

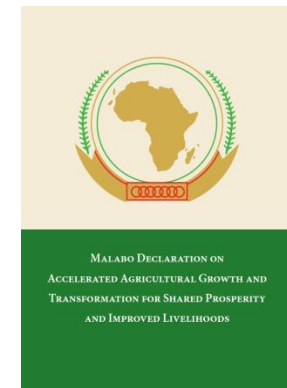
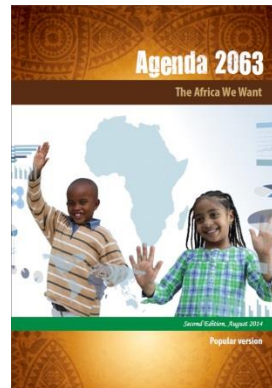
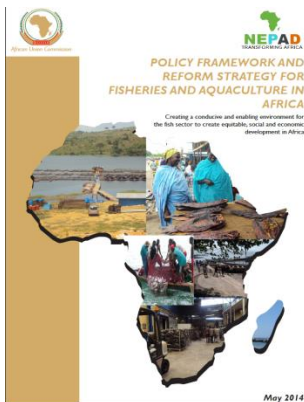
The African Voice in International Forums

APRIFAAS General Assembly

Casablanca

Morocco

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Definition and operationalization of the concept 2012-2014

- **Elaboration of concept during PFRS preparatory process**
- **Consolidation of concept in PFRS final document titled Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (2014) as approved by African Heads of State with the main emphasis in the text as follows:**
- ***Common positions developed on high seas fisheries:*** this ensures the effective participation of African States in international conventions and access to high seas through the development of common positions on high sea fisheries.
- **Other aspects of an African Voice were also implicit in this formulation and were further developed as the initiative developed**



Further definition and operationalisation of the concept 2014-2018

- African voice actioned as a result area during FISHGOV 1 project
- Mombasa meeting on the African voice
- Initiation of membership process for African region tuna regional fisheries management organisations (IOTC & ICCAT)
- Participation in and support for African Union member states at international meetings with a start during COFI 2018
- Establishment of APRIFAAS (*Africa Platform on Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems*) and initial meetings
- Establishment of alliance with ATLAFCO and signature of MOU
- Establishment of continental platforms – AFRiFISHNET, AWFISHNET



The 2017 Mombasa meeting I

- **Workshop was to strengthen the voice of Africa Union Member States in RFMOs with specific objectives as follows:**
- **Assess the current status of the AU-MS participation in the governance of RFMOs;**
- **Examine the availability of scientific knowledge and basic fisheries data and identify apparent critical information gaps to measure the contribution of RFMOs to the AU-MS economy;**
- **Explore the constraints, including institutional and policy environment affecting implementation of recommendations/resolutions and other compliance issues of RFMOs by AU-MS;**
- **Identify priority actions to improve and consolidate the effective participation of AU MS in the deliberations of RFMOs and contributing to their strengthening for effective governance of high Seas fisheries resources.**



The 2017 Mombasa meeting 2

Advancing work on the African Voice in an institutionalised way

- 1. The adopted mechanism should be a Coordinating Unit (CU)_with an advisory status within the existing structures of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and Staff of the Coordinating Unit should be conversant with the international legal and policy, management, scientific and technical aspects of RFMOs governance.**
- 2. The Unit should be entitled to contract MOU and or seek assistance from relevant organizations and others partners and be structured in such a way that it could be able to engage/interact with other relevant organizations e.g. RECs, RFMOs and Programmes.**
- 3. Proposed name for the CU: AFRICAN VOICE for FISHERIES (AVF) and the budget of the Coordinating Unit should come from the regular AU-IBAR budget.**



The 2017 Mombasa meeting 3

Functions of the proposed Coordinating Unit

1. Increase and consolidate African position and a voice in RFMOs;
2. Promote African Policies, notably the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS);
3. Develop and prioritize Plan of Action (POA) programs to facilitate the participation of AU-MS in RFMOs;
4. Review gaps (Institutional, legal, policy, financial, technical etc.);
5. Harmonize, coordinate and advise AU-MS in relevant RFMOs ;
6. Prepare background documents on issues relevant to particular RFMOs as well as common discussion points for AU-MS in preparation RFMO meetings;
7. Collect and disseminate relevant RFMOs information to AU-MS



Operationalisation of the concept 2020-2024

- **Operationalisation of the concept in FISHGOV 2 under a project result area – SO3.**
- **Africa is adequately represented and effectively participates in international fisheries and aquaculture fora and ably domesticates relevant global instruments.**
- **Output 3.1 Capacities of AU Member States – including SIDS - in terms of international negotiations are increased and a mechanism is put in place to coordinate African common positions.**
- **Output 3.2 Mechanisms are put in place to encourage and facilitate the domestication of global instruments and initiatives at continental, regional and national levels**
- **Output 3.3 – Capacities of AU Member States are strengthened to effectively articulate African positions on fisheries and aquaculture in the AU-EU dialogue**



Operationalisation of the concept 2020-2024

- **Creation of African Small Island Developing States platform with a focus on fisheries and aquaculture – so far three meetings held – two in Seychelles and one in Rome and Rules of Procedure developed and under consideration by countries together with the initial process of creating an internal structure that is driven by the countries themselves**
- **Financial and technical support for participation of African Union member states in global meetings other than COFI - eg presentation of African common positions at 7 th meeting of OACPS Fisheries Ministers from 79 States Accra 5-8 th April 2022**
- **Operationalisation of PFRS at regional and national level such that there is no competing effort to offer an alternative approach**



Operationalisation of the concept 2020-2024

- **Standing commitment to provide financial and support to African Fisheries Ministers requesting support ; Support to Tanzania Minister for Fisheries to hold 2024 Summit on African Small-Scale Fisheries & Support to Madagascar Minister for Fisheries for 2022 intervention at COFI**
- **Joint projects with FAO, where FAO clearly recognises convening power of AU-IBAR and that the African Voice is associated with the work of AU-IBAR - *Agreement between IBAR and FAO on Strengthening Institutionalization & Capacity for Strategic Planning among Non-state actor platforms, including small-scale fisheries***
- **Continued set of APRIFAAS meetings with enhanced participation and official procedures including election of Bureau officers and well attended General Assembly meetings including this current General Assembly**



Operationalisation of the concept 2020-2024

- **Well received programme of work on ratification and domestication of international instruments operating at two levels – (1) national workshops and consultations and assessments of degree of alignment of national laws and policies with global instruments in terms of both content and reception within the evaluated countries’ (2) the creation of a mechanism within which there is a two-yearly meeting of all AU-MS to review the status of ratification of key fisheries and aquaculture instruments.**
- **The transfer/adoption of the programme of work on international instruments and the African Voice to the sister project on Aquatic Conservation and Biodiversity and the impressive programme of work achieved on these issues in the parallel but different arena of biodiversity conservation.**



Key achievements

- **Generation of actionable and effective policy frameworks that set out an African voice and approach on fisheries, aquaculture and the Blue Economy (PFRS, ABES) with worldwide recognition and acceptance of these frameworks as the principal African policy reference for these areas**
- **Increased and well organised participation in COFI and recognised role for African Union team (AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD) in process under the guidance of the African Group of Ambassadors in Rome.**
- **Establishment of an African SIDS Platform for matters of Fisheries and Aquaculture and consolidation of internal arrangements of the group including their consideration and likely validation (with amendments) of AU-IBAR drafted Platform Rules of Procedure in 2025**
- **Consolidation of APRIFAAS**



Key achievements

- **AU-MS recognition of the availability of support to strengthen and deepen their participation in international meetings**
- **Extremely well received programme of work on ratification and domestication of international instruments**



The Main Challenge

- **Sustainability of these achievements from a financial point of view – African Union budgetary commitment needed rather than rely on external partners who may not necessarily support the emerging African Union and progress on matters of fisheries and aquaculture and Blue Economy.**



African Voice at COFI 2022

- 1. Statement on aquatic biodiversity made by Madagascar on behalf of the African Regional Group
- 2. Statement on development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy made by the African Regional Group
- 3. Statement on the FAO Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework – Statement by Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Regional Group
- 4. Statement on the proposal for establishment of a new Sub-Committee for Fisheries made by South Africa, Algeria, Kenya, Somalia on behalf of the African Regional Group
- 5. Statement on creation of African Platform for SIDS made by Seychelles Principal Secretary to COFI
- 6. Statements by South Africa and Uganda/LVFO supporting Small-scale and artisanal fisheries
- 7. Statement on combatting IUU Fishing by ARG
- 8. Statement by ARG on FAO document: Contribution of Fisheries and Aquaculture Towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 9. Déclaration du groupe régional Afrique à l'occasion de la 35^{ième} session du comité des pêches sur la lutte contre la pêche illicite, non déclarée, non réglementée Rome, du 5 au 9 septembre 2022 – Statement by Senegal on behalf of the African Regional Group.
- 10. Déclaration du groupe régional Afrique sur l'intégration systématique de la biodiversité dans le secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture à l'occasion de la 35^{ième} session du comité des pêches – Statement by Senegal on behalf of the African Regional Group.
- 11. Décisions et recommandations découlant de la onzième session du sous-comité de l'Aquaculture du comité des pêches. - Le Mali, le Burkina Faso, et la Guinée intervention au nom du groupe régional Afrique
- 12. Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture - Cabo Verde, Angola, Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Regional Group
- 13. Talking points for meeting between Madagascar Fisheries Minister Paubert and the Director General of FAO on current priorities and challenges for the continent and work being undertaken by African Union on these priorities and challenges



African Voice at COFI 2024

AGENDA ITEM	AFRICAN VOICE DELIVERED BY AU-MS
State of the world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	Guinea* Cameroon, Mauritania, Cote d'Ivoire, South Africa
Decisions and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, 16-19 May 2023	Cape Verde*
Decisions and recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, 11-15 September 2023	Nigeria, Zambia, Congo, Angola*
Decisions and recommendations of the First Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, 15-18 January 2024	Morocco, Gabon, Ghana, Ghana* Tunisia, Senegal, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania
Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing	Morocco* Cameroon, South Africa, Senegal, DRC
Integrated water resources management in fisheries and aquaculture	Senegal* Ethiopia, Lesotho, Uganda, Algeria, Guinea
The role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and nutrition	Gabon*, Congo, Mali, Madagascar, Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania
Impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture, and aquatic foods as a climate solution	South Africa* Uganda, Guinea, Ghana, Angola
The implications for fisheries and aquaculture of global biodiversity frameworks and agreements	Cote d'Ivoire* Mauritania, Nigeria, Angola, Libya
Marine plastic pollution and Fisheries and Aquaculture (for information and discussion)	Equatorial Guinea* Kenya, Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi
FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework	Congo* Senegal, Morocco, Egypt, Sudan
Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee	Zimbabwe* Cameroon, Eritrea, South Sudan

Thank You



AU-IBAR: Providing leadership in the development of animal resources for Africa