

**Joint Conference of Ministers in charge of Fisheries from Member States of
the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the Fishery Committee
for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)
Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 12 July 2017**

**Nouakchott Declaration on
the Second Phase of West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme (WARFP)**

1. **We**, the Fisheries Ministers from Member States (Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone of the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and (Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo) of the Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), meeting in a joint special session in Nouakchott on 12 July 2017 in the context of efforts to develop strategic guidelines for the second phase of the West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme (WARFP), from 2018;

Recognising that sustainable fishing plays a key role in food and nutritional security, and increasing the income of the growing population of coastal communities of the West African region;

Deeply concerned by the scope of overfishing, overcapacity and illegal fishing, as well as the impacts of climate change on the Region's fishing activities, which have drastically depleted fisheries resources with attendant economic consequences;

Noting with appreciation that WARFP provides considerable support since 2009, with funding from World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, for the enhancement of fisheries governance, the reduction of illegal fishing and the improvement of value added through local processing and commercialization of fishery products;

Noting with satisfaction the results obtained thus far in the WARFP participating countries to, *inter alia*, (i) develop new policies and regulations in the five countries; (ii) license some 37 000 small fishing canoes as a basis for resource management and safety at sea; (iii) secure government approval for community groups to manage coastal fisheries on 19 pilot sites in 4 countries; and (iv) strengthen capacities for monitoring fisheries resources while improving the collection of fines and penalties in the coastal waters of Cabo Verde, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone;

Welcoming the initiative of the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to promote transparency in fisheries by launching the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) with the support of the World Bank. The SRFC and the FCWC are encouraging the adherence of member countries to this initiative of good governance in the fishing industry

Considering the experience gained and lessons learned from implementing the first phase of WARFP, as presented during the workshop in Saly (Senegal) on 12 and 14 February 2017 before representatives of West African States and development partners;



2. **Call on** the World Bank to finance the second phase of WARFP from 2018 in order to continue the reforms initiated already in fisheries governance within the beneficiary countries, support the remaining non-beneficiary States, and promote the gains in coastal communities;
3. **Exhort** the *Sub Regional Fisheries Committee* and the *Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea* to:
 - i. Support SRFC and WARFP Member States in implementing the recommendations made to the SRFC and WARFP Member States during the workshop held in Saly on 12 and 14 February 2017;
 - ii. Strengthening the capacities of Member States in the field of monitoring, control and surveillance
 - iii. Develop regional MCS tools such as the regional vessel register and the observer programme with regional competence;
 - iv. Promote the development of sustainable aquaculture and inland fisheries
 - v. Encourage collaboration and synergies among Member States and relevant organizations on the management of shared resources, assessment of shared stocks and safety at sea; and
 - vi. Organise fora for dialogue and exchange on best practices.
 - vii. To start consultations and take appropriate legal measures towards the establishment of a joint ad-hoc committee of the Member States of the SRFC and the FCWC to further strengthen their capacity to negotiate fishing agreements;
4. **Instruct the SRFC and the FCWC** to continue the monitoring of the progress in the design and implementation of phase 2 of WARFP in coordination with other initiatives of the technical and financial partners and report to the conferences of Ministers.





We hereby signed the declaration:

For the Republic of Benin

Mr Eugène BIADJA,
Representing the Minister

For the Republic of the
Côte d'Ivoire

Dr Zoumana Meité ANLYOU
Representing the Minister

For the Republic Guinea Bissau

Hon. Orlando Mendes VIEGAS
Minister of Fisheries

For the Republic of
Guinea

Hon. Mohamed TALL
Minister of Livestock
and Animal production

For the Republic du Ghana

Hon. Ms QUAYE Naa AFOLEY
Elizabeth, Minister of Fisheries
and Aquaculture Development

For the Republic of the
Gambia

Hon. James F.P. GOMES
Minister of Fisheries,
Water Resources & National
Assembly Matters

For the Republic of Liberia

Mr Yeveuo SUBAH, representing
Honourable Mr KOLLIE F. James

For the Islamic Republic of
Mauritania

S.E.M Nam Ould CHROUGHA
Minister of Fisheries and
Maritime Economy

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COMMISSION SOUS-RÉGIONALE DES PÊCHES
SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION



For the Republic of Nigeria

Mr Mohamed MUAZU,
Representing the Minister of
Fisheries

For the Republic of
Sénégal

H.E. Mr Mamadou TALL,
Ambassador of Senegal
in Mauritania

For the Republic of Sierra Leone

Hon. Charles Rogers,
Deputy Minister of Fisheries and
Marine Resources

For the Republic of Togo

Dr KEBENZIKATO Adjéya B.
M. Epouse TCHARIE

For the Republic of Cabo Verde

Hon. José DASILVA GONCALVES
Minister of Employment and Maritime Economy

Done at Nouakchott, 12 July 2017