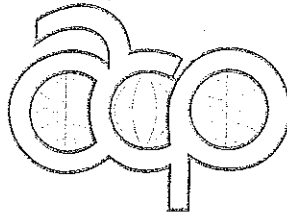


Groupe des Etats d'Afrique  
des Caraïbes et du Pacifique  
(Groupe ACP)



African, Caribbean and  
Pacific Group of States  
(ACP Group)

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**4<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ACP MINISTERS IN CHARGE  
OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

**Summary Report of the Ministerial Meeting**

1. The meeting of Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture from the African Caribbean and Pacific group of States was held at ACP house, Brussels Belgium from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015. The meeting was convened to provide political guidance and champion new approaches in fisheries cooperation to ensure fisheries and aquaculture play a just part in the social economic development of ACP member states. The ministerial meeting discussed the following items:
  - Consideration of the report of the Senior officials meeting
  - Ministerial roundtable on the implementation of the strategic plan for fisheries and aquaculture
  - Roadmap for the implementation of the strategic action plan for fisheries and aquaculture

***Consideration of the report of the senior officials meeting and Ministerial roundtable on the implementation of the strategic plan for fisheries and aquaculture***

2. Discussions and the exchange of views on these agenda items focussed on the five priority thematic areas of the ACP strategic plan of action for fisheries and aquaculture including: Effective management for sustainable fisheries; Promoting optimal returns from fisheries trade, Food security, Development of aquaculture, Protection of the marine environment.
3. Delegations commended the member states efforts towards the improvement of their fisheries management systems. Nevertheless, noted, remaining formidable challenges that need to be overcome to ensure sustainable fisheries and to secure the livelihoods of dependent communities. In that respect, member states resolved to implement interventions adaptable to local circumstances, that deliver effective national fisheries management frameworks; address threats to sustainable fisheries particularly, Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing; ensure compliance to management and conservation measures; update stock status information and further reinforcement of regional cooperation for the management of shared and migratory fisheries resources, including South-South cooperation.
4. Turning to fisheries trade issues, the meeting lauded the recent progress in expanding market access for fish and fishery products, specifically, the achievements of the ACP fish II program in addressing the technical barriers to trade and improvement of sanitary and phyto-sanitary conditions in many member states. To further capitalise on these, the ACP member states future priorities would be on addressing emerging challenges such as addressing implementation challenges of the EU IUU regulation, attainment of more flexible rules of origin to the EU market, development of approved reference laboratories, and value addition of fish and fishery products.

5. On the role of fisheries in food security, the meeting underscored the significance of fish and fishery products as a key source of dietary protein, particularly for Small Island Developing States and coastal or riparian communities. Concerned that per capita fish consumption is expected to increase in all the continents except for Africa (10% decrease as the population increase outpaces the projected increase in fish supplies) with serious food security implications. The meeting therefore, outlined future priorities that give more focus on the formulation of policies that take account of the contribution of fisheries to overall food security and nutrition, secure access rights of small-scale fishermen and empower women in fisheries post-harvest activities.
6. Regarding the expanding role of aquaculture in the global fish production, accounting for 45% of total annual fisheries production in recent years, and noting that contribution of the ACP States to the annual global aquaculture production is very low at 1%. The meeting cited inadequate feed and seeds, inadequate technical and infrastructure support, under developed markets, inadequate financing, insurance and risk management as the key limitations of aquaculture development. To address these, ACP member states future efforts, in this regard shall be directed towards strengthening South-South cooperation and adopt successful aquaculture practices; building regional capacities in training and research and developing regional and international niche markets for aquaculture products.
7. To manage the human activities that can potentially significantly alter and degrade the fisheries habitats and the general aquatic environment, the meeting resolved to further implement holistic and coherent approaches to management using various tools including Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries management, Environmental Impact Assessment and broader coastal zone planning and management.

#### ***Roadmap for the implementation of the strategic action plan for fisheries and aquaculture***

8. Having regard of the Senior officials report and their deliberations, Ministers resolved to renew the strategic plan for the period 2015-2020 and adopted the annexed ministerial resolution and roadmap for the implementation of the strategic action plan

#### ***Hosting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting***

9. The Commonwealth of the Bahamas offered to host the next session of the meeting of the ACP Ministers of Fisheries and aquaculture in the year 2016.
10. **Council is invited to note the outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting of the ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture.**

## ANNEX 1: RESOLUTION OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF ACP MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

The ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture,

Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, from 22 to 23 July 2015,

- A. **reaffirming** their commitment to the provisions of the Georgetown Agreement, in particular to the objectives of coordinating the activities of the ACP Group, and promoting and strengthening unity and solidarity among ACP States;
- B. **considering** the Cotonou Agreement, specifically Article 23A (as amended in June 2010), which recognizes the key role that fisheries and aquaculture play in the social and economic development of ACP States, through their current and potential contribution to job creation, revenue generation, and food and nutrition security which are all crucial to the attainment of the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals, specifically the proposed goal 14 on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- C. **reaffirming** the recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ACP Ministers Responsible for Fisheries, held in Fiji in 2012;
- D. **noting** that many of the key threats to fisheries, such as piracy and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remain unresolved;
- E. **noting** that despite the increasing effort to address IUU fishing, it remains a major problem that undermines good governance and sustainability and causes considerable loss of socio-economic benefits to ACP countries;
- F. **acknowledging** that adequate governance is an essential prerequisite for the sustainability of fish stocks, the protection of the ecosystems and to guaranteeing the benefits derived from both fisheries and aquaculture ;
- G. **aware** that there is increasing pressure on fish stocks due to a range of factors including population growth, market demands, inadequate governance and management of fisheries, the impact of climate change, and IUU fishing;
- H. **stressing** the need for accurate and reliable information on fish stocks with a view to ensuring better management, conservation and sustainability of such resources;
- I. **aware** that there are opportunities for value addition in ACP fishery and aquaculture sectors by focusing on local industry development, and decent job creation, specifically for women and youth;

- J. highlighting** that ACP countries share common interests with respect to fisheries and aquaculture, which could benefit from intra-ACP coordination and shared approaches to fisheries and aquaculture development and market access;
- K. supporting** the work of ACP regional integration organizations and regional fisheries bodies in advancing the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture;
- L. recognizing** the need for effective partnerships and networks to achieve development objectives for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- M. seeking** to enhance the ACP Fisheries Mechanism so that it works effectively in support of the ACP fisheries and aquaculture sectors ;
- N. highlighting** the major role of the ACP Secretariat in the operationalisation of the ACP Fisheries Mechanism as well as the conservation and development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the ACP countries;

Have agreed to:

1. **Adopt** the Roadmap (attached) for the continued implementation of the ACP Fisheries Mechanism's Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012 – 2016 adopted in Nadi, Fiji in 2012;
2. **Mandate** the ACP Fisheries Mechanism, in the wider context of sustainable management of oceans, seas, fishery and aquaculture to:
  - i. renew the Strategic Plan of Action for the period 2016-2020;
  - ii. develop and implement a communication strategy to enhance its effectiveness and visibility;
  - iii. develop sustainable financing options and mechanisms to implement the Roadmap of the Strategic Plan of Action 2016-2020; and
  - iv. identify and facilitate programmes and projects aligned with the priorities and actions identified in the Roadmap;
3. **Urge** ACP States to implement the Roadmap of the Strategic Plan of Actions in accordance with their capacity and circumstances;
4. **Welcome** new opportunities for funding and technical cooperation through partners such as the EU, the World Bank, FAO, UNIDO, IFAD and the Global Environment Facility;
5. **Urge** ACP States to provide an enabling environment to realize the potential for increased aquaculture production;

6. **Encourage** ACP States to:
  - i. strengthen South-South cooperation partnerships to support fisheries and aquaculture to supplement the work of traditional development partners; and
  - ii. to implement efficient fish stock assessment process and monitoring, control and surveillance systems, and to facilitate capacity-building programmes;
7. **Urge** the ACP Mechanism on Fisheries and Aquaculture to consolidate its partnership with existing mechanisms on fisheries and aquaculture, with a view to strengthening the coordination and coherence of the interventions within the Blue Economy Framework for the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in ACP States;
8. **Support** the need for a follow-up to the ACP Fish-II programme in order to address aquaculture development and improve fishery management in ACP countries;
9. **Commends** the ACP Secretariat for its support to the ACP Fisheries Mechanism and calls on it to closely monitor the execution of the ACP Roadmap for the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

**Done in Brussels, 23 July 2015**

Annex 2: Road map for the implementation of the ACP Strategic Action Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Note: 1. ACP countries have primary responsibility for the implementation of all actions outlined in the Road Map.  
 2. The ACP Secretariat will coordinate the implementation of the road map and submit a yearly report to the ACP Fisheries Mechanism in addition to other specific tasks assigned in the framework of priority actions.  
 3. Indicators defined in the ACP Strategic Action Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture remain applicable for the proposed road map.

Key Result Areas (KRA)	Progress and achievements	Priority actions	Timeline	Partners for implementation
<b>Strategic priority 1: Effective management for sustainable fisheries</b>				
<b>KRA 1: National management frameworks</b>	Some management frameworks have been updated since 2012	Update the management frameworks for all ACP countries  To involve fishing communities, fishermen and processors in sustainable fisheries management through sustained public education, sensitization, meetings, etc.	2015-2017	FAO, EU

Key Result Areas (KRA)	Progress and achievements	Priority actions	Timeline	Partners for implementation
<b>KRA 2:</b> Addressing key threats to sustainable fisheries management	Very few countries have adequate controls on fishing activities and capacity. The majority of ACP countries remain challenged by IUU fishing	Develop as necessary and implement national monitoring, control and surveillance plans in all ACP countries	2015-17	RFOs/ RFMOs FAO, EU, development partners
<b>KRA 3:</b> Complying with international recommendations, agreements and guidelines	Most countries have legal frameworks compliant with international agreements and guidelines	Harmonise the legal and policy frameworks of the remaining countries	2015-2017	FAO, EU
<b>KRA 4:</b> Regional cooperation and partnerships	The regional integration mechanisms should be strengthened and supported	Enhance regional cooperation through <i>inter alia</i> South-South cooperation, notably in relation to the success achieved, and create synergies among the various strategic frameworks	2016-2018	REIOs, RFOs and, AU IBAR, EU
<b>Strategic priority 2: Promoting optimal return on trade in fishery products</b>				
<b>KRA 5:</b> Market Access	Signing of the EPAs guarantees access to the EU market for ACP fishery products. Negotiations at the WTO are ongoing	Enhance the competitiveness of ACP countries Defend the ACP position at the WTO negotiations Improve market access for ACP processed fish products by introducing, among others, more flexible rules of origin	2016-2018	ACP Sec., UNIDO, Development partners



Key Result Areas (KRA)	Progress and achievements	Priority actions	Timeline	Partners for implementation
<b>KRA 6:</b> Overcoming technical barriers	Generally, compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary measures and anti-IUU fishing measures is improving	Formulate and implement national plans and build capacities to combat IUU fishing Build capacities regarding SPS measures and develop regional centres of expertise (laboratories)	2016	FAO, EU, UNIDO
<b>KRA 7:</b> Addressing key external causes of value loss	Piracy has been stemmed in the Indian Ocean but remains a treat in the Gulf of Guinea	Combat piracy in ACP countries	2020	AU - IBAR EU
<b>KRA 8:</b> Adding value for ACP countries	Very little value added for both export goods and those consumed locally	Improve the value of fish and fish product storage and processing methods	2016-2019	ACP Sec RFO, FAO, UNIDO

**Strategic priority 3: Supporting food security**

<b>KRA 9:</b> Planning for food security	Fisheries and aquaculture are sometimes not adequately taken into account in national food security strategies	Formulate food and nutrition security policies that take into account the future needs of populations and the contribution of the fisheries sector to the national economy	2015-2016	FAO Development partners
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<b>Key Result Areas (KRA)</b>	<b>Progress and achievements</b>	<b>Priority actions</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Partners for implementation</b>
<b>KRA 10:</b> Artisanal fisheries	Small-scale fishing seems to have developed to the point where there is a need to better organise the sector	Guarantee sustainable access rights for small-scale fishermen to resources and markets and better organise the sector to rationalize the use of resources  Empower women in the post-harvest subsector of fisheries and aquaculture through improved technologies and loans for value-addition, with a view to generating employment and income	2016-2018	FAO, EU development partners
<b>KRA 11</b> Local business development	Too few states have developed transport and communications infrastructure and their business environment	Develop a favourable business environment to attract national and international investment	2016-2019	EU, development partners
<b>Strategic priority 4: Developing aquaculture</b>				
<b>KRA 12:</b> Planning for aquaculture	Only a few states have an aquaculture development plan	Create aquaculture development plans for all ACP countries	2016	FAO, RFOs, EU
<b>KRA 13:</b> Infrastructure and technical support	States are still not sufficiently committed to developing structural support for the development of aquaculture (training, research, infrastructure, communications, loans, insurance, etc.)	Strengthen South-South synergies among countries and highlight sustainable successes  Build regional capacities in training and research	2016-2020	FAO, development partners

Key Result Areas (KRA)	Progress and achievements	Priority actions	Timeline	Partners for implementation
KRA 14: Developing markets	Aquaculture in ACP countries essentially targets domestic markets and a few niche export markets	Develop regional and international niche markets by promoting product quality (especially pollution-free)	2016-20	Regional Economic Organisations UNIDO, development partners
<b>Strategic priority 5: Safeguarding the environment</b>				
KRA 15: Ecosystems approach to fisheries management	The ecosystem approach has not yet been implemented in most countries	Build capacities and implement pilot projects	2018-2020	RFO FAO, EU
KRA 16: Coastal zone management	Management of coastal areas and of biodiversity, in particular, is done by setting up marine protected areas, but land pollution is hardly taken into account	Develop the management of coastal areas using a catchment area as a frame of reference	2017-2020	UNEP FAO, development partners
KRA 17: Environmental impact assessment	Too few holistic environmental studies conducted (except in the case of oil discoveries)	Develop holistic approaches to assess ecosystem services provided by coastal and marine ecosystems	2015-2018	UNEP, development partners
KRA 18: Global environmental change	Climate change is barely taken into account with regard to the future of fisheries and aquaculture	Create a frame of reference to ensure that climate change is taken into account as well as other factors such as alien and invasive species	2016-2020	RFO, FAO, UNEP, UNIDO UNFCCC, UNDP and other development partners