



# REPORT

SEMINAR

## FISHING COMPANIES WITH INVESTMENTS AND OPERATIONS IN THIRD NON-EU COUNTRIES: AFRICA CASE STUDIES



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# FOREWORD



Iván López van der Veen, LDAC Chair

Fisheries joint ventures have been on the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) agenda since it was created because it has been a fundamental part of the growth of the European industry abroad since the coming of the National Exclusive Zones in the 70's. Nevertheless, the Joint Ventures have failed to have their place in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) since its inception, and more poignantly, also when the External Dimension of the CFP was adopted.

In 2015, the LDAC organized an International Conference in Las Palmas on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) external dimension, with various African governments, regional organizations and stakeholders such as industry, fisher organizations and NGOs invited to participate in the debate. Already then, all participants called for European fisheries investments in third countries under joint ventures to be covered and recognized by the CFP[1]. Participants particularly pointed to the need of joint enterprises to operate transparently, not to compete with small-scale fisheries, and to contribute to the development objectives of the African country concerned as part of their fundamental activity. There was also an unanimous agreement on the need for such framework to apply to all joint ventures supplying the European market, irrespective of the European nature of the foreign component of the company in third countries, fostering a level playing field[2] in line with sustainability and transparency standards.



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Mr. Lala Ranaivomanana, Professor Univ. Toliara/Director BCPA

Mr. Michael Earle, EP fisheries advisor (retired)

# BACKGROUND

Recommendations issued as a result of the LDAC International Conference on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy[1] in 2015 included the following: “European investors in the fisheries industry in third countries (joint ventures) must be included and recognised by the CFP. The EU must promote a dialogue with African countries that fosters the development of a regulatory framework for joint venture with respect to catch (applicable to all vessels of foreign origin), processing and marketing that guarantees that joint ventures operate transparently, do not compete with artisanal fishing and contribute to the development objectives of the country in question”.

# OBJECTIVES

The development of this recommendation (1.5) has continued and the aim of this seminar is to analyse the implementation framework to ensure that investments by European fishing companies in third countries are sustainable and benefit the populations of these countries, while contributing to the supply of European markets.

Successful case study experiences will present the reality of sustainable fisheries investments. Problematic cases of joint ventures with EU operators and other distant water fishing nations will also be examined to see how shortcomings can be addressed through dialogue between the EU and third countries.

The final objective of the Seminar will be the achievement of a formal declaration containing recommendations aimed at:

- Identifying key aspects of governance in order to establish a solid framework to help operationalise and give substance to the clause on the promotion of investments that are integrated in bilateral Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs).
- Creating the initial basis for a globally accepted document that will serve as a sustainable guide for third country fisheries investment, preferably in collaboration with both the EU and the FAO.
- Making a proposal to include and recognise EU fisheries investments in third countries as part of the external dimension of the CFP[2] given its importance for the European market and for food security and sovereignty.

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[1] Recommendation 1.5 available [here](#) and in [Annex II](#).

[2] Vid. European Parliament resolution of 22 November 2012 on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (2011/2318(INI)) Point 70 "Considers that European fisheries investment should be included as a third component within the external dimension of the CFP, alongside fisheries agreements and RFMOs, and that the CFP should promote external fisheries investment of a sustainable nature".

# INTRODUCTION

## Legal framework and perspective from the Europe Union and Africa

▶ [Full video of the introduction panel](#)



I. Garzon, DG MARE; D. Beye, UN/SRFC; B. Gorez, CFFA-CAPE; H. Salih, AU IBAR; I. López, LDAC.

## What do African countries expect from joint ventures in the fisheries sector?



[Link to her presentation](#)

Dr Huyam Salih, Director of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) highlighted that, as of 2023, most African joint ventures are negotiated with companies from China, Korea and Japan with a focus on trawl fishing for shrimp and demersal fish resources. In general, their vessels must be registered and licensed locally and agree to use local goods and services.

Socio-economic benefits accrue to the African coastal states from a number of activities: local landings, employment of nationals as crew, linkages with infrastructure development, schools, hospitals in fishing communities, transfer of skills, knowledge and experience from the foreign partner. She however deplored that the formation of joint ventures in African fisheries is often

based on very limited knowledge of ecosystems, of the state of fisheries resources or of the dynamics of the local fisheries sector. This lack of information, instead of encouraging foreign investors and host country institutions to exercise caution, has often led to investments that are damaging to the conservation of fisheries resources and harmful to the future of the coastal communities that depend on them. She stressed that African countries expect the following approach from joint ventures partners:

- Adhere to regulations governing fisheries management, environmental protection, labour standards;
- Provide the Coastal State with all the necessary information for making informed management decisions, in particular information on the state of the resources;
- Provide adequate financial returns to the African partner and the Coastal state, expand horizons for equal participation of women in joint ventures;
- Respect measures for the protection of local communities that are dependent on the marine resources.

Joint ventures should also help the development of fishing infrastructure, such as ports, harbors, cold storage facilities, and, where relevant, high quality processing plants, improving access to high standards markets. They should also introduce ecologically appropriate fishing gear meeting both high environmental management standards and climate change mitigation objectives, including low emissions and high fuel efficiency.

## General legal framework to fisheries joint ventures in Africa presentation

Mrs. Diénaba Beye, legal expert in International Law, Fisheries Law, Marine and coastal environmental Law, presented the main instruments overseeing the constitution of joint ventures in Africa, in particular the Revised Uniform Act relating to Commercial Companies and Economic Interest Groups (AUSCGIE) of the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa (OHADA). She also detailed several African coastal countries (Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Senegal) national regulations regarding the conditions for granting their flag to fishing vessels. She then made a serie of recommendations to ensure the establishment of sustainable joint ventures that fairly benefit African countries, including:



[Link to her presentation](#)

- Promote the amendment of the AUSCGIE to introduce the obligation for each State Party to hold a Register of Beneficial Owners (RBO) at the level of the competent administrations, and to introduce specific conditions for the creation of a public or private joint venture.
- Strengthen the screening of foreign direct investment in Africa (by AU or AFRIFISH).
- Support the establishment, at international level, of the legal concept of the substantial link.
- Promote, at the level of each country, co-management of fisheries resources to avoid competition between fisheries stakeholders, particularly with small-scale fisheries.
- Promote the nationalization of fishing companies as the preferred strategy for combating food insecurity, social exclusion, unemployment/underemployment among young men and women.
- Carry out an assessment of the tax losses caused by 'shell companies' in African fisheries.

## General legal framework to fisheries joint ventures in Africa presentation



Mrs. Isabel Garzon, Advisor for International Affairs, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries was interested for participants to discuss the following key questions:

- Why should the EU have a fisheries specific approach to investments in partner countries, given the wide number of trade agreements and technical and financial tools to support countries to put in place the right institutions to attract foreign investment?
- How do we ensure that production capacities fueled by foreign investments are commensurate to the available resources, taking into account the weak capacities in fisheries management and control at national and regional level, as well as the risk of race to the bottom if neighboring countries compete to attract investment without coordinated policies and action in fisheries management at regional level?
- How do we address transparency in the context of weak national fisheries and company law frameworks? (Companies' beneficial ownership is key to fight IUU fishing, tax evasion and money laundering; EU nationals are not allowed to engage in/support IUU fishing).
- What will be the social benefits for communities and workers in the EU and in host countries? Are EU investors to reduce their production capacities in the EU? Will there be benefits for local African communities from more (industrial) local production of feed from small pelagics and canned tuna destined to the EU market? Currently, there is an absence of structured request for using the investment provisions that already exist under the SFPAs.



# SESSION I

## Identifying good economic, environmental and social practices



A. Menoyo, Albacora Group; F. Fernández, Secretariat General for Fisheries of Spain; I. López, LDAC Chair; D. Troncoso, Nueva Pescanova; F. Xavier Martínez, University of Vigo; S. Harper, Cornelis Vrolijk Holding BV.

### 1.1. EU Fishing companies with investments in third countries

#### The case of Spain. Evolution of the regulation of fishing companies in third countries in Spain and the EU and the current situation of their registry



[Link to his presentation](#)

[Link to his video](#)

Mr. Francisco Fernández, Secretariat General for Fisheries of Spain, explained the evolution of joint fishing ventures, which started in the 1970s. These emerged as an opportunity for fishing companies operating in third countries to continue their activity, as the coastal countries extended the exclusive economic zone to 200 miles following the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Sea. These joint ventures contributed their know-how to the local partner of the coastal country and made it possible to improve employment and the supply of fish to their countries of origin. Spanish fishing companies were among the first to make use of

this type of venture, obtaining notable success, partly due to the tariff benefits offered by the Spanish authorities to encourage the creation of these companies.

Spain's entry into the European Community had a major impact on these companies because it involved accepting the entire *acquis communautaire*, which meant the elimination of the tariff benefits they had enjoyed until then.

However, between 1990 and 2005, these companies experienced a boom thanks to EU regulations considering them an instrument of the structural fisheries policy to reduce the overcapacity of the European fleet. However, since 2005, the EU fisheries policy has ceased to consider these companies as part of the policy, leaving them in a situation of deregulation that continues to this day.

The official register of these joint enterprises in Spain has evolved since its creation in 1985, adapting to the different situations that the regulation of these companies has undergone. The current legislation regulating the register of Spanish fishing companies in third countries dates from 1999, and its drafting was inspired by the consideration of these companies as instruments of Community structural policy. Currently, this Register has an exclusively social function, because the registration of joint enterprises allows Spanish or Spanish resident crew members on their vessels to continue to be covered by the Spanish social security system. In this respect, the Spanish authorities are planning to amend the current regulation making certain requirements and formalities within the current legislation more flexible.

## Presentation of the study on: “Estimating the Economic and Social Impact of Joint Ventures”



 [Link to his presentation](#)

 [Link to his video](#)

Mr. Francisco Xavier Martínez Cobas, Ardán Chair, Vigo Free Trade Zone Consortium/ University of Vigo, summarised some key highlights from the study they had made, showing that fishing joint ventures (FJV) form part of the European value chain derived from fishing activity (shipyards, supplies, canning industry...). Full study at: <https://www.zfv.es/ardan/smp.html>

Notably, they generate in the EU 4,840.8 million euros worth of production and 2,497 million euros of revenue, 31,400 jobs and 257.7 million euros of taxes.

FJVs generate 1,269 million euros of production value in third countries and revenues of 673 million euros, and an estimated 119,275 jobs and public tax revenues of more than 71 million euros per year.

For the EU, they are a valuable instrument as part of the Global Gateway promoted by the European Commission. They also help to guarantee the supply of quality marine protein in the EU, as well as its food sovereignty. For third countries, they represent the extension of European values and practices of sustainable and responsible fishing following Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria, as well as compliance with nine of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

 [Complete study available.](#)

## 1.2. Case studies from Africa: Experiences of EU fishing companies with investment in Namibia, Mozambique, Senegal, Nigeria And Indian

### Case study on Indian Ocean: “The role of ALBACORA and Tuna in fostering growth in Small Island Developing States and small-scale economies”

Mr. Alfonso Menoyo, Albacora Group, explained that Albacora’s vision and strategy is based on the concept of ‘people, planet and profit’. The business development is based on the highest standards of compliance and sustainability, using European Union regulations as a reference for the entire group.

In contrast to more short-term and aggressive business models, Albacora is firmly committed to a responsible model of sustainable management from economic, social and environmental approach. In line with this strategy, Albacora is positioned as a reliable partner, having had more than 40 years of experience in the area, for the different agents working to promote responsible development in the Indian Ocean.

Their commitment to the Indian Ocean is clear, from both a historical point of view and from their increased activity there in recent years. Albacora understand that there will be interesting opportunities for all public and private agents, which will require cooperation and joint work from all involved within the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.



 [Link to his presentation](#)

 [Link to his video](#)

## Case study on Namibia: “NOVANAM as the backbone of the economy and the development of Luderitz from independence to this day”



[Link to his presentation](#)

[Link to his video](#)

Mr. David Troncoso, Nueva Pescanova Group, explained that Namibia has been an independent country for more than 35 years, the same number of years that Nueva Pescanova Group has been in business. He wanted to highlight that NovaNam is a success story among joint ventures and that it has generated generous profits and benefits for its different stakeholders.

The added value brought to hake fishing has generated more than 2,000 direct jobs in the plant built in the middle of the Namib Desert which is the oldest in the world. They are sustainably harvested by a renewed fleet built to 21st century standards and mainly destined for European markets. This represents a clear example of mutual benefit. The 44 actions identified within the responsible action programme, which contribute to 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are an outstanding example of the Corporate Social Responsibility that NovaNam has been practicing naturally since its foundation, long before this concept was formalised.

NovaNam has been the economic engine of Luderitz, as evidenced by the population growth from 3,000 inhabitants in 1990, when many considered it a ‘ghost town’, to 25,000 today. In addition, exciting and strategic projects are already underway, such as the university and the museum of the sea as part of the Waterfront project. These are helping to consolidate the population and create a virtuous cycle that is creating a promising future for Luderitz, making it attractive to new investors.

## Case study on Mozambique: “PESCAMAR’s contribution to the economic and social development of Beira since 1980”

Mr. David Troncoso, Nueva Pescanova Group, highlighted that Pescamar’s greatest contribution in the 44 years since it started would undoubtedly be its role in the creation of a fishing culture through training. Since 1980, Pescamar has been firmly committed to training, a goal that has always been a core value of the company, and which has remained unchanged despite several statutory updates over time.

A key factor in this process has been the capacity and resilience of Pescanova’s expatriate managers and staff, who, endowed with ‘cultural fluency’, in an extremely complex environment, played a key role in the transfer of knowledge. It is worth remembering that, at that time, they faced a population with a literacy rate of 10%, and had to operate in a planned economy and in the middle of a civil war, with the government as the majority partner. The collaboration over the years with the Fisheries Research Institute, the fishing school and the support of sustainable fisheries management measures such as the establishment of the closed season and the extension of nets, among others, are proof of the long-term vision of the Pescamar project.



[Link to his presentation](#)

[Link to his video](#)

In this context, the need for self-sufficiency led Pescamar to develop onshore support services for the fleet, such as electricity, carpentry, welding, net repair, electronics, laundry and health services. These services not only sustained the operation, but also served as veritable vocational schools, where thousands of people over more than four decades learned a trade. Many of these workers later became self-employed, extending Pescamar’s legacy beyond its direct operations.

## Case study on Senegal: “Working together for a better world”



 [Link to his presentation](#)

 [Link to his video](#)

Mr. Roque Serrano, Armadora Pereira, explained that joint fisheries ventures, in addition to helping secure the supply of marine protein to the EU, are also an important factor in the value chain derived from fishing activity.

They generate wealth and employment in third countries, while extending practices, models of sustainability and ESG responsibility to these countries. They contribute to the professional development of staff and the fishing industry.

They are also a vehicle for accessing new markets.

## Case study on Nigeria: “Investing in Nigerian Shrimp Trawling”


Mr. Stewart Harper explained that in Nigeria, the Cornelis Vrolijk Group (CV) has invested in existing shrimp fishing operations, seeking over the years to improve the sustainability and efficiency of operations. CV mainly operates nine large pelagic freezer trawlers under Dutch, French and British flags.

Nigeria has always been a very important market for CV's pelagic products (800,000 tonnes per year). Over the years, CV has developed a good commercial relationship with the Primlaks group in Nigeria, which was the importer of its frozen pelagic fish. In 1995, Nigeria experienced a banking crisis and Primlaks had to raise cash very quickly. CV decided to help by buying 15 shrimp trawlers from Primlaks, which led to the creation of a joint venture company now called Atlantic Shrimpers Limited. Today, Atlantic Shrimpers Limited owns and operates 72 shrimp trawlers, employing 1,300 people, mainly Nigerians, and landing 4,000 tonnes of shrimp for export each year, as well as 7,000 tonnes of fish for local markets.

Mr Harper stressed the importance of obtaining legal advice, both in Europe and in Africa, on the terms of any joint venture agreement, and the fact that the partners must sign a legal contract that covers a wide range of issues, such as dispute resolution, use of profits (how much will be distributed and how much reinvested), etc.

He highlighted the various regulatory and commercial aspects that need to be taken into account when



 [Link to his presentation](#)

 [Link to his video](#)

setting up a joint venture, including (for export to the EU market) DG SANTE regulations on the importation of foodstuffs, the importance of being in close contact with the Ministry responsible for fisheries, the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), and so on.

To improve the sustainability of local operations, Atlantic Shrimpers Limited has taken various initiatives, including maintaining links with European scientific bodies, producing a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) document and seeking international certification for its products. It is worth noting that all their trawlers are equipped with satellite monitoring and AIS systems, and that they use lighter fishing gear and more efficient trawl doors to limit their impact on the environment.

# SESSION II

## Joint ventures and food security: The case of the small pelagics value chains in West Africa



V. Vulperhost; LDAC Vice-Chair; I. López, LDAC Chair; A. Babou, Cornelis Vrolijk's Cap Blanc Company; G. Gueye, AFRIFISH-Net.

### 2.1. African fishers point of view on joint ventures and synergies with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)



[Link to his presentation](#)

[Link to his video](#)

Mr. Gaoussou Gueye, chair of AFRIFISH-Net highlighted that, in recent years, the activities of fishing joint fishing in Africa have been denounced for their lack of transparency and for their involvement in systematic fraudulent practices, such as the under-declaration of tonnage by vessels of Chinese origin operating in West Africa.

He then congratulated Spain, for its efforts in providing information on the companies that own Spanish ships operating in joint ventures in Africa, calling on

other EU Member States to follow suite. Similarly, he called on African states to publish more information about the vessels fishing under joint ventures, and their activities.

He called for the African states to review, in consultation with the various administrations concerned - as well as stakeholders, in particular small-scale fisheries, the rules for setting up and operating joint fishing companies, including the rules for registering new vessels under the national flag. This future regulatory framework should ensure that joint enterprises are set up and operate with the utmost transparency, do not contribute to the overexploitation of resources or the destruction of ecosystems, and are not in competition with small-scale fishing.

In the case of the relations with the EU, it should be remembered that SFPAs contain a clause encouraging the creation of joint ventures. This can be an opportunity to discuss the conditions that should be applied when setting up these joint ventures to ensure that they are part of a sustainable fisheries framework. Issues arising from existing joint ventures with European companies in countries where there is a fisheries agreement, such as Mauritania, Senegal, the Seychelles, Madagascar should also be addressed in that context, to ensure they comply with sustainable fishing criteria in the same way as vessels under agreement.

Mr. Babacar Sarr, artisanal fisher from Senegal and president of the Conseil National Interprofessionnel de la Pêche Artisanale au Sénégal (CONIPAS), highlighted the importance of the information and participation of stakeholders in the allocation of fishing licences to industrial vessels, many of which are fishing under joint ventures. In Senegal, like in many other African countries, there is a Consultative Committee (CCALP) which includes representatives from all administrations concerned, researchers, a representative from the industrial sector and one from the artisanal sector.

This Committee examines the requests for licenses, taking into account the opinion of scientists and the risks of competition with small-scale fishing. However, in the last years, fishers saw a number of licences being granted by the Ministry to vessels of Asian origin despite an unfavourable opinion from the Consultative Committee. In the future, fishers hope to be better represented in that consultative body, and for its advises to be better taken into account, to ensure the authorities can no longer ignore the committee's opinions without giving a valid reason.



Mrs. Djalikatou Cherif, a woman fish processor from Guinea, representing the African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Organisations (CAOPA) stressed that the biggest challenge women face every day is to find fresh, good-quality fish, to be able to process it in good conditions and to sell it at a fair price so that they can feed their families and pay for their children's education.

For several years now, they have observed a drop in landings by small-scale fishers, which is leading to a shortage of raw materials for women. They are also seeing more and more industrial fishing boats, foreign trawlers, coming to fish in their country's waters without landing anything for the women. A few years ago, in Guinea Bissau, Chinese boats promised to land their by-catch for the women. But the fish was not well preserved on board and was rotten by the time the women received it. Some filled the fish boxes with stones so that they would have to give less.

She also highlighted that joint ventures in the fishing value chain are not just for boats, but also for factories. There are joint ventures for fishmeal processing in the whole of West Africa, especially with Chinese, but also Turks and Spanish, and these are a threat to the women's activities, by taking the small pelagic fish that would otherwise go to the women processors, but also, in some cases, by depriving the women of their traditional work space, not to mention the air pollution.

## 2.2. The case of EU investments in small pelagics value chain in Mauritania



[Link to his presentation](#)

[Link to his video](#)

Mr. Ahmed Babou, from Cornelis Vrolijk's Cap Blank Company presented how the company envisages a sustainable and effective partnership. Since its establishment in Mauritania in 2017, the company delivers high-quality frozen small pelagics (sardine, mackerel, horse mackerel), relying on the decades of experience of Cornelis Vrolijk, a Dutch family owned fishing company. The fish products are exclusively intended for human consumption, making excellent quality seafood available to Mauritanian and African populations.

The factory controls the entire production process: fish is refrigerated at sea until freezing in our factory and storage in the coldstore at minus 20 degrees. There are several stages of sorting and controls, both manual and mechanised, to ensure that the quality standards are reached at all times. Information is printed on the product giving the fish origin, date of production.

The company is also very mindful of the well-being of its employees (decent working conditions, fair wages). It has also taken the decision to not systematically automate workstations with machines, to favour job creation and a human production chain. The company strive to share skills through training of its workers (hygiene, quality), to allow them to develop career paths between different activities.

The company has made important investments in local infrastructure: processing facilities, cold storage, as well as in port infrastructure, to enhance efficiency, quality control, and value addition within the pelagic fishing supply chain or demersal fishery supply chain. However, the company faces some challenges, in particular the competition from companies that do not adhere to rules and 'exploit' people and fish resources, as well as too much bureaucracy.

# SESSION III

## Working towards a framework for sustainable joint ventures in African fisheries



L. Campling, FAO consultant; J. Daudu, EJJ; M. Sadiki, COMHAFAT.

### 3.1. Identification of key aspects of governance and good practices in order to establish a solid framework for sustainable investments in African fisheries

Mr. Mohamed Sadiki, Head of Programs and Projects Department at COMHAFAT underlines that joint ventures and private agreements in fisheries are criticised mainly for their lack of transparency and the absence of rules governing access agreements to African fisheries. He then highlighted key aspects of governance and good practices in order to establish a framework for sustainable investments in African fisheries:

- Sustainability: carry out scientific fisheries assessments, take into account management recommendations of the RFMOs' Scientific Committees; generalise the introduction of management plans for fisheries, which are the subject of access agreements; establish conditions of access in national fisheries legislation and conditions for the use of licences; harmonise access conditions at regional level, along the minimum access conditions fixed by regional bodies such as SRFC and CPCO.
- Fairness: recognize the strategic importance of fisheries for African coastal states, ensure socio-economic benefits from these investments, which should not focus solely on the extraction of fisheries resources (paying for access); take into account the interests of local fishing communities, mainly artisanal fishing communities; establish or develop mechanisms for co-management and stakeholder participation.



[Link to his presentation](#)

[Link to his video](#)

- Transparency: make resource access agreements public, as well as ex ante/ex post studies and the reports of the Monitoring Joint Committees; make accessible all information on the activities of foreign fleets operating in EEZs.

At the level of the African Union, in particular AU/IBAR, guidelines on investment by third countries/economic entities in fisheries in Africa should be developed, in the light of African policy documents. Minimum conditions of access (MCA) to fisheries resources should be defined at continental level, adapting them to address current environmental, social and economic challenges.



## 3.2. The issue of Level Playing Field in relation to social aspects and working conditions: Recent FAO/ILO/IMO developments concerning IUU fishing and guidelines for medical examination of fishers



Mr. Ment wan der Zwan, in lieu of his absence sent the following comments on the developments concerning the definition of fishing capacity and the adoption of guidelines for medical examination of fishers.

The FAO/ILO/IMO group recommends States, when regulating fishing capacity, to ensure that measures taken do not have a detrimental effect on the working and living conditions of fishers (for example on accommodation) and consider using net tonnage (NT), instead of gross tonnage (GT), as one of the factors determining the fishing capacity of fishing vessels.

In addition, some recommendations were adopted on child labour, forced labour, abandonment, and treatment of fisheries observers. Moreover, the ILO/IMO adopted guidelines for the medical examination of fishers and the revised text of the IMO Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) contains similar requirements as well.



Links to the related documentation:

-  [Guidelines on the medical examination of fishers](#)
-  [Draft recommendations of JWG FAO/ILO/IMO](#)

## 3.3. Lessons, regarding joint ventures, learned from FAO's work on access arrangements



 [Link to his presentation](#)

 [Link to his video](#)

Professor Liam Campling, from Queen Mary University of London, and FAO consultant provided an overview of the FAO ongoing study on access arrangements.

The phase two of the study focusses on non-reciprocal 'Southern' arrangements', and explores the agreements between 'resources seekers' countries (like Japan, EU countries, China, Taiwan) and 'resources owners' countries, like West Africa, Namibia, Western Indian Ocean and Pacific countries. All resources owners countries engage in fisheries joint ventures to varying degrees and with different levels of success. Fisheries joint ventures as access arrangements are a struggle over rent and profit from a country fisheries. They are often geopolitically motivated. Access to fisheries resources is a public asset and offering discounts to joint ventures has opportunity costs, of which ministries of finance should be aware. Analysis of joint ventures, and a potential reform of the conditions offered to them, should place a greater emphasis on firms as strategic agents, and on the individual country (and region) context.

## What EU Fishing Companies in Third Countries are asking for, and the reasons behind it.

Mr José Ramón Fontán Domínguez, from the Association of Fishing Enterprises in Third Countries (ANEPAT), provided an historical context for the creation of joint ventures, from the 1970s onwards, when many coastal countries with fishing resources requested the creation of joint fishing ventures: they needed vessels, qualified crews, know-how, and consumer markets that would value their fish products. He also stressed that, if other countries initially accepted the presence of foreign fleets within the framework of fisheries agreements, their medium-term objective was to develop a fleet under their flag, adding value to their catches through land-based factories. Today 450 vessels of Spanish origin form part of joint ventures companies in 27 third countries, most of which are developing countries. Together, they catch 800,000 MT/year, equivalent to the catch of the entire fleet under the Spanish flag, practically all of which is destined for EU processors and consumers. They employ around 110,000 workers.

For Mr Fontán, it is necessary to certify the EU fisheries joint ventures through their registration in a Register of Fishing Companies in Third Countries, which must be kept by each MS and submitted to the Commission. It is key that EU joint ventures respect and adapt to the legislation of the countries where they are hosted and in whose waters they operate, which should not prevent their inclusion in EU registers.



 [Link to his presentation](#)

 [Link to his video](#)

For the revision of the CFP, Mr. Fontán presented a serie of requests, including:

- Inclusion of joint ventures in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) as the third element of its External Dimension with the Sustainable Fisheries Agreements, and Regional Fisheries Organisations.
- EU joint ventures to be considered within the Global GATEWAY programme, and should have access to the European Investment Bank financing for the maintenance and renovation of their vessels and their cold storage and fish processing facilities.

He also underlined that EU joint ventures do not ask for EU fisheries subsidies.

# CONCLUSIONS

[▶ Link to conclusions video](#)



D. Voces, EUROPÉCHE; B. Gorez, CFFA-CAPE.

This Seminar was a starting point. The objective was above all to better understand each other's positions and issues, and we received a lot of information.

The debate on this subject begins today. All presentations will be shared with everyone[3]. In the coming months, we will continue the debate on this subject within the LDAC, with the aim of gradually providing an answer to the questions of the European Union, by involving our partners from COMHAFAT, the African Union and Afrifish-Net.

Examples of good practices were presented showing that joint ventures cover not only catching activities, but also processing activities and marketing. Examples were given about Mauritania, Nigeria, Namibia, Mozambique, Senegal and the Indian Ocean. These activities have contributed to jobs[4], food security and the culture of these countries.

We have seen that these activities can be a source of added value locally, but we have also observed cases where joint ventures have weakened food security, for example concerning the processing of fish into fish meal and fish oil or the use of irresponsible fishing practices.

Today, we shared the vision of African countries regarding the set up and operation of joint ventures, with areas for consideration that should apply to all joint ventures regardless of the foreign partner country of origin:

- The need to enforce the rules and laws concerning the constitution and operations of joint ventures.
- The development of a legal framework at the level of African countries, applicable to all, whatever the country of origin of the effective owner. So that, boats which constitute joint ventures respect the principle of surplus and are not in competition with the local artisanal fishing sector and that they contribute to local economies and food security.

[3] All the presentations are available [here](#).

[4] The economic activity involves an estimated 139,245 jobs (page 51 of the report "Estimation of the "Economic and Social Impact of Joint Fishing Ventures in Spain" carried out by the research department of the Vigo Free Trade Zone, within the framework of the ARDAN Chair of the University of Vigo, 2024)

- Support for infrastructure development and capacity building.
- Support for sustainable investments that benefit both African and EU countries, including the transfer of technologies.
- Improving access to markets, for example by developing certification.

Transparency is essential to ensure that joint ventures operate sustainably. In this context, it is necessary to revise, at the African level, the uniform act on commercial companies and Interest Economic Groups (IEGs), to introduce the legal form of joint ventures and the collection of information on the owner and effective operator of these joint ventures.

Spain's past commitment to the register of fishing joint ventures has been welcomed, although these efforts need to be renewed. It was hoped that all European countries would follow this example, collecting and publishing information on fishing joint ventures.

As for the European Union, it was recalled that Sustainable Fisheries Partnership agreements (SFPAs) promote the creation of joint ventures given the role they play in third countries. It was suggested to include standards to ensure that the constitution of these joint ventures meet sustainable fisheries standards promoted by the EU.

It is hoped that the European Union will take joint ventures into consideration, value their role and find ways to promote their sustainable operations and actions in third countries.

- Appraise and recognise their role within the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including for example: food supply, employment, research, innovation, know-how, knowledge sharing...
- Provide incentives to promote sustainable investments in third countries, such as privileged custom treatment.
- Include Joint Ventures within the [Global GATEWAY program](#).
- Enhance legal certainty in third countries, particularly those receiving development aid.
- Access to the financing of the European Investment Bank (EIB).





## Adama Antonia DJALO

**Vice-president of CAOPA.**

Antonia Adama Djalo is a fish processor from Guinea Bissau. She is President of the National network of women in artisanal fisheries in Guinea Bissau (RENAMUP-GB) and also of the Federation of women associations in the economic sector (AMAE). She is also vice-president of the African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Organisations (CAOPA).



## Ahmed BABOU

**Advisor of the Board CBP.**

Ahmed was born and raised in the Netherlands with parents from Mauritania and Morocco. After his education he gained a lot of knowledge in all three countries, which allowed him to guide and advise many foreign companies in Mauritania over the past 25 years. Especially in law and regulations, but also culturally. On the other side he guided Mauritanian businesses in Europe. Over the years CBP has completed various projects in Mauritania regarding agriculture, fishery and infrastructure, giving them a broad knowledge of the country.



## Alfonso MENOYO

**Fleet coordinator at Albacora Group.**

With just over 15 years in the food sector, and 10 in Albacora. Throughout this last phase, Alfonso has been able to collaborate and develop projects in departments such as purchasing, quality and currently, in operations, within his actual position as Fleet Coordinator.

He has also participated in the launch of the group's R&D unit. Alfonso has collaborated on process improvement projects, closely linked to resource optimization. This has allowed us to generate solutions in areas such as Blockchain or data management and rationalization. Both are very closely linked to the digitalization of processes.



## Béatrice GOREZ

**CFFA Coordinator.**

Béatrice Gorez has been spokesperson and coordinator of the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA) activities since 1994. This included extensive collaborations with African artisanal fishing organisations and advocacy towards EU institutions on EU-African fisheries policies that affects African fishery dependent coastal communities.

Prior to becoming CFFA spokesperson and coordinator, Béatrice Gorez was employed by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) in its Brussels secretariat. She has also been employed, or volunteered, in various initiatives, such as the Fair Trade Max Havelaar Foundation, or the Belgian Green Party.



## Daniel VOCES DE ONAÍNDI

### Managing Director of Europêche.

Daniel Voces has a master's degree in law from the University of Santiago de Compostela. He later obtained a master in European Studies and a postgraduate degree in international maritime transport.

Since 2012, Mr Voces works for Europêche, the most relevant European association representing the fishing sector. In 2016, he was appointed its managing director. He has previous experience working as an intern in the European Parliament Fisheries Committee and the Galicia Europa Foundation on EU regional policies. Mr Voces has been appointed alternate member and advisor in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for the period 2020-2025. He is a member of several EU Fisheries Advisory Councils and the European Social Dialogue Committee for Sea Fisheries.



## David TRONCOSO GARCÍA-CAMBÓN

### Upstream Strategy Director in Nueva Pescanova Group.

Born in Vigo 59 years ago. He has been with the Nueva Pescanova Group for 34 years, 30 of which he has been linked to Africa; he lived 11 years in Mozambique where he was Executive Director of the subsidiary Pescamar, Lda., where he chaired and participated in the constitution of the shipowners' association AMAPIC. At the same time, he was Honorary Consul of Spain in the city of Beira, General Manager for Africa and later General Manager of the Fishing area, being a director in several subsidiaries of the Group in 4 continents, chairing the Boards of Directors of the subsidiaries Novanam in Namibia and Pescamar and Efripel in Mozambique.



## Dienaba BEYE

### International legal consultant.

Diénaba Beye is a Senior Lawyer specialized in fisheries and environmental laws. She was the Technical Secretary in charge of the implementation of the law of the sea within the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/UNESCO. And also the Head of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Department as well as the Head of the Policy and Legislation Department of the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission/SRFC. She was a Litigator before ITLOS for the fight against IUU fishing in the 7 Member States of the SRFC.

Since 2019, Dienaba has been coopted as the FAO Expert who coordinated the legal assessment of fisheries legal and policy instruments of beneficiary States for the CFI-West Africa Project.



## Francisco FERNÁNDEZ MARTÍNEZ

### Deputy assistant director for economic sustainability and social affairs.

Degree in Veterinary Medicine from the Complutense University of Madrid. He joined the General State Administration in 1992, and from 1993 to 1998 he worked as Senior Fishing Technician in the Subdirectorates of Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Planning and in the Subdirectorate General of National Fishing Grounds, Aquaculture and Coastal Resources.

From 1998 to 2020 he occupied different destinations in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and in Autonomous Community of Cantabria, mainly as Head of Animal Health Service. In 2020 he rejoined the General Secretariat of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, being in charge of the different registers of the Spanish fishing fleet, including that of Spanish fishing companies in third countries, and in the evaluation of the balance of the Spanish fleet fishery segments.



## Francisco Xavier MARTÍNEZ COBAS

**Titular Professor, Financial Economics & Accounting, University of Vigo.**

Francisco Xavier Martínez Cobas (Vigo, 1968) has been professor of financial economics and accounting at the University of Vigo since 1993. He has a master's degree in accounting and auditing and a doctorate in economic and business sciences. He is trustee of the Isla Couto Foundation and the Penzol Foundation, both of public interest.

In the academic field, his main lines of research are foreign direct investment, entrepreneurship, cross-border cooperation and intellectual capital. In these fields, he was a visiting professor or researcher at universities of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Italy and Mozambique, as well as a teacher in the master's degree in foreign trade and international business from the Carlos III University of Madrid, Deusto and Las Palmas.



## Gaoussou GUEYE

**President of the Continental Platform of Non-State Actors in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (AFRIFISH-Net) and President of the African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Professional Organisations (CAOPA).**

Mr Gueye has been working in the fishing industry for 30 years. For some time now, he has dedicated himself to the functioning of professional organisations in the African artisanal fishing sector, while at the same time engaging in capacity-building for stakeholders and advocacy for sustainable small-scale fishing. The aim is to ensure food and nutritional security for the people of Africa.

Mr Gueye is President of the continental platform of non-state actors in fisheries and aquaculture (AFRIFISH-Net), President of the Confédération africaine des organisations professionnelles de la pêche artisanale (CAOPA), and President of the Association pour promotion et responsabilisation des acteurs maritimes artisanaux (APRAPAM) in Senegal.



## Huyam SALIH

**Director of AU-IBAR.**

Veterinary epidemiologist with 20 years of extensive and diversified experience in managing, planning, and leading for livestock development using animal health interventions, disease risk assessment and prevention in Livestock value chains at national and global levels. Worked in different positions that aims to maintain the One Health status, ensure compliance with international sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures, and expand livestock value chains linking small holder producers.



## Isabelle GARZON

**Advisor for International Affairs, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission.**

Extensive experience of EU policies in several areas and international negotiations : agriculture, fisheries and maritime affairs, international trade and international development. Worked in a wide range of functions within and outside the Commission (policy design, political advice, legislation, financial management, think tank, teaching).

Has been working in fisheries and maritime affairs in the Commission for 10 years, dealing with structural funding, outermost regions, scientific data collection, sustainable blue economy, and currently focusing on international environmental protection and agreements, development of EU external fisheries, and bilateral cooperation with strategic partners.



## Iván LÓPEZ VAN DER VEEN

### LDAC Chair.

With a degree in International Relations from Vesalius College of the Vrije University Brussels, Iván López is President of the National Association of Cod Fishing Vessels (AGARBA) and General Manager of Pesquera Ancora, as well as a member of the Governing Council of the Fishing Shipowners' Cooperative of the Port of Vigo (ARVI). He is also the Chair of the EU Bottom Fisheries Alliance (EBFA) and member of Spanish Fisheries Confederation (CEPESCA) and EUROPÉCHE.

As manager he has worked in the processing industry and in fisheries operations in Spain, Argentina and Namibia.



## José Ramón FONTÁN DOMÍNGUEZ

### President of ANEPAT.

José Ramón Fontán holds a degree in economics from the University of Bilbao. Since 1976, he has carried out his professional activity in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Vigo, Madrid and Brussels, as a shipowner, manager, director and president of associations that he set up and founded. In parallel, he has maintained continuous executive relations with the fishing administrations of the EU, Spain and the autonomous communities of the Canary Islands and Galicia. He is currently founding president of Pesca Europa, President of ANEPAT, member of the LDAC and member of the board of directors of the Cooperativa de Armadores de Pesca del Puerto de Vigo (ARVI).



## Julien DAUDU

### Chair of LDAC Working Group 5 on Horizontal Issues. Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF).

Julien Daudu is Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)'s Chief Representative in Brussels where he engages with critical EU staff across the organisation's range of activities. Julien also participates in EJF's ocean-related investigations building his experience working on fisheries-related issues – and more particularly the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fisheries crimes – for more than a decade and across a wide range of geographies with a particular focus on Africa. Julien has been chairing the Working Group 5 of the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) since 2020. Working Group 5 covers horizontal matters such as international ocean governance, IUU fishing and labour issues.



## Lala RANAIVOMANANA

### University Professor, Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marine Toliara - Madagascar.

Director - BCPA Sarl (2020 - present).

Research Lecturer - IHSM Toliara (2008 - present).

Secretary General - Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development Madagascar (2019).

Secretary General - Fédération des Pêcheurs Artisans de l'Océan Indien La Réunion (2016 - 2017).

Director of Marine Conservation - WCS Antananarivo (2015 - 2016).

Director of Administration and Planning, Technical Coordinator of PE2 ONE Antananarivo (1998 - 2011).

Studies:

Habilitation to supervise research (ED Marine Sciences/ U-Toliara).

PhD in Halieutics, (ENSAR Rennes).

MSc in Maritime Resource Management, (UQAR Québec).

Fisheries Engineering, (IHSM Toliara).





## Liam CAMPLING

**Associate Dean for Research and Professor of International Business and Development School of Business and Management, Queen Mary University of London.**

Liam Campling is Professor of International Business and Development at Queen Mary University of London. He has worked on international fisheries trade policy and its political economy for 20 years. He also researches global value chains in fish products, among other goods. He has undertaken applied research and analysis for Commonwealth Secretariat, East African Community, FAO, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, UNCTAD, and the governments of Mauritius and Seychelles. He has published numerous reports, academic articles and books, including *Capitalism and the Sea* (Verso 2021). Since 2018 he has been working as a Fisheries Expert in a team supporting the Pacific Islands Forum Geneva office and the six Pacific Island WTO members, focussing on negotiations for an agreement on fisheries subsidies.



## Ment VAN DER ZWAN

**Europêche (retired).**

Ment van der Zwan, born in 1957, is a scion of a fishers and net-menders family from Scheveningen, Netherlands. He has been working as crewing manager for one of the larger Dutch fishing companies and has 45 years of experience. On the employers side, he negotiates collective bargaining agreements, for example, the CBA for non-EU offshore fishers. During his employment, he specialized in national and international maritime labour law and contributed as one of the chief negotiators to the making of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 of the ILO. He was spokesman for both the workers and employers when the sectors were consulted by the Dutch Administration on implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995. He has taken and takes part in various national, European and international social dialogue committees and forums on safety at sea in fishing in general, often as spokesman for the fishing vessel owners.



## Michael EARLE

**EP Fisheries advisor (retired).**

From 1996 to his retirement in 2018, Michael was the fisheries adviser for the Greens in the European Parliament.



## Mohamed SADIKI

**Head of Programmes and Projects, Executive Secretariat, COMHAFAT.**

Mr Sadiki joined the Ministry of Fisheries in 1990 as a scientific observer.

He then joined the various departments of the Directorate of Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture. This experience was reinforced by multi-faceted training in public administration management, regional development, business management and the management of international organisations. In 2014, Mr Sadiki joined the COMHAFAT Executive Secretariat as Head of the Programmes and Projects Department. He has been appointed Focal Point of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union, at COMHAFAT, and is an active member of the African Mechanism for the Development of Animal Resources.

He is an active member of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism, where he chairs the Fisheries Governance and Policy Group, and a member of the Advisory Council to the Secretariat of African Fisheries Ministers.



## Roque SERRANO CAÑADA

### Fleet technical manager.

Naval Architect with PhD studies (UPM). MBA. Involved in the fishing business since 2006 working in many different countries (Namibia, South Africa, Australia, Uruguay amongst others). Expatriate Working in Peru/Chile during 2010-2012 period. Head of some Spanish sectorial fishing associations (Arpesco, OPP13).

Joined Armadora Pereira (Pereira Group) in 2016 where I develop my position as Corporate Fleet Technical Manager (new buildings, retrofittings, certifications) and Head of Operations in Senegal and Falkland Islands area.



## Stewart HARPER

### Cornelis Vrolijk Holding BV.

Managing Director of North Atlantic Fishing Co Ltd in UK. (1993-2018).  
Chairman, Atlantic Shrimpers Limited, Lagos, Nigeria. (2010-2018).  
Director, National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation UK (2000-2018).  
Chairman, Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority UK (2016-2018).  
Chairman, Humberside FPO UK (2020-present).  
MBA, University of Northampton UK.



## Sheriffa MOREL

### Director General (Fisheries). Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Seychelles.

Ms. Morel is an experienced Economist who has worked in the fisheries sector. She is the current Director General of the Fisheries Division in the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy in Seychelles. Prior to her current role, she was the Director of the Policy, Planning and Fisheries Economic Intelligence Unit, Senior Economist and Economist at the same Ministry. Ms. Morel has a Master of Business Administration with Distinction and a Bachelor of Commerce in Business Management and Economics. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Applied Economics.



## Vanya VULPERHORST

### LDAC Vice-Chair.

### Campaign Director Illegal Fishing and Transparency, Oceana in Europe.

Vanya has been with Oceana since 2011 and has worked on Oceana's fisheries subsidies campaign and is currently leading on Oceana in Europe's campaign to stop illegal fishing and transparency, by increasing public information on vessels' end owners, EU seafood import controls as well as making the global long distance fleet more transparent, accountable and sustainable. She has an MA in International Relations and Economics from Johns Hopkins School of International Studies in Bologna, Italy, and Washington DC, and an MSc in Marine Resource Management and Protection from Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, UK. Before joining Oceana, she did a traineeship at the European Commission Directorate - General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

### GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. We recognise the progress made with the latest reforms to the exterior dimension of the European Union Common Fisheries Policy aimed at changing the emphasis from access agreements, inconsistent with the Development Co-operation Policy, to a partnership-based regulation that is more focused on the Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). Going forward, agreements must conclude in the mutual interest of the Union and the third countries involved.
2. We recognise the importance of fishing, especially artisanal fishing, for African countries given the important contribution it makes to providing jobs, food security and to the economy of the African continent.
3. We must remember that the essence of the partnership between African countries and the European Union should be the joint promotion of sustainable environmental, social and economic development based on transparency and the participation of non-governmental stakeholders, especially the professionals who depend on fishing for their livelihood. The conservation of resources and the protection of the marine environment are essential in order to guarantee sustainable fishing for future generations.
4. We must remember that the EU and its African partners have a raft of instruments for attaining this goal: Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements, the presence of the EU and of the African countries in the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and other pertinent international bodies, a strict and non-discriminatory application of national and European legislative measures (such as the regulation for fighting IUU fishing), EU-ACP trade agreements, development aid and investments.

The coherence of these policies for the sustainable development of fisheries in third countries constitutes an important European Union commitment. The trade agreements signed with third countries in particular should promote fair and sustainable social and environmental production conditions that are in line with international regulations.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

1. Harmonisation of the conditions of access for foreign fleets to African waters to fish tuna, small pelagic and demersal species, with a view to establishing favourable conditions for fishermen operating sustainably and responsibly.
  - 1.1. Certain elements of the regulations concerning the new sustainable fishing partnership agreements or SFPAs (such as limited access to surpluses, contribution to the food supply, non-discrimination clause, human rights clause, transparency, etc.) are useful in this context. SFPAs are the best instrument available to formalise equitable relations between EU and Africa, as they contribute to guarantee sustainable exploitation of fisheries while helping to development for cooperation globally.

1.2. It is also essential to develop a regional approach for tuna fisheries: establishment of regional observer programmes, enrolment of crew members (who have the pertinent training), regional inspection and control system. The European tuna purse seine fleet is willing to engage in this activity in collaboration with political decision-makers, the scientific community and the control authorities of the EU and Africa.

1.3. There is a need to develop and agree on effective joint management of small pelagic stocks off the coast of Northwest Africa by the countries of the region, given the strategic importance of these resources for the food security of many African countries. Although regional projects and institutions already exist with the objective to develop such joint management, major steps still have to be made.

1.4. As far as other fisheries (e.g. demersal) are concerned, there is a need to guarantee legal certainty for EU operators as well as to promote measures applicable to all fleets (i.e. EU and non EU) to guarantee harmony between the industrial and the artisanal fishing fleets to co-exist peacefully. This may require a zoning system that allows for the protection of the local artisanal fishing sector. Also it would be desirable a prompt and speedy implementation of the conditions arising from the SFPAs and its Protocols from both the EU and the African countries, so they can be adequately executed without producing unnecessary delays in the fulfilment of the SFPAs, e.g. licence issuing, landing permits and infringements procedures.

**1.5. European investors in the fisheries industry in third countries (joint ventures) must be included and recognised by the CFP. The EU must promote a dialogue with African countries that fosters the development of a regulatory framework for joint venture with respect to catch (applicable to all vessels of foreign origin), processing and marketing that guarantees that joint ventures operate transparently, do not compete with artisanal fishing and contribute to the development objectives of the country in question.**

1.6. Working conditions: as with the merchant marine, instruments to protect workers and decent working conditions must be included in European regulations on fishing matters (especially ILO Convention 188 on working conditions in the fishing sector) as well as in fishing partnership agreements (see the recent example of the sustainable fishing partnership agreement signed with Mauritania) to guarantee the same working conditions, the same protection of workers' rights and the same levels of training.

## **2. Improve scientific knowledge and the international governance of fisheries.**

### **2.1. Transparency of fishing activities**

The levels of transparency required for the activities of the European fleets that operate under agreements must be applied to the activities of the European fleets that operate outside of the fisheries partnership agreements (joint ventures, charters, private agreements). The reform of the European fishing authorisation regulation (FAR) will provide an opportunity to act in this sense.

The EU must promote transparency globally and support initiatives adopted so that coastal countries publish the texts of access agreements, up-to-date lists of registered vessels, information on the global fishing effort per fishery, etc. Pursuant to international law, this information is essential to allow the surpluses on which all agreements with the EU, or any other region, is based to be calculated. The EU must guarantee an on-going dialogue with partner countries in order to be able to roll out a common policy strategy that will foster the application of sustainable and equitable fisheries governance.

2.2. Consultation and participation of fisheries stakeholders (especially the professionals that depend on fishing for their livelihood) in partnership agreements between EU and African countries should cover the following elements: the negotiation of fisheries partnership agreements; the application of the concluded agreements (joint committee), even sectorial support; the work carried out in the framework of the RFMOs; the application of development cooperation projects, etc.

### 2.3. Data quality and scientific advice

The new EU European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMMF) and the Development Funds must be used and serve to enhance our knowledge of fish stocks. It is essential to have data collection and analysis programmes and simpler more efficient methodologies for assessing data-poor fish populations. There is also a need to consolidate the co-operation between professional fishermen, NGOs and European and African scientists by rolling out pilot studies and co-operation initiatives. The application and utilisation of the data must be duly regulated.

### 2.4. Accountability and improvement of the use of European aid assigned to developing African fishing

Sectorial support for fisheries partnership agreements must be assigned to the fishing sector given the growing needs of African countries with respect to:

- Covering the costs of fishing management;
- Infrastructures (port infrastructures, basic services, e.g. water/electricity supply)
- Capacity building and training of fisheries inspectors and crew members;
- Improving the supply and availability of fish for food security of African populations by providing support to the work done by women in the fisheries sector.

### 2.5. Fight against illegal, undeclared and unregulated (IUU) fishing

The fight against IUU fishing must be accompanied by promoting a legal framework for an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable and equitable fishing.

The EU and its partners must co-ordinate their efforts in such a manner that the political will and the instruments established in the framework of international and European legislation (catch certificates, system of mutual assistance among member states of the EU, SVT and AIS, etc.) put an end to the IUU fishing that takes place off the African coasts, among other places.

Technological advances (SVT, electronic fishing log, on-line learning programmes for inspectors, electronic catch certificates, etc.) and the exchange of information in real time among all the parties involved will contribute to the fight against IUU fishing.

The EU and its African partner countries will continue in their attempts to establish a world-wide shipping register (IMO number) and to support the ratifications necessary for the pertinent instruments of international law to come into effect, such as the FAO agreement on port state measures.



## Information note about Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangement (CFFA-CAPE)

The Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements is a platform of European and African-based organizations that raises awareness about the impacts of the EU-Africa fisheries relations on African artisanal fishing communities.

Based in Brussels, its secretariat monitors EU policies related to fisheries to promote the views and demands of African artisanal fishing communities and facilitates dialogue between European institutions and decision-makers and African small-scale fishing stakeholders.

[www.cffacape.org](http://www.cffacape.org)



## Information note about the LDAC

The Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) is an EU fisheries stakeholder body which provides evidence based advice to the European Commission and EU Member States on matters related to Fisheries Agreements with Third Countries, relations with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in which the EU is a contracting party, or with international organizations in whose waters the EC Fleet operates, as well as other policy aspects such as fight against IUU fishing, social dimension or labour rights.

The LDAC is currently made up of 54 member organisations representing the fishing sector (including catching, processing and marketing sectors, and trade unions), and other groups of interest (environmental NGOs and civil society) from 12 EU coastal Member States.

[www.ldac.eu](http://www.ldac.eu)





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