

OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR OF AU-IBAR
FOURTH ANNUAL DIALOGUE WITH REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES ON
EMERGING ISSUES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FISHERIES GOVERNANCE PROJECT
PHASE 2 (FISHGOV 2)
23-24 JULY, 2024
NAIVASHA, KENYA

- ✓ His Excellency, the Representative of the Government of Kenya
- ✓ Representatives of Regional Economic Communities
- ✓ Representatives of AUDA-NEPAD
- ✓ Partners
- ✓ Colleagues at AU-IBAR

Good morning to you all

I wish to extend sincere appreciation and welcome you to this fourth dialogue and sensitization meeting with the Regional Economic Communities on emerging issues on implementation of the Fisheries Governance project phase 2 (popularly known as FishGov2). On behalf of Her Excellency, Ambassador Josefa Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Sustainable Environmental and Blue Economy of the African Union Commission, I wish to thank the EU for the dedicated support to fisheries and aquaculture development in Fisheries. Special thanks to the EU Manager for this FishGov2. No doubt, his contribution to steering and guiding the project on the path of success has been immense.

In addition, I wish to thank you all, distinguished delegates from the various RECs and partners for your presence here this morning.

As Delegates may be aware, the FishGov2 project is already through in its last regular year of implementation. This meeting is therefore timely to share with you the progress made in the technical implementation of the project, and also progress of implementation of the recommendations emanating from the previous technical coordination and steering committee meetings, as well as additional emerging issues with respect to the implementation of the Project.

On this note, I would like to thank you, the distinguished representatives of the RECs for your collaboration with AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD in executing this project, with the support of our parent Directorate, the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development. Your participation and valuable inputs in various FishGov2 activities, have in no doubt, contributed to the present achievements. Indeed, you the REC's are the African Union building blocks.

The regular dialogue meetings with you are crucial for sensitizing you on project activities, updating you on status and challenges, and obtaining your perspectives. More importantly, the project management would also receive updates on your activities in the fisheries, aquaculture and blue economy projects and programmes, for the purpose of generating synergies.

Furthermore, be assured that, your recommendations in this meeting will be conveyed to the donor, that is the European Union. This regular dialogue meeting with RECs ensures ownership and increased prospects for sustainability.

Distinguished Delegates may also be aware, the project team will soon commence drawing up an extension for the project for the donor consideration, following the recommendation of the last STC. This exercise would require all stakeholders to

give perspectives on the project, relevance and issues to be captured and prioritized toward the successful implementation of the project.

Before concluding, it is my privilege to express how delightful we are to have a good representation of RECs at this meeting. This demonstrates your commitment and interest to African Union development agenda.

Lastly, I also take this opportunity to thank the European Union for their untiring support to continental fisheries and aquaculture development.

I thank you and wish you a successful dialogue.