

UNDERSTANDING THE ANAF GOVERNANCE INSTRUMENT – A  
PRESENTATION

THE 2ND GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE AQUACULTURE NETWORK FOR  
AFRICA (ANAF)

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## Art. Content of Instrument

### 1 Definitions

2 Establishment and Legal Status of ANAF: ANAF is hereby established as a network of the Commission and shall operate in accordance with the provisions of this Governance Instrument.

3 Objectives of ANAF: (1) To be Africa's apex forum where both public and private-sector stakeholders share information and best practices on policy and technologies for the sustainable farming and production of bio-safe and secure aquatic animals and plants, for food and nutrition security, and employment, income and wealth creation. (2) To promote aquaculture development through relevant research, and best management practices (BMP's) as means to achieve sustainable market-led sector growth. (3) To contribute to the recognition of sustainable aquaculture development in Africa, as a means to fight poverty, ensure food and nutrition security, create wealth, provide employment and ensure sustainable livelihood and development, particularly in Africa's rural areas.

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**Mandate and Functions of ANAF: (1) The mandate of ANAF is to: Increase visibility of aquaculture in national policies on food and nutrition security, livelihood, employment and economic development; (a) Operate a technical cooperation network that optimizes the utilization of resources for aquaculture development (this should include lobby for prioritization of aquaculture in national policies); (b) Coordinate and facilitate scientific and technical information, including best practices, exchange in aquaculture; (c) Facilitate and coordinate regional and sub-regional farmer-driven research; (d) Facilitate training of fish farmers and extension workers, including study tours and exhibitions; and (e) Facilitate technology transfer at the national, bi- or multi-lateral and regional level.**

**(2) The functions of ANAF are to facilitate the improvement of aquaculture development and management through undertaking activities under the following areas: (a) Regional Aquaculture Research and Development; (b) Capacity Building, Education and Training; (c) Information Exchange, Dissemination and Advocacy; (d) Technical Assistance.**

**5 Governance and Management of ANAF: The Governance and management organs of ANAF are: (1) The STC-ARDWE; (2) The General Congress; (3) The Steering Committee; (4) The Secretariat; (5) The Nominations Committee; (6) The Technical Advisory Committee; (7) National Focal Point Persons; (8) Regional Economic Community Coordinators; (9) Technical Working Groups and Committees as shall be established by the General Congress, the Steering Committee or the Technical Advisory Committee.**

**6 ANAF General Congress:** (1) The General Congress shall direct the overall policies of ANAF and shall be responsible to the STC;  
(2) The General Congress shall meet once every year in ordinary sessions and may, subject to the availability of resources, hold extraordinary sessions when the need arises.  
(3) The Congress shall be composed of the following: (1) Members of ANAF; (2) Associate Members of ANAF; (3) Invited Observers; (4) Any other organisation, entity, individual or actor as shall be invited by the Steering Committee, subject to ratification by the General Congress, at each particular session of the Congress.

**7** **Mandate, Powers and Functions of the General Congress: The General Congress shall be the highest governing body of ANAF. The General Congress shall: (1) Annually, determine and implement the policy and programme of ANAF; (2) Using a procedure based on rotation of positions, amongst the 5 (five) AU regions, elect the members of the Steering Committee on the basis of the AU principles of regional and gender balance; (3) Implement any decisions or recommendations directed to ANAF by the STC; (4) Report to the STC on (a) the activities and achievements of ANAF; (b) progress with implementation of decisions or recommendations directed to ANAF by the STC; (5) Ensure that ANAF carries out its functions and roles as outlined in this Governance Instrument and the Rules of Procedure promulgated under this Governance Instrument. The General Congress shall hold at least one meeting annually and may hold any extra ordinary meeting as need arises.**

<b>8</b>	<b>Quorum and Decision-Making and Procedures: (1) The quorum for the Congress shall be 2/3 of the registered Members present at each Congress; (2) The Congress shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure</b>
<b>9</b>	Composition and Tenure of the Steering Committee: (1) Taking into account the AU principles of rotation based, regional and gender balance, the elected membership of the Steering Committee, shall be drawn from the five AU regions and will comprise: (a) A Chairperson; (b) A Vice-Chairperson; (c) A General Secretary; (d) Two Vice-General Secretaries responsible for finance and communication respectively. (2) The Steering Committee shall also comprise Regional Economic Community Liaison officers appointed by RECS and recognized by the African Union. (3) The Director of AU-IBAR shall be a non-voting member of the Steering Committee. (4) The term of office for elected officials of the Steering Committee shall be 2 (two) years;

**10** **Functions of Steering Committee: The Steering Committee in consultation and coordination with the Secretariat shall: (1) Implement the policies and activities of ANAF in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the decisions of ANAF; (2) Develop strategies to support alignment of Member aquaculture strategies or policies with the AU PFRS (3) Report on the work of ANAF to the General Congress of ANAF and to the STC; (4) Organize Congress sessions (5) Oversee, evaluate and provide strategic direction to the work of Committees of ANAF (6) Review, enter into, implement, evaluate and terminate agreements and arrangements entered into by ANAF; (7) Stimulate Member, Associate Member, Observer and general public interest in ANAF. (8) Stimulate interest of potential donors and funders in the activities of ANAF; (9) Coordinate the programmes of research of ANAF and its Members; and (10) Undertake other activities as shall enhance the objectives and mandate of ANAF.**

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**Meetings, Quorum and Decision Making Procedures of the Steering Committee: (1) The quorum for Steering Committee meetings shall be 50% +1 of Members; (2) The Steering Committee shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.**



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**Election of Steering committee members: (1) ANAF shall at the end of its regular Session in each alternative year (and sooner if an office falls vacant) elect the five officials that will constitute the Steering Committee; (2) Nominees must be delegates or alternates who are present at the Congress in question and have attended at least one previous General Congress; (3) The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall not be eligible for re-election for the same position for consecutive terms; (4) When a post becomes vacant due to resignation, disability, death or any other reason, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may jointly select a replacement person to occupy the position until the next General Congress,, with the proviso that the replacement person may stand for election for that position or any other position on the Steering Committee at that next General Congress; (5) The election procedure for the Steering Committee shall be set out in the Rules of Procedure for the General Congress.**

**13** **Nominations Committee:** (1) The Nominations Committee is a Committee of the General Congress and shall manage the nomination and election procedures set out by the Rules of Procedure of the General Congress. (2) The Nominations Committee shall: (a) Review all nominations and confirm that all candidates have submitted the appropriate documentation by the due date; (b) Report to the General Congress and the Director of AU-IBAR and on their oversight of the election nomination process; (c) Exercise due diligence in reviewing documentation of candidates and confirming their accuracy and completeness; (d) Ensure transparency and adherence to the Rules of Procedure for nominating candidates and for their election. (3) The Nominations Committee shall: (a) follow the election procedures set out in the Rules of Procedure of the General Congress for electoral matters; (b) follow the Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee for administrative matters. (4) An interim Nominations Committee shall be appointed by the Director of AU-IBAR before the first General Congress of ANAF. It shall cease to function after election of the first Nomination Committee at the first General Congress.

**14** **Functions of Officials of the Steering Committee: (f) Create in consultation with the Steering Committee and Secretariat, group(s) of experts to undertake specific assignments for ANAF; (g) Coordinate preparation and presentation of budgets, authorize disbursement of funds in accordance with the ANAF budget, and account for the funds of ANAF (h) Have final authority for receipt and transmission of ANAF official communications. (3) The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson with the performance of his duties as set out by this Article and in the absence of the Chairperson, the functions of the Chair-person shall be fulfilled by the Vice-Chairperson and in the absence of both, by the General Secretary. (4)The Chairperson,the Vice-Chair-person and the Director of AU-IBAR shall jointly agree an appropriate allocation of responsibility for implementation of the duties set out by this Article, which allocation of duties shall be operative during the period of tenure of the relevant Steering Committee. This shall be without prejudice to the position of the Chairperson as the official representative of ANAF as set out by this Article.**

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**Functions of Officials of the Steering Committee: (1). The officials of the Steering Committee shall undertake their activities in consultation and with the support of the Secretariat. (2) The Chairperson shall: (a) Represent ANAF in its relations with Members, Associate Members, Observers,, the African Union Commission and its constituent organisations, any relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations and any other organization(s) wishing to enter into, or continue relations with ANAF; (b) Represent ANAF in its relations with the international community and the general public; (c) Maintain high level contacts with government officials, regional economic communities, aquaculture institutions and international networks concerned with the sustainable development of aquaculture in the continent; (d) Develop strategies to support countries to align their aquaculture strategies or policies with the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture; (e) Oversee implementation of the work programmes of ANAF and ensure timely reporting to ANAF and the STC;**

**15 ANAF Secretariat: (1) Composition and Duties of the Secretariat (a) AU-IBAR shall be Secretariat of ANAF and shall provide administrative and secretarial services (b) Secretariat shall consist of Director of AU-IBAR and Fisheries and Aquaculture Officers within AU-IBAR and a Coordinating Officer dedicated to coordination of ANAF activities. The Director of AU-IBAR shall direct the work of the Secretariat; (c) Secretariat responsible for implementing policies and activities of ANAF and shall report to the Steering Committee and to Director of AU-IBAR. (2) Secretariat shall: (a) Report to STC on progress of ANAF; (b) Prepare annual work plans and budgets for discussion at annual meeting before being considered for approval; (c) Review and assess the identified lead agencies and other existing resources at regional, sub-regional, and national levels so as to document available competencies and resources**

**15 ANAF Secretariat: (d) Secretariat shall collaborate with aquaculture non-governmental organizations (producer associations, service providers, funding agencies, marketing cooperatives and trade groups; (e) Secretariat shall collaborate with key individuals, organisations and groups such as, but not limited to, Members, Associate Members, the Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA), Africa Women Fish Processors and Traders ANAF (AWFISHNET), African Platform for Regional Institutions of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS), the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), as well as Regional Economic Communities; and (f) Secretariat shall develop strategies for long-term plans and resource mobilisation for ANAF; (g) Carry out financial programming and resource mobilization in accordance with AU rules, policies and practice.**

**16 The ANAF Coordinating Officer:** In addition to Secretariat functions that will be carried out wholly or in part by the Coordinating Officer at the direction of the Director of AU-IBAR under Article 15, the Coordinating Officer shall: (1) Liaise with the ANAF Steering Committee in supporting the operations of ANAF; (2) Liaise with all Members, Associate Members and Observers of ANAF as appropriate; (3) Have operational responsibility for receipt and transmission of ANAF official communications; (4) Maintain an active and effective network of ANAF National focal points in support of the objectives, mandate and functions of ANAF; (5) Facilitate the collection of data necessary to accomplish the objectives of ANAF; (6) Stimulate interest in ANAF among Members, Associate Members, Observers and the public at large; (7) Stimulate the interest of potential donors and donors in the activities of ANAF with particular emphasis on the possible design, financing and implementation of projects and complementary activities, including in particular, pilot projects; (8) In consultation with the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, organize Congresses of ANAF and its subsidiary bodies and other related ad hoc meetings and maintain records of the proceedings of such meetings;

**17** **Technical Advisory Committee; (1) ANAF shall establish a Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations in support of its mandates and functions. (2) The Technical Advisory Committee shall recommend the establishment of working groups or sub-committees to deal with specific issues. These working groups and sub-committees shall be open to Members and Associate Members. (3) In the exercise of their functions, the Technical Advisory Committee, sub-committees or working groups may, where appropriate, consult any other aquaculture, fisheries management, technical or scientific organization with competence in the relevant subject matter and may seek expert advice as required on an ad hoc basis. (4) The Technical Advisory Committee shall establish its own Rules of Procedure.**



**18 National Focal Points: (1). Each Member will have a National Focal Point within its organization charged with responsibility for aquaculture. (2). The National Focal Point shall: (a) Be a high level, experienced aquaculture expert (or if such individual is not available) a fishery scientist familiar with aquaculture matters or a manager who has access to the official aquaculture and fishery information of the said Member; (b) Normally be the Representative of Member State at ANAF sessions, or any other person so designated in writing; (c) Facilitate communication between the Member and the Secretariat. (d) Liaise with the relevant Ministry, or other lead organisation on all matters of ANAF to ensure full commitment of Ministers of Members to ANAF decisions; (e) Participate and contribute to ANAF taking into account the specific requirements of their countries**

**18 National Focal Points: (1). Each Member will have a National Focal who shall**

- (f) Contribute to development of strategies to support countries to align their aquaculture strategies or policies with the AU PFRS;**
- (g) Assist in the development of strategies to sensitize national stakeholders about the importance of aquaculture development;**
- (h) Contribute nationally, within their country to the sharing of information and experiences with regards to aquaculture research, development and implementation;**
- (i) Inform and report to ANAF on the aquaculture needs and on-going aquaculture reforms and projects in the country;**
- (j) Report on the activities of ANAF at the national level;**
- (k) As appropriate, and within the limits of his other duties and responsibilities, perform other duties as may be requested by ANAF.**

**(3) Each Member State shall communicate to the Chairperson and Secretariat, the name of the National Focal Point upon initial designation, or following any changes.**

**19 Regional Economic Community Liaison Officers; Each REC will designate a Liaison Officer who will: (1) Raise the visibility of ANAF at the REC level; (2) Participate and contribute to the matters of the Steering Committee taking into account the specific requirements of the regions of Africa; (3) Assist in the development of strategies to mobilize and sensitize the regional stakeholders about the importance of the aquaculture sector for food security and economic development in Africa; (4) Coordinate and report the activities of the Network in the regions of Africa; (5) Contribute to cross-regional sharing of information and experiences with regards to aquaculture policy, research, development and implementation of programs; (6) Inform and report to the Board and the Network the aquaculture needs and on-going policy reforms and projects at regional level.**

**20** **Budget of ANAF: (1) The budget of ANAF shall be within the AU budget. (2) Other sources may include: (a) Voluntary contributions from AU Member States and Associate Members of ANAF; (b) Contributions from Development Partners of the Union and the Commission; (c) Contributions from the private sector; national and regional financial institutions as well as other financing mechanisms; (d) The Aquaculture Fund when established; and (e) Any other source of funding in accordance with AU Rules. (3) The budget calendar of ANAF shall be that of the Union**

**21** Associate Membership: (1) Under Article 1, any organization, institution, network, association, arrangement, institution, entity or individual may become an Associate Member, subject to an application, in accordance with this Agreement. (2) Associate membership is effective on date of admission by the General Congress. (3) Applications shall be submitted to the Chairperson of ANAF and shall be processed by the Steering Committee and the ANAF Secretariat. (4) An application must include a declaration indicating that the applicant subscribes to the objectives and mandate of ANAF.

**22 Right and obligations of Associate Members: (1) Associate Members shall be entitled to participate in: (a) the meetings of (i) ANAF; (ii) the Technical Advisory Committee; (iii) any other Committees and sub-committees set up by the Steering Committee or the General Congress; (b) such other meetings as may be convened by ANAF in accordance with its Rules of Procedure. (2) Associate Members may not however, vote or participate in any arrangements, procedures, or Committees that relate to elections, voting, or the making of final decisions of ANAF, whether by consensus or by vote. (3) Associate Members may obtain on request, free of charge and within reasonable limits, information available within, and to, ANAF on matters of their concern, including guidelines for obtaining technical assistance. (4) Associate Members, may subject to approval by the Steering Committee, and ratification by the General Congress, collaborate in any undertaking by ANAF. (5) Associate Members may participate in and benefit from any technical assistance including training and capacity development delivered by, or provided to ANAF, provided that preference shall be given to Members of ANAF.**

**23** **Observers: (1) Any non-member government, organization, association, arrangement, institution or entity able to make a significant contribution to the activities of the Organization may, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the General Congress be invited to participate at sessions of the General Congress and such other meetings of ANAF as Observers. (2) Observers have no right to vote and no right to be present at Steering Committee meetings, unless specifically invited to be present.**

**24** Article 24 - Working Languages: The working languages of ANAF shall be those of the African Union.

**25** Article 25 - Relationship between STC and ANAF: (1) The recommendations and decisions of ANAF shall be submitted to the STC for consideration and approval. (2) The Steering Committee shall through the Director of AU-IBAR submit annual reports to the STC on (a) the activities and achievements of ANAF; (b) progress with implementation of decisions of the STC that fall within the mandate and competence of ANAF. (3) The STC may direct ANAF to undertake tasks that fall within its mandate and competence.

<b>26</b>	<b>Amendments: .(1) The present Governance Instrument may be amended: (a) Upon the recommendation of the STC, after it has obtained the opinion of the Steering Committee and the Director of AU-IBAR; (b) Upon the recommendation of a statutory session of the ANAF General Congress, after it has obtained the opinion of the Steering Committee and the Director of AU-IBAR. (2) The amendments shall come into effect upon their adoption by the Congress.</b>
<b>27</b>	Dispute Settlement: Disputes shall be resolved according to AU rules and approaches to dispute resolution
<b>28</b>	Entry into Force - The present Governance Instrument shall enter into force upon its adoption by the Congress.