2. OPENING SESSION

The master of ceremony warmly welcomed the participants and introduced the key speakers for the welcome ceremony. The following opening remarks were made::

2.1. Introductory remarks by AUC - Mr. Jonathan Nyarko Ocran

Mr. Jonathan Nyarko Ocran, Policy Officer of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC-DREA) made a statement on behalf of the Director of AUC-DREA. He reiterated the commitment of DREA to the development of fisheries and aquaculture sector on the continent. Mr. Ocran gave the historical perspective of the formulation of the PFRS included key events such as CAMFA I and CAMFA II. He emphasised the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in the economy of the continent hence it being prioritized in Africa's development Agenda 2063.

2.2. Welcome Remarks by NPCA

Dr. Hamady Diop, Program Manager Fisheries and Aquaculture of NEPAD Agency gave remarks on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD. He underscored the role of NEPAD, AU-IBAR and AUC-DREA, in elevating fisheries and aquaculture into the political agenda of the African Union through the CAADP process. He alluded to the cardinal achievement in establishing CAMFA as a policy organ of the African Union for fisheries and aquaculture. He was confident that success can be achieved if NEPAD Agency, AU-IBAR and DREA are able to provide high quality technical support to member States to enable them effectively implement policy and governance reforms. He reminded the participants of the Commitment of the Heads of State and Government last year in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea to aligning of national and regional policies to the PFRS..

2.3. Statement by ECOWAS

The Representative of ECOWAS, Mr. Komla Bossou, the Regional Programme Coordinator, made remarks on behalf of the President of ECOWAS. He expressed appreciation to African Union for their work in building policy coherence in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. He gave an overview of some of the initiatives in the ECOWAS region such as the formulation of the ECOWAS Agricultural Programme (ECOWAP). Mr Bossou also mentioned that ECOWAS Commission developed and adopted in 2012, the program on 'Coherent Governance of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector' in the ECOWAS which includes three main components, notably:

- i. The Promotion of coherent and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies in West Africa,
- ii. The Development of the monitoring mechanism of the coherence of fisheries and aquaculture policies in West Africa,
- iii. The Capacity Building of Fisheries Professionals Programme.

With regards to the component linked to the development of the monitoring mechanism, Mr. Bossou recalled that a Regional Fisheries Committee was established with the responsibility to install the committees at national level. He also pointed out that the inaugural meeting of this Regional Committee was held in August 2012 in Cotonou with the view among others, to establishing monitoring indicators, monitoring of policy coherence and coordination of the implementation of a coherent governance structure of fisheries in the ECOWAS region. He therefore welcomed the initiative of organizing the workshop which falls directly in line with ECOWAS major concerns and a clear demonstration of moving in the same direction and having the same language. In conclusion Mr. Bossou took the opportunity to express ECOWAS gratitude to all those who in some way have taken the initiative to organize this workshop especially AU and NEPAD and particularly the AU-IBAR.

2.4. Statement of Head of European Union Delegation - Dr Patrick Houben

The Head of the EU Delegation, Côte D'Ivoire, Dr Patrick Houben, in a statement expressed appreciation and noted that fisheries and aquaculture resources are becoming increasingly important in ensuring food security especially in rural Africa where a large percentage of the population depends on fisheries for livelihood. He observed that concerted efforts are needed to improve the performance of the sector by addressing the key challenges especially in coordination, information management, inter African trade, competition on global market with ecolabelling as a key intervention, and reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) fishing, and stock depletion. He therefore welcomed the programme on alignment and harmonization of policies as a strategy to stimulate growth in the sector. He re-echoed the importance of having effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place to foster progress and enhance performance in the sector.

2.5. Welcome Remarks by AU-IBAR – Dr. Simplicie Nouala

Dr. Simplicie Nouala, Chief Animal Production Officer, on behalf of the Director AU-IBAR, noted the historical significance of the moment as the culmination of a series of continental efforts. He recalled that it was at the first major Think Tank Meeting, which took place at the same venue in Abidjan, under the wise leadership of the Hon. Minister of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture in Côte D'Ivoire that the idea of the formulation of the pan African policy framework was first incubated. He reminded the audience of the sector's importance to attaining food and nutrition security, wealth generation and job creation.

2.6. Opening statement by H.E the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Development Cote d'Ivoire

The meeting was officially opened by the Hon. Minister of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture of Côte D'Ivoire Hon. Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani. In his opening speech, the Hon. Ministers informed delegates of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in Côte d'Ivoire which led to the formulation of a Strategic Plan on Development of Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture as one of the Presidential initiatives to turn Côte d'Ivoire into an emerging country by the year 2020. He acknowledged the importance of formulating criteria and indicators to facilitate domestication of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy by AU Member States and regional institutions to ensure coherence in the management of the sector, particularly with regards to shared resources. The Hon. Minister expressed delight over the overwhelming representation of almost all the member states of the African Union which illustrates the commitment to this AU led continental initiatives.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

Dr. Simplicie Nouala was the main facilitator of the meeting. The Agenda for the meeting was introduced and adopted, as given in Annex A.

4. TECHNICAL SESSION

The technical session of the meeting commenced with a number of presentations the highlights of which are given below. Full presentations;

4.1. *Background and Objective of the Meeting*

Dr. Mohamed Seisay, the Senior Fisheries Officer of AU-IBAR presented the Background and Objectives of the Think Tank Meeting. His presentation is as summarized below:

The African continent has vast fish resources that are a source of a variety of benefits including nutritional and food security, livelihoods, employment, exports and foreign currency as well as conservation and biodiversity value that are of global significance. Despite its vast fisheries resources (resources in marine, freshwater ecologies and aquaculture systems), the continent continues to be saddled with numerous problems that impede long term resource and environmental sustainability and thus minimizing the prospects of increased sector contribution to food security, poverty alleviation and national economic growth.

With the right policies, the contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector could be enhanced to significantly increase the benefits of the sector to AU member states. The greatest challenge has been to formulate appropriate and implementable policies that would increase the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the sector. The inadequacies in the management of the sector are manifested by incoherent sector policies, weak or lack of coordination dysfunctional Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems where they exist, and poor strategies for small-scale fisheries and aquaculture development. There is a pervading disparity in rents to coastal states for exploitation of their fisheries resources by more developed countries. The poor governance frameworks have for decades encumbered the growth of the African fisheries and aquaculture sector.

These challenges are further aggravated by the high human population growth rates on the African continent that undermine increased production, productivity and contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to social welfare, livelihoods, food security and wealth creation. Appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks need to be put in place in order to reverse the threats posed to realizing the full potential of this sector. Vast opportunities still exist for tapping the enormous potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa but unlocking this potential would require major policy reform in the management and development of the sector.

Several high-level initiatives on the continent recognized the challenges and opportunities in the sector. Prominent among these initiatives are the 2004 Sirte Summit Declaration, the Abuja 2005 Fish-for -All Declaration, the 2010 Banjul Conference of African Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA I) and recently the 2014 Addis Ababa CAMFA II. All these continental initiatives underscored the need for sectoral policy and institutional governance reforms that can catalyse increased sustainable contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to the socio-economic development of the continent. Of significance was CAMFA I which recommended that the African Union (AU) put in place a mechanism for broad-based participatory policy dialogue and fisheries management to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and initiatives. This recommendation was later adopted through an Executive Decision by the African Heads of State and Government (Doc. EX. CL /627(XVIII)). Thus the process of formulation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) started in earnest in 2012. The PFRS was endorsed by the summit of African Heads of States and Governments (HSG) in 2014

through Executive Council Decisions No. EX.CL/Dec.831 (XXV) as a blue print for the sustainable and positive reform of the Africa's Fisheries and Aquaculture sector for increased benefits to Member States. The following recommendations were made:

- i. Member States should prioritize and develop action plans to realize the implementation of the policy framework and reform strategy;
- ii. Development partners and other stakeholders should align their interventions in fisheries and aquaculture sector to the policy framework and reform strategy in support of its implementation; and
- iii. The African Union should put in place a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the policy framework and report regularly to Member States.

The policy framework and reform strategy for Africa incorporates essential principles of key international fisheries management and aquaculture development instruments. Thus aligning the national and regional fisheries policy instruments with the Pan African Policy Framework is therefore a strong pathway for reform of the sector by AU Member States (MS).

The first process of ensuring policy coherence and coordination among AU MS and regional institutions was initiated by the AU-IBAR and NPCA through the workshop in Kampala, Uganda from the 20-22 May 2015. The purpose of that expert consultative workshop was to identify key policy indicator/criteria for aligning national and regional policies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. The Workshop formulated indicators and criteria by policy area in the Pan African Policy Fisheries document to facilitate the domestication of the provisions in national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies. The Kampala meeting was followed by a retreat of core group of experts in Nairobi, Kenya that consolidated and refined the criteria and indicators developed by the Kampala workshop.

For purposes of ownership and inclusiveness, it was critical that the formulated indicators and criteria were validated by the end users, which are the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities, for adoption as tools for alignment of the Pan African Policy document. It is against this backdrop, that AU-IBAR and NPCA are organized a "Think Tank" meeting in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire to validate the policy indicators and criteria that were identified for alignment of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies to the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa.

4.2. Policy Framework and Reform Strategy and Status of its Implementation

Mr. Obinna Anozie (Policy Analyst - Fisheries and Aquaculture, AU-IBAR) presented the document on the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy with focus on the key messages of the PFRS. His presentation highlighted the rationale, and the process of developing the policy. It outlined its overall goal of providing structured guidance to Africa's fisheries management agencies and stakeholders to facilitate reforms towards coherent national and regional policies that the wealth-generating potential is maximized, and that there are sustainable, social, environmental and profitable outcomes for Africa and its people. The purpose is to facilitate transformation of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture for food, livelihoods and wealth creation.

The key message of the PFRS underscores the existence of the great potential of fish to generate more wealth for Africa through (i) Increasing awareness amongst policy makers of the true value of the fish resources; (ii) creating enabling an environment that provides resource users with the incentives and confidence to invest in and manage the fish resources; and (iii) developing practical strategies that can harness fish resources to realize the socio-economic objectives.

The underlying rationale for formulating the PFRS is predicated on the fact that over-exploitation of fisheries is currently threatening the benefits from the resources; Weak and uncoordinated institutions are hindering the governing of the sector; Lack of knowledge and evidence is preventing reforms; Under-developed aquaculture is inhibiting the sector's contribution to food; and that Absence of policy coherence is diminishing the role of fish in national development.

Mr. Anozie's presentation further highlighted the Main Policy Arenas, Objectives and Strategies of the PFRS:

- i. Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use
- ii. Small-scale Fisheries Development
- iii. Sustainable Aquaculture Development
- iv. Responsible and Equitable Fish Trade and Marketing
- v. Strengthened Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation
- vi. Awareness Enhancing and Human-Capacity Development
- vii. High Seas Fisheries
- viii. Cross Cutting issues
 - a. Strengthening Resilience and Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change in African Fisheries and Aquaculture
 - b. Gender and Youth
 - c. Private Sector Investments and Financing Mechanisms for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa

AU-IBAR's accomplishments in ensuring the success of the PFRS initiative include the:

- i. Establishment of the African Platform for Regional Institutions for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS)
- ii. Institutional assessment of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and proposed roadmap for implementation of the recommendations;
- iii. Forging institutional linkages among the RECs, RFBs, Water Based Commissions (WBCs) and Large Marine Ecosystem (LMEs)
- iv. Development of the Pan African Strategy on Data Collection, Analysis and Dissemination
- v. Establishment of a Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa

4.3. Criteria for Alignment of National and Regional Policies and Strategies to the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy

The presentation on criteria for alignment made by Dr. Ken Shawa Project Officer – Fish Trade of AU-IBAR primarily alluded to the key definitions that experts used in the development of the criteria. The definitions were as follows:

- a. Outcome: Key changes that are envisioned as a result of the reforms.
- b. Alignment: Consistency and coherence between national and regional policies and strategies with the PFRS
- c. Criteria/Parameter: These are the elements used to assess the consistency or coherence between the PFRS and the national and regional policies and strategies.
- d. Indicators: Pointers used to measure the progress in the implementation of the PFRS and its provisions thereof towards its outcomes.

The Criteria for alignment were then presented for each policy area and the relevant outcome, for the consideration of delegates

I. POLICY AREA: CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE

Two outcomes and associated criteria were presented:

Outcome 1: Policies, frameworks and tools in place to sustainably increase national benefits from fisheries and aquaculture

- i. Fisheries and aquaculture are mainstreamed into national development plans ensuring adequate finance and a conducive regulatory environment for investment.
- ii. Globally accepted best practices integrated into national policy frameworks and tools.
- iii. Policy and management decisions are made based on the existence of reliable data and information management systems.
- iv. Adoption of participatory fisheries management mechanisms/approaches

Outcome 2: Healthy ecosystems to support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

- i. Scientific research (natural, social and economic) that support fisheries management and aquaculture development in place.
- ii. Tools and programmes in place to protect fishery resources and their habitats.

II. POLICY AREA: SMALL SCALE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

Three outcomes and associated criteria were presented:

Outcome 1: Role and importance (contribution) of fisheries for improved livelihoods, food and income of small scale fishing communities and related operators are evident, recognized and secured in Member States.

- i. Mechanism and strategies to unlock and unleash potentials of the sub-sector to generate socio-economic benefits are in place.
- ii. Small Scale Fisheries prioritized in National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP), Poverty alleviation documents and other National strategy documents.

Outcome 2: Bilateral and regional cooperation for effective management of shared fishery resources and ecosystems is strengthened

- i. Regional and intra-regional minimum terms and conditions for access.
- ii. Mechanisms in place for efficient and effective regional cooperation on fisheries management, including MCS, migratory and shared stocks

Outcome 3: Fishers are organized to foster good fisheries governance, sustainable development and responsible use of natural resources

- a. Provisions of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries are widely and appropriately applied.
- b. Capacity of fisheries stakeholders and institutions for participatory management of the fisheries are developed and nurtured.

III. POLICY AREA: REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION

Two outcomes with their associated criteria were presented under this policy area as follows:

Outcome 1: International fisheries issues at regional levels are coherent and harmonized

- i. Review and drafting of international conventions and processes on fisheries and aquaculture informed by PFRS

- ii. Transparency, accountability and effective participation of stakeholders are hallmarks of RECs and RFBs in Africa.

Outcome 2: RECs and RFBs are positive forces for fisheries management within the framework of regional economic and political integration agenda

- i. Role of fisheries and aquaculture in regional economic and political integration clearly defined
- ii. Strategy (Mechanisms) for preventing and resolving regional conflicts are in place

IV. POLICY AREA: HIGH SEAS FISHERIES

Under high seas fisheries, three outcomes and their associated criteria were presented as follows:

Outcome 1: Greater African Voice in high seas fisheries

- i. Effective participation of African states in international conventions and access to high seas
- ii. Strengthen alignment of donor and partner effort with PFRS.

Outcome 2: Increased participation and benefits for MS in high seas fisheries

- i. Benefits accrued from high seas fisheries to MS

Outcome 3: Active participation of MS in RFMOs processes and agenda

- i. Cooperation for high sea fisheries management.

V. POLICY AREA: SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT

Under the sustainable aquaculture management, 2 outcomes with their associated criteria were presented as follows:

Outcome 1: Improved market-led aquaculture investments

- i. Markets (awareness creation, PPPs)
- ii. Aquaculture infrastructure.
- iii. Financing/investment strategy
- iv. Quality assurance and standards
- v. Skills development plan

Outcome 2: Improved regional cooperation in shared ecosystems

- i. Common strategies on management and research on transboundary resources
- ii. Consistency with best ecosystems management approaches
- iii. Conformity with accreditation mechanisms
- iv. Consistency with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

VI. POLICY AREA: RESPONSIBLE AND EQUITABLE FISH TRADE AND MARKETING

Two outcomes were presented under this policy area. The criteria for alignment associated with these outcomes were presented as follows:

Outcome 1: Improved intra and inter regional trade

- i. Compliance with agreed regional trade protocols
- ii. Coherence of fish trade policies with other policies
- iii. Coherence with standards

Outcome 2: Increased competitiveness for African fish and fishery products.

- i. Consistency with Fisheries Competitiveness Index (FCI)
- ii. Standards and supportive technology
- iii. Competitiveness through reducing value chain costs of production, processing and distribution

VII. POLICY AREA: AWARENESS ENHANCING AND HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Under this policy area two outcomes with their associated criteria were presented as follows:

Outcome 1: Enhanced sectoral competencies and proficiencies

- i. Continuous professional education, mentorship and training
- ii. Accreditation of practitioners and institutions.

Outcome 2: Improved evidence based decision making

- i. Responsive to real community needs
- ii. Information sharing between policy makers and policy consumers.
- iii. Information based policy decision making.

VIII. POLICY AREA: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Under the PFRS three policy areas form the cross-cutting category. They include: i) Strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change in African fisheries and aquaculture; ii) Gender and Youth; and iii) Private Sector Investment and Financing

Mechanisms for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

It should be noted that these are policy areas in their own right and were duly presented as follows:

A. POLICY AREA: STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND REDUCING VULNERABILITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICAN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Under this policy area two outcomes with their associated criteria were presented as follows:

Outcome 1: Adaptive capacity at the local level built

- i. Capacity building programmes on climate smart fisheries

Outcome 2: Policy coherence and coordination at the national and regional levels improved

- i. Disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change (CC) policies include fisheries and aquaculture
- ii. Fisheries and aquaculture policies include DRM and CC

B. POLICY AREA: GENDER AND YOUTH

Under Gender and Youth two outcomes with their associated criteria were presented as follows:

Outcome 1: Increased access to resources

- i. Access to suitable land and water
- ii. Security of investment and access rights

Outcome 2: Improved working conditions

- i. Realistic standards of practice as detailed by International Labour Organization.
- ii. Women, youth and vulnerable groups needs are addressed

- iii. Consistency with national and international labour laws and fishers rights.

C POLICY AREA: PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT AND FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN AFRICA

Outcome 1: Improved enterprise performance within the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

- i. World Bank ease of doing business index
- ii. Global competitiveness report of WEF
- iii. World Bank Fisheries Performance indicators
- iv. Diversity of business structures

Outcome 2: Improved private sector governance

- i. Consistency with industry best practices

4.4. Validation and Adoption of Criteria for Alignment of National and Regional Policies and Strategies to the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS)

After the presentation of criteria for alignment delegates were divided into six groups and tasked to examine the relevance and appropriateness of the criteria to the policy objectives and outcomes. The groups were also mandated to make additions to the criteria for completeness. The following were the newly recommended criteria for alignment following which the Guideline for Alignment will be revised accordingly.

Policy Area	Added Criteria
Conservation and sustainable uses of resources	National fisheries agencies have all aspects of MCS in place and functioning
Small-scale fisheries development	TBA
Aquaculture development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade - Protection of aquaculture products from imported products. - Fish farmers associations or cooperatives - Enabling environment
Trade and market development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coherence of Trade Policies (harmonization) - Consumer information
Regional and sub-regional cooperation	Mechanisms for linkages between REC's and RFB's exist
Human capacity development	TBA
High Seas fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased access to high seas fisheries - Accrued benefits to concerned MS increased
Cross-cutting issuers-Climate change resilience, gender and youth and finance and investment	TBA

4.5. Presentation on the Indicators for Monitoring Implementation and Performance of the PFRS

Dr. Shawa also presented to the meeting two sets of indicators. One was on monitoring implementation and the other was on assessing performance of the PFRS. After the presentation, six groups were formed to review the indicators in terms of relevance and appropriateness to the policy objective and outcome. The meeting validated the indicators. Nevertheless, some additions were made to the list of indicators in some policy areas as captured by the table below:

Policy Area	Added Indicator
Conservation and sustainable uses of resources	None
Small-scale fisheries development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of small-scale fisheries in comparison to national fisheries expenditure / income - Percentage of post-harvest losses
Aquaculture development	None
Trade and market development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth in Trade of Fish Product from sustainable and equitable sources; - Increased number countries implementing sanitary standards and quality requirements - Growth in transition from informal trade to formal trade;
Regional and sub-regional cooperation	- Integrated MCS systems in place
Human capacity development	None
High Seas fisheries	- Increased returns from high seas fisheries (fees, Port and ancillary services)
Cross-cutting issuers-Climate change resilience, gender and youth and finance and investment	TBA
a. Resilience	- Transition from small to medium scale enterprise (in aquaculture)
b. Gender and Youth	- Change in child labour use
c. Private Sector	None

5. MECHANISM TO FAST TRACK AND MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

The AU-IBAR presented the proposal on Implementation Mechanism and Roles of Institutions which highlighted the following key issues;

Facilitation of implementation of the PFRS is proposed to be executed through;

- i. African Fisheries Reform Mechanism; The mechanism for implementation of the PFRS will be facilitated within the framework of the African Fisheries and Reform Mechanism. (AFRM).
- ii. Working Groups constituted as PFRS Implementation Expert Pools; Within the framework of the AFRM, there are provisions for continental and regional working groups. The African Union has established seven continent-wide groups for various issues in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- iii. Reporting progress of implementation; The AFRM has a CAMFA Secretariat which is located within AU-IBAR. The CAMFA Secretariat would monitor the progress of implementation of the provisions of the PFRS at two levels; the constituted pool of experts would report directly to the CAMFA Secretariat on outcome of the national and regional policies whilst the Departments responsible for fisheries and aquaculture would report to the CAMFA Secretariat on the progress of implementation of the PFRS.

Specific Institutional roles as part of the implantation mechanisms were outlined as follows;

- i. Member States; The primary responsibility for implementing the PFRS lies with the Member States. The ministry, department or agency in-charge of the sector in each country will regulate, promote, support, guide, and coordinate the implementation of reforms through broad consultative processes with other stakeholders.
- ii. Regional Institutions; The RECs, in cooperation with RFBs, should finance priority actions in the PFRS and in concert with RFBs and such other arrangements coordinate and deliver programmes on region-wide needs of common interests. The RECs should strengthen cooperation and human capacity building in participating Member States by, for example constituted regional Working Groups as Expert Pools, to provide technical back-stopping to MS. These regional working groups should be linked to the continental WG within the AFRM.
- iii. Development partners; Donors have a critical role to play both in facilitating reforms and in creating the institutional conditions to ensure the benefits of appropriate policies and reforms highlighted in the PF&RS are sustained. They should align their interventions with the PFRS as recommended by CAMFA II.
- iv. NGOs, CSOs and CBOs; The NSAs should develop and implement public awareness campaigns and demonstration actions on specific issues as well as facilitate multi-stakeholder activities and events such as round table discussions, engaging the public and private sector
- v. African Union; The role of the AU in the implementation of the PF&RS would primarily be to monitor the progress of each Member State in the implementation of the PF&RS and reporting to CAMFA.
- vi.
- vii. The delegates appreciated the proposal and unanimously reached consensus on the mechanism for implementation and monitoring of the PFRS among AU MS.

6. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

The key outcomes of the meeting are as outlined below;

6.1. Validation of Criteria for alignment of National and Regional Policies to PFRS

Delegates acknowledged the importance of concerted management measures and decisions for shared fishery resources in particular including potential benefits derivable from the fisheries and aquaculture sector from increased coherent and realistic policies and noted the need to facilitate policy coherence and harmonization in the management of the fisheries resources and development of aquaculture to strengthen the performance of the Regional Fisheries. To this effect the meeting amended some of the proposed criteria, offered a number of additional criteria and subsequently validated the criteria to facilitate alignment of national and regional policies to the Policy Framework and Reforms Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa on the following policy areas in the PFRS:

- a. Conservation and sustainable uses of resources
- b. Small-scale fisheries development
- c. Aquaculture development
- d. Trade and market development
- e. Regional and sub-regional cooperation
- f. Human capacity development
- g. High Seas fisheries
- h. Cross-cutting issuers-Climate change resilience, gender and youth and finance and investment

6.2. Validation of indicators for implementation of the PFRS

The need to monitor the implementation of the PFRS by MS and regional institutions and the significance of periodic review of the status of its implementation was unanimously established; hence the meeting solidly and in consistence with additional indicators validated the proposed indicators as tracking tools to monitor the progress of implementation of the PFRS by MS and REC's.

6.3. Other specific outcomes include;

- a. Need to put in place mechanism for fisheries to be organized to embrace conventional provisions on insurance, biosecurity and quarantine;
- b. Recommendation to fast-track the implementation of the PFRS by AU member states and RECs based on the formulated Guidelines incorporating criteria and indicators

7. CONCLUSIONS

The stakeholders validated the criteria and indicators for the domestications of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. There was overwhelming acknowledgement of the timelines and appropriateness of such an initiative designed to promote policy coherence in the management of the sector at national, sub regional and regional levels. This expression of satisfaction came against a background of enduring challenges that have confronted AU M and RECs in formulating realistic and coherent fisheries and aquaculture policies. The formulation and validation of the Guidelines, the stakeholders concluded, is a welcome undertaking by AU the effective implementation of the PFRS by AU MS, RECs and other stakeholders.

The stakeholders also appreciated that using the Guidelines incorporate wide ranging indicators that would not only support the AU MS and other stakeholders to implement PFRS but also global fisheries and aquaculture instruments. Examples include, CCRF, Voluntary Guidelines for SSF. This realization was also particularly noted and appreciated by stakeholders from the point of view that the implementation of these global instruments is a serious challenge on the continent. The stakeholders concluded that the integration of indicators in the Guidelines for globally accepted best practices would trigger and make easy the adoption of these instruments. Additionally, stakeholders were thrilled over that consideration that the Guidelines are also intended to ensure the coordinated and coherent intervention by development partners in various regions of the continent.

On the general conduct of the workshop and the objectives, the outcome of the evaluation found that 90 % of the stakeholders expressed the view that the workshop met their expectations and that the objectives of the workshops were fully met. The

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting recommended that:

1. The AU should endeavour to finalize and disseminate the Guidelines by end of August 2015. The final Guidelines should incorporate the comments and revisions proposed by stakeholders
2. AU should identify status of ongoing policy review processes by AU MS and RECs in a bid to identify appropriate entry points for support to these institutions for domestication of the PFRS based on the Guidelines
3. The support to MS for domestication of PFRS could also be demand driven
4. AU to identify and constitute core group of supports whose central merit will be to provide technical support to AU MS that expressed the need for support.
5. The technical support to stakeholders should be within the framework of the AFRM where the available expertise in the constituted AFRM WGs could be drawn upon.
6. The AU to facilitate the formulation of regional working groups by the RECs; these working groups, provided for within the framework of AFRM, could facilitate alignment of the PFRS by AU MS within each REC

9. ANNEXES

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MR JONATHAN NYARKO OCRAN, POLICY OFFICER- LIVESTOCK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION AT THE THINK TANK MEETING FOR THE VALIDATION OF PARAMETERS AND INDICATORS FOR MONITORING THE ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE POLICIES TO THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND REFORM STRATEGY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN AFRICA

*ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE
9TH - 11TH JULY, 2015*

The Honourable Minister of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture in Cote D'Ivoire, H.E. Kobeman Adjoumani,
The Chief Animal Production Officer at AU-IBAR, Dr Simplicie Nouala,
The Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme Manager at the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, Dr. Hamady Diop,
The Representative of ECOWAS, Mr. Komla Bossou,
The Head of the European Union Delegation in Cote D'Ivoire, Dr. Patrick Houben,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by conveying to you the warm greetings and the best wishes of the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Her Excellency, Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace and Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission. Let me also thank the Government and the People of Cote D'Ivoire for the warm hospitality accorded us since our arrival in Abidjan.

I am particularly happy to be associated with this think tank meeting which would validate the parameters and indicators for monitoring the alignment of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies to the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. It is an undeniable fact that the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector play an important role in the economies of most African countries. In some countries, the sector contributes 27 percent of the revenues and about 33 percent or more of the total export revenues. The sector also provides livelihoods to over ten million men and women who are engaged in fish catching, fish processing and trade. It is further estimated that about 58.3 million people are engaged in fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. It is in recognition of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa that the African Union continues to place it high on its agenda. The Africa Union has just launched a development blueprint for the continent's development over the next fifty years called Agenda 2063. In this document, the blue or ocean economy features very prominently as a tool for accelerated economic growth of Africa. It is projected that there should be at least 50 percent increase in value addition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in real terms by the year 2023. It is also planned that at least one giant aquaculture showpiece would be built in Africa and an African Centre for Blue Economy would also be established. Furthermore, it is planned that skills and technological platforms would be established at the national level in Africa for blue economy businesses. These are laudable vision and goals that need to be embraced by all Africans.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me now touch on the purpose for which we are all gathered here today. It was at the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) held in the Gambia in 2010 that the need to reform the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa in a comprehensive manner was first raised. This was to be done by providing a structured guidance to Africa's fisheries management agencies and other stakeholders to facilitate reforms toward coherent national and regional policies in Africa. To implement this CAMFA recommendation, AU-IBAR and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in collaboration with stakeholders in the sector developed the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. This document, when successfully implemented, would help address the challenges that prevent African countries from fully benefiting from the exploitation of its enormous fisheries and aquaculture resources. The policy document has since been endorsed by African Union Heads of State and Government in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June, 2014. Following its endorsement by the policy organs of the African Union, an Expert Consultative Workshop was held in Kampala in May, 2015, where the criteria and indicators for aligning national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies with the Policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa were developed. This workshop also proposed entry points for support in revising national and regional policies.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

Our meeting starting today would seek to build upon the work which started in Kampala by validating the indicators and criteria developed for aligning national and regional policies to the policy framework and reform strategy. It is my fervent hope that from this meeting we shall be able come out with recommendations which when implemented would guide the judicious and sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture resources in Africa for the benefit of all stakeholders. Let us therefore work together as a community and learn from each other so that together we can ensure that the implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa becomes a resounding success. With those few remarks, I wish all of us a successful and enjoyable meeting.

I thank you.

THINK TANK MEETING FOR THE VALIDATION OF PARAMETER (CRITERIA) AND INDICATORS FOR MONITORING THE ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL & REGIONAL FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE POLICIES TO THE POLICY FRAMEWORK & REFORM STRATEGY FOR FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE IN AFRICA

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire – July 9th, 2015

Speech delivered by Dr. Hamady Diop
Program Manager for Fisheries and Aquaculture
NEPAD Agency
Honourable Minister of Fisheries of Cote d'Ivoire
Honourable Representative of the European Commission
Honourable Director of the Africa-Union IBAR
Honourable Representative of the Africa-Union DREA
Honourable Representatives of Member States of the African Union
Honourable Representatives of Regional Economics Communities
Honourable Representatives of regional Fisheries Bodies
Honourable Representatives of the Civil Society Organisations
Distinguished invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to convey to you warm regards from the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, His Excellency, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki who could not joint us.

I am aware that all of you are very busy people, but you saw it fit to respond to our call to come to this meeting. It is a great honour and pleasure for the African Union and particularly for the NEPAD Agency to co-host this Stakeholder Consultation meeting which over the next three days will attempt to build consensus towards a consolidated tracking mechanism for the alignment of national and regional Fisheries & Aquaculture Policies to the Policy Framework & Reform Strategy for Fisheries & Aquaculture in Africa.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

The importance of the fisheries sector in Africa cannot be over-emphasised. Based on a joint NEPAD/FAO study published last year, the first sale value of African fisheries is estimated to be 22.4 billion dollars US annually. This number is even higher since the total value added of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa estimated by this study is US\$ 26.6 billion which accounts for 1.39% of total GDP of Africa. Among the various fisheries, the highest values is produced by the marine artisanal fisheries (0.64%), followed by inland fisheries (0.36%), marine industrial fisheries (0.25%), and aquaculture (0.14%). These numbers are evidence of the benefits that are captured and could be sustained from our fisheries and aquaculture sectors with the appropriate policies in place.

Unfortunately, these benefits are at risk as the quantities of fish from natural sources such as oceans, lakes, rivers and floodplains are reaching their limits. Expanding international demand for fish is driving catching of fish beyond sustainable levels, further straining the already weak capacity of African institutions to management of their fisheries resources, leading to massive illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The major impact of this is the reduction in the quantity of fish available for Africans to eat and loss in potential value of exports. Consequently, Africa has globally the lowest per capita consumption of fish, estimated at 9 kg/capita/year, about less of half of the world average of 21 kg. The per capita consumption is projected to further decline and the losses due to illegal fishing is likely to increase unless urgent actions are taken to ensure sustained production and governance of fisheries. In other words, Africa needs to put in place policies and strategies which will enable the sector to contribute more efficiently towards economic growth and poverty reduction.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Against this background, African Heads of State and Government, last year in Malabo-Equatorial Guinea, adopted the Pan-African Fisheries Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture. During that same meeting, the Heads of States and Government recommitted to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) as a framework for the restoration of agriculture growth, food security, and rural development in Africa. Recall that, it was within CAADP that the Heads of State and Government further during the AU/NEPAD Fish for All Summit in Abuja, Nigeria in August 2005 endorsed the NEPAD Action Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Africa which calls for increased investments in critical areas of inland fisheries, coastal and marine fisheries, and aquaculture. Furthermore, the African Heads of State and Government during the AU/NEPAD Food Security Summit in December 2006 agreed to promote and protect fisheries as strategic commodity alongside rice and maize; and committed themselves towards attaining continental self-reliance on fish by 2015. Therefore, NEPAD has ushered in the dawn of a new Blue Revolution in Africa by placing fisheries and aquaculture at the top of the development agenda. It is reassuring that after ten-years, Africa has now a fisheries policy framework and a reform strategy and that many activities are ongoing at the continental levels to improve governance of this sector and to optimize and domesticate the wealth generated by this sector for the benefit of the African populations.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Challenges still remain. The African Union goals with regards to fisheries can only be achieved if NEPAD Agency, AU-IBAR and DREA are able to provide high quality technical and relevant advice to our member states to enable them to effectively undertake policy and governance reforms. Furthermore, existing fisheries initiative at regional and national levels are largely fragmented and disjointed. Therefore, we need to engage the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national member states to assist them to translate the Pan African Policy Framework and Reform Strategy into more coherent Regional and National Development Strategies, which can respond effectively to regional and national needs.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Bearing in mind the transboundary nature of fisheries, these challenges can only be addressed effectively through harmonisation of regional and national policies and ensuring that all stakeholders work together in partnership. We must do this by learning from international best practices and promote adaptation and scale-up effective approaches. I am delighted to note that the work on fisheries that is fostered by both "FishGov and FishTrade" is consistent with the theory of change of the reform mechanism endorsed last year by the Head of States and Government. This is also in line with the spirit of NEPAD Agency because it will enable the continent to draw our own lessons from our failures and achievements, and for us as Africans to take responsibility for replicating our success stories; to map out a path for sustainable governance of

our fisheries; as well as guide our development partners to work with us on critical investment areas. Last year, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the Head of States and Government committed to a systematic regular review process, using the CAADP Results Framework, of the progress made in implementing the provisions of the Malabo Declaration; and to this end they have resolved:

- to conduct a biennial Agricultural Review Process that involves tracking, monitoring and reporting on progress.
- to foster alignment, harmonisation and coordination among multi-sectorial efforts and multi-institutional platforms for peer review, mutual learning and mutual accountability.
- to strengthen national and regional institutional capacities for knowledge and data generation and management that support evidence based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

This commitment show the importance of our actual meeting in validating of parameter (criteria) and indicators for monitoring the alignment of national & regional fisheries & aquaculture policies to the policy framework & reform strategy for fisheries & aquaculture.

It is however, important for us to admit that our work has to be done in partnership and that partnership does not come easy; unless we provide incentives for countries and regions of Africa to work together to address unsustainable fishing, it will not be possible for us to deliver on the goals of the NEPAD Action Plan. On our part, NEPAD Agency will ensure that we provide the political capital necessary for countries to create requisite environment for policy and governance reforms. We have convened the first high level committee or Task Force of Ministers of Fisheries (CAMFA) in Banjul, The Gambia in 2010, which enabled us to engage at the highest level of policy-making process. CAMFA is now an organ of the Africa Union with a Secretariat anchored at AU-IBAR. Therefore, it is pleasing to know that a fishery programme that was initiated under NEPAD Agency leadership with support of AU-IBAR has facilitated the formation of the Policy Think Tank at the continental level that is enabling the environment for our meeting today. This initiative will complement NEPAD Agency's on-going transformation that has created a catalytic environment that will deepen the dialogue around Africa's development.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished delegates, at this point, let me now in a very special and humble way convey the sincere thanks of the NEPAD Agency, to the Government and the people of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, who have continuously and tirelessly shared our African vision by hosting this and previous stakeholder Consultations, but they are also one of our key partners on the CAADP and fisheries agenda. It is on this note that I wish to reconfirm NEPAD Agency's commitment to collaborate with all our partners, specifically the European Commission, towards the successful implementation of the FishGov programme.

It is now my singular honour to wish you fruitful deliberations. I thank you for your attention.

RÉUNION DE RÉFLEXION POUR LA VALIDATION DE CRITÈRES ET INDICATEURS POUR LE SUIVI DE L'ALIGNEMENT DES POLITIQUES NATIONALES ET RÉGIONALES DE PÊCHE ET D'AQUACULTURE AU CADRE POLITIQUE ET À LA STRATÉGIE DE RÉFORME DE LA PÊCHE ET DE L'AQUACULTURE EN AFRIQUE.

Côte-d'Ivoire 9th - 11th Juillet 2015

Allocution présentée par : Houben Patrick; European Union Delegation to Ivory Coast.

Monsieur le Ministre des Ressources animales et halieutique

Mesdames et Messieurs représentant de l'Union Africaine et son bureau Interafricain des ressources animales

Distingués invités, en vos qualités respectives

Mesdames et Messieurs,

L'Afrique est à la croisée des chemins, alors que nous assistons à des croissances économiques substantielles et à une croissance continue des populations urbaines. Le secteur de la pêche est de plus en plus important en tant que source de subsistance et en tant qu'instrument de sécurité alimentaire. Il est intéressant de noter que plus de 10 millions de foyers en Afrique dépendent de la pêche comme source de subsistance. Pêches en mer, aquaculture et pêches continentales sont toutes des ressources importantes sur le continent, et leur utilisation appropriée peu assurer des bénéfices de façon durable. Il est nécessaire d'accroître la protection et le contrôle de ces ressources. Tout comme les secteurs de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, la pêche est en passe de devenir un contributeur majeur à l'amélioration des conditions de vie et de la sécurité alimentaire dans le continent.

Autant la pêche commerciale, voire industrielle, est centrale et importante pour un certain nombre de pays, autant il est important de noter que les ménages pauvres constituent la majorité de la population de pêcheur dans le continent africain et des efforts concertés doivent être accomplis vers eux pour leur donner les moyens de mieux utiliser les ressources halieutiques et accumuler les gains de leur activité. Plus d'intégration et de soutien vers la pêche durable est fondamentale. Il est regrettable que l'utilisation de matériel de pêche inappropriée ait conduit dans bien des zones à la détérioration rapide des ressources marines et continentales.

Le programme de renforcement du cadre politique et institutionnel pour une utilisation et une gestion durable des ressources halieutiques en Afrique, financé à hauteur de 10 millions d'euros par l'Union européenne pour une durée de 42 mois, se penche sur les défis clés affectant la croissance du secteur des pêches et de l'aquaculture. Ces défis comprennent : peu de valeur ajoutée, faible intégration des marchés, coordination inappropriée entre les acteurs de la pêche, manque de données et d'informations pertinentes sur les ressources halieutiques, épuisement des ressources. La prise en compte de ces défis contribuera à prévenir l'effondrement des stocks et le maintien ou l'accroissement des bénéfices pour les acteurs de la filière. Cette situation est parfois encore complexifiée par le fait que les ressources halieutiques sont transfrontalières dans de nombreux cas. Le commerce apparaît comme l'un des défis clés et complexes auxquels le secteur doit faire face. On parle ici du commerce intra-Afrique et du commerce international. La valeur ajoutée est la clé si les ressources halieutiques africaines veulent être concurrentielles sur le marché international. En outre, les marchés internationaux sont devenus de plus en plus difficiles d'accès, avec par exemple des grandes surfaces en Europe exigeant que toutes les importations de poisson soient éco-labellisées. Un des domaines d'intervention clés de ce programme est de prendre en compte la question de la pêche INN (Illégale, non déclarée, non règlementée). La faiblesse des systèmes de suivi et

de contrôle des pêches a conduit à la perte de revenus pour le continent, estimés en milliards de dollars. Si cet aspect n'est pas pris en compte, cela peut conduire à l'épuisement significatif des ressources, et avoir par la suite un impact négatif sur l'ensemble du secteur.

En Juin 2014, les chefs d'État et de gouvernement africains ont approuvé le Cadre politique et la stratégie de réforme de la pêche et de l'aquaculture en Afrique comme axe central du développement des Pêches et de l'aquaculture dans le continent. L'alignement des politiques nationales et régionales de Pêches et d'aquaculture à ce cadre n'est pas seulement essentiel pour assurer que ce nouveau projet de gouvernance des ressources halieutiques financé par l'UE réponde à son objectif global, mais il est aussi fondamental pour servir de guide afin de stimuler la croissance dans le secteur. Cet alignement n'est qu'un des résultats attendus du projet UE mis en œuvre par Union Africaine via son Bureau Interafricain des Ressources Animales (UA-IBAR), mais il est important. Avoir en place un système de suivi approprié de ce processus d'alignement est fondamental et doit permettre aux exécutants du projet d'évaluer les progrès de manière appropriée.

Mon souhait est que cet atelier puisse atteindre son objectif de valider les paramètres et les indicateurs pour une harmonisation des politiques, et je vous souhaite pour la suite des débats fructueux. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

REUNION DE REFLEXION ET DE VALIDATION DES PARAMETRES (CRITERES) ET INDICATEURS DE SUIVI POUR L'ALIGNEMENT DES POLITIQUES NATIONALES ET REGIONALES DE LA PECHE ET DE L'AQUACULTURE SUR LE CADRE POLITIQUE ET DE LA STRATEGIE DE REFORME DE LA PECHE ET DE L'AQUACULTURE EN AFRIQUE

Abidjan, 09-11 Juillet 2015

Mr Komlan BOSSOU
Coordonnateur de Programme Régional

Monsieur le Ministre Chargé des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture de la Côte d'Ivoire,
Monsieur le Représentant de l'Union Européenne,
Monsieur le Représentant du NPCA,
Monsieur le Directeur de l'Union Africaine –IBAR,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Pays Membres de l'Union Africaine,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Organismes de Bassins,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations Socio-Professionnelles de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture,
Honorables Invités,
Mesdames et Messieurs.

Monsieur le Ministre,

C'est avec un immense plaisir que je prends la parole du haut de cette tribune à l'occasion de cet important atelier qui nous réunis ce matin dans ce magnifique hôtel Belle Cote d'Abidjan.

Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer au nom de son S.E. Monsieur Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO, Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO et du Dr Marc ATOUGA, Commissaire Chargé de l'Agriculture, de l'Environnement et des Ressources en Eau, mes cordiales salutations et remerciements au Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, S. E Monsieur Alassane OUATTARA, au Gouvernement et au peuple pour l'accueil chaleureux qui nous a été réservé en cette terre hospitalière de Côte d'Ivoire.

Permettez- moi ensuite, de m'acquitter d'un devoir, celui d'exprimer au nom de son S.E. Monsieur Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO, Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO, toute notre gratitude à S. E Monsieur Alassane OUATTARA, Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire pour son engagement personnel à soutenir les agriculteurs Ivoiriens et ses efforts en faveur de l'intégration régionale et des actions de transformation économique de l'espace CEDEAO et en particulier celles concernant le sous-secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Chers Participants,

Comme vous le savez, la pêche et l'aquaculture jouent un rôle prépondérant dans le développement économique et social dans l'espace CEDEAO. Il s'agit d'un sous-secteur qui contribue dans une large mesure à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle ; il est facteur potentiel de création d'emplois et de réduction de la pauvreté, de l'exode rural, et de l'équilibre de la balance des paiements des Etats.

Selon les données les plus récentes de la FAO, la production halieutique totale de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, toutes provenances confondues, est estimée à plus de 2,2 millions de tonnes en 2008, soit près 3,5% du total de la production mondiale et environ 22% de la production totale de l'Afrique Sub-Saharienne.

La contribution de la pêche et de l'aquaculture à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, maintenant et dans le futur, dépend de beaucoup de facteurs inter- relationnels inhérents aux enjeux de l'environnement, de développement, de politique et de gouvernance.

L'importance de ce sous-secteur et les grands défis à relever ont été soulignés dans la Politique Agricole de la CEDEAO (ECOWAP/PDDAA) et sont traduits par des actions concrètes à travers la mise en œuvre de ses deux piliers que sont les Programmes Nationaux d'Investissement Agricoles et le Programme Régional d'Investissement Agricole.

En effet, la mise en œuvre des PNIA a donné des résultats probants au plan économique. On note dans la plus part des pays membres de la CEDEAO y compris la Côte d'Ivoire, une croissance notable de leur économie depuis le démarrage de la mise en œuvre de leur PNIA et dans cette progression macro-économique, la pêche et l'aquaculture y ont joué un rôle déterminant.

Sur le plan régional, la Commission de la CEDEAO a développé et adopté en 2012, le programme sur la gouvernance cohérente du secteur de la pêche et des ressources halieutiques dans l'espace CEDEAO comprenant trois grandes composantes : (i) La Promotion des Politiques de pêche et d'aquaculture cohérentes et durables en Afrique de l'Ouest ; (2) Le Développement du Mécanisme de suivi de la cohérence des politiques de pêche et d'aquaculture en Afrique de l'Ouest ; (3) Le renforcement des capacités des professionnels de la pêche et de l'aquaculture

Dans le cas particulier de la composante liée au développement du mécanisme de suivi, il été mis en place un Comité régional des pêches avec la responsabilité d'installer des comités au niveau national.

La réunion inaugurale de ce Comité Régional a été organisée en août 2012 à Cotonou, avec les objectifs entre autres, d'établir des indicateurs de contrôle, de suivi sur la cohérence des politiques et de coordination de la mise en œuvre d'une structure de gouvernance cohérente des pêches dans la région de la CEDEAO.

La Commission de la CEDEAO se réjouit de l'initiative d'organiser cet atelier qui s'inscrit en droite ligne de nos préoccupations majeures démontrant de facto que nous sommes sur la bonne voie, allant dans la même direction et tenant le même langage.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nous nous rappelons encore de l'atelier tenu à Accra en Juillet 2014 organisé par l'UA-IBAR auquel j'ai personnellement participé et au cours duquel, il était question du renforcement durable de la coordination institutionnelle du secteur de pêche et de l'aquaculture en Afrique.

Aujourd'hui, il est question de valider les paramètres et les indicateurs de suivi pour l'alignement des Politiques Nationales et Régionales de la pêche et de l'aquaculture sur celle de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture en Afrique.

En effet, ces indicateurs constituent des éléments clé du processus de gestion des pêches et de l'aquaculture. Une fois identifiés, ils devront nous permettre de mesurer le chemin parcouru dans la mise en œuvre des politiques nationales et régionales.

Il va s'en dire, que si ces indicateurs définis ne sont pas fiables, il est évident que nous aurons de fausses informations et par voie de conséquence nous prendrons de fausses décisions avec des résultats en deçà des attentes escomptées.

Tous ces points, pour situer l'intérêt de cet atelier auquel la Commission de la CEDEAO attache donc une très grande importance aux résultats du présent atelier.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Mesdames et Messieurs

La Commission de la CEDEAO par ma voix, saisit cette opportunité pour témoigner sa gratitude à tous ceux et celles qui de près ou de loin ont pris l'initiative d'organiser le présent atelier.

Notre reconnaissance va particulièrement à l'UA et au NEPAD et singulièrement au Bureau Interafricain des Ressources Animales qui ne ménage aucun effort pour promouvoir le sous-secteur des Pêches et des Ressources Halieutiques.

L'acte que nous allons poser au cours des trois jours à travers l'analyse et la validation des indicateurs, marquera une étape décisive dans la mise œuvre de nos politiques nationales et régionales des pêches et de l'aquaculture en Afrique.

Je vous exhorte donc à ne ménager aucun effort dans les débats constructifs afin que les résultats adoptés soient spécifiques et applicables tant au niveau national que régional.

Mesdames et Messieurs

Permettez-moi avant de clore mes propos, de témoigner également toute la gratitude de la Commission de la CEDEAO, à tous les partenaires Techniques et Financiers, particulièrement l'Union Européenne qui nous accompagne dans de nombreux domaines agricoles y compris le processus de développement de la pêche et de l'aquaculture.

Nous invitons par la même occasion, d'autres partenaires à se joindre à nous pour le combat noble que nous menons en faveur de nos braves paysans et paysannes afin qu'ils sortent du cycle de la pauvreté.

Je vous remercie et souhaite plein succès aux travaux.

**REUNION DE REFLEXION ET DE VALIDATION D'INDICATEURS ET DE CRITERES
POUR L'ALIGNEMENT DES POLITIQUES NATIONALES ET REGIONALES DE LA
PECHE ET DE L'AQUACULTURE SUR LE CADRE POLITIQUE ET LA STRATEGIE
DE REFORME DE LA PECHE ET E L'AQUACULTURE EN AFRIQUE ET SUR LES
INSTRUMENTS INTERNATIONAUX REGISSANT LA PECHE ET L'AQUACULTURE**

**DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE DE MONSIEUR KOBENAN KOUASSI ADJOUANI,
MINISTRE DES RESSOURCES ANIMALES ET HALIEUTIQUES DE LA CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

ABIDJAN, Le 09 au 11 Juillet 2015

Monsieur le Directeur du Bureau Inter africain des Ressources Animales de l'Union Africaine ;
Monsieur le Représentant de l'Autorité de Planification et de Coordination du NEPAD (APCN) ;
Monsieur le Représentant de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) ;
Monsieur le Représentant de l'Union Européenne ;
Mesdames, Messieurs les Chefs de délégation des Communautés Economiques Régionales ;
Mesdames, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs et Représentants des Organisations
Internationales ;
Experts des états membres ;
Mesdames et messieurs les Observateurs,
Représentants des organisations régionales et sous régionales ;
Chers amis de la presse nationale et internationale ;
Distingués invités ;
Mesdames et Messieurs,
Je suis particulièrement heureux de prendre la parole, devant cette auguste assemblée, à l'occasion de
cette sympathique cérémonie. Aussi voudrais-je souhaiter à nos illustres invités la bienvenue et un agréable
séjour en terre ivoirienne.

Votre présence massive et distinguée témoigne de l'importance des sujets à débattre.

Il s'agit

- i. de l'examen du projet d'indicateurs et de critères identifiés pour l'alignement des politiques nationales et régionales sur le cadre politique et la stratégie de réforme,
- ii. de la validation de ces indicateurs comme outils de suivi par les Etats membres de l'Union Africaine et les organisations régionales,
- iii. de l'élaboration de plans d'action et d'une feuille de route claire assortis d'échéances pour le processus d'intégration du document de politique panafricaine ainsi que des instruments internationaux de gestion de la pêche et de développement de l'aquaculture.

C'est le lieu de rendre un vibrant hommage à Son Excellence Docteur Nkosazana Dlamini ZUMA, Présidente de la Commission de l'Union Africaine qui ne ménage aucun effort pour la réalisation des objectifs qui lui sont assignés.

Mes salutations et mes remerciements s'adressent également au Commissaire du Bureau Inter africain des Ressources animales de l'Union Africaine pour ses actions en faveur du développement de la pêche et de l'aquaculture dans notre continent.

Mesdames et Messieurs ;

Le secteur des pêches et de l'aquaculture est un domaine d'activité clé qui s'inscrit au cœur des problématiques des politiques publiques de nos Etats en ce sens qu'il contribue de façon capitale à la sécurité alimentaire, à la création d'emplois et à la lutte contre l'extrême pauvreté grâce aux activités connexes.

Bien que leur contribution officielle soit modeste dans l'économie ivoirienne, à cause de la faiblesse du système de collecte des données statistiques, la pêche et l'aquaculture restent un secteur vital qui fournit de quoi vivre à plus de 400 000 personnes et génèrent des recettes d'exportations annuelles de plus de 100 milliards de Francs CFA.

Dans la vision de Son Excellence Alassane OUATTARA, Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, de faire de la Côte d'Ivoire un pays émergeant à l'horizon 2020, le Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques a défini une nouvelle stratégie de développement claire et cohérente intitulée « Plan Stratégique de Développement de l'Elevage de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture (PSDEPA 2014 - 2020) ».

Honorables invités,

Je tiens à remercier l'UA et l'UA-BIRA d'avoir permis aux Etats membres de se retrouver ce jour en Côte d'Ivoire à l'occasion de cet atelier et d'échanger sur le cadre politique, la stratégie de réforme de la pêche et de l'aquaculture en Afrique mais aussi sur les instruments internationaux régissant la filière halieutique.

C'est un document important qui permettra, à n'en point douter, aux pêcheries africaines de connaître un rayonnement.

En effet, la plupart des pêcheries du continent sont partagées et sont constituées d'espèces hautement migratrices.

Mesdames et Messieurs ;

On ne peut pas gérer durablement ces pêcheries avec 54 politiques différentes ;

En conséquence, le résultat majeur attendu sera l'alignement des politiques nationales des pêches au cadre politique et Stratégie de réforme de la pêche et de l'aquaculture en Afrique.

Cette cohérence des politiques à l'échelle de notre continent est à rechercher voire à encourager pour faire face aux différents défis auxquels sont confrontés nos pêcheries.

Mesdames et messieurs ;

Les défis de la pêche et de l'aquaculture sont nombreux. Et c'est ensemble, par la solidarité, la coopération et la concertation que nos Etats arriveront à les relever. Le Bureau Interafricain des Ressources animales de l'Union Africaine s'y emploie et nous devons l'encourager et le soutenir par notre détermination et notre appui constant.

Les actions de l'UA-BIRA, notre instrument de coopération en matière de ressources animales et

halieutiques ne sont pas isolées. Elles s'inscrivent dans les initiatives des organisations internationales notamment l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (FAO) qui mobilisent à l'échelle internationale les armes pour renverser les tendances baissières des pêches de captures et les menaces qui pèsent sur l'environnement des ressources halieutiques

Je ne terminerai pas mon propos sans réitérer mes remerciements à nos partenaires au développement et aux organisations internationales pour le précieux appui qu'ils ne cessent d'apporter à notre Union.

Mesdames et Messieurs, les Experts,

Souhaitant plein succès à vos travaux, Je déclare ouverte « la réunion de réflexion et de la validation d'indicateurs et de critères pour l'alignement des politiques nationales et régionales de la pêche et de l'aquaculture sur le cadre politique et la stratégie de réforme de la pêche et l'aquaculture en Afrique et sur les instruments internationaux régissant la pêche et l'aquaculture. »

Je vous remercie.

THINK TANK VALIDATION MEETING ON THE CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FISHERIES POLICIES AND AQUACULTURE POLICIES TO THE

9-11 JULY 2015 ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR, AU-IBAR

His Excellency the Hon. Minister in charge of fisheries and aquaculture in Cote D'Ivoire

The Permanent Secretary

The Director of Fisheries of Cote d'ivoire

The Directors of Fisheries of AU member states

The Representatives of Regional Economic communities

The Representatives of Regional Fisheries Bodies

Representatives of EU and other development partners

Representatives of Non-State-Actors

Colleagues from the African Union (the commission and NPCA)

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

I am once again privileged to welcome you to this continental event organized by the African Union. It is and has always been an extra source of delight for me personally to see familiar faces that have worked fervently with the AU-IBAR over the last five or so years to accomplish the tasks our member states set as priority objectives in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. By now we are all aware that the foremost priority was to formulate a continental policy framework and Reform strategy for Fisheries and aquaculture which has now become an established fact. The significance of this accomplishment should not be lost in that we as Africans have decided to take our destiny into our hands. Before I proceed further, let me as an obligation, express the profound gratitude of the Chair of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma and the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, and on my own personal behalf, to the Government and People of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire for this opportunity to host this continental event for a second time. This is an historic milestone and coincidence in the entire chain of events that has brought us here. Participants would recall that the first major Think Tank continental consultation on the formulation of the pan African policy framework, following the mandate of the African Heads of States and Governments, took place here at the same venue in June 2012. This successful event took under the aegis and enthusiastic support by the Excellency the Hon. Minister in charge of Fisheries and aquaculture who is here with us today. Therefore the Government Cote D'ivoire and particularly the Hon. Minister occupied unique place and indelible mark in this pan African process.

I would like to express appreciation to all participants who have endeavoured to make it to this Think tank meeting as well as for their active participation and collaboration in past AU-organized related events for this sector.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

The purpose of being here together is important since it the culmination of years of toil and commitment by all. The purpose is to validate the draft criteria and indicators as tracking tools for the implementation of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. At this junction let me

crave your indulgence to go back in time as privilege for colleagues who may not have been part of the process. It is now a familiar story; the first conference of African Ministers for fisheries and aquaculture in 2010 Banjul, The Gambia charged the African Union to formulate, through a broad-based participatory process, a continental fisheries policy framework with the aim of facilitating realistic national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies on the continent. Accordingly, the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa was formulated and presented to the second conference of African ministers for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa in 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The policy document was adopted by the second Ministerial Conference and subsequently endorsed as a blue print for African fisheries and aquaculture development by the Summit of African Heads of States in the same year in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The Hon. Ministers also went further and made far reaching recommendations paramount of which are the recommendations for the African Union to assist member states and RECs to implement provisions of the pan African policy document and for development partners to align their interventions with the policy document.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Our present gathering is in direct response to the call by our distinguished Hon. Ministers for fisheries and aquaculture. The policy document contains best practices in fisheries management and aquaculture development; we have no doubt that the implementation of these best practices by our member states would facilitate positive reforms that would ensure increased sustainable benefits. This is however premised on the full domestication of the provisions of the policy framework in national and regional policies. The question or challenge has been to identify the most effective strategic approach or mechanism to implement the recommendation of our distinguished Hon. Ministers. This was the basis of the consultative expert workshop in Kampala in May 2015. The Kampala workshop provided the raw materials or ingredients in terms of criteria and indicators for alignment of national and regional fisheries policies to the pan African policy framework. The criteria and indicators have been synthesized into user-friendly formats by core of experts during the retreat in Nairobi in June 2015. These criteria and indicators are intended to assist member states and regional institutions for realistic and coherent policies in the management of sector. As previously mentioned, these parameters would also assist our development partners to rationalize their future interventions and assistance programmes in the sector.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

The aforementioned sequence of events is clear evidence that the African Union places high priorities in the fisheries and aquaculture which primarily stems from the recognition that the sector has enormous potential for lifting our continent from shackles of poverty, hunger and diseases. The implementation of the African policy framework would introduce the necessary reforms that engender coherent and coordinated fisheries and aquaculture development. The issues of incoherent policies, poor governance and uncoordinated interventions have been the hallmark of African fisheries sector. These inadequacies in sector governance have caused the continent huge losses in terms of employment, protein consumption, revenue generation and economic growth. We as Africans should be proud and shout above our voices that we now have own document with the potential to provide lasting solution to these challenges. We must embrace and seize the moment and opportunity provided by these criteria and indicators. Often and again, policies, strategies and frameworks have been formulated on the continent but have remained forgotten on shelves without implementations. Examples of such moribund documents abound in institutions. We should promise to make a difference in this case. African union would stand by you so that together we introduce the needed reforms for the betterment of our citizens.

The African Union institutions (DREA, AU-IBAR and NPCA) have not been alone in this process which is now culminating today to a logical conclusion, I hope. We owe debt of gratitude to the European Union for providing the needed assistance to kick-start the implementation of the Pan African framework. The contribution of other development partners during the formulation process is gracefully acknowledged. Our profound appreciation goes to the members of the working group of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism who brought in their valuable expertise in the formulation of the criteria and indicators to guide the implementation of policy framework. We are grateful to other stakeholders, including private sectors, women's groups and CSOs, for their support to the process.

Lastly but not the least the active support in the preparation of the meeting, by the staff of the Department in Charge of fisheries and aquaculture in Cote D'Ivoire is duly acknowledged. For them, their contribution would be appropriately summed in the words of Winston Churchill during the Second World War as a tribute to the gallant soldiers 'Never in the history of mankind has so much been owed by so many to so few'. We are thankful for that magnanimity. Mr. Hon. Minister indeed you have a gallant staff worthy of emulation.

I wish you all very interactive discussions and thank you for the attention.

DRAFT

THINK TANK VALIDATION MEETING ON CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES TO THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND REFORM STRATEGY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN AFRICA

09-11 JULY 2015 ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. A Think Tank validation meeting for alignment of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies to the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) was organized jointly by the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC-DREA), and the Ministry responsible for fisheries and aquaculture in Côte D'Ivoire in Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire from 09th to 11th July 2015.
2. The objectives of the meeting were to: (i) review the proposed criteria and indicators for alignment of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS); (ii) validate the policy criteria and indicators for adoption as tracking tools for alignment of the pan African policy framework with national and regional instruments by Africa Union Member States (AU MS) and Regional organizations and; (iii) develop a mechanism for the alignment at national and regional levels.
3. The meeting was attended by 130 participants comprising Directors of fisheries and aquaculture from AU MS, representatives of Regional Economic Communities/Agencies, Regional Fisheries Bodies, Water Basin Commissions, Non state actors, Private sector, Women and Youth Groups, Development Partners, including EU, FAO, PRCM, AfDB, WWF, MSC, AEM, members of the Working Groups of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) and individual experts.
4. Mr. Jonathan Nyarko Ocran, Policy Officer of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC-DREA) made a statement on behalf of the Director of AUC-DREA. He reiterated the commitment of DREA to the development of fisheries and aquaculture sector on the continent. Mr. Ocran gave historical perspective of the genesis of development efforts to ensure the sustainable growth of the sector including key events such as CAMFA I and CAMFA II. He further highlighted the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in the economy of the continent in recognition of which the sector has been prioritized in Africa's development Agenda 2063.
5. Dr. Hamady Diop, Program Manager Fisheries and Aquaculture of NEPAD Agency gave remarks on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD. He underscored the role of NEPAD, AU-IBAR and AUC-DREA, in elevating issues of fisheries and aquaculture in the political agenda of the African Union through the CAADP process. He alluded to the cardinal achievement in establishing CAMFA as a policy organ of the African Union for fisheries and aquaculture. He was confident that success can be achieved if NEPAD Agency, AU-IBAR and DREA are able to provide high quality technical support to member States to enable them effectively implement policy and governance reforms. He reminded the participants on the Commitment on mutual accountability made by the Heads of State and Government last year in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea before concluding that the development and validation of criteria for alignment of national and regional policies to the PFRS is a right move towards

fulfilling this commitment.

6. The Representative of ECOWAS, Mr. Komla Bossou, the Regional Programme Coordinator, made remarks on behalf of the President of ECOWAS. He expressed appreciation over the effort of African Union in facilitating policy coherence in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. He gave an overview of some of the initiatives in the ECOWAS region such as the formulation of the ECOWAS Agricultural Programme (ECOWAP).
7. The Head of the EU Delegation, Côte D'Ivoire, Dr Patrick Houben, in a statement expressed appreciation and noted that fisheries and aquaculture resources are becoming a veritable tool to ensure food security especially in rural Africa where a large number of population depends on fisheries for livelihood. He observed that concerted efforts need to be extended to improve the performance of the sector by addressing the key challenges notably coordination, information management, inter African trade, competition on global market with Ecolabelling as key intervention, IUU fishing, and stock depletion. He therefore welcomed the programme on alignment and harmonization of policies as a strategy to stimulate growth in the sector. He re-echoed the importance of having effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place to foster progress and enhance performance in the sector.
8. Dr. Simplicie Nouala, Chief Animal Production Officer, on behalf of the Director AU-IBAR, noted the historical significance of the moment as the culmination of series of continental events. He recalled the first major Think Tank meeting which heralded that formulation of the pan African policy framework took place in Abidjan, at the same venue and under the wise leadership of the Hon. Minister of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture in Côte D'Ivoire. He reminded the audience of the sector's importance to attaining food and nutrition security, wealth generation and job creation.
9. The meeting was officially opened by the Hon. Minister in of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture of Côte D'Ivoire. In his opening speech, the Hon. Ministers informed delegates of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in Côte d'Ivoire which has led to formulation of Strategic Plan on Development of Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture as one of the Presidential initiatives to turn Côte d'Ivoire into an emerging country by the year 2020. He therefore acknowledged the importance of formulating criteria and indicators to facilitate domestication of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy by AU Member States and regional institutions to ensure coherence in the management of the sector, particularly with regards to shared resources. The Hon. Minister expressed delight over the overwhelming representation of almost all the member states of the African Union which illustrates the commitment to AU led continental initiatives.

II. THE MEETING

Presentations:

The following presentations were made:

- i. Background and Objectives of the meeting;
- ii. The Key Provisions of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
- iii. The Draft Criteria and Indicators, formulated in Kampala and Nairobi, for domestication of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture
- iv. The draft Terms of Reference and criteria for membership of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Council of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism
- v. The Mechanism for Implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture
- vi. The Draft Rule of Procedure of the African Platform of Regional Institutions for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS)

vii. Fisheries Improvement Programme by MSC.

III. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING:

On the criteria for alignment

In recognition of the need to facilitate policy coherence and harmonization in the management of the fisheries resources and development of aquaculture to strengthen the performance of the Regional Fisheries;

Aware of the importance of concerted management measures and decisions for shared fishery resources in particular;

Conscious of the potential benefits derivable from the fisheries and aquaculture sector from increased coherent and realistic policies;

The meeting validated the criteria to facilitate alignment of national and regional policies to the Policy Framework and Reforms Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa with respect to the following policy areas in the PFRS:

- a. Conservation and sustainable uses of resources
- b. Small-scale fisheries development
- c. Aquaculture development
- d. Trade and market development
- e. Regional and sub-regional cooperation
- f. Human capacity development
- g. High Seas fisheries
- h. Cross-cutting issues-Climate change resilience, gender and youth and finance and investment

Additional criteria were included and validated as follows;

- a. Conservation and sustainable uses of resources
 - National fisheries agencies have all aspects of MCS in place and functioning
 - There should be adequate strategies and mechanisms to support integrated MCS to ensure that countries can monitor and enforce fishery regulations in their waters
- b. Scale fisheries development
 - Mechanisms and strategies highlight the economic and social importance of small scale fisheries development
- c. Aquaculture development
 - Trade - Protection of aquaculture products from imported products.
 - Fish farmers associations or cooperatives
 - Enabling environment.
- d. Trade and market development
 - Coherence of Trade Policies (harmonization)
 - Consumer information

- e. Regional and sub-regional cooperation
 - Mechanisms for linkages between REC's and RFB's exist
- f. Human capacity development
 - Facilitate center of excellence of fisheries and aquaculture
- g. High Seas fisheries
 - Increased access to high seas fisheries
 - Accrued benefits to concerned MS increased
- h. Cross-cutting issues
 - Strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change in African fisheries and aquaculture
 - Facilitate the creation of alternative livelihood
 - Early warning system in place as a focus for disaster

The validated criteria and indicators would constitute 'Guidelines for Implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa'.

On indicators for implementation of the PFRS

Cognizant of the need to monitor the implementation of the PFRS by MS and regional institutions;

Noting the significance of periodic review of the status of implementation of the PFRS and the importance of sharing progress of its implementation to the CAMFA Secretariat based at AU-IBAR;

The meeting validated the indicators as tracking tools to monitor the progress of implementation of the PFRS by MS and RECs .

The meeting agreed on additional indicators for the following policy areas:

- a. Small-scale fisheries:
 - % of small-scale fisheries in comparison to national fisheries expenditure / income
 - % of post-harvest losses
- b. Trade and market development
 - Growth in Trade of Fish Product from sustainable and equitable sources;
 - Increased number countries implementing sanitary standards and quality requirements
 - Growth in transition from informal trade to formal trade;
- c. Regional and sub-regional cooperation
 - Integrated MCS systems in place
- d. Human capacity development
- e. High Seas fisheries
 - Increased returns from high seas fisheries (fees, Port and ancillary services)
- f. Cross-cutting issuers-Climate change .resilience, gender and youth and finance
- g. Finance and investment
 - Private sector investment – transition from small to medium scale enterprise (in aquaculture)

- h. Gender and youth:
 - Change in child labour use

On the mechanism for implementation of PFRS

Acknowledging the effort of AU in formulating PFRS and subsequent endorsement by the AU-HOSG in June 2014, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea as the blue print for the development of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector;

Expressing gratitude to AU for formulating guidelines to support the implementation of the PFRS;

Desirous of the need to support the implementation of PFRS by AU MS and regional institutions;

The meeting reached consensus on the mechanism for implementation of the PFRS among MS.

On the Executive Council and Advisory Council of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism

Recognizing the need to enhance coordination in Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector within the framework of AFRM and consistent with the recommendations of the CAMFA I;

Expressing appreciation of the effort in establishing AFRM and subsequently its endorsement by the Summit of HOSG in June 2014, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;

The meeting validated the terms of reference and the criteria for membership of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Council of the AFRM with some amendment; (Attached to this Communiqué as Annex I)

On the Rules of procedure of the African Platform for Regional Institutions of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS)

Mindful of the consequence of lack of or weak regional institutional collaboration in regional fisheries and aquaculture;

Aware of the establishment of APRIFAAS;

The meeting validated the Rules of Procedure of APRIFAAS with some amendment. The bureau was elected, constituting of the following:

Chair- ECOWAS

1st Vice chair- SADC

2nd Vice Chair- LVFO

Rapporteur- CEBEVIRHA

Vice Rapporteur- North Africa (to be determined)

On the Fisheries Improvement (FIP) Programme

There was a Presentation on the criteria for selecting and piloting FIPS in African Fisheries within the context of PFRS. AU MS and partners deliberated and agreed on the criteria.

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