

**REPORT OF THE  
FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
AFRICA PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN FISHERIES,  
AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS)**



**27 - 28 October 2022, RABAT, MOROCCO**

## I. INTRODUCTION

The African Union Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) in collaboration with the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic (COMHAFAT/ATLFCO) organized the Fifth General Assembly and Bi-Annual Consultative Meeting of Africa Platform on Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS) in Rabat, Morocco, from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The theme of the meeting was “*Enhancing institutional collaboration for effective and sustainable regional fisheries management and aquaculture development*”.

## II. OPENING SESSION

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Patricia Lumba on behalf of the Acting Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Nick Nwankpa followed by Mr. Cheikh Tidjane N’dongo, the Acting Head of Food Security Unit, on behalf of the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD. The Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, Mr. Abdelouahed Benabbou officially opened the meeting.

## III. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by 39 participants mainly representatives from **Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs)**: Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO), Commission Régionale des Pêches (COREP), Fisheries Committee for the West Central (FCWC), Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC); **Large Marine Ecosystem**: Benguela Current Convention; **Regional Sea Convention**: Abidjan Convention; **Regional Economic Communities**: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Arab Magrebi Union (UMA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), **Water Based Commission**: Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC); **Technical partners**: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), **Independent Expert**: Mr Georges Mbaasseko; **EU funded project**: ECOFISH represented by Dr Soobaschand Sweenarain; **Other members**: Media Observatory for Sustainable Fishing in Africa (MOSFA) and INFOPECHE; **African Union Centers of Excellence**: Suez University and National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NAFIRRI). In attendance were staff members of AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD and COMHAFAT/ATLFCO.

## IV. TECHNICAL SESSION

### Technical session 1: Setting the scene

The first technical session set the scene and was chaired by Mr. Cheikh Tidjane N’dongo.

The agenda was prepared addressing follow up Actions from 4th General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS as addressed by each technical session. The agenda was adopted with no exception.

This comprised of the following meeting of the following presentations:

- i. Overview of APRIFAAS by Mr. Mohamed SADIKI, Head of Programs and projects Department
- ii. Recommendations, Outcomes of the fourth General Assembly and Adoption of the report by Mrs Abena Serwah Asante, Fisheries Technical Advisor at the FCWC, APRIFAAS Rapporteurs (

**Technical session 1: *Under the theme “Implementation Strategy for 2022-2023 action plan by 4th General Assembly - Facilitation of the systematic exchange of information between regional institutions”***

The meeting was Chaired by Mr Mohamed Sadiki of COMHAFAT.

The following presentations were received:

- i. Operationalization of APRIFAAS Web platform: functionalities, members access and registration, by Senior Knowledge Management Officer of AU-IBAR, Mrs Patricia Lumba
- ii. Presentation of the members profiles, APRIFAAS members by Senior Knowledge Management Officer of AU-IBAR, Mrs Patricia Lumba
- iii. Presentation of the List and calendar of the main regional and international events, 2022-2023, APRIFAAS members by Mr Eric Nadiope, Aquatic Biodiversity Policy, Legal and Institutional Expert of AU-IBAR
- iv. Presentation of the visual indicator of APRIFAAS by Mr Mohamed Sadiki of ATLAFCO
- v. Organisation and Preparation of the annual report of the activities of APRIFAAS by all Participants
- vi. Modalities for preparation of the periodic electronic bulletin/Newsletter on the activities of APRIFAAS by Mr. NAOUSSI André, Coordinator of the Media Observatory for Sustainable Fishing in Africa (MOSFA)

**Technical session 2: *Under the theme “Improving dialogue between stakeholders, and facilitate the development of a harmonized work program”***

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Sadiki

The presentations were received from the following:

- i. Status and gaps of institutional cooperation among regional fisheries institutions by Dr. Daniel Mutua Martin, Head of Corporate Services Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
- ii. Strengthening REC to REC and REC to RFB Coordination: ECOWAS/CSRP-FCWC, ECCAS/COREP, ECCAS/ECOWAS/NaFIRRI
- iii. The regional Non-state actors for SSF and fisheries women by Mr Obinna Anozie, Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Management Expert of AU-IBAR
- iv. The institutional cooperation and the elaboration of regional common program by Dr Soobaschand Sweenarain of ECOFISH
- v. Strengthening APRIFAAS: membership criteria by Mr Obinna Anozie, Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Management Expert of AU-IBAR

### **TECHNICAL SESSION 3: Follow up Actions from 4rd General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS Coordination in Africa's BE Development- Strengthening the African voice in the international forums and in dialogue process with partners**

The session was chaired by Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH, Head of Cooperation and Information Systems Department

The meeting received the following presentations:

- i. Presentation of the main important decision-making forums for Africa (FAO/COFI, CITES, CDB, WTO, IWC, RFB, ICCAT, IOTC...) by Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH of ATLAFCO
- ii. Outcome and Feedback from Regional Consultation on the Development of a Regional Coordination Framework Between Regional Fishery Bodies in the Indian Ocean by RSN Coordinator, Sarah Fagnani, International Fishery Policy Consultant of FAO
- iii. Preparation and Coordination for the RFBs Regional Consultation for the Eastern Central Atlantic Ocean, taking place in Ghana, 30 November – 02 December 2022 by Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH of APRIFAAS
- iv. Strengthening the African voice, the experience of ATLAFCO by Mr Mohamed Sadiki of ATLAFCO
- v. Presentation of the mechanism for coordination or cooperation partnership projects in Africa; Fishgov2, Ecofish, Truefish, PESCAO by Mrs Hellen Moepi- Guebama, Fisheries Officer of AU-IBAR

Mr Obinna Anozie, facilitated this session on receiving updates on the achievements in Enhancing Institutional Collaboration for Effective and Sustainable Regional Fisheries Management and Aquaculture Development

#### **V. MEETING OUTCOMES**

The meeting successfully concluded the Fifth General Assembly and bi-annual consultative

The meeting

- i. Facilitated the systematic exchange of information between regional institutions;
- ii. Improved dialogue between stakeholders, and facilitated development of a harmonized work program;
- iii. Strengthened the African voice in the international forums and in dialogue process with partners;
- iv. Updated the membership and operationalization of APRIFAAS Web platform/ Community of Practice;

Annotated Follow up of the APRIFAAS Action Plan for 2022-2023 is appended to the present communique

#### **VI. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a. Fish Gov2 should endeavor to hold project meetings specifically in islands states of the African Union in order to strengthen institutional collaboration.

- b. We need to strengthen Common African position in global fora. It was recommended that more efforts need to be directed to encourage the AU member states to participate in global fora. Awareness needs to be created on their importance and RFBs and RECs should endeavor to create awareness. Furthermore, there are benefits accruing from active participation such as access to research funds needed to fill the research gap existing on the continent.
- c. The meeting requested secretariat to propose list of qualified and relevant institutions to be invited and participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The list should provide brief description of each institution. The 5<sup>th</sup> GA accepted the membership of INFOPECHE by consensus.
- d. It was recommended to organize regional APRIFAAS meeting. Prior to the General assembly.
- e. The meeting recommended that the number of meetings per annum are reduced to one. Thematic area meetings and regional meeting could be organized followed by the General Assembly.
- f. The meeting suggested that the APRIFAAS bureau and Secretariat proposes theme for the upcoming technical and general assembly to include aquaculture, environmental issues, inland fisheries and MCS and prepare the background paper for inputs
- g. Strengthen effective collaboration, coordination and partnership between RECs to RECs.
- h. The meeting recommended that the communique be finalized and adopted in two weeks
- i. The APRIFAAS logo designed by COMHAFAT was approved

## **VII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held end of October 2023 in Morocco hosted by COMHAFAT. The background paper will be prepared for the meeting.

## **VIII. CLOSING REMARKS**

Closing remarks were received from AUDA-NEPAD, AU-IBAR and ATLAFCO.



## **Welcome Address**

By

**Acting Director of AU-IBAR - Dr. Nick Nwankpa**

At the

**THE FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE AFRICA PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN  
FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS),  
27 - 28 October, 2022, Rabat, MOROCCO**

Your Excellency the Executive Secretary; The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO);

Representatives of The Government Morocco;

Representative of CEO of AUDA-NEPAD Agency;

Representatives of COEs – The National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI) and The Suez University;

Representatives of Regional Economic Communities;

Representatives of Regional Fisheries Bodies and other Regional Organizations;

Development Partners;

Colleagues, Distinguished Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen;

It gives me great pleasure to address you all in the context of this important strategic coordination meeting which marks the **5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the African Platform for Regional Institutions for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS) here in Rabat, Morocco**. This Platform is one of the glaring landmark achievements of the African Union's foray in African fisheries and aquaculture sector that originated with many of you present here today in a noteworthy and innovative stride for the fulfilment of one of the important elements in sustainable fisheries management – institutional collaboration, coordination and regional cooperation.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,** on behalf of HE, Ambassador Yosefa Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development, I wish to express sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for granting this privilege to African Union to organize this event in Rabat. This is a demonstration of this country' commitments to the African Union.

It is indeed my pleasure to warmly welcome the representatives of the Regional Economic Communities, Regional Fisheries Bodies, Water Basin Commissions, Regional Sea Conventions and partner organizations, the centres of Excellence here present. I must acknowledge that you have collectively driven and journeyed dynamically in the past with us and have sustained the quest to move African fisheries to a higher level in the foreseeable future.

To all and sundry here today including our esteemed partners and experts, your usual presence is always re-assuring and a source of encouragement that underscores the continued commitment of reliable and trusted partnerships. It is pleasant to reconnect with so many of you with whom we have built up not only a collaborative relationship but also a mutual but earnest alliance. In this perspective I believe we have in this room a true family joined together for a singular purpose of demonstrating commitments to the ideals of one of the fundamental goals of the African Union – The vision of “**An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.**”

**Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,** The Fifth General Assembly likewise the Fourth have been organized with full partnership with the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Benabbou Abdelouahed the Executive Secretary of COMHAFAT for spearheading this course. This feat, I believe is in acknowledgement and recognition of the importance of the ongoing collaboration between COMHAFAT and the AU-IBAR with the goal of enhancing fisheries, aquaculture and blue economy development for the benefits of the African continent. It also shows that the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations to support the implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) is truly in force and effectively functional. It is therefore my fervent wish and burning desire to uphold it and keep the flags flying high until the goals of the PFRS for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development for increased contribution of the sector to food security, livelihoods and wealth creation is significantly

accomplished. I enjoin you all to emulate this mutual relationship between us which demonstrates the goals and aspirations of APRIFAAS.

In April this year, Marrakech hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly which brought us together on the theme: **“Strategic Regional Cooperation and Partnerships for Development of Blue Economy in Africa.”** We had a very successful General Assembly which adopted two essential outcomes as documents including: “Marrakech Declaration” and the “the APRIFAAS Workplan.” In these two essential documents, we agreed and mapped out a framework through which we are pursuing this cooperation for mutual benefits.

**Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,** Cooperation and coordination in Fisheries and Aquaculture is very fundamental in Africa’s food security transformation, sustainable economic progress, and inclusive development for enhanced livelihood, such as through gender mainstreaming, food and water security, poverty alleviation, wealth retention, and jobs creation. Institutional Coordination emphasizes interconnectedness with other sectors, ensures cost-efficient approach to resource management and contribute to better management of shared stocks. Therefore, the choice of the theme for this 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS **“Enhancing Institutional Collaboration for Effective and Sustainable Regional Fisheries Management and Aquaculture Development”** cannot be more appropriate than in this auspicious occasion today.

At this point I would like to re-echo my joy on the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), following the examples of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and The Gulf of Guinea Regional Fisheries Commission (COREP) as well as East African Community (EAC) and Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), to strength the institutional linkage between the three parties. I am proud to let you know that the journey to accomplish this feat began on the footstool of APRIFAAS in Cotonou in 2015 under the auspices of AU-IBAR. Hopefully, this trend would continue in various regions of the continent, the very foundational reason for which APRIFAAS was conceived in Cotonou in 2015. As we make progress with this annual event in promoting coordination within the framework of this platform we must not lose sight of enduring challenges of its sustainability and how to overcome.

**Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,** I look forward to a successful outcome of this meeting with key strategic actionable points for a follow-up and immediate



implementation by the platform which will pave way for enhanced information and knowledge sharing through Operationalization of APRIFAAS Web platform/ Community of Practice; Strategies to strengthen APRIFAAS in cognizance of regional projects and programmes and Strengthening the African Voice among others.

I wish to affirm AU-IBAR's commitment to support Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and Member States to achieve desirable outcomes in fisheries. We are looking forward to working jointly with other partners to mobilise and provide more technical support to the Member States.

I thank you very much for your attention and wish you a very productive 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS.

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## STATEMENT

**By Mr. Cheikh Tidjane N'DONGO, Acting Head Food Security  
Unit**

**On Behalf of the Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD**

**On the Occasion of the  
5<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
AFRICA PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN FISHERIES  
AND AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS)**

*27 October 2022*

**Marrakesh, Morocco**

**Honorable Secrétaire exécutif de la Conférence ministérielle sur la  
coopération en matière de pêche entre les États africains riverains de l'océan  
Atlantique (COMHAFAT),**

**Représentant du Directeur par intérim du Bureau des ressources animales  
de l'Union africaine (UA-BIRA),**

**Représentants des Communautés Economiques Régionales, des organismes  
et institutions régionaux de pêche,**

**Représentants des États membres,**

**Distingués Membres de la Plateforme Africaine pour les Institutions  
Régionales de la Pêche, de l'Aquaculture et des Systèmes Aquatiques  
(APRIFAAS),**

**Représentant des Centres d'Excellence de l'UA,**

**Experts et représentants des médias,**

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L'honneur m'échoit et le plaisir me revient de prendre la parole et de prononcer cette allocution au nom de Son Excellence, Mme. Nardos Bekele Thomas, **Secrétaire Exécutive de l'Agence de Développement de l'Union Africaine-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD)** qui n'a pu être présent parmi nous aujourd'hui.

Permettez-moi, dans un premier temps, d'exprimer notre profonde reconnaissance pour l'accueil chaleureux réservé par le Royaume du Maroc, ainsi que de la COMHAFAT. Le soutien exceptionnel apporté à l'organisation de cette réunion, et de l'excellente hospitalité dont nous jouissons dans cette ville historique de Rabat, inscrite sur la liste du Patrimoine mondiale de l'UNESCO, est grandement apprécié.

Aujourd'hui, nous réunissons pour engager les acteurs clés autour de la thématique « **Améliorer la collaboration institutionnelle pour une gestion efficace et durable des pêches régionales et le développement de l'aquaculture** ». Cette thématique, comme vous le savez, est liée aux efforts actuels visant à améliorer la mise en œuvre harmonisée de la pêche et de l'aquaculture dans le continent.

C'est dans ce cadre, que nous vous sommes reconnaissants de vous être rendus disponibles pour cette importante réunion, ce qui en soi montre à quel point cette thématique est primordiale pour vous et nous tenons donc à vous remercier pour votre présence. Cette mobilisation, nous permettra également de mieux sensibiliser nos décideurs, ainsi que le grand public pour faire progresser les secteurs de la pêche et de l'aquaculture en vue de la transformation sociale et économique de l'Afrique.

#### **Distinguished Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

The fisheries and aquaculture sector in the economy cannot be over-emphasized. **Today, Africa's blue economy sectors and components generate a value of USD 296 billion with 49 million jobs.**

Despite this value, most African nations are constrained by a lack of resources and capacities to realize this potential due to competing development priorities. As Africa continues to recover from the **disruptions caused by COVID-19** and the **Russia-Ukraine crisis** impacting the continent's economic and social fabric, it suffices to state that the sustainable and equitable development of the sector is a potent mechanism to Africa's current and future development thrust.

Moreover, the statistics show the benefits of fisheries and aquaculture and could be sustained by implementing existing continental and regional policy frameworks to address multifaceted challenges of declining quantities of captured fish due to increasing demand for fish, destructive fishing methods, and **Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU)** driving fish capture beyond sustainable levels, and further straining the already weak capacity of our African institutions to manage their fisheries resources. Despite being one of the lesser polluters, the fish sector faces devastating environmental challenges, such as climate change and pollution.

### **Esteemed Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

At the continental level, the AU, through the AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD, is providing leadership for the development of the sector by establishing and implementing robust continental frameworks, including the **AU's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS)**. We must here note that the seven pillars of the PFRS provide alignment of the fisheries and aquaculture sector into **the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)-Malabo Declaration** commitments.

The AU agenda on fisheries and aquaculture can be achieved with sustained and coordinated collaboration between AUDA-NEPAD and AU-IBAR and other key stakeholders and partners. This will continuously provide high-quality technical and relevant advice to our Member States to undertake policy and governance reforms effectively.

Recognizing the need for collaboration and partnerships to leverage each other's capacities, we have been working hard to create a conducive enabling environment and foster inclusive governance approaches.

In this regard, **establishing the APFRIFAAS** platform has served to increase coordination and improve opportunities for coordinated input into the AU policy and decision-making processes. This was evident through the successes of the **FishGov 1 project**, which facilitated the increased awareness of the importance of Fisheries and Aquaculture on the continent and catalyzed momentum toward improved governance frameworks.

The follow-up AU Programme for **“Enhancing sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa – program for accelerated reform of the sector (FishGov-2)”** funded by the EU, provides an invaluable continuation of the achievement of the FishGov 1 project and aims to improve further food security, livelihoods and wealth creation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. It also

provides an opportunity for strengthening the institutional framework of APRIFAAS for information sharing in the various regions and sub-regions of the continent.

**Esteemed Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to highlight that a continuous successful operation of the APRIFAAS platform will require coordinated, inclusive, transparent, and agile efforts. These efforts are responsive to dynamic and complex policy environments and often diverse stakeholder needs and aspirations, resilient to rapidly changing circumstances and can leverage meaningful partnerships to drive the sector forward.

AUDA-NEPAD recognizes the importance of **an effective APRIFAAS platform to facilitate the coordination and coherence in the governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector at the regional level**. Moreover, it is critical to note that it is a shared vision of the AUDA-NEPAD and AU-IBAR to support the APRIFAAS platform to serve its function to minimize duplication and improve progress in African fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Over the next two days, we hope to take stock of the activities of the APRIFAAS platform and review the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the last **Fourth General Assembly Meeting held in April 2022** and status of implementation of the plan of action. It will be important for us to go into the discussions to critically assess what has been accomplished to agree on how to strengthen and consolidate our regional collaboration and coordination in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

I seize this opportunity to restate the shared vision and commitment of AUDA-NEPAD to accelerate progress toward achieving Africa's social and economic development in pursuit of the goals of **AU Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want***.

I wish you fruitful deliberations

Thank you for your kind attention.



## Allocution d'ouverture

**Monsieur le Représentant de Son Excellence Monsieur le Président de la COMHAFAT,**  
**Monsieur le Représentant de AU/IBAR**  
**Monsieur le Représentant de la CEDEAO**  
**Monsieur le Représentant du NEPAD**  
**Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations membres de l'APRIFAAS**  
**Honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, en vos qualités et rangs respectifs**

Je voudrais avant toute chose souhaiter au nom de son Excellence, **Monsieur Sidi Tiémoko TOURE**, Ministre des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire et Président en exercice de la COMHAFAT et en mon nom personnel, la bienvenue et un bon séjour à Rabat.

J'adresse par la même occasion, mes remerciements à l'endroit de l'AUDA NEPAD et de l'UA BIRA pour avoir associé la COMHAFAT à l'organisation de ses 2 activités, Sous le thème "*Renforcement de la collaboration institutionnelle pour une gestion régionale efficace et durable de la pêche et du développement de l'aquaculture*"

Il s'agit en l'occurrence :

- 1- Atelier de validation des parties prenantes du cadre des mécanismes de coopération institutionnelle, pour l'amélioration des capacités et des systèmes de collaboration et d'intégration régionales concernant la gestion partagée des ressources halieutiques et aquacoles et renforcer les liens avec les cadres de gouvernance environnementale.
- 2- Atelier de la 5ème AG de l'APRIFAAS

Il relève de l'évidence de dire que la valeur sociale et économique de la pêche en Afrique est immense.

Cependant, l'Afrique ne profite pas de son propre potentiel halieutique, alors que sa population continue de vivre dans un environnement d'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, de faim, de pauvreté et de faibles revenus. La pérennité de ces avantages potentiels est menacée en raison d'arrangements, d'institutions et de politiques de gouvernance inefficaces. De nombreuses parties prenantes et différentes institutions telles que les CER, les ORP, les Grands écosystèmes marins, États et les ANE sont impliquées dans les politiques de pêche et d'aquaculture.



Le Cadre politique et stratégie de réforme pour la pêche et l'aquaculture en Afrique (PFRS, 2014) stipule que la coopération régionale et sous-régionale entre les parties prenantes fonctionne de manière non coordonnée et que leurs actions sont généralement fragmentées ou incohérentes. Il est donc important de renforcer la coopération régionale sud-sud et de développer des mécanismes de coopération institutionnelle entre les différentes parties prenantes pour assurer la cohérence des politiques de pêche et le développement de l'aquaculture, dans la synergie et la complémentarité.

La COMHAFAT de sa part, a souscrit à cet effort soutenu, de renforcement de la coopération régionale sur le continent à travers les approches suivantes :

**a) Renforcer la coopération régionale Sud-Sud, conformément au Cadre politique et à la Stratégie de réforme de la pêche et de l'aquaculture en Afrique (2014) :**

- La COMHAFAT a développé depuis 2015, un mécanisme formel de coopération institutionnelle entre les ORP opérant en Afrique de l'Ouest (COMHAFAT, CPCO, CSRP, COREP), pour assurer la cohérence des politiques de pêche et de développement de l'aquaculture.
- La COMHAFAT et l'UA à travers l'UA/BIRA, ont signé en juillet 2018 un protocole d'accord, pour renforcer la coopération et la coordination en matière des pêches et d'aquaculture,

**b) Créer des synergies et des complémentarités dans les programmes au niveau régional :**

- Dans le cadre du MoU signé avec les organisations sous régionales, La COMHAFAT a organisé plusieurs sessions de coordination avec la participation de l'UA/BIRA -CEDEAO et CEEAC, qui ont abouti à l'élaboration d'un programme commun entre les organismes régionaux de pêche et. La COMHAFAT a fourni l'appui technique et financiers nécessaires pour la concrétisation de certains projets retenus dans le cadre du programme commun.
- La COMHAFAT a facilité la création de coalitions régionales spécialisées, notamment :

Le Réseau des institutions de formation maritime (REFMA), Réseau des femmes opérant dans la pêche (RAFEP), Le regroupement des institutions scientifiques et de la recherche maritime (RAFISMER), Réseau des institutions publiques en charge de l'aquaculture (RAFAQUA), et le projet de réseau des médecins des gens de mer ;

**c) Établir et renforcer le rôle des CER et des ORP dans l'intégration économique régionale :**



CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

La COMHAFAT est activement impliquée dans la coopération et la coordination régionales entre les CER et les ORP à travers la présidence de l'APRIFAAS, et l'adhésion aux composantes du **mécanisme Africain de réforme de la pêche**, et l'organisation, ainsi que la participation aux activités qui renforcent le rôle des CER et des ORP dans l'intégration économique régionale.

On reste Convaincus, que les mécanismes de gouvernance fondés sur la coopération internationale, régionale et sous régionale, ont une grande contribution à apporter au développement d'une pêche et d'une aquaculture durables et à la protection du milieu océanique, et à intégrer de façon harmonieuse, les problèmes émergents de l'environnement, notamment le changement climatique, les pollutions dans la gestion des ressources aquatiques vivantes.

Une réflexion engagée durant les travaux de ces ateliers, permettra certes, d'adopter les meilleures voies à emprunter, pour établir, les mécanismes de gouvernance fondés sur la concertation, la coopération institutionnelle régionale entre les parties prenantes en Afrique, dans l'objectif d'améliorer la gouvernance de la pêche, régénérer la biodiversité et les écosystèmes marins, participer activement et faire écouter la voix de l'Afrique dans les instances internationales, tout en apportant une contribution plus concrète, à la réalisation des ODD.

Je ne saurais conclure mon intervention, sans exprimer toute ma gratitude aux Autorités du Royaume du Maroc pour avoir bien voulu abriter les travaux de cette rencontre et pour leur appui pour assurer la participation de tous dans de bonnes conditions. Mes remerciements vont également à l'endroit de tous nos partenaires techniques et financiers



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## CLOSING REMARKS

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By Mr. Cheikh Tidjane N'DONGO, Acting Head Food Security Unit  
On Behalf of the Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD

On the Occasion of the  
5<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AFRICA  
PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS)

*28 October 2022*

Marrakesh, Morocco

Avant tout, au nom de l'AUDA-NEPAD, je tiens à remercier :

Les différents présidents de séance,

Le Secrétaire exécutif de la COMHAFAT en tant que Président du Bureau de  
l'APRIFAAS, et les Membres du Bureau,

Le Représentant du Directeur par intérim de l'UA-BIRA,

Les représentants des Communautés Economiques Régionales, des organismes  
et institutions régionaux de pêche,

La Représentante des partenaires au développement,

Les Centres d'Excellence de l'UA,

Les experts, ainsi que

Le représentant des médias,

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**Distingués participants, Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Notre rassemblement pour la 5<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée Générale de l'APRIFAAS touche à sa fin.

Nous avons tous été témoins de votre engagement constants à faire progresser l'opérationnalisation continue de l'APRIFAAS. Nous continuons à reconnaître l'importance cruciale de l'APRIFAAS pour la gestion des pêches et le développement de l'aquaculture en Afrique. Vos contributions énergiques aux discussions reflètent votre engagement et votre ferme désir de faire en sorte que l'APRIFAAS fonctionne conformément aux objectifs du Cadre stratégique de l'UA et de la Stratégie de Réforme de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture (PFRS). Grâce à vos efforts concertés, nous avons atteint le but fixé pour cette réunion-félicitations à toutes et tous pour vos interventions pertinentes et vos excellentes présentations.

**Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Nos délibérations fructueuses ont fait le point sur les activités de la plateforme de l'APRIFAAS et ont examiné l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre des recommandations de la quatrième Assemblée générale. Nous avons profité de cette Assemblée Générale pour échanger des informations pertinentes, préparer des recommandations clés et aboutir à une manière plus efficace d'améliorer la mise en œuvre du plan d'action et de la tenue nos futurs rassemblements.

La mise en œuvre nécessitera une **coordination plus efficace qui respecte l'inclusivité, la transparence et l'agilité dans les environnements dynamiques et complexes dans lesquels nous évoluons tous**. Sur cette note, je tiens également à réitérer que l'APRIFAAS, en tant que plateforme, doit être résiliente aux environnements commerciaux et politiques en évolution rapide dans le continent. Par conséquent, l'UA, par l'intermédiaire de l'UA-BIRA et de l'AUDA-NEPAD, exhorte l'APRIFAAS à tirer parti

de partenariats significatifs pour faire progresser le rôle et les fonctions de l'APRIFAAS dans la gestion des pêches et le développement de l'aquaculture en Afrique.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I take this opportunity to recognise the role played by the team that worked tirelessly to ensure that this event ran successfully from ATLAFCO (*especially our dear Hayat, thank you*), AU-IBAR colleagues (*especially our Jemima, thank you*), including our able interpreters, for bridging the language gap. Appreciations to the hotel staff and all who have contributed in one way or another to the successful running of this General Assembly.

Special acknowledgement to our development partners, especially, the European Union, for funding the Fisheries Governance Programme (FishGov-2). We hold it in high trust that we can continue to collaborate with partners leveraging their technical and financial supports, such as FAO, as we put the different mechanisms of the Fisheries Governance Project 2 into gear, including APRIFAAS.

Participants, by all account, it's no secret that the success of this workshop is your active participation and high energy engagement on the subject matter. As some of you go back to your respective places, let's keep one thing in mind that the best way to tackle the common issues facing the sector is to work together; if we are to succeed with APRIFAAS to contribute to our continent's development **Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want**.

**Shuukran, A sante, Obrigado, Gracias, Thank you, Merci et Bon voyage !!**

**I have the honour to officially declare, the 5th APRIFAAS General Assembly, closed.**



## **CLOSING REMARKS**

By

**Acting Director of AU-IBAR - Dr. Nick Nwankpa**

At the

**THE FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE AFRICA PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN  
FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS),  
27 - 28 October, 2022, Rabat, MOROCCO**

Indeed, thankfully we have successfully and fruitfully come to the end of this important meeting which took place here in Farah Hotel in the Capital City of Rabat in Morocco. Thanks to your patience, hard work and diligence. I would not hesitate to happily remark that the meeting was characterized by thoughtful inputs from delegates as the objectives of the workshop were sufficiently accomplished. I wish to extend my profound appreciation on behalf of AU-IBAR for this wonderful collaborative effort with the COMHAFAT for championing the course of APRIFAAS to collectively secure and utilize our fisheries resources for optimum benefits.

Ladies and Gentlemen, your commitment, cooperation, display of professional maturity and technical expertise during discussions is highly commendable. Honestly, this is to me a sincere reflection of dedication and seriousness towards the accomplishment of common African goals and enhanced inclusiveness and coordinated approach in the quest to effectively harness and efficiently optimize the benefits from our fisheries resources.

It is indeed my fervent hope that you all have really benefitted from the information and experiences shared in this forum and hence improved your understanding of the journey ahead of us especially in being proactive in coordination and cooperation for management of our fisheries resources and the development of the aquaculture sector. Delegates would agree with me, based on the discussions and interactions that have taken place during the past two days, that there is a need for collaboration,

coordination and integration of purposes at all levels for us to succeed in driving the Fisheries Resources and Blue Economy Agenda of Africa. I am therefore particularly proud of you for taking good and appropriate steps in driving the African Fisheries Agenda on the continent.

Before closing I wish to again express, on behalf of AU-IBAR and my able and dependable Team our profound appreciation to the experts, various organizations and our partners for their commendable efforts. The hospitality offered to us by the Farah Hotel is unequalled, greatly commendable and sincerely appreciated. My profound gratitude also goes to the interpreters who through professionally delivered services made communication effective and efficient even in the complexity of myriads of tongues. The support of the European Union or funding this activity that is implemented under the FishGov 2 Project is also appreciated.

I wish you all safe journeys back to your respective countries and would wish to express my ever-sincere desire to always have you on board to brainstorm on ways to chart the way forward on the development of Africa in the area of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources for enhanced contributions of the sector to our overall economy. Kindly be rest assured that our doors will always be open to welcome you at any time.

As you travel back home I pray that you meet in better conditions your loved ones whom you left behind to come to Rabat for the benefit of our dear continent. **I thank you.**

**On this note I wish to declare this workshop officially closed**

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**5th General Assembly and Bi-Annual Meeting of The Africa  
Platform for Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and  
Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS) and the Validation of the Framework  
for Institutional Linkages**

**25 – 28 October, 2022 – Rabat Morocco**

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## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### THE FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AFRICA PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS) 27 - 28 October, 2022 Rabat, MOROCCO

THEME: Enhancing Institutional Collaboration for Effective and Sustainable Regional Fisheries Management and Aquaculture Development

Day 1: Thursday 27 October 2022		
TIME	EVENT	FACILITATOR/PRESENTER
09:00-09:30	OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION	Mr. LAAMRICH
9:00 – 9:10	Self-introductions	All participants
9:10 – 9:15	Welcome Remarks by AU-IBAR	Director - AU-IBAR
9:15 – 9:20	Statement by AUDA	Chief Executive Officer AUDA-NEPAD
9:20 – 9:25	Opening statement by the Hon. Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO	Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO
9:25 - 9:30	Background, Objectives, Expected Outcomes of the meeting	Mr. ANOZIE
9:30- 9:45	PHOTO AND TEA-BREAK SESSION	ORGANIZERS
9:45-11:30	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 1:- Setting The Scene</b>	Mr. CHEIKH
9:45 -9:50	Adoption of Agenda and Program	Facilitator
9:50 – 10:00	Overview of APRIFAAS	ATLAFCO-Mr. SADIKI
10:00-10:10	-Adoption of the report of the fourth general assembly -Recommendations and Outcomes of the fourth General Assembly	APRIFAAS Rapporteurs (FCWC/COMESA)
11:10-13:00	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 2</b> <b>Follow up Actions from 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS</b> <b>1. Implementation Strategy for 2022-2023 action plan by 4th General Assembly</b>	CHAIR of APRIFAAS Mr SADIKI
11:10-11:30	Coordination and Facilitation of the systematic exchange of information between regional institutions	Mrs. Patricia/Mr. Obinna
11:30-11:50	Operationalization of APRIFAAS Web platform: functionalities, members access and registration,	Mrs. Patricia
11:50-12:10	Presentation and Update of the members profiles, APRIFAAS members	Mrs. Patricia
11:10-12:30	Presentation of the List and calendar of the main regional and international events, 2022-2023, APRIFAAS members	Kwame/Eric
12:30-13:00	Discussion and Recommendations	CHAIR of APRIFAAS
13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK	ORGANIZERS
14:00-15:45	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 2 Cont.</b> <b>Follow up Actions from 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS</b> <b>1. Implementation Strategy for 2022-2023 action plan by 4th General Assembly</b>	CHAIR,
14:00-14:20	Presentation of the visual indicator of APRIFAAS	ATLAFCO
14:20-14:50	Organisation and Preparation of the annual report of the activities of APRIFAAS,	All Participants
14:50-15:15	Modalities for preparation of the periodic electronic bulletin/Newsletter on the activities of APRIFAAS,	AUDA/AU-IBAR/MOSFA-
15:15-15:45	2 <sup>nd</sup> Discussion on Plenary Session 2	
15:45-16:00	COFFE BREAK	ORGANIZERS
16:00-18:00	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 3</b> <b>Follow up Actions from 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS</b> <b>2. Improve dialogue between stakeholders, and facilitate the development of a harmonized work program</b>	CHAIR Mr. SADIKI

16:00-16:20	Status and gaps of institutional cooperation among regional fisheries institutions:	Dr. Daniel Mutua Martin (NBI)
16:20-16:40	Strengthening REC to REC and REC to RFB Coordination: ECOWAS/CSRPFWC ECCAS/COREP	ECCAS/ECOWAS/NaFIRRI
16:40-17:00	The regional Non-state actors for SSF and fisheries women	Hellen
17:00-17:20	The institutional cooperation and the elaboration of regional common program	Sunil (ECOFISH)
17:20-17:40	Strengthening APRIFAAS: membership criteria	Obinna Anozie
17:40-18:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Discussion and Recommendations	
<b>Day 2: Friday 28 October 2022</b>		
09:00-10:45	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 2</b> Follow up Actions from 4 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS Coordination in Africa's BE Development  3-Strengthening the African voice in the international forums and in dialogue process with partners	CHAIR Mr. LAAMRICH
9:00-9:20	Presentation of the main important decision-making forums for Africa (FAO/COFI, CITES, CDB, WTO, IWC, RFB, ICCAT, IOTC...)	Dr. Naji Laamrich
9:20-9:40	Outcome and Feedback from Regional Consultation on the Development of a Regional Coordination Framework Between Regional Fishery Bodies in the Indian Ocean	RSN Coordinator
9:40-10:00	Preparation and Coordination for the RFBs Regional Consultation for the Eastern Central Atlantic Ocean, taking place in Ghana, 30 November – 02 December 2022	Dr Naji Laamrich
10:00-10:20	Strengthening the African voice, the experience of ATLAFCO	SADIKI
10:20-10:45	Discussion and Recommendation	
10:45-11:00	<b>COFFE BREAK</b>	ORGANIZERS
11:00-12:00	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 3</b> Follow up Actions from 4 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of APRIFAAS Coordination in Africa's BE Development 3-Strengthening the African voice in the international forums and in dialogue process with partners -Presentation of the mechanism for coordination or cooperation partnership projects in Africa; Fishgov2, Ecofish, Truefish, PESCAO	CHAIR Mrs. HELLEN  Hellen
12:00-13:00	4-Presentation of a Plan for funding the APRIFAAS activities General Discussion	
13:00- 14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	ORGANIZERS
14:00- 15:45	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>General Discussions and Recommendations</b> The achievements in Enhancing Institutional Collaboration for Effective and Sustainable Regional Fisheries Management and Aquaculture Development. <b>RECs Blue Economy Strategies (ECOWAS/COMESA/IGAD).</b>  <b>The Project on 'Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in Africa Blue Economy Strategy'</b>	CHAIR Mr. ANOZIE AUIBAR/RECs
15:45 -16:00	<b>COFFE BREAK</b>	ORGANIZERS
16:00- 17:00	Wrap up Discussions Adoption of Communique	CHAIR Mrs. HELLEN
17:00- 17:30	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b>  Closing remarks by AUDA /AU-IBAR/ATLAFCO	CHAIR Mr. ANOZIE AUIBAR/AUDA Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO