

<p>Comité des Pêches du Centre Ouest du Golfe de Guinée</p> <p>(CPCO)</p>		<p>Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea</p> <p>(FCWC)</p>
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**FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FIGHT AGAINST Illegal,
Unreported and Unregulated fishing OF FCWC**

ACCRA, GHANA 28, 29 and 30 April 2010

1. The first meeting of the working group on the fight against illegal, Unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing of the fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) was held in Accra Ghana, from 28 to 30 April 2010. It was part of the implementation of the Committee 2010 annual work plan and follow-up to the adoption of the regional plan and the Ministerial Declaration to fight IUU fishing, declaration made at the third Conference of FCWC Ministers, in December 2009.
2. FCWC National Experts from six member countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo attended this workshop.
3. Representatives from FAO West African sub-regional Office, Stop illegal fishing (FIS) program, component of the international partnership for governance and trade (PAF) of NEPAD, the *international* network of MCS organization and resource people also took part in the meeting. The attendance list is attached as **Annex 2**.

I- Opening ceremony

4. The opening ceremony of the workshop was chaired by Mr. Samuel Quatey, Director of fisheries, representing his Excellency, NII NAMOELE Vice-Minister for fisheries in GHANA, in the presence of Mr. Germain DASYLVA, from FAO West African sub-regional Office in Togo and Mr. Séraphin DEDI NADJE, FCWC Secretary General.
5. In his welcome remarks, Mr. DEDI addressed his sincere thanks to the Ghanaian authorities for agreeing to host this meeting, indicating the importance they give to the fight against IUU fishing and to the FCWC. He also thanked the participants for their interest in the Committee and their strong involvement in the preparation of national diagnoses on the registries and vessels' inspections, as support for the work of this meeting. Mr. DEDI then thanked FAO for its regular technical and financial support to FCWC before recalling the objective of the working group meeting while insisting on the active contribution expected from these experts to provide the Working Group's terms of reference and a work plan for 2010 - 2011 period
6. In his opening speech, Mr. Quatey recalled fishing place in the socio-economic development of FCWC Member States and presented the fight against IUU as the fundamental objective of the creation of the Committee. He admitted the inability of each country to face in

isolation the challenge of IUU fishing, while insisting on the need to share experiences and resources in the region to fight efficiently against this scourge. Mr. Quatey thanked the partners and resource people for their support for the activities of this working group. He expressed his desire to continue and to consolidate the collaboration with current and future partners in the fight against illegal fishing alongside the FCWC. It is on these words of hope that he declared open the meeting of the Working Group

II. Objective of the meeting

The main objective of this meeting was to set up formally the FCWC working group and identify the area of regional cooperation between Member countries to address the issue of IUU fishing within the area. The specific objectives of the meeting were:

- Adopt the TORs of the working group
- Revise the procedure for national registration of ships and their inspection in order to identify required steps for the harmonization and the exchange of information at the regional level
- Identify potential mechanism to develop the regional MCS in the region,
- Identify in the area a program whereby the FCWC can explore links and synergies;

III- Organization of the workshop

7. Work in plenary was preceded by a visit to Tema fishing port. On this occasion, the participants had a practical inspection of fishing vessels, followed by a paper presentation by the Director of Tema fishing port. He presented the Organization, the difficulties, challenges and prospects of his structure.

The workshop was organized by the Secretary of Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) with the technical support of FAO, SIF and MCS international network Organization and chaired by Ghana representative, in accordance with FCWC agreement.

8. The unanimously adopted workshop program is attached in annex 1

IV. Review the draft of the terms of reference for the Working Group

9. The draft terms of reference for the Working Group on the fight against illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing of the FCWC were discussed and adopted with amendments of the Working Group, attached as annex 3

V- Submission of contributions from member countries on the registers and inspection of fishing vessels

10. Contributions of FCWC member countries in the situation, records management and inspection of fishing vessels for the fight against illegal fishing were presented. Each delegate recalled points in the establishment of vessels as well as the aspects taken into account in their inspections. They stressed the internal strengths and weaknesses, limits and needs to improve the work. The difficulties encountered during the participatory diagnosis in each country were also raised; they relate sometimes to the conditions of registers establishment, their day-to-day management as well as the need for their harmonization, to disseminate them in the region.

VI. Presentation of FCWC Regional Plan and the Ministerial Declaration of fight against UUI fishing.

11. FCWC Secretariat presented the regional plan to fight illegal fishing as well as the Declaration of Ministers of the FCWC adopted in December 2009. Then he informed participants of the fruitful negotiations with ACP fish II for technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the plan. He invited Member States to adopt the aforesaid plan and work towards its implementation at national and regional level.

VII. Presentation of ongoing projects and good practices in fighting against illegal fishing

12. The resource person of the program "Stop illegal fishing" (FIS) presented the project as having started in mid-2007 to work with southern African States to increase their fishing revenue through the removal of illegal fishing and more efficient governance in the sector. He is involved especially in the studies to understand the situation, workshops and meetings to create cooperation, establishment of a website and printing of flyer to increase awareness and technical support at the national level for the MCS policy improvement. For this purpose, the project contributes to design a mechanism of capacities building (MRC) enabling countries to assess their capacity requirements and design and implement a capacity-building plan. CMS has a capacity needs assessment (CNA) of the State of implementation of the capacities Building Plan (CBP).

13. The representative of mcs network International organization presented regional cooperation as basic for the fight against illegal fishing. Thus this cooperation involves exchange of information, capacities building, harmonization of the legal framework, and regional coordination of monitoring control and surveillance (mcs). Eventually, the consolidated regional approach ensures a coherent deterrence aimed at fighting IUU fishing, improving knowledge and the ability of monitoring, reducing the cost of enforcement as the knowledge of vessels and fisheries increases, promoting an international image that attracts more foreign funding than national programs.

14. The principal consultant pointed out some ways to immediately improve monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) of fisheries in the area; they include: having a proactive attitude in the fight against illegal fishing, finding out the background of vessels to be registered, reduce or ban the transshipment, prohibit ports access to the illegal catches and non-authorized vessels, consult the list of vessels identified as engaging in illegal fishing and punish them severely, reduce corruption and conflicts of interest in the management of the fisheries activities.

15. Finally, to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of the fight against IUU at regional level, the meeting agreed that a harmonized and strengthened legal basis, such as Convention Committee headquarters agreement, memoranda of understanding between the States, are determinant tools for the development and mobilization of partners for funding a regional program in monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels.

16. The meeting therefore invites Ghanaian authorities hosting the seat of FCWC, to ensure the signature of the Committee headquarters agreement.

VII. Recommendations of the meeting

17. For each of the presentations and resulting discussions, the WG made some recommendations and agreed on a working schedule:

- At national level

- Search systematically the background of vessels to be registered and similarly the translation of application for registration or license in the official language of the host country without delay.
 - Initiate institutional dialogue at national level to raise awareness of the authorities and stakeholders, exchanging the documentation and missions report, May 2010.
 - Proceed to the signature by FCWC Member States of the document agreement on measures of ports States in order to benefit from available support for its implementation without delay.
 - Draw or up date the list of industrial vessels authorized in each country, December 2010
- At regional level
 - Propose a framework of data collected in the inspection of vessels as well as in the establishment of national registers in fisheries, June 2010.
 - Carry out a feasibility study for the establishment of national and regional registries in FCWC region, November 2010
 - Look for the support and partnership for the capacity building of staff in charge of fisheries MCS in the Member States, February 2011,
 - Hold WG second meeting in February 2011

VIII. Closing

18. Mr. HUCHFULL Assistant Director of Ghana fisheries made the closing remarks on behalf of the Minister. To this end, he commended the quality of the results achieved and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to work for the mobilization of Member States and partners for the activities of this working group, to check the impact of illegal fishing in FCWC region.

Working group meeting on IUU Fishing - FCWC

Réunion du groupe de travail sur la lutte contre la pêche INN - CPCO

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