

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE  
PLATFORM OF REGIONAL FISHERIES  
INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA**

April 2015

## **Introduction**

1. The fisheries and aquaculture sector has the potential to positively influence or drive the socio-economic agenda of the continent towards poverty reduction, food and nutrition security and economic growth.
2. The development of the sector is however replete with management issues, paramount of which are illegal fishing practices, , weak coordination and cooperation, incoherent policies, weak intra-regional trade and low investment.
3. Of greater concern is that the roles and mandates of existing regional institutions which tend to overlap in fisheries and aquaculture related matters, leading to duplication of effort and wastage of resources.
4. In recognition of these challenges and the potential benefits that accrue from collaboration and coordination that include harmonization of programmes, information sharing and efficiency in the delivery of mandates and services to constituent member states, the AU undertook several initiatives:
5. In 2004 Sirte Summit, the Heads of State and Government, endorsed the Sirte Declaration which mandated the AU Commission to promote the development of fisheries resources
6. In 2005 AU/NEPAD Fish For All Summit developed Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture
7. In 2010, the First Conference of African Ministers of fisheries and aquaculture (CAMFA) made major recommendations for the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector that were endorsed by the 18th Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in 2011.
8. In June 2014, the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa was simultaneously endorsed with the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism by the Summit of African Heads of State and Government in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea to enhance policy coherence and coordination in the fisheries sector
9. The overall objective of these Terms of Reference is to establish and operationalize a continental platform for regional fisheries institutions in Africa

## **Objectives of the Platform**

10. The specific objectives of this platform are to:
  - a. Promote coherence and consistency in decision making
  - b. Develop joint publication, share and disseminate information
  - c. Develop joint action plans and publications
  - d. Contribute to the development and strengthening of coherent African voice

## **Membership**

11. Members of this platform shall include all African Union institutions, regional institutions, in Africa and development partners with mandate and initiatives in

fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic systems.

### **Modus operandi**

12. The platform shall undertake its activities through:
  - a. Holding a statutory annual meeting,
  - b. Mutual invitations and participation in statutory meetings organized by a member as well as in sectoral meetings;
  - c. Ad hoc consultation meetings such as international conferences, workshops, seminars etc.
  - d. Electronic discussions and consultations
13. The CAMFA Secretariat at AU-IBAR shall provide administrative support to the platform
14. The platform shall elect a chair and a deputy chair for two years

### **Funding**

15. The Platform shall define its operating rules, as well as develop mechanisms or arrangements for funding its activities.

### **Revision**

16. All or part of this Terms of Reference may be revised by the members during the platform's statutory meetings according to its operating rules.

### **Establishment;**

17. With the adoption of this TOR in this Forum here in Cotonou, Republic of Benin this day 24th April, 2015, **The African Platform for Regional Institutions for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS)** is deemed to have been established and have come into existence.