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PRESS RELEASE

Stakeholders' Consultative and Validation Workshop on the Alignment of Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategies and Agricultural Investment Plans with the PFRS and Climate-Change Adaptation, Including the Formulation of Recommendations for the Domestication of Relevant Global Instruments

South Sudan Advances Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategies in Line with AU Policy Framework

Juba, March 27, 2025 – The African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), in collaboration with South Sudan's Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, successfully hosted a **National Stakeholders Consultative and Validation Workshop** in Juba from **March 25 to 27, 2025**. The workshop aimed to align South Sudan's fisheries and aquaculture strategies, as well as its agricultural investment plans, with the **African Union's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS)**. In addition, discussions centered on **climate change adaptation** and the integration of global instruments to enhance the country's resilience in these sectors.

Commitment to Policy Alignment and Sustainability

Speaking on behalf of **Dr. Huyam Salih, Director of AU-IBAR**, **Mr. Rafik Nouaili** emphasized the critical need to **harmonize national policies with continental frameworks** like the PFRS, as well as global initiatives. He commended the collective efforts of key stakeholders, including the **National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, private sector partners, and NGOs**, for their contributions to advancing **South Sudan's fisheries sector**.

Mr. Nouaili also acknowledged the expertise of **Dr. Jackson Mogga, the national consultant**, whose recommendations have been instrumental in guiding the policy alignment process. He highlighted the significance of the **EU-funded FishGov2 initiative**, which supports **AU member states in achieving sustainable fisheries and aquaculture under Agenda 2063**. These frameworks are designed to enhance **environmental sustainability, food security, and livelihoods** for communities reliant on the sector.

Government's Call for Stronger Collaboration

In his opening address, **Mr. Maknei Malual, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries**, reaffirmed the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in fast-tracking the **implementation of national, regional, and continental strategies**. He

underscored the importance of **regional and international cooperation** to ensure the **long-term sustainability of aquatic ecosystems**.

Key Discussions and Outcomes

The workshop featured in-depth discussions on:

- **Climate change adaptation strategies**
- **Aligning national fisheries and aquaculture policies with the PFRS**
- **Integrating agricultural investment plans with climate resilience policies**
- **Domestication of relevant global instruments**

Participants engaged in breakout sessions and collaborative discussions, resulting in **actionable recommendations** aimed at strengthening **South Sudan's fisheries and aquaculture sectors**. The workshop concluded with plenary sessions to adopt consultancy reports and finalize key recommendations.

Looking Ahead

In the closing session, stakeholders stressed the **urgent need for the effective implementation of the workshop's recommendations**. They expressed their appreciation to **AU-IBAR for its continued support and commitment** to advancing **South Sudan's blue economy and fisheries governance**.

By aligning its policies with the **PFRS and prioritizing climate resilience**, South Sudan is poised to make **significant strides in sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development**. These efforts contribute to broader **continental and global sustainability goals**, reinforcing the **blue economy's critical role** in ensuring economic prosperity and environmental resilience.