



Harnessing Partnership Potential

between

**Pan African Platform of Non-State Actors in Fisheries and
Aquaculture
(AFRIFISH-Net)**

&

Long Distance Advisory Council Meeting (LDAC)

**Brussels, Belgium
25th October 2022**

Presented by:
Okeloh W'Namadoa
Secretary General-**AFRIFISH**

Background to Fisheries Agenda in Africa

- ❖ Fisheries sector, consisting of capture fisheries and aquaculture, makes significant contribution to food security and poverty reduction through income generation in Africa.
- ❖ Of the capture fisheries component, small-scale fisheries are the main producers of fish consumed and traded in Africa and beyond.
- ❖ Fisheries sector in Africa faces a myriad of challenges: these include; Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing activities, Climate change, over-exploitation of in-land fisheries to satisfy demand for proteins by Africa's increasing population in riparian regions. Others include negotiations for fisheries access by foreign vessels.
- ❖ Under-exploited Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of most African countries.
- ❖ All the above call for concerted efforts by organized Non-State Actors (NSAs) to lobby the Governments and other stakeholders to take action.

Establishment of AFRIFISH-Net

- ❖ The desire for fisheries Non-State Actors (NSAs) to organise as “one voice” on Africa Continent was conceptualized in 2010 during the 1st CAMFA (Conference of African Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture) conference in the Gambia.
- ❖ Through the support of AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD EU-funded FishGov2 project, representatives of the five regional NSAs platforms in fisheries and aquaculture convened in Accra, Ghana 2021 for actualization of the concept.
- ❖ Pan-African Platform of NSAs in Fisheries and Aquaculture (AFRIFISH-Net) comprising regional NSAs representation was founded on 19th November 2021
- ❖ Establishment of a Continental Coordination platform resonates with the intents and principles of Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines, Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, and African Fisheries Reform Mechanism for inclusivity, representation and collectiveness.

Mandate and Role of AFRIFISH

- ❖ AFRIFISH serves as a continental “advocacy platform and mouthpiece” of the NSA in fisheries and aquaculture.
- ❖ Given the importance of artisanal fisheries in Africa, which is by far the main provider of employment in the sector and a guarantor of food security for the population, AFRIFISH's action agenda has a special focus on this sector.
- ❖ AFRIFISH-Net, on its own or working in collaboration with its constituent regional NSA platforms (namely CENCAFA, EARFISH, SANSAFA, WANSABA and Maghreb region) engage(s) with governments and development partners to advance the interest of Africa’s fisheries and aquaculture agenda with emphasis on artisanal and small scale fisheries.
- ❖ Fosters coordination among its constituent regional NSA platforms.

Shared Vision Between AFRIFISH-Net and LDAC

- Our objective within AFRIFISH is to exchange our experiences and views, and also to advise, as a privileged interlocutor, African decision-makers on fisheries issues, including in the negotiation of fisheries agreements between the European Union and African Union including its Member States.
- Similarly, as **LDAC** brings together diverse stakeholders in fisheries, operators and workers from the sector, as well as environmental and development cooperation NGOs; AFRIFISH-Net would wish to engage LDAC to advise the European authorities in the establishment and implementation of policies that affect fisheries on the African continent.
- It is our common responsibility to develop a dialogue and collaboration between AFRIFISH-Net and LDAC so that the relationship between Europe and Africa will be based on the sustainability of resource exploitation and transparency, and takes into account the protection of fishers, fish workers and coastal communities, including the food security of African populations.
- Promote women and young person's participation in fisheries and aquaculture activities as a sustainable enterprise:

Possible Collaboration Areas

- Promote balanced attention to all components of blue economy in Africa. This is to ensure that such components as tourism, maritime transport, and oil and gas do not harm fisheries and aquaculture component in the blue economy package.
- Promote exclusive fishing access rights by artisanal and small scale fishers
- Promote transparency with regard to fisheries access agreements involving foreign fishing vessels/nations.
- Ensure exploitation of small pelagic on sustainable basis and for human consumption rather than fishmeal.

Possible Collaboration Areas Cont'd

- ❖ African States should sign and implement the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 188 on Work in the Fishing Sector to protect the welfare and well-being of the African fishers.
- ❖ Safety training for the fishing vessels' crew, use of new technologies, and safety awareness among fishermen are all essential elements that could be improved with the implementation of this ILO Convention 188; as of today, only six African states have signed this convention

Conclusion

- AFRIFISH-Net looks forward to advancing shared vision with LDAC through possible collaborative work on areas so far identified in this presentation.

Thanks!

Merci!

Ahsante!

Obrigado!