



**AFRICAN PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR FISHERIES,  
AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS)**

**RECORD OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**22 January 2016, Dakar, Senegal**

**Towards establishment of an Annual Plan of Action (2016-2017) for strengthening regional and sub-regional institutional coordination and collaboration for sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa**

**1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

- 1.1 The Meeting was opened by the APRIFAAS Secretariat, represented by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Senior Fisheries Officer at the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), who welcomed everybody to the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the African Platform for Regional Institutions for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS).
- 1.2 He highlighted that this Session is held in line with the Terms of Reference of APRIFAAS which were adopted at a ***Consultative meeting for validation and establishment for a continental platform for Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) in Africa from 22-24 April 2015 in Cotonou, Benin.***
- 1.3 He also highlighted that at the ***Think Tank Meeting for the Validation of Parameter (Criteria) and Indicators for monitoring the alignment of National and Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Policies to the PFRS from 09-11 July 2015 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast***, APRIFAAS Bureau was elected with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as chair, Southern African Development Community (SADC) as 1st Vice-Chair, Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) as 2nd Vice-Chair, and the Commission Economique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques (CEBEVIRHA) as Rapporteur. He indicated that the Vice rapporteur was to be determined during this 1st Session of the General Assembly.

## **2. DEDICATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE SESSION**

- 2.1 According to the APRIFAAS Rules of Procedure, SADC as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair of the Bureau, represented by Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo, Fisheries Technical Advisor, assumed the responsibility to chair the session in the absence of ECOWAS.
- 2.2 The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reiterated the importance of the work of APRIFAAS towards implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS). He highlighted that PFRS proposes collaboration and better coordination of efforts between regional and sub-regional organizations involved in sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development; and that this has to be achieved through strengthening of the south-south (bilateral and regional) cooperation and development of coordinated mechanisms among RECs, RFBs and LME-based commissions to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and aquaculture development and their adoption and adaptation.

## **3. ATTENDANCE**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the APRIFAAS General Assembly was attended by more than 20 Members representing different regional economic communities (RECs), regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), watercourse authorities, development partners and observers (Appendix 3).

## **4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

- 4.1 The APRIFAAS General Assembly considered and adopted the Agenda with minor amendments (Appendix 1).
- 4.2 The Session was conducted both in English and French, and Mr. Dede Nadje Seraphin, Secretary General of the Fisheries Committee of West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) volunteered to interpret during the course of the Session.

## **5. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-RAPPORTEUR**

The APRIFAAS Secretariat outlined the AU requirements in terms of regional representation in continental structures. He highlighted that all 5 regions in the continent have to be represented in the Bureau to promote a balanced continental spread. The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD) representing North Africa was thus appointed as the Vice-Rapporteur to the APRIFAAS Bureau. Prof. Abdelkhalik Montasser, Regional Coordinator for Veterinary Governance Programme in North Africa represented CENSAD and immediately assumed responsibilities as the scribe of the Session, supported by Mr. Dieudonne Kissiekiaoua, Deputy Director-General of CEBEVIRHA.

## **6. PROGRESS REPORT ON APRIFAAS**

- 6.1 APRIFAAS Secretariat provided progress on activities under the auspices of APRIFAAS since its establishment in 2015. These include successful conclusion of a partnership agreement between the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS) and Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP). A similar arrangement is currently being finalised for FCWC and Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) with the ECOWAS.
- 6.2 In addition, AU-IBAR appointed a Consultant to review the work and policies of RECs and RFBs in East and Southern Africa, with the aim of harmonization from Member States level to continental level. To this end, there is progress on the review and harmonization of fisheries programmes of LVFO for alignment with the East Africa Community (EAC) fisheries policies and those of their Member States. Similar work has also been initiated between SADC and the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) and Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA).

## **7. DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR APRIFAAS**

- 7.1 The chair led discussions on the development of the APRIFAAS Plan of Action for 2016-2017. It was agreed that instead of developing a two year plan, there should be a 1 year plan which will be reviewed each year during the General Assembly at the beginning of each year.
- 7.2 The chair also advised that the core functions of the Platform should be used as key results areas to guide the planning process, these include to coordinate and facilitate systematic exchange of information between regional fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic institutions, across the continent; improve dialogue between stakeholders; coordinate and facilitate the elaboration of harmonized work programme; strengthen the capacity of the African continent to speak with one voice on fisheries and aquaculture matters in regional, continental and international fora and in dialogue processes with partners; and monitor and coordinate evaluation and implementation of the harmonized work programme.
- 7.3 Following the deliberations and identification of actions/interventions for inclusion in the APRIFAAS Plan of Action for 2016-2017, it was agreed that the Bureau will have it finalised and shared with members for further comments before end of March 2016.
- 7.4 In summary, the APRIFAAS Plan of Action for 2016-2017 (Appendix 2), include sharing of relevant information and lessons learnt on programmes and interventions between members; development of an information portal and creation of a quarterly electronic newsletter; technical support to the African Group at the next FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to be held from 09-16 July 2016 in order to continue to strengthen the African Voice; development of a resource mobilization plan; and convening of meetings of the APRIFAAS Bureau.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)**

- 8.1 Finally, the meeting was informed of the upcoming 3rd Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture to be held later in 2016. It is envisaged that APRIFAAS will have a side event at this meeting.
- 8.2 The meeting was also informed of the forthcoming COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade to take place in Agadir, Morocco from 22-26 February 2016.

## **9. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The date and venue of the next session of the APRIFAAS General Assembly will be discussed between the Bureau and Secretariat and communicated to members of the Platform once confirmed.

## **10. CLOSURE**

- 10.1 In closing, members recognized and commended AU-IBAR for the APRIFAAS initiative and reiterated their commitment to support this process.
- 10.2 The chair provided the overall closing remarks by thanking everyone for their positive participation and contributions to the meeting. He also thanked the APRIFAAS Secretariat for organizing the Session as a side event to the Think Tank Meeting on Governance and Management of African Small-scale Fisheries and its contribution to the Accelerated Agricultural Transformation Goals of Africa, held in Dakar, Senegal, 18-22 January 2016.
- 10.3 Finally, the chair thanked his team, the Bureau, and Mr. Seraphin for his excellent interpretation services. He also thanked AU-IBAR for supporting members of the platform to participate in this Session.

**APPENDIX 1: ADOPTED AGENDA FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE APRIFAAS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

<b>AFRICAN PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS)</b>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b>
<b>22 JANUARY 2016, DAKAR, SENEGAL</b>
<b>PROVISIONAL AGENDA</b>

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. DEDICATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE SESSION**  
*Arrangements of the meeting and house rules*
- 3. INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**
- 4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 5. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-RAPPORTEUR**
- 6. PROGRESS REPORT ON APRIFAAS**
- 7. DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR APRIFAAS**  
*Deliberations and identification of actions for the annual or biennial plan*
- 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)**
- 9. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
- 10. CLOSURE**

## APPENDIX 2: THE APRIFAAS PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2016-2017

The Table below outlines the programme of work of APRIFAAS for the 2016 to 2017 financial year.

Output	Activity	Time frame				Budget Estimate (USD)	Responsibility
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
<b>KRA 1: Coordinate and facilitate systematic exchange of information between regional fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic institutions, across the continent</b>							
Calendar of continental events consolidated	Collect a list of regional, continental and international events for consolidation into a common calendar (members of APRIFAAS to submit information)						AU-IBAR/ APRIFAAS Bureau
APRIFAAS information portal developed	Appointment of two Technical Coordinators for APRIFAAS (Bureau to make a decision)						AU-IBAR
	Publish 1 <sup>st</sup> Issue of APRIFAAS electronic newsletter						APRIFAAS Bureau
	Publish 2 <sup>nd</sup> Issue of APRIFAAS electronic newsletter						APRIFAAS Bureau
	Publish 3 <sup>rd</sup> Issue of APRIFAAS electronic newsletter						APRIFAAS Bureau
	Dedication of Secretariat at AU-IBAR to service APRIFAAS						AU-IBAR
<b>KRA 2: Coordinate and facilitate the elaboration of harmonized work programme and improve dialogue between stakeholders, across the continent</b>							
APRIFAAS operationalized	Organize the 1st Session of APRIFAAS General Assembly						AU-IBAR
	Organise meeting of APRIFAAS Bureau in Nairobi, Kenya						AU-IBAR
	Finalise the APRIFAAS Plan of Action						APRIFAAS Bureau
APRIFAAS Plan of Action reviewed	Organize the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session of APRIFAAS General Assembly (Side event at CAMFA-3)						AU-IBAR/ APRIFAAS Bureau
Regional fisheries and aquaculture work programmes harmonized	Assess the current fisheries and aquaculture status, policies and programmes of RECs, RFBs and regional water commissions						AU-IBAR/ Consultant(s)
	Organize regional dialogues through RECs with RFBs and other regional stakeholders to identify strategic/priority regional projects (maximum 3) and modalities for their implementation						AU-IBAR/ RECs
	Facilitate development of cooperation arrangements between regional bodies						AU-IBAR/ RECs/RFBs/ RWCs

Output	Activity	Time frame				Budget Estimate (USD)	Responsibility
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
<b>KRA 3: Strengthen the capacity of the African continent to speak with one voice on fisheries and aquaculture matters in regional, continental and international fora and in dialogue processes with partners</b>							
Continental/regional common positions developed	Facilitate workshop to develop common approaches for meaningful participation and negotiations at the Regional Fisheries Management Bodies (RFMOs)						AU-IBAR/ RECs/ RFBs
	Review of COFI agenda and programme, and development of advisory for RECs and Member States						APRIFAAS Technical Coordinators
	Coordinate development of common positions (African Voice) at COFI meeting in Rome, Italy						APRIFAAS Technical Coordinators
National/regional and inter-regional capacities developed	Assist AU-IBAR to better coordinate inter-regional training programmes for fisheries and aquaculture						AU-IBAR APRIFAAS Bureau/RECs/ RFBs/RWCs
<b>KRA 4: Monitor and coordinate evaluation and implementation of harmonized work programme</b>							
APRIFAAS Annual Report developed	Conduct a biannual review process of activities						APRIFAAS Bureau
	Develop a draft Annual Report for tabling at APRIFAAS General Assembly						APRIFAAS Bureau
APRIFAAS Regional Institutional Assessment Report published	AU-IBAR to consolidate draft report that was approved in Cotonou, Benin for review by APRIFAAS Technical Coordinators (for updating to close gaps and alignment with APRIFAAS work)						APRIFAAS Technical Coordinators/ Consultant(s)
	Publish the Regional Institutional Assessment Report						APRIFAAS Technical Coordinators/ Consultant(s)

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