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*Dept. Sustainable Economic development
and Trade*

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**AIDE MEMOIRE AND ANNOTATIONS TO THE MAIN AGENDA ITEMS
OF THE 5TH MEETING OF ACP SENIOR FISHERIES OFFICIAL AND
MINISTERIAL MEETINGS**

AIDE MEMOIRE AND ANNOTATIONS TO THE MAIN AGENDA ITEMS OF THE 5TH MEETING OF ACP SENIOR FISHERIES OFFICIAL AND MINISTERIAL MEETING

Background and context

1. For many ACP countries, fisheries and aquaculture plays a significant role in contributing to food security, livelihoods, and export revenues. In addition to their importance to the economies of many countries in terms of income and creation of employment, fisheries and aquaculture play an irreplaceable contribution towards eliminating hunger, promoting health and reducing poverty particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Fish also continues to be one of the most-traded food commodities with more than 60 of the ACP States engaged in the export of fishery and aquaculture products. For some ACP states fisheries exports account for half the total value of their traded commodities.
2. The ACP regions' maritime zones supports some of the most iconic and productive fisheries in the globe. Proper stewardship of these resources is however confronted by multiple challenges including unsustainable practices arising from inter alia land-based and coastal activities, Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and climate change threatening marine ecosystems, fish stocks, food security and livelihoods.
3. The shared nature of fisheries resources means that regional and international cooperation is essential for sustainable utilization and development. Such cooperation is crucial in supporting the implementation of programs modelled on what has worked elsewhere. In this context and to reinforce the key role that fisheries and aquaculture play in the socio-economic development of member states, the ACP Fisheries Mechanism was established in 2009. The mechanism is a platform for promoting new approaches of fisheries governance and cooperation for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development.
4. Up to four high level ministerial meetings have been held whereupon consensus on policy and strategic options have been adopted. Indeed a five year ACP strategic plan of action for fisheries and aquaculture and its implementing roadmap have been adopted. The action plan underlines member states shared commitment to support the implementation of policies and actions geared towards building resilient and productive marine ecosystems, ensuring effective fisheries management systems, sustainable utilisation and trade of fisheries products and promoting investments and innovations in the marine sector for social economic development.

5. The fifth meeting comes after the conclusion of significant global level events that have a bearing on the overall fisheries policy landscape including the historic agreement reached to combat climate change at the COP 21 and the momentous adoption of the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the FAO Port State Measures agreement. The meeting therefore provides the ACP fisheries policy makers with an opportunity of reflection and to consolidate their efforts in contributing to the implementation of the agreements and the attainment of the relevant SDGs. The meeting also happens at a fitting moment for many ACP coastal states particularly (SIDS), where the sustainable development of the blue economy is a pillar for accelerated growth of their national economies.

Objective

6. The overall objective of the meeting is to provide a forum for a high level engagement of policy makers to contribute to improved governance and development of fisheries and aquaculture resources for the overall socio-economic development of ACP Member States.
7. Specifically, the meeting seeks to:
 - Reinforce high level broad based shared commitment on priorities for the sustainable development and growth of ACP fisheries and aquaculture;
 - Take stock of achievements and challenges of implementation of the strategic plan of action for fisheries and aquaculture and define specific policy and strategic interventions to address sectoral challenges;
 - Share national or regional good practices and identify collaborative approaches for replication in other ACP states, mechanisms/regions;
 - Facilitate dialogue and seek consensus on priority issues for multilateral engagement to address issues that undermine fisheries sustainability, for example Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and disciplines on harmful fisheries subsidies;
 - Deepen cooperation and identify areas and strategies to sustain and expand partnerships on fisheries and aquaculture development for the benefit of ACP states;
 - Share experiences gained at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of SDG Goal 14.

Participants

8. The meeting aims to bring together: (i) ACP Ministers responsible for fisheries and aquaculture; (ii) Senior-level fisheries officials from the ACP states involved in policy development and implementation; (iii) Invited representatives of ACP regional fisheries bodies; (iv) Invited representatives from multilateral institutions; and (v) Invited experts to speak on selected thematic issues.

**ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF ACP
SENIOR FISHERIES OFFICIALS**

| TIME | Monday 18 September 2017 |
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| 8:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 | Opening Session |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Viwanou Gnassounou, <i>ACP Assistant Secretary-General</i> • Mrs. Phendra Rahming, <i>Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources of the Bahamas</i> • Chair of the 5th Meeting of the Senior officials meeting • Adoption of the agenda |
| 10:00 | Session 1: Stocktaking the implementation of the ACP strategic plan of action for fisheries and aquaculture |
| | <p>One of the foremost milestones of the ACP fisheries mechanism was the adoption of the five-year ACP strategic plan of action for fisheries and aquaculture 2012 - 16 and its implementing roadmap adopted in 2015 extending the lifespan of the plan up to the year 2020. The plan is a framework to reinforce coherence of actions for fisheries and aquaculture development in ACP countries and is implemented in accordance to member states' needs and circumstances. This session will consider the state of play of implementation of the strategic plan, highlighting the progress of implementation and to draw lessons from key national and regional successful initiatives The session will provide updates on regional perspectives on the implementation of the strategic plan of action.</p> <p>Speakers: ACP Secretariat Ms. Maria Luisa Cassama Ferreira, <i>Fisheries and Aquaculture policy coherence in the UEMOA region</i></p> |
| 11:00 | Networking Break |
| 11:15 | Session 1: Stocktaking the implementation of the ACP strategic plan of action for fisheries and aquaculture |
| 12:00 | Session 2: ACP Aquaculture Development |
| | <p>Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing food production sectors globally and is projected to fill the gap in the demand for fish and fishery products as the world's capture fisheries become increasingly fully exploited/overexploited. Due to the centrality of aquaculture development to the nutritional security and economic development of ACP countries, the session will focus on key challenges and opportunities to further expand aquaculture development.</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo, <i>Technical Advisor- Fisheries, SADC Secretariat</i> Ms. Matilda Quist <i>Deputy Director Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development- Ghana</i> Mr Shalendra Kumar Singh, <i>Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji</i></p> |
| 13:00 | Networking Lunch |

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| 14:00 | Session 3 : Advancing the implementation of SDG 14: Ending Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in ACP countries |
| | <p>Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a persistent problem undermining the sustainable management of fisheries and must be effectively tackled to improve the fisheries management outcomes. Ending IUU fishing is one of the early targets of the Sustainable Development Goal of Agenda 2030. The ambition is to eradicate IUU fishing and unsustainable fishing practices by the year 2020. Just three years away from the target, this session will explore options for accelerating the eradication of IUU fishing, highlight successful initiatives and approaches at national, regional and international levels; further explore options for scaling up through enhanced partnerships and collaboration</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Per Erik Bergh; <i>Fish –I-Africa: Perspectives from the West Indian Ocean Region</i></p> <p>Stefaan Depypere; <i>Director for International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries; EU Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)</i></p> |
| 15:30 | Session 4 : Effectively managing our fisheries: The way ahead for ACP sustainable fisheries |
| | <p>At least 31% of the assessed fish stocks globally are overfished due to weak governance and ineffective management that have compromised the fish stocks' natural regenerative capacity to provide high yields over the long-term, consequently resulting in loss of net economic benefits. The session will explore ways and means to give impetus to SDG goal 14 target 4. The aim is to reinforce the implementation of the fisheries management strategies and governance approaches to effectively maintain and rebuild ACP fisheries at sustainable levels to ensure high productivity and maintain healthy resilient stocks in order to secure the economic and environmental benefits to society in the future.</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Milton Haughton, <i>Executive Director; Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism</i></p> <p>Mr. Mohamed B.D. Seisay, <i>African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU IBAR)</i></p> |
| 17:30 | End of Day One |

| Tuesday 19 September 2017 | |
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| 09:00 | <p>Session 5: Blue Economy: maximizing benefits from fisheries and aquaculture</p> <p>What needs to be in place to unlock the economic potential of the blue economy and increase economic benefits to ACP economies, particularly from fisheries, aquaculture and nature-based coastal tourism? The session will provide lessons learnt and share experiences and build partnerships to further accelerate and sustain the blue economy growth.</p> <p>Speakers: Jacqueline Alder <i>Blue Growth Initiative; FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department</i> Mr. Mike Batty, <i>Director Fisheries Development, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)</i></p> <p><i>Mauritius National Perspectives</i></p> |
| 10:00 | <p>Session 6: Small, scale fisheries: Securing access to resources and markets</p> <p>An important feature of the ACP fisheries is that the small-scale fisheries are a very significant part of the catching sector. The small-scale fisheries sector tends to be firmly rooted in local communities, traditions and values. This represents an important sector which underpins food security, employment, livelihoods, international trade and development. As much as US\$5.3 billion worth of ACP fish exports enter the international market, the greatest portion of these from the small-scale fisheries. Yet, small-scale fishers are faced with significant market access difficulties, in particular, compliance with food standards of export markets, access to resources, and competition from large scale operators.</p> <p>This session will deal with the question of securing small scale fisheries access to markets and resources, which is front and centre for many ACP states and clearly prioritized as a key target of the SDG 14. What deliberate actions are required to deal specifically with developing the small scale fisheries sector?</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Mitchell Lay, <i>Coordinator the Caribbean network of fisherfolk organization</i> Mr Dawda Foday Saine, <i>Mr Dawda Foday Saine, Secretary General, African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Professional Organisations, Senegal</i></p> |
| 11:00 | Networking Break |

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| 11:15 | Session 7: The way ahead for fisheries subsidies reforms |
| | <p>Certain forms of subsidies provided by governments to the fishing sector are a major driver for the build-up of excessive fishing capacity, thereby undermining the sustainability of marine fisheries resources and the livelihoods that depend on them. The need to develop effective disciplines on fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing has remained an important agenda item in the international arena, and more so, with the adoption of Goal 14 of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development .</p> <p>During this session, in acknowledgement of the urgent need to expeditiously conclude a multilateral agreement to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies, the meeting will deliberate on the following: The state of play of negotiations; Key elements of an acceptable fisheries subsidies reform for ACP countries that allows for sufficient policy flexibility for sustainable fisheries development, and further contribute to refinement of a coherent ACP position on fisheries subsidies reform.</p> <p>Speaker: Mr Ricardo M. James, <i>Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Delegation of the OECS in Geneva and ACP Focal Person on Fisheries Subsidies</i></p> |
| 12:30 | Networking Lunch |
| 14:30 | <p>Side Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI): Increasing transparency and participation for the benefit of a more sustainable management of marine fisheries • What's in your "IUU tool box"? Budget friendly legal and technology solutions that can help you support your goals to combat IUU fishing in your waters and drive growth and community development |
| 17:00 | Session 8: Consideration of report of senior official meeting |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting shall consider the Report of the Senior official meeting • Any Other Business |
| | End of Day Two |

ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF ACP MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Official Opening Session:

The meeting will be opened by the Honourable Prime Minister of the Government of the Bahamas

1. Ministerial Round Table

With the aim of catalysing implementation of actions, promote shared understanding of issues and also to crystallize policy responses to some of the priority fisheries challenges; Ministers will exchange views with invited partners and other important actors focussed on improving ocean governance. The issues under discussion include inter alia; the problem of IUU fishing and effective management, fisheries subsidies reforms in the context of World Trade Organisation and the working conditions in the fishing sector. The exchange of views will also explore the opportunities for partnerships to expand the blue growth strategies for ACP countries.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

A draft agenda for the meeting has been issued as document ACP/84/083/17. The meeting is invited to consider and adopt the agenda of the meeting.

3. Consideration of the report of the senior officials meeting

The Chair of the meeting of ACP Senior officials that was held on the 18 and 19 September 2017 will present the meeting report for consideration and adoption.

4. Launch of intra-ACP Blue Growth Initiative for Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Secretariat will present proposed initiative and open the floor for comments

5. Consideration and adoption of the meeting outcome documents and Declaration

The meeting will consider and adopt the draft Declaration

6. Any other Business

Delegates may raise any other business under this agenda item. The chair may inform the meeting of the possible venue of the next meeting in the next biennium.

7. Close of Ministerial meeting.