AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

AWFISHNET

EUROPEAN UNION

CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN NETWORK FOR WOMEN FISH PROCESSORS AND TRADERS ASSOCIATIONS



6TH - 7TH OCTOBER 2021
PRETORIA, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FishGov 2 Project

AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The African Union-Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), and African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), through the Fisheries Governance project phase two (FishGov2) partnered with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) to convene a consultative workshop on the establishment of the South African Network for Women in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (SANWFA). The workshop was held on the 06-07 October 2021 in Pretoria, South Africa

The main objective of the workshop was to establish a continental network of women fish processors and traders that would facilitate (1) collaboration and cooperation between women fish processor and trader associations in the continent, (2) sharing of best practices, experiences, technologies and learning together, (3) advocate for issues affecting their activities and facilitate enabling policy environment to enhance their role in the fisheries sector in the continent, (4) attract increased public and private investment in fish post-harvest activities (fish processing and trading), (5) strengthen their role as Small Medium and Enterprises (SMEs) and hence expand their market and marketing opportunities, resulting in improved intra-regional African fish trade.

The workshop was attended by 46 participants including women who are already in the sector and those aspiring to join the sector, SADC fisheries technical advisor, representatives of the current AWFISHNET Executive Committee, government officials as well as AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD staff members.

The outcomes of the workshop included (1) The development and adoption of the rules of procedures for the South African Network for Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture (SANWFA); (2) The development of a two-year priority action plan that was adopted; (3) Establishment of the South African Network for Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture (SANWFA) and the election of following members of the Executive Committee of the network:

- Chairperson: Mrs. Mashebane Thosago
- Vice chairperson: Mrs. Connie Cebekulu
- Secretary General: Mrs. Leneve Papier
- Deputy Secretary General: Mrs. Mathema Makola
- Treasurer: Ms. Pheladi Chiloane
- Representative of women with disabilities and young women: Ms. Kgaladi Nchabeleng
- The National Coordinator: Ms. Rebecca Malefye

I. INTRODUCTION

The African Union has developed a Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS), which was adopted by 23rd summit of African Heads of States and Governments in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014. One of the seven policy objectives of this Pan African strategic document is to guarantee and sustainably strengthen the contribution of artisanal fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutritional security and socio-economic benefits of fishing communities specifically the fisherwomen in Africa.

The African Heads of State and Government, through the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improve Livelihoods, committed to boosting Intra-African trade in Agricultural commodities and services. They committed to Ending Hunger in Africa and Halving Poverty by 2025, through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation and harnessing markets and trade opportunities locally, regionally, and internationally. In addition, they resolved to triple, by the year 2025, intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by improving access to market; to halve the current levels of Post-Harvest Losses; and to support and facilitate preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities.

Fishery and aquaculture products remain important source of food, nutrition, income and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people in Africa. Recent statistics reveal that women make up more than one-fourth (27 %) of the workforce in the African fisheries and aquaculture sector. The great majority these women are employed in post-harvest (91.5 %) making significant contribution to food security, livelihoods and household income. However, although gender has been on the international development agenda for a long time, many inequalities remain and the role of women in fisheries and aquaculture sector is often not given the attention it deserves. The challenges are further exacerbated by social, cultural and economic challenges that women face.

Based on challenges confronting women in the sector a strong recommendation was made by women on the need for establishing a continental network of women fish processors and traders Associations as a mechanism that would facilitate (1) collaboration and cooperation between women fish processor and trader associations in the continent; (2) sharing of best practices, experiences, technologies and learning together; (3) advocating for issues affecting their activities and facilitate enabling policy environment to enhance their role in the fisheries sector in the continent; (4) attracting increased public and private investment in fish post-harvest sector (fish

processing and trading); (5) strengthening their role as SME and hence expand their market and marketing opportunities, resulting in improved intra-regional African fish trade. Therefore, the idea to establish the women's network of fish processors and traders was conceived in November 2016 during the African women's training on fishing Handling, Hygiene and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures along the Post- Harvest Value Chain. The AWFISHNET was launched in April 2017, in Dar Es Salaam Tanzania. A resolution was taken to establish National chapters of AWFISHNET in selected African Union member states including South Africa.

Hence, a consultative workshop for establishment of the South African National Chapter of AWFISHNENT was organized by the AU-IBAR in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment from the 06th to the 07th October 2021 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Establish the South African Network for Women in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector as a national chapter of AWFISHNET
- Raise awareness on the plight of women in the sector and highlight available national and regional support programmes for women in the sector;
- Discuss and adopt the structure and operational guidelines of the network, various governance bodies, and their ToRs
- Elect or appoint members of various governance bodies;
- Identify priority areas/actions for operationalizing the established network/ national chapter.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was marked by statement from the representative of the AUDA-NEDAP Dr Clement Adjorlolo.

A. Welcome Statement by Dr Motseki, the technical advisor Fisheries and Aquaculture at SADC

Dr Motseki, the technical advisor Fisheries and Aquaculture at SADC gave welcome remarks in support of AU-IBAR, as well as the colleagues from South Africa. He noted that from the SADC point of view this is a milestone, which will also map the way towards the launch of other planned National Networks in SADC including the Malawi National Chapter which according to plans should be launched by August 2022. He also noted that through Fish Gov 2, AU-IBAR have

supported several countries in the region to ensure that they are able to bring together women in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector, this is not limited to fish farmers, he included women that are in businesses that are fish related, traders, processors, women who are in research. He pledged support on behalf of SADC to support the network through linking South Africa with existing regional structures that support, SDG5 on gender equality.

Dr Motseki applauded women for the critical roles they play in society as nurturers, which he indicated, has been visible in the battle against the COVID 19 pandemic. He added that women should capitalize on the experience gained to mitigate negative impacts of natural disasters such as the COVID 19 pandemic on food security and business sustainability.

B. Remarks by Dr Bernice McLean On behalf of the AUDA-NEPAD,

Dr McLean welcomed the participants and expressed how thrilled they are that there can finally be a physical meeting and that the network is finally launching this initiative. Dr McLean noted the ongoing challenges over the past couple of years mostly due to Covid 19 and the logistical challenges around that. Dr Bernice provided a brief introduction of the AUDA-NEPAD for those who are not familiar with the institution and the directions that they are taking as an institution including the reform process that has been underway to expand mandate and transform from a planning agency to a development agency. On the basis of that there has been a focus on enhancing capacity of member states in different sectors that contribute to the economy. Hence the support in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

She further noted that the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors in Africa play a critical role in the wellbeing, livelihood and food security of people. She highlighted the significant challenges that are faced by the workers in production, processing, marketing and sale of aquatic products as well as those in decision making roles who are working really hard to try to responsibly and sustainably manage the sectors. She also acknowledged the critical role that women play and also how undervalued they are in terms of being able to participate in policy decisions, accessing information, capital and training.

She further highlighted that women make up more than a quarter of the total fisheries and aquaculture sector work force in Africa and 50% of the small scale of fisheries workforce. Most of these women are employed in the post-harvest sectors and in addition women's contribution to food, security and livelihoods are again often undervalued. Dr McLean concluded by congratulating South Africa for reaching the milestone of establishing a national chapter, and further recognised

the hard work that was undertaken behind scenes by a few individuals despite logistical challenges to ensure achievement of such a milestone and wished the participants well in the realizing full potential of the network. She Pledged the commitment of AUDA-NEPAD to support the network

C. Welcome remarks by Mrs Mashebane Thosago, the Interim chair lady of the South African National Chapter.

She opened by greeting the women and the gentlemen that joined the meeting. Mrs Mashebane explained that it has been a dream to see women in South Africa capitalise on opportunities presented by the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector. She further explained that this industry can be very frustrating especially when one is feeling alienated and alone, however, the journey does not have to be lonely. Thus, she challenged the women to welcome this opportunity and start thinking about how to benefit from network and extend benefits to other who may have not joined the meeting but still aspire to participate in the sector. She advised that the network presents an opportunity to, one day be international and join other women outside of the country. She stated that the participants must strive to rise above the challenges in the sector and seize all opportunities and show up when required to. She challenged the participants to set the tone for what they wish to achieve and openly engage to ensure that they derive the most value out of the two-day session.

D. Remarks by Mrs Patricia Mweene Lumba, Senior knowledge Management Officer of AU-IBAR.

Mrs Lumba is the representative of AU-IBAR, she passed greetings on behalf of the acting director of the AU-IBAR Dr Nick. After welcoming all the participants, she continued to introduce AU-IBAR to the participants highlighting the role that women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector which is undervalued. She highlighted the resolutions of the heads of states to empower and recognize the role of women in the sector and how AU- IBAR responded to the call to empower women in the sector. She recognized the achievements of AWFISHNET since inception. She urged the incoming chairperson of the AWFISHNENT, South African National chapter to encourage its members to register and access the online platform to enhance communication and information sharing aimed at accessing technical support and funding. She pledged AU-IBAR support to the network. In concluding, on behalf of the director of AU-IBAR she further congratulated the government of South Africa for their commitment towards supporting recommendations of the heads of state and government by establishing a national chapter and agreeing to host this important meeting.

E. Remarks by Mr Belemane Semoli: Chief Director Aquaculture and economic development,

under fisheries management branch in the Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment.

His role was to officially open the meeting on behalf of the department and the Government of South Africa. He also acknowledged that establishment of the national chapter of AWFISHNET in South Africa is a great milestone. He indicated that as the government of South Africa, they recognize the important role that women play in social and economic development within the country. He further stated that this network can be used as a powerful tool to further develop aquaculture within the country, with the network playing a pivotal role of information sharing, as well as, transfer of knowledge and skills amongst the women in the sector.

He further noted that it is government's conviction that women should be central to all aquaculture activities within the value chain and that is from production, to business ownership, marketing, support services, and technical services. Government also recognizes the role that the sectors play towards job creation, economic development, rural development as well as women empowerment and such various programmes have been put in place to assist women in the sector particularly after the negative impacts of COVID 19 on the economy. He concluded by thanking the organizers and all the partners that worked hard to make sure that this event became a reality and formally declared the meeting opened after urging participants to observe COVID 19 Protocol.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Updated Agenda was adopted (Annex 3)

IV. TECHNICAL SESSION

The technical session was organised in the following sequence

A. SETTING THE SCENE

a. Background, objectives and expected outcome of the meeting by AU-IBAR

Ms. Hellen Moepi, Fisheries Officer at AU-IBAR made a presentation on the above topic. She presented on the rationale, the AU Interventions, AWFISHNET and AFRM, FISHGOV 2, the objectives of the meeting and expected meeting outcomes. In terms of the rationale, she spoke to the fact that majority of the SA women are engaged as employees in fish processing establishment with the few individuals engaging as fish farmers. She further expressed the challenge that women

remain marginalized within the sector, and other challenges such as access to capital and limited funding; lack or limited participation in policy decision; high costs of fish production; limited information sharing on prices markets and training and educational opportunities.

Ms. Moepi highlighted key interventions by the AU to address women in fisheries' issues; these included the Malabo declaration (Targets 2025), Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and improve Livelihoods: (a) Committed to boosting Intra- African trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services and to harnessing markets and trade opportunities, (b) Resolved to triple, intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by improving access to market, (c) Commitment to Halving current levels of Post-Harvest Losses, (d) support and facilitate preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities. She also expressed the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) 2014. She explained that it is a blueprint for Fisheries and Aquaculture development on the continent, aimed at strengthening the role and capacities of women in the Fisheries and Aquaculture to participate and contribute to Fisheries as a means for poverty alleviation, food and nutritional security and socio-economic development.

Moreover, she indicated the important role played by the Fisheries Governance Project (FISHGOV I) & FISH TRADE PROJECT (2014 – 2018) in implementing the strategic interventions in the period preceding the establishment of the AWFISHNET- South Africa Chapter. Ms. Moepi also highlighted AWFISHNET and its main objective. She stated that the main objective of AWFISHNET is to contribute to improving the welfare, working conditions and income for women in fisheries and especially in the post-harvest sector within the member states of the African Union. She also explained the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM), and expressed that this is a coordinating mechanism that brings together different stakeholders from different sectors and institutions. She further explained the FISHGOV 2 Project that is currently being implemented by the AU-IBAR and the AUDA-NEPAD. The objective of this project is to improve food security, livelihoods and wealth creation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, aligned with AU Agenda 2063 within the framework of PFRS. She concluded by reminding the participants of the objective of the meeting and the expected outcomes.

b. AWFISHNET and Linkages to national and regional chapters

Mrs. Lovin Kobusingye, Treasurer of AWFISHNET from Uganda presented the AWFISHNET and linkage to national and regional chapters and she firstly congratulated everyone for making this meeting a success. She then noted that through these initiatives, there are opportunities to trade

more, to create global markets and to learn from fellow colleagues. She further mentioned that the network needs to improve the quality of their products, that they need to be united, they need to access funding and investments for women and they also need to go into professionalizing their companies, and working with banks. She concluded by stating that all these are advantages of women coming together for a common cause.

c. What is South African Network for Women in the Fisheries & Aquaculture (SANWFA)

Mrs. Mashebane Thosago as the interim chair lady explained that the network started in May 2020, supported by Ms. Hellen and Dr Bernice from NEPAD. She expressed that although it was a difficult time due to Covid 19 and other issues, the network managed to put together a concept document guided by the AWFISHNET concept document and this shows that the network has from the beginning been in line with AWFISHNET. She further explained that in South Africa the focus is mostly on Fisheries and Aquaculture. However, women in the fisheries sector as previously stated are not the primary owners they are employees in the factories. She stated that in Aquaculture, there are a few women how own business in the sector. She also explained that SANWFA also experiences the same challenges that the other women in the other countries experience. She outlined the rationale behind the establishment of the network and how it will assist in addressing the challenges that women in the sector are confronted with, engage government and become a united force that will speak on behalf of women in Fisheries and Aquaculture.

She concluded by stating that all the women, whether in government, business research or still completing their studies need to come together with one voice, supporting each other through this platform.

d. Linkages between proposed SA Network of women in the Fisheries & Aquaculture and SADC

These linkages were presented by Dr Motseki, and he stated that his responsibility at SADC is to ensure that member countries are implementing protocol on Fisheries and highlighted that women and youth are key to the development of the region. He further stated that the protocol on Fisheries is one of the most progressive instruments because it is well aligned with other international instruments called code of conduct for responsible Fisheries which is an FAO instrument. Dr Motseki noted that there are opportunities that exist for the network to participate meaningfully in Fish trade within the region.

He addressed the gender issues in SADC F&A sector, he touched on Gender mainstreaming, clear pathways for M&E of Gender mainstreaming strategies and the need to strengthen capacity of Gender machineries in member states in Gender mainstreaming for them to be able to promote the Gender equality agenda. He also added that SANWFA is one of the NSA Platforms, and the network can also play a role in helping South African Government to report objectively on the status of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries. He further urged that the network should align with the SADC policy alignment, and link with other bodies such as SANSAFA and the Southern African Youth Forum (SAYoF).

He challenged government and the network to ensure that there are deliberate programmes for women taking advantage of existing policies, strategies and institutional arrangements for gender mainstreaming. This he indicated should also include aligning awareness activities to key days/ months for celebrating women such as international women's day or national women's month.

e. ***Opportunities for women in the Department of Forestry Fisheries & the Environment***

On behalf of the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), Mrs Khumo Morake stated that they have nominated Ms. Lisa Mazaleni to share with the network, the presentation on behalf of the department. Before Mrs. Khumo handed over to Ms. Lisa, gave an overview of Ocean Economy Impact, highlighted Aquaculture Operation Phakisa Initiative, opportunities for women within the Aquaculture sector. She brought to the network's attention that in the Aquaculture division of Forestry and environment majority of officials are women. She added that they have successfully put 50% of women in senior management in the department, and that opportunities exist for women-led aquaculture projects that can contribute to production, jobs and GDP. Ms. Lisa concluded by explaining to the participants, ways in which they can register on the Aquaculture Operation Phakisa. An opportunity for a question-and-answer session was granted and participants were giving further details on how they can access support from government in all provinces. There challenges in different provinces were also highlighted with a commitment to improve coordination within government. There was an indication that the department has also put in place measures to secure funding through partnerships with potential funders or agencies.

B. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

This technical session was informed by the following presentations.

a. Development of the communication and visibility strategy

Mrs. Lumba from AU-IBAR made a presentation on the development of the communication and visibility. She mentioned the importance of communication platforms given that the network is still developing its strategy and implementation plan. She stated components which will focus on the objectives which will be aligned to the business objectives, target audience and the importance of a stakeholder matrix, the various tools and channels that the network will be using to communicate and the implementation plan will have to be in place, and it will look at the activities, time lines and the responsible organizations and how the network will measure their achievements.

She noted that the network can make use of multimedia production, success stories, stake hold and branding as a visibility strategy so that when people see the logo, they are able to identify with it. She further noted that these media platforms must be kept up to date and whatever is sent out through the various platforms must be monitored. Mrs. Lumba highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing and suggested ways in which the network can improve knowledge sharing. She further suggested a framework for the network, to create linkages with various stakeholders. She committed to send the link to all participants and support the to utilize the information sharing platform (the community of practice platform)

C. DISCUSSIONS ON KEY CHALLENGES IN THE SECTOR

Some of the challenges highlighted by participants which should inform the short, medium and long terms interventions/ strategic actions of the network include;

- Poor coordination, establishment of suitable markets & information sharing
- Limited technical expertise, skills & human resource development interventions,
- Legislative barriers which include; permitting challenges, fragmented legislative tools and requirements by different departments;
- limited participation of women in policy making and recognition of women and their role in the sector. There should be recognition of the role of the women in food security and livelihoods and enhance their ability to contribute meaningfully
- Inadequate access to funding and markets. The Network should engage with government and influence policy direction to address inconsistencies within government and improve access to funding
- Inadequate data collection and record keeping to inform better planning and monitor trends
- Socio-economic and cultural challenges which limit access to opportunities and access to

inputs. Land ownership, safety and security of women in the work- place, facilities for women with small children or babies, limited skills particularly for rural women were identifies as some of the major barriers for women in the sector.

- Poor Value Chain Management: there is a need to strengthen coordination and institutional support for women
- Limited infrastructure investment

C. DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION PLAN FOR THE NETWORK

Based on the agreed upon objectives and highlighted challenges there were deliberations for formulate a 2year action plan for the Network. The following actions were agreed upon and finalized as per the attached "annexure 2":

V. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

The meeting achieved the following objectives as planned:

1. The development and adoption of the rules of procedures for the South African Network for Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture (SANWFA);
2. The development of a two-year priority action plan that was adopted;
3. Establishment of the South African Network for Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture (SANWFA) and the election of following members of the Executive Committee of the network:

- Chairperson: Mrs. Mashebane Thosago
- Vice chairperson: Mrs. Connie Cebekulu
- Secretary General: Mrs. Leneve Papier
- Deputy Secretary General: Mrs. Mathema Makola
- Treasurer: Ms. Pheladi Chiloane
- Representative of women with disabilities and young women: Ms. Kgaladi Nchabeleng
- The National Coordinator: Ms. Rebecca Malefye

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. The executive committee should facilitate election of provincial coordinators to serve in the National Coordination Committee.
B. The gender mainstreaming strategy that is to be developed should address specific challenges that women in the sector are confronted with, include a detailed action plan with clear

milestones.

C. Each action should have measurable indicators and clear targets to enable monitoring of progress

VII. CLOSING SESSION

Ms Hellen Moepi, the Fisheries Officer AU-IBAR facilitated the closing session and expressed her appreciation to all participants

Ms. Rebecca Malefye on behalf of the participants thanked AU-IBAR for organizing the workshop in support of the women in the sector. She expressed gratitude for establishment of the network which she said marked the beginning of a new chapter for women and redefined their role in fish farming. She urged all women to cease the opportunity presented and empower each other.

The closing session was marked by remarks from Ms Chikondi Manyungwa the representative of the AWFISHNET executive committee; Mr Clement Adjorlolo the AU-IBAR; Mrs Patricia Mweene Lumba, the representative of the Director AU-IBAR; Mrs Mashebane Thosago elected chairperson of SANWFA; and the workshop was officially closed by Ms Liza Mazaleni, the representative of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in South Africa

ANNEXURES

Annex 1: RULES OF PROCEDURES

SANWFA VISION

To strengthen coordination and collaboration amongst women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in South Africa with respect to matters that affect their interests

MISSION STATEMENT

To accelerate empowerment of South African women to participate meaningfully in the fisheries and aquaculture sector through effective support and technical expertise to navigate social, cultural and policy impediments for economic gains and improved sustainable livelihoods.

Article 2. Preamble

The terms set out below shall have the following meaning in these Rules of Procedure:
"Executive Committee" means the governing body of the Network.
"Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Network;
"Member" means a recognized member of the Network;
"Network" means the South African Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture Network.
"Representative" means representative of a Member of the Network or any other invited organization, individual or stakeholder;
"Secretariat" means the Secretariat of the Network.
"Fisheries and Aquaculture sector" means women in fishing (fish capturing including inland fishing), aquaculture production, input supply, processing & storage, transport, wholesale and retail

Article 3. Objectives of the AWFISHNET

3.1 Overall Objective

The overall objective of the AWFISNET is to contribute to improving the welfare, working conditions and income of women in the fisheries sector (and especially women in the post-harvest sector) within the member states of the African Union.

3.2 Specific Objectives

AWFISHNET will provide a continental platform for women fish processors and traders to achieve the following:

3.2.1 Collaboration and cooperation between and amongst women fish processor and trader associations across the continent;

3.2.2 Sharing of best practices, experiences, technologies and learning;

3.2.3 Effective advocacy on issues affecting women fish processor and trader associations including in particular establishment of an enabling policy environment;

3.2.4 Building and strengthening of the capacities of members to effectively implement continental policies at local, national, regional and continental levels;

3.2.5 Attraction of increased public & private investment in the post-harvest sector (Particularly fish processing and trading);

3.2.6 Strengthen the role and participation of fish processor and trader enterprises owned by women as SME's in the fisheries sector with the objective of improving access to markets, as well as expansion of markets and marketing opportunities, and thereby fostering the equitable participation of women fish processor and trader enterprises in intra-regional African fish trade.

Article 4. Name and Description of the Network

The name of the Network shall be SOUTH AFRICAN NETWORK FOR WOMEN IN THE FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE SECTOR (SANWFA)

The network will operate as a non-profit company, non-political and non-religious entity that brings together women in the fisheries & aquaculture sector in South Africa in line with AWFISHNET objectives

Article 5: Area of Operation of the Network

The network will be a South African National Chapter of AWFISHNET, deriving its overall mandate from AWFISHNET while taking into consideration the South African context. The network will be governed by the South African Companies Act of 2008 as amended in 2011. The Network shall be registered in Pretoria.

It shall work very closely with African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU IBAR), Council of African Ministers in Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) Secretariat, Regional Fisheries

Bodies, Regional Economic Communities and any other African Union (AU) agencies to implement the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) among others. The primary focus will be on active participation in the implementation of the objectives of the South African network for women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector

Article 6: Objectives

6.1 Objective of the South African Women Network

To contribute to improving the welfare, working conditions and income of women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector within South Africa

6.2 Specific Objectives of the Network

The Network will provide a National platform for women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector to achieve the following:

6.2.1 Collaboration and cooperation to advance and maximize socio-economic gains for women in the sector;

6.2.2 Awareness creation and sharing best practices, experiences, technologies and skills to empower existing and new entrants in the sector;

6.2.3 Effective advocacy on issues affecting women in the sector including in particular establishment of an enabling policy environment; and collaboration with the state to facilitate compliance in the sector

6.2.4 Building and strengthening the capacity of members to effectively participate in the sector and build sustainable enterprises including community-based enterprises;

6.2.5 Attraction of increased public & private investment in the whole value chain

6.2.6 Improve access to markets, as well as expansion of markets and marketing opportunities, and thereby fostering the equitable participation of women in fisheries and aquaculture sectors in national and regional markets

6.2.7 Drive sector transformation and skills development

Article 7 - Status and Composition of the Network

7.1 The Network is a formal decision-making body. Executive members of the network shall represent the national network at AWFISHNET

7.2 The Network shall consist of the following governance structures;

- The General Assembly
- The Executive Committee
- The Secretariat
- The National Coordination Committee

Article 8 - Functions of the Network

The Network shall;

i. Develop and implement public awareness campaigns for women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
ii. Facilitate multi-stakeholder activities and events such as round table discussions, public and private sector engagement;
iii. Organize capacity building activities and advocate on policy change;
iv. Demonstrate practical ways of overcoming obstacles and barriers in adopting best practice;
v. Improve and broaden networks and coalitions with relevant and like-minded organizations;
vi. Advocate for the development and introduction of favorable financing options for women in the sector (including the piloting as well as evaluation of innovative financial instruments);
vii. Collate information from independent research to inform policies at the national, regional and continental level;
viii. Disseminate information on matters pertaining to the interests of women in the sectors through their various networks and channels in the national, regional and continental level
ix. Carry out independent monitoring and evaluation of implementation actions plans;
x. Hold meetings and implement decisions made at General Assembly meetings;
xi. Carry out advocacy on the development and application of legislation

Article 9: Functions of the Governing Structures

9.1 The General Assembly

This shall be the highest governing body of the Network. Its decisions are final in the running of the Network. It is constituted by all members of the Network as defined by this document.

The General Assembly shall:

i. Determine the Policy and Program of the Network;
ii. Ensure that the Network carries out its functions and roles as outlined in these Rules of Procedures;
iii. Elect the office bearers;
iv. Hold at least one meeting annually;
v. Hold any extra ordinary meeting as need arises

9.2 The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of 8 eight elected office bearers, including National Coordinator who is employed by the Network.

i. Chairperson
ii. Vice Chairperson
iii. General Secretary
iv. Deputy General Secretary
v. Treasurer
vi. Representative of women with disabilities and young women
vii. National Coordinator

The Executive Committee shall hold office on a rotational basis for a term of 24 months which may be renewable for another 24 months.

i. The primary function of the Executive Committee shall be to facilitate meetings of the Network.
ii. The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary, either in person or by other methods, including electronic communication.

9.2.1 Functions of the Chairperson

The Chairperson of the Network shall;

A. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon her elsewhere in this document the chair shall;

i. Preside over all Network General Assembly Meetings
ii. Preside over all meetings of the network
iii. Represent the Network in international meetings;
iv. Ensure that each member is given the right to speak in the General Assembly;
v. Have the power to rule on any Point of Order;

vi. Have the power to define the time allotted to speakers and also determine the number of times members can contribute on an issue;
vii. Exercise full control of General Assembly meetings and maintain order;
viii. Ensure that all Network Articles are adhered to and that the Network operates within the framework of its values, principles and norms;
ix. Allocate the time limit to be given to speakers and the number of times a member may speak on an issue.
x. Adjourn or close debate on an issue.
xi. Close the list of speakers on an issue
xii. Suspend or adjourn a meeting.

B. Whenever the chairperson is unable to perform her duties for any reason, the vice chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson

9.2.2 Vice Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson shall:

i. Assist the Chairperson and perform all the functions of the Chairperson in her absence;
ii. Be answerable to the Network and the General Assembly;

9.2.3 Secretary General

The Secretary General shall:

i. Manage the Network's activities;
ii. Represent the Network in all meetings and activities requiring the presence of the Network;
iii. Maintain official records and minutes of Network meetings;
iv. Communicate with members through the most efficient and cost-effective way available to disseminate information;
v. Prepare and present an annual report to the General Assembly;
vi. Take minutes in all General Assembly meetings of the Network;
vii. Aid in the establishment of the Network's strategic direction;
viii. Arrange and convene all General assembly meetings;
ix. Be the Network's Chief Executive;
x. Promote the development of the Network's membership;

9.2.4 Deputy Secretary General

The Deputy Secretary General shall:

i. Assist and perform all functions of the General Secretary in her absence;
ii. Be answerable to the General Secretary and the General Assembly;

9.2.5 The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall in general ensure that proper accounting procedures are adhered to, and shall:

i. Keep a proper Books of Accounts based on all the financial records of the Network
ii. Open a bank account on the advice of the Bureau and ensure that all drawings from the account are countersigned by personnel designated by the Bureau.
iii. Provide financial reports that include the annual financial statement and audited accounts of the Network to the General Assembly.
iv. Cause the accounts to be kept and in particular, as regards;
    a. The sums of money received and spent by the Network and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditures takes place;
    b. The assets and liabilities of the Network.
v. The books of accounts shall be kept at the office or at any such place the Bureau thinks fit, and shall always be open to the inspection of a member of the Bureau during business hours.
vi. At the Annual General Meeting, the treasurer shall lay before the members present a proper income and expenditure account for the period since the last preceding account made up to a date
vii. A proper balance sheet as at the date on which the income –expenditure account is made up shall be prepared every year, and laid before the members present at the Annual General Meeting. Every such balance sheet shall be accompanied by proper reports of the Bureau and the auditors.
viii. Copies of the income and expenditure account, balance sheet and reports, all of which shall be framed in accordance with any statutory requirements for the time being in force, and of any other documents required by law to be annexed or attached thereto or to accompany the same shall, not less than twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting be sent to the Auditors and to all other persons entitled to receive notice, of such meetings in the prescribed manner.

9.2.5.1 Deputy Treasurer

The Deputy Treasurer shall:

i. Assist the treasurer and perform all functions of the treasurer in her absence;
ii. Be answerable to the treasurer and the General Assembly;

9.2.6 Representative of women with Disability & Young women

The representative shall ensure effective participation of women with disabilities and young women in activities of the Network

9.3 The Secretariat of the Network

The secretariat shall carry out and coordinate the day-to-day affairs of the Network including but not limited to the following:

i. Communicate with members in their countries on decisions which require their attention;
ii. Prepare action plans with members in their countries and oversee implementation of decisions of the General Assembly and activities on relevant policy instruments including the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa;
iii. Attend meetings of the Secretariat and any other fora that require their presence;
iv. Collating, processing (where required) and disseminating information amongst the Members;
v. Drafting and processing relevant documents as may be requested by the Network;
vi. Providing all necessary support required for such meetings including report writing, preparation of press releases, communications and declarations.
vii. Providing support to the Bureau of the Network;
viii. Keeping proper records of the Network which must be properly organized for easy reference;
ix. Disseminating the work of the Network as may be required;
x. Executing such other tasks as may be assigned to it by the Network; and
xi. Facilitating exchange of information and work programmes between members and observers of the Network.

9.4 The National Coordination Committee

The committee shall be composed of the national coordinator, and nine provincial coordinators. The primary functions of the committee are:

i. To ensure implementation of women support interventions and actions at a provincial level,
ii. To monitor progress and unblock barriers.
iii. Be the voice of women in different provinces particularly in engagements with the state. Facilitate collaboration government at a provincial level.

Article 10: Network meetings

Meetings of the Network shall generally be public. The network may at its discretion invite representatives of any stakeholder, but such invitees shall have no rights to vote. The network may at its discretion allow invited participants to make verbal or written statements during the meeting.

i. The Network shall meet at least once a year;
ii. The venue and dates of each session are to be decided by the chair in consultation with the Secretariat and the Executive Committee.
iii. The Secretariat shall invite and notify the members of the Network of the venue and dates of any session at least three months before it is due to commence;
iv. Without prejudice to (ii) and (iii) the Network may, when necessary, convene extra ordinary meetings.

Article 11: Elections

Members at a General Assembly shall elect the office bearers who will serve for a period not exceeding two years and shall be eligible for re-election once only. Any subsequent filling of the post of any office bearer shall be done in the same manner as the original election. When this post becomes vacant due to resignation, disability, death or any other reasons, the terms of office for the newly elected person shall be only for the remainder of the period of the office bearer who is being replaced.

Elections into office for the office bearers shall be done in such a way to ensure institutional memory.

A proper handing over shall be arranged and supervised by an appointed arbitrator or her representative. All positions of the Network shall be rotational with each sub-region participating.

Article 12: Quorum at Meetings

For any meetings of the Network to take place, there shall not be less than half plus one (50% +1) of the registered members in attendance.

Members shall be deemed to be present under the following conditions:
i. Members are represented by duly recognized representatives and with member's consent;
ii. Members send apologies for their non-attendance and can be represented. In such a case the total number of members present physically should not be less than half plus one of the registered members for any major voting to take place such as elections of office bearers, changes in the Rules of Procedures and financial expenditure;

Article 13: General Assembly Meeting Agenda

i. The General Secretary shall, in consultation with and under the guidance of the General

Assembly Chairperson, prepare a provisional agenda for the General Assembly;

ii. Any member of the Network may request the General Secretary to include specific items in the provisional agenda;

iii. The General Secretary shall distribute the provisional agenda for the Network General Assembly, along with other official documents to be considered at such a meeting, to the members in the respective African Union official languages of the Network members at least one month before the date of the meeting;

iv. The provisional agenda shall also be available to other relevant stakeholders of the Network;

v. The General Secretary shall include supplementary items proposed by members to the provisional agenda;

vi. During the General Assembly meetings, members of the Network may revise the agenda by adding, deleting or amending items. Only items that members consider to be of an important and urgent nature may be added to the agenda during a statutory meeting;

Article 14: Decision Making Process

The Network shall make its decisions through a participatory process. An issue for voting will be considered upon proposal by a duly recognized member. Another member shall second any proposals by a Member before decision is made on it. A proposal can however be removed at any time or be withdrawn so long as no vote has been taken with respect to it. Decisions at meetings shall be made by a simple majority of Active Members voting, except two-thirds (2/3) of the majority are required to:

i. Suspend a rule;

When two or more amendments are proposed for a motion or proposal, the chairperson shall decide the order in which they shall be put to vote. Usually, the network shall first of all put to vote the amendment, which is further from the original proposal in terms of content, then the following amendment after the former.

If two or more amendments to a proposal are made, the Chairperson shall rule on the order in which they are to be discussed. Ordinarily, the Network shall vote on the amendment on a 'first in and first out' basis.

The members can consult any person if such consultation will assist them in making sound decisions. The General Assembly may also invite specialist or knowledgeable persons to attend its meetings provided that the invitee can provide sufficient insight to the issue under discussion.

Article 15: Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussions, a motion of adjournment may be presented about the issue under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one member may take the floor to support the motion and another member to oppose it. The motion shall be put to vote by the Chairperson.

Article 16: Informal consultations

The network may organize with other stakeholders, informal consultations, when it deems necessary in carrying out its duties.

Article 17: Accreditation and Representation of Members

Each Member of the Network shall be represented by her accredited representative.

Article 18: Meeting Venue

i. Network meetings shall be held at a venue determined by any member who offers to host the meeting or at the secretariat of the network.
ii. When two or more members offer to host the meeting, the venue shall be decided by simple majority (51%) of members.

Article 19: Invitation to meetings

The Secretariat of the Network in consultation with the Executive Committee shall call for meetings in accordance to Article 10 above.

Article 20: Working Languages

The working language of the Network shall be English. Interpretation into the official languages of the Network members present will be provided where necessary.

Article 21: Voting Rights

Only members of the Network can vote. Each member of the Network shall have one (1) vote.

Article 22 Method of Voting

Voting shall be by secret ballot or a show of hands or any other method as may be determined by the Members.

Article 23: Voting motions or proposals

The motions of proposals shall be seconded before being put to a vote. They may be withdrawn

anytime as long as they have not been put to any vote. In the case of secondment, the member who moved the motion or proposal may insist that it is put to vote as her own motion or proposal with the same rights of precedence as if it has not been withdrawn by its original author.

Article 24: Records of the Meetings

i. The Network shall adopt its reports.
ii. A record of the proceedings of the Network's meeting shall be kept by the Secretariat and shall be circulated among the Members and all relevant stakeholders.

Article 25: Communication

The network may report on its discussion, if it deems it necessary. However, all correspondences should be addressed to the Secretary General.

Article 26: Resource mobilization

The Network shall mobilize financial and technical resources internally and externally to meets its objectives. The network will pay membership and annual subscription fees to AWFISHNET (as determined by the General Assembly). The Network shall write proposals for financial and technical resources to support attainment of the network objectives. The Network shall agree in its first General Assembly on its financial guidelines (where to deposit funds raised, signatories and financial procedures, among others). Otherwise, each member shall be financially responsible for her participation in the Network's activities.

Article 27: Amendments to Rules of Procedure

i. Amendments to these Rules of Procedures shall be adopted by 51% of the network members.
ii. Rules of procedure should be reviewed every two years, however urgent amendments may be introduced
iii. Any amendments moved by the members of the Network or by the Executive Committee must be communicated to all members at least eight weeks before the meeting at which the proposals are supposed to be discussed.

Articles 28: Entry into Force

The present Rules shall take effect upon their adoption by the Network.



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