



REPORT OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA (FCWC)

Abuja, Nigeria **15th December 2017**





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I. OPENING CEREMONY

- 1. The Tenth Session of the Conference of Ministers for the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) took place at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria on 15th December, 2017.
- 2. Ministers in charge of Fisheries from the Six (6) Member States namely Republic of Benin, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Liberia, Federal Republic of Nigeria and Togolese Republic attended the meeting.
- 3. Representatives of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of African Union (AU-IBAR), the European Union Commission (EUC), the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) / West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP), the Regional Commission for Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) / Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), WorldFish and Stop Illegal Fisheries (SIF) as well as resource-persons from the region attended the meeting as observers.
- 4. The list of participants is attached as Annex 2.
- 5. The opening Ceremony was chaired by the Vice President of Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Professor Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON.
- 6. During his introductory remarks, the FCWC Secretary General, Mr. Seraphin DEDI-NADJE, expressed his infinite gratitude to the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for agreeing to chair the opening ceremony of this Tenth Session, which coincides with the Tenth Anniversary of the Organization. He then thanked the Honourable Dr. James KOLLIE, Commissioner of the Maritime Authority of Liberia, President of the Conference, for the results achieved under his term and orientation. He gave the overview of the activities of the Secretariat since the creation of the Committee and urged each of the Member States to increase its engagement in fisheries cooperation. He also welcomed the accompaniment of partners from yesterday to today, including FAO, Norwegian Cooperation, the World Bank and the European Union. Finally, he recalled the theme of the Conference which is "Investment for Growth and Sustainability for Fisheries in West Africa" and pleaded for the effectiveness and formalization of a strategic partnership with ECOWAS for the implementation, within a coherent framework, of the regional fisheries policy currently being drafted. In conclusion, he stressed the need to seize the opportunities offered by initiatives such as the Blue Growth promoted by FAO for, both the development of coherent fisheries sector development policies and their successful implementation.
- 7. The welcome address was delivered by Honourable Heineken LOKPOBIRI, Minister of State,



Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria. He expressed gratitude to the Vice President for finding time out to attend this Conference. He also welcomed the Representative of Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture from Guinea, Chairperson of the Conference of Ministers from the sister Organization, the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) strategic partner of the FCWC.

- 8. Mr. LOKPOBIRI remarked that the meeting marks another milestone in the history of FCWC as it celebrates the Tenth Anniversary of its existence and excellent performance in fisheries management, promotion of fish trade, fight against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and regional cooperation among Member States.
- 9. He commended the FCWC Secretary General for the theme of this Conference and for assembling professionals and experts who have been deliberating on this topic between the 12th and 14th of December, 2017. He noted that Nigeria is aware that all the efforts to fight IUU cannot be done in isolation but collectively.
- 10. The opening address was delivered by the Commissary of the Maritime Authority of Liberia, Mr. James KOLLIE. He expressed appreciation of the Government of Nigeria for hosting the Conference and the hospitality accorded to the Ministers and delegates. He congratulated the FCWC Secretariat on the Tenth Anniversary of the Organization. Dr. James KOLLIE argued that fish is not only a source of animal protein for more than 375 million people in West Africa, but also a viable economic resource that provides employment and livelihoods to more than 100 million people in West Africa. He therefore called on States and partners to give the necessary attention to the management of fisheries resources.
- 11. The Vice President of Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Prof. Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON, welcomed the delegates and assured of Nigeria's commitment towards supporting the sub-regional organization. He noted that the economy of FCWC Member States thrives on the input of the small holder farmers and fishermen. He therefore stated that the public policies have to address the needs/aspirations of this group. He informed the meeting of the various efforts the Federal Government has made in supporting the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector through the purchase of patrol vehicles to ensure security and sustainable management of the Nigeria territorial waters. He underscored the importance of aquaculture as very critical to job creation and diversification of the economy. He further stated with the positive reforms of the government, the private sector could take advantage of this huge opportunity for economic revolution in the sub-region.
- 12. His Excellency Prof. Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON implored the FCWC Member States to share information on fisheries management to the realization of the objectives of wealth creation, food and nutritional security in the Gulf of Guinea. He appreciated the support of the international



Organizations and donors and concluded with the assurance of the Nigerian Government's support to the noble objectives of the Committee before declaring the meeting officially opened.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 13. The Chairman of the Conference presented to the participants the agenda which was unanimously adopted. The Agenda is attached as annex 2.
- 14. Mr. William BOEH, Coordinator of the Bureau National of Fisheries of Liberia, and Chairman of the FCWC Advisory and Coordinating Committee presented the report of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC) meeting held from 12-14 December 2018. The said report was adopted by the Conference of Ministers and is organized around the following points.

III. PRESENTATION OF MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE FCWC SECRETARIAT

- 15. The report of the activities of the Committee for the year 2017 was presented by the Secretary General under the following sub-heads:
- a) Monitoring of recommendations;
- b) Project activities and achievements;
- c) Further initiatives undertook by the Secretariat;
- d) Financial Statement and Audit Report of FCWC; and
- e) Discussions and Recommendations.
- f) Monitoring of the implementation of 2016 recommendations:
- 16. For each of the nine (9) recommendations from the 2016 Conference of Ministers, progress made in the implementation was summarized as follows:

Recommendation 1: Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulation and Operating Manual. The Member States will deeply review the documents for submission to the next Ministerial Conference. They committed themselves to submit their observations to the FCWC Secretariat by the end of the first quarter of 2017 for taking into account.

Action taken: The three documents were shared among Member States and commented. They were adopted by the ACC meeting and are ready for adoption by this Conference of Ministers.

Recommendation 2: Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa Project. The Member States support the development of a second phase of the Project to continue to build and



strengthen the West African Task Force (WATF).

Action taken: The Project document for the second phase was adequately elaborated and approved in principle by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) for funding. The details of this Project document were presented at this meeting for information and support from Member States for the implementation.

Recommendation 3: Regional Fisheries Programme in Western Africa (PESCAO). The Member States urged the EUC to continue associating with the FCWC Secretariat General in the on-going process.

Action taken: The EU Delegation in Ghana and European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) visited the FCWC Secretariat in preparation for the successful implementation of the Project. The FCWC Secretariat contributed to the recruitment of the MCS Expert by the Project, which will be based at the FCWC Office in Ghana. The Project document was prepared and the process of finalisation is ongoing at the EU level. The Project is expected to commence by January 2018 with a team of management and implementation.

Recommendation 4: Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI). The FCWC Member States have been encouraged to join the initiative within the framework of sustainable fisheries resources management policies. The FCWC Secretariat was invited to continue working together to support the initiative in the region.

Action taken: The Member States reaffirmed their will to join the initiative through the Joint Conference of Ministers of the Fishery Committee of the FCWC and the SRFC held on July 12, 2017 in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Recommendation 5: West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP). The WARFP Coordination is encouraged to finalize the Liberia project document for the second phase. The Member States recommend the involvement of FCWC in the coordination of WARFP in the sub-region.

Action taken: The World Bank team visited the FCWC Secretariat in 2017. The FCWC Secretariat contributed to the overall implementation of the Project activities, including the Steering Committee meeting and the visit as part of the preparation of the Liberia Project Document. The WARFP-Liberia is expected to start by mid-2018 with the inauguration of the Project management and implementation team. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana are currently in discussion and could also join the second phase of the WARFP. The FCWC Secretariat encouraged other countries to take the necessary steps to join this initiative.



Recommendation 6: Sustainable fisheries resources management. The FCWC Secretariat is invited to support the Member States towards the following:

- · Harmonization of management measures on shared stocks;
- · Development of law to support the implementation of closed season;
- Stock assessment at regional level especially for the trans-boundary stocks;
- · Identification of sensitive areas for MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) within the sub region;
- Promotion of integrated approach to monitoring and tracking vessel activities;
- Exchange and sharing of information and data;
- · Exchange of personnel and expertise in fisheries;
- Collaboration with regional bodies on MCS strategies to combat IUU fishing; and
- · Development and implementation of a Regional Fisheries Management Plan.

Action taken: The African Union (AU) agreed to support the development of a Regional Management Plan. The terms of reference were established and a Consultant was recruited to conduct the study. The methodology and work Plan were presented at this meeting for information and support Member States for the implementation.

Recommendation 7: FAO Blue Growth Initiative (BGI). FAO is invited to assist in formulating BGI interventions for countries in the sub-region in the form of pilot projects and contribute to creating the enabling environment. Special attention should be given to aquaculture in general and mariculture in particular. It was further recommended that FAO align the BGI with institutions of the AU and that BGI should not become a stand-alone activity. Specific attention to be paid to the reduction of post-harvest losses and the preparation of harmonized (sub) regional fisheries management plans (particularly with respect to coordinated closed seasons). The Member States recommended that FAO take the lead in these two issues.

Action taken:

- FAO organized a regional workshop in Cape Verde from 03 to 05 May, 2017 on the Blue Growth initiative.
- Côte d'Ivoire has received support from the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to promote the Blue Growth Initiative
- The FCWC and INFOPECHE were involved in this process and in the technical consultations as Regional Fisheries Bodies.



Recommendation 8: WorldFish/NEPAD/AU-IBAR Programme "Improve Food Security and Reduce poverty through intra-regional fish trade in Sub-Saharan Africa". Universities should be involved in fisheries field research in order to align university teaching and research with national and regional fisheries development priorities. In connection with the theme, Member States are invited to provide the necessary technical support for research and to pay particular attention to fish trade at national and regional level for the improvement of people.

Action taken: The FCWC had carried out pilot activities to promote the fish trade in collaboration with the Universities of the region (Abidjan & Accra) and Fisheries Departments through the support from the Fish Trade Program and ATLAFCO. Two manuals had been developed to support the collection of fish flow data in the region and the need for capacity building to improve fish trade in the sub-region.

Recommendation 9: Member States request the support from AU for the implementation of the activities programmed by the FCWC in particular the preparation of the Regional Fisheries Management Plan and the mid-term evaluation of the FCWC Regional Plan to fight against IUU fishing.

Action taken: Two Consultants were recruited for the implementation of each of these activities. The results of the studies would be validated by the first quarter of 2018 followed by theIR implementation.

- b) Project activities and achievements
- 17. The main activities of the year were the implementation of MCS Support Project funded by NORAD, FAO/TCP 3215 Fisheries statistics, and of Fish Trade promotion activities through the support of ATLAFCO and WorldFish. The report highlighted progress made with a significant improvement in support of Member States allowing the FCWC Secretariat to fully carry out its activities.
- c) Further initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat
- 18. The Committee embarked on collection of artisanal fisheries data in the region. FCWC in partnership with INFOPECHE worked with each Member State to improve the capacity of their staff on data collection. The FAO/TCP 3215 and FCWC also initiated activities aimed at enabling harmonization of data collection within the sub region through the use of Android mobile application tools for data collection, which is a novel initiative. A calculation model was also developed to estimate the contribution of fisheries to the national GDP (Gross Domestic Product). This is considered important as it would engender more political support for the sub sector.



d) Financial statement and audit report of the FCWC

19. The total budget for the year 2017 was USD 1,053,000.00. The amount of financial resources mobilized to carry out activities during the period was USD 811,574.41. Out of this amount, the amount of USD 479,439.46 represents the contribution of donors, Projects executed directly by partners, and other funds; a total of USD 276,643.34 was the financial contribution of the Member States; and USD 55,491.60 was the balance brought forward from 2016.

20. The meeting noted the following:

- The importance of artisanal data collection and the need to estimate the contribution of fisheries to the national GDP were emphasized. To this end, the participants recommend to adopt the best methodologies and practices used in the sub-region.
- The commitment of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) anchoring on their long years of experience as a contemporary Regional Fisheries Body to continue collaborating with the FCWC particularly in areas of fisheries conservation, IUU fishing and harmonisation of policies.
- Paucity of funds and the need to source funds from partners in carrying out activities and implementing Projects so that it could cover more Member States.
- In view of the major deficiency identified in the management of the FCWC's finance as captured by the audit report, it was recommended that there is the need to review the procurement procedures. The Secretary General was mandated to take charge of all financial approvals within the organisation henceforth.
- The establishment of WorldFish in Nigeria and its desire to partner with FCWC in its activities. The organization intimated further on-going fish trade studies in some of the Member States while calling for synergy and collaboration in the area of information sharing.
- The Secretary General informed the meeting that owing to growth of the organization, the need to relocate the office from Tema to Accra which is considered more central and close to the seat of Government and partners.
- 21. The 2017 technical report and financial statement were adopted by the meeting and mandate given to the Secretary General by the Conference.



e) The FCWC Working Documents

- The Communication Strategy

22. Mr. Kofi Taylor-HAYFORD, FCWC Communication Officer, presented the Communication Strategy document. The aim of the Strategy is to improve the visibility of the organization and bring their activities to a wider audience. The Communication Strategy was presented as the instrument needed to promote the impact and the influence of the organization. This would be achieved by making available the activities, Projects and studies of the organization through various media channels. The Strategy is also expected to promote communication and experience sharing among Members States.

23. While commending the Strategy, AU-IBAR informed the meeting of a similar initiative available at the continental level which the organization could consider. Reference was also made to other related database such as the GlobeFish, based in Rome which provides information on fish trade.

- The Strategy to combat the Transhipment

24. The Strategy to combat the Transhipment was presented by Mr. Yann YVERGNLAUX from TMT. He briefly explained the process that led to the development of this Strategy to combat Transhipment. The final document was validated at the technical level at the 5th meeting of the WATF in November 2017 in Ghana and was approved by the Conference of Ministers.

- The Framework for the Protection of Shared Information

25. In the framework of the implementation of the Convention the Secretariat presented additional protocol for the protection of shared information to ensure the activities of the WFCW West Africa Task Force (WATF) are operating on the basis of trust, grounded in the joint efforts of the Member States to end illegal fishing.

26. In view of the above, the meeting reviewed and adopted the document for submission to the Conference of Ministers for final approval.



IV. PRESENTATION OF INCEPTION REPORTS BY AU-IBAR CONSULTANTS

- Introduction of the Consultancy on FCWC Regional Plan of Action against IUU
- 27. The Consultant, Mr. Samuel QUAATEY, presented the Inception Report on the Consultancy "Evaluation of the status of implementation and review of Regional Plan of Action for preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in FCWC Member States towards formulating a realistic regional IUU plan". The consultancy is funded by the AU-IBAR under the Fisheries Governance Project.
- Introduction of the Consultancy on FCWC Regional Fisheries Management
- 28. The Consultant, Mr. Alioune Badara SY, presented the Inception Report on Consultancy on FCWC Regional Fisheries Management. He informed the meeting that the Project initiative is in agreement with the Recommendation 6 of the 9th Session of the Conference of Ministers which requested the Secretariat to support Member States in the development and implementation of a Regional Fisheries Management Plan.
- 29. The Conference appreciated the AU support to the FCWC Organization and Member States committed to work with the two Consultants to achieve the goals of the initiatives.

V. PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

FCWC/WATF Second Phase Program

- 30. Mr. Duncan COPELAND, Executive Director of Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), presented an overview of 2017 activities and future planning under the Project 'Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa' supporting the West Africa Task Force (WATF).
- 31. Key outputs of the Task Force meetings were reviewed, as these are crucial for informing future activities of the WATF and the technical support. These included to implement the requirement of IMO Numbers on all flagged and licensed fishing vessels; to focus all regional and national initiatives and activities in support of MCS through the WATF and NWGs; to formalize the Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information; to adopt the FCWC WATF Transshipment Strategy; to strengthen regional harmonization through the development of minimum terms and conditions (MTCs) in the FCWC region; to strengthen National Working Groups (NWGs) operations and cooperation, including formalization where this does not currently exist; to facilitate exchanges



between countries to strengthen regional capacity; to synchronize capacity building efforts with existing and future projects and institutions; and to invite ECOWAS to become an observer of the WATF.

- 32. Looking ahead, Phase 2 of the supporting project is in development to submit to NORAD, following endorsement from the FCWC Member States and in cooperation with the FCWC Secretariat. It is anticipated that proposal development will be finalized in the early months of 2018, with a target of Project start back to back with the end of the Phase 1 extension. Focus of Phase 2 will be to build on the successes and lessons learned from Phase 1, and integrate the outcomes and requests for support from the WATF members.
- 33. Importantly, all activities will be coordinated with the other projects and initiatives in the region, particularly with PESCAO where joint work plans will be developed.
- 34. The Conference welcomed Phase 2 of the Project and Member States pledged to work towards its realization.

Development of the ECOWAS Regional Policy Fisheries and Aquaculture

- 35. Dr. Aboubacar SIDIBE from FAO and based at the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development, ECOWAS Commission provided relevant elements on the economic importance on the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the ECOWAS region. However, despite its role in the economy of the region, it is recognized that the sector remains marginalized in the ECOWAS central Policies and initiatives. It is of recent that the Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP) and the Regional Program of Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security (PRIASAN 2016-2020) ARE attempting to recognize the role of fisheries in the region.
- 36. In order to address this, ECOWAS has initiated two Programs (PESCAO and FIRST) to focus on the "development of an integrated and coordinated policy and a Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy of ECOWAS within the ECOWAP framework to improve food and nutrition security and reduce poverty in West Africa".
- 37. The presentation further detailed the planned activities of the Commission and available opportunities for the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region stressing the need for political and institutional support and effective collaboration among all stakeholders.
- 38. The Conference appreciated the insight provided and the efforts made by ECOWAS to develop a Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for a visibility of the sector at the Regional Economic



Community level.

Improved regional fisheries governance in Western Africa (PESCAO)

- 39. Mrs. Lotte Niemann JOGENSEN from the EU Delegation in Nigeria presented the PESCAO and focused on the coordination and governance of fisheries and aquaculture in the Western Africa region. She mentioned that PESCAO is in partnership with the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), EFCA (European Fisheries Control Agency), SRFC and FCWC and they all have roles to play in the implementation of the programme. She listed as guiding principles of PESCAO the following: regional approach, continuity, ownership and responsibilities, independence and complementarity.
- 40. The Conference noted the need for increased recognition of fisheries in national and regional policies and programs and encouraged the adoption of continental guidelines on fisheries and aquaculture at the regional and national level to facilitate the coherence of policies and the strengthening of institutional collaboration, particularly between ECOWAS and the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) in West Africa.

VI. THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS AND AREAS OF COLLABORATION IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT: THE BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE

- 41. Captain SD ATAKPA of the Nigeria Navy introduced the Blue Growth concept and recommended it as a Development Strategy at both national and regional level for the future of coastal countries economies.
- 42. The experience of Côte d'Ivoire was presented by Mr. Angaman KONAN, Technical Adviser at the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources. He informed the meeting that Côte d'Ivoire joined the "Blue Economy and Growth" initiative in 2015 and is committed to developing a global Blue Economy Strategy with the support from FAO and the African Development Bank (AfDB). He highlighted that this initiative is expected to bring coherence in policies and management of marine and coastal resources.
- 43. The "Blue Gabon "Program was presented by Mr. Georges MBA ASSEKO, Director General of Fisheries and Aquaculture Agency. The Program was implemented since 2012 and is considered as the fourth pillar of the Gabon Emergent Strategic Plan (PSGE) whose other pillars relate to Green Gabon, Gabon Services, and Industrial Gabon. Blue Gabon is a vision based on the development of blue growth, an objective that responds to the need for diversification of the Gabonese economy that has been supported by the oil, timber and mining industries for more than 40 years. Following this initiative, the legal and institutional frameworks were reinforced for better management of the sector.



VII. REVIEW OF THE FCWC ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2017

- 44. Dr. Moustapha KEBE, the Consultant produced a report on the tenth (10th) existence of the Committee. The Document recalled the history of the creation of FCWC and its achievements over the 10-year period. Since its inception, the Committee has continued to carry out various Projects and activities in line with its mandate with support from Member States, partner organizations and donors.
- 45. However, the Committee still faces many constraints in the implementation of planned activities. These include (i) insufficient technical and support staff for the Secretariat of the Committee, (ii) the late signing of the Headquarters Agreement by the host country, (iii) the location of the Headquarters in Tema away from the seat of Government and (iv) limited sustainable strategic partnerships.

VIII. FCWC TRIENNIAL PLAN (2018- 2020)

- 46. Dr. Moustapha KEBE, the Consultant, presented the second FCWC Triennial Plan 2018-2020 for the FCWC Strategic Plan 2011-2020. He stated that the implementation of the first Triennial Plan that was planned for the 2011-2014 period was implemented until now due to lack adequate human and financial resources. Activities that have led to concrete achievements are those related to the development and implementation of appropriate management frameworks; capacity building for artisanal fishers in Member States and other operators; strengthening national capacities for an effective, efficient and sustainable fisheries MCS system, and putting in place effective regional cooperation mechanisms in MCS; and the effective implementation of the work of the Committee.
- 47. In addition, Dr. KEBE informed the Conference that fisheries research and related research and the engagement of civil society actors constitute the areas of intervention that have made less progress because of lack real partners. Therefore, the priorities of the Second Triennial Program (2018-2020) will be (i) effective start of research activities; (ii) implementation of the recommendations of the Regional Fisheries Plan currently being developed with the AU support; (iii) identification and engagement of civil society organizations. At the same time, MCS gains from fisheries will be strengthened with the continuation of the activities of the WATF (second phase of the Project 'Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa'), the establishment of a VMS Regional Center and patrols with the support of PESCAO and the strengthening of the technical staff of the FCWC Secretariat.
- 48. Dr. KEBE concluded by focussing on the fact that the success of this new Triennial Plan depends on the mobilization of necessary resources and capacity for its implementation, and



especially the commitment of Member States and partners. It is strongly recommended to the Secretary General to pursue the process of developing sustainable strategic partnerships to mobilize necessary expertise and financial resources to implement this Triennial Plan.

IX. PRESENTATION OF FCWC'S WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2018

- 49. The Committee's work plan and budget for 2018 was presented by the FCWC Secretary General for deliberation and subsequent adoption. The total sum of US\$1,422,000.00 is needed to execute the budget but the contributions from Member States is only US\$250,000.00; hence the need for reliable donor/collaborating partners.
- 50. The meeting stressed on the need for a Plan B (Contingency plan) to cater for the deficit in case of lack of Donor sponsor such that the budget can be workable within the revenues of the Committee.
- 51. The 2018 FCWC Work Plan and Budget have been discussed and approved; they are attached as Annex 3.

X. SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

52. The celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the FCWC was organised under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Mrs. Elizabeth Afoley QUAYE, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of Ghana. The ceremony was moderated by Dr. Amadou TALL who introduced the nominees. The Hon. Minister presented the awards to the Pioneers of Fisheries Cooperation in West Africa and thanked all participants.

XI. HIGH LEVEL STATEMENTS

XI.1 High Level Statement of Africa Union on Policy Provision for Investment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

53. The Statement was made by the AU-IBAR Fisheries Specialist, Mr. Obinna ANOZIE. He conveyed the greetings of the Director of the AU-IBAR and the felicitations of the Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission, H. E. Moussa Faki MAHAMAT. He made reference to some key continental initiatives and interventions which have contributed to the development of fisheries in the continent. Some of these include the Abuja Declaration, CAADP (Comprehensive Africa



Agriculture Development Programme), CAFRS (Comprehensive African Fisheries Reform Strategy), Malabo Declaration, CAMFA (Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture), PFRS (Policy Framework and Reform Strategy), and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. He also relayed to the meeting some of the strategic actions the commission is putting in place for policy orientation in order to promote private sector investments and financing mechanisms for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. The AU implored all stakeholders, institutions and organisations to become actively involved by developing and implementing actions in accordance with the continental policies on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

XI.2 High-level statement of World Bank on Support of the Fisheries Industry in West Africa: Impact, lessons learnt and ways forward

54. The World Bank Fisheries Specialist presented an overview of the fundamental rationale for the World Bank West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP). He submitted that the marine resources can continue to generate enormous wealth and remains an important nutrition source. However due to weak governance, inadequate fisheries management and illegal fishing, many regions of the world oceans, particularly in West Africa, are in poor state leading to attendant loss of revenue and impoverishment of those who has it as means of livelihood. The objective of the WARFP is to support West African coastal countries, from Mauritania to Ghana, to strengthen and maintain their fish stocks and manage them sustainably. The first phase of the Project spanned from 2009 to 2016. In preparation for the second phase, he emphasized the importance of functional legal and institutional coordination frameworks which include FCWC and licensing schemes, use of technologies, VMS in particular, in line with fisheries management plans in the region.

XI.3 High-level statement of The Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM) on Strengthening Resilience in Marine and Coastal Africa: Way Forward

55. The presentation of the PRCM Director, Professor Ahmed SENHOURY, focused on the coastal resources of Africa, the rich biodiversity, economic resources and the persistent threat facing the resources ranging from climate change and its effects, pollution and unsustainable exploitation of the resources which has led to huge decline in the fisheries resources. In order to address these challenges, he recommended effective implementation of fisheries management measures; deployment of financial resources to the course of managing the ocean; strengthening of coordination mechanisms and governance; and collaboration between the major actors of the sub-regions. To this end, he stressed the need for a partnership with FCWC to strengthen coordination and governance mechanisms of the coastal zone in the FCWC area.



XII. RECOMMENDATIONS

56. The Conference of Ministers was concluded by the nine (9) following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: The meeting noted the findings of the implementation of the FAO TCP FAO 3215, particularly the importance of artisanal data collection and the need to estimate the contribution of fisheries to national GDP were emphasized. To this end, it recommends to adopt the best methodologies and practices used in the sub-region.

Recommendation 2: In view of the major deficiency identified in the management of the FCWC's finance as captured by the Audit Report, it was recommended to review the procurement procedures and to and set the budget year of FCWC from January 1 to December 31 of each year in accordance with the FCWC Convention. The Secretary General was mandated to take charge of all financial approvals within the Organisation henceforth.

Recommendation 3: The Secretary General informed the meeting that owing to growth of the organization, the need to relocate the office from Tema to Accra which is considered more central and close to the seat of Government and partners. The Secretary-General was instructed to continue to approach the authorities of Ghana for a sustainable solution to this priority issue.

Recommendation 4: The meeting welcomed approval from the Norwegian Cooperation to pursue its support to FCWC and to fund the Phase 2 of the Project 'Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa' supporting the West Africa Task Force' (WATF) and pledged to work towards its realization.

Recommendation 5: The Conference noted the need for increased recognition of fisheries in national and regional policies and programs and encouraged the adoption of continental guidelines on fisheries and aquaculture at the regional and national level to facilitate the coherence of policies.

Recommendation 6: The Conference welcomed the preparation of the second Triennial Plan whose success depends on the mobilization of financial resources and capacity necessary for its implementation, and especially the commitment of Member States and partners. It is strongly recommended to the Secretary General to pursue the process of developing sustainable strategic partnerships to mobilize necessary expertise and financial resources to implement the Triennial Plan 2018-2020.

Recommendation 7: The Conference adopted the FCWC Communication Strategy and instructed



the Secretary-General to develop a comprehensive operationalization plan and an implementation budget. This implementation should take into account similar strategies and initiatives available at the continental level, notably that of AU-IBAR.

Recommendation 8: The Conference adopted, as part of the activities of the FCWC West Africa Working Group, a Protocol for the protection of shared information and a Strategy to address illegal transhipment in the region. Member States committed themselves to use these instruments to strengthen the fight against illegal fishing. It is strongly recommended to the Secretariat General and partners to develop a comprehensive operationalization plan and implementation budget for the strategy against illegal transhipment.

Recommendation 9: The Conference appreciated the AU support to FCWC to undertake consultations on the FCWC Regional Plan to combat IUU fishing et on the Regional Fisheries Management. Member States committed themselves to work with the two Consultants to achieve the goals of these initiatives.

XIII. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

57. The Conference elected a new Bureau in accordance with Articles 7.1 and 7.3 of the FCWC Convention. The new Bureau is composed as follow:

· President: Nigeria

Vice-President: Togo.

XIV. DATE AND VENUE OF THE ELEVENTH FCWC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

58. In accordance with the procedure for setting the date and venue of the FCWC Conference of Ministers, the Eleventh FCWC Conference of Ministers should be held in December 2018, in Lomé, Togo subject to a formal agreement of the Togolese Republic within three (3) months from the date of the Conference.

- 59. The Chairman of the Conference and the host country in connection with the Secretariat are called upon to set the practical procedures for its holding and inform the Member States.
- 60. During his valedictory speech, the outgoing Chairman of the FCWC Conference of Ministers, Dr. James KOLLIE, expressed his gratitude to the Secretary-General, whose leadership was welcomed as a guarantee of success this session. He subsequently assured the incoming President to be able to count on the Secretary-General's collaboration in steering the FCWC Affairs.



XV. STATEMENTS BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

61. The Heads of Delegations from FAO, EU and ECOWAS and Ministers from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo have all recognized the importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in West Africa. They commended the role played by FCWC over the last decade for the visibility of the sector and called for support and cooperation between Member States for sustainable growth and development of the sector in the sub-region.

XVI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

62. The Report of the Tenth FCWC Conference of Ministers was unanimously adopted as presented.

XVII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

- 63. The Honourable Heineken LOKPOBIRI, Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the New Chairman of the Conference of Ministers affirmed his commitment to provide the best leadership to FCWC. He promised to meet all financial obligations of Nigeria and enjoined other Member States to do the same. He equally urged the technical and financial partners to support the course of the regional body.
- 64. The vote of thanks was delivered by Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU. He expressed appreciation on behalf of all participants to the Secretary General for organizing the Conference. He commended the achievement so far recorded while thanking the Government and the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the Conference.
- 65. The Honourable Heineken LOKPOBIRI, Chairman of the Conference of Ministers closed the meeting at 2:30 pm.



Annex 1: Agenda of the Conference of Ministers

Hour	Theme	Official
08.30 - 09.00	Arrival and registration of various delegations	Host Authority
	and Ministers followed by the distribution of documents	FCWC SG
09.00 - 10.00	Opening ceremony	
	Meeting introduction speech by the Secretariat of FCWC	SG of FCWC
	Welcome address by the Minister in charge of Fisheries of Federal Republic of Nigeria	Nigeria Government
	Opening address by the Chairman of the Conference of Ministers (Liberia)	Liberia Government
10.00 - 10:15	Tea/Coffee Break - Group Photo - Visit of the stands	
10.15 - 11.30	Adoption of the agenda	Participants FCWC Ministers
	Adoption of the report of the Advisory and coordination Committee meeting.	SG/ACC Chair
	High-level statement of Africa Union on policy provision for investment in fisheries and aquaculture development.	Africa Union Fisheries Officer
	High-level statement of World Bank on support of the fisheries industry in West Africa: Impact, lessons learnt and ways forwards.	World Bank Fisheries specialist
	 High-level statement of the PRCM on Investing in the resilience of the coastal zone for a prosperous Future in West Africa; key results and opportunity for West Central Gulf of Guinea sub-region. 	Director of PRCM
13.00 - 14.00	Adoption of the report of the 10th of the Conference	Participants
	Closing ceremony	FCWC Ministers
14:00 - 16:30	Lunch Break	
16:30	End of the Day	Participants
		FCWC Ministers



Annex 2: List of Participants

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1	Harsen Nyambe Nyambe	AUC	ETHIOPIA	nyambeh@africa-union.org
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85	Mme Elizabeth Afoley QUAYE	MOFAD	GHANA	-
86	Mr. Heineken LOKPOBIRI	FMARD	NIGERIA	-
87	Dr. James KOLLIE	LMA	LIBERIA	-
88	Mr. TRAORE ABDEL	MAEH	TOGO	-
89	Dr. ARSENE D'ALMEIDA	MAEP	BENIN	-

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Annex 3: 2018 Work Plan and Budget

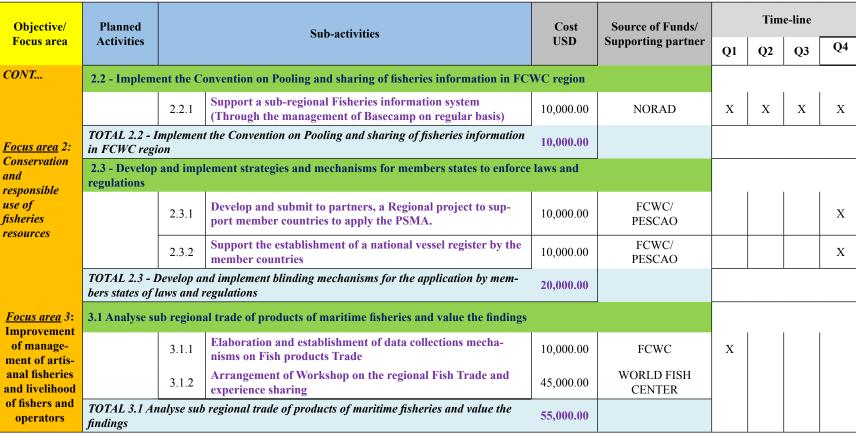


Objective/	Planned Activities	Sub-activities	Cost	Source of Funds/ Supporting partner	Time-line						
Focus area			Sub-activities	USD	Supporting partner	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	1.1 –Strengtho		oration within Fisheries regional bodies and Institutions to pron	note re-							
		1.1.1	Develop work plan for the implementation of the MOU between FCWC and Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)	10,000.00	PRAO				X		
		1.1.2	Participate to the consultations with the framework of the regional Coordination of the Phase 2 of WARFP	5,000.00	FCWC	X					
				1.1.3	Follow-up on collaboration between ECOWAS and RFBs of the West Africa region (MOU / ECOWAS Regional Fisheries Policies)	5,000.00	FCWC				X
Focus area: 1 Improvement		1.1.4	Assessment of needs to strengthen capacities of FCWC and the members states for the implementation of the PESCAO Project	10,000.00	PESCAO	X					
of Policies, governance and	Total 1.1- Stre promote region		ollaboration within Fisheries regional bodies and Institutions to ration								
Institutional arrangements	1.2 - Review a the fisheries s										
		1.2.1	Contribution to the validation and the publication of FCWC Regional plan of action to combat illegal fishing and develop road map of implementation	5,000.00	FCWC				X		
		1.2.2	Operationalize FCWC Convention of minimum condition of access of fisheries/ Convention of pooling together and information sharing	40,000.00	NORAD / PRAO				X		
		1.2.3	Support member States to develop and implement fisheries management plan	15,000.00	CPCO				X		
			operationalization of existing legal frameworks to provide an for the fisheries sector in the region	60,000.00							

Objective/	Planned		Sub-activities	Cost				e-line	
Focus area	Activities			USD	Supporting partner	Q1	Q3	Q3	Q4
	1.3 – Review 1	the imple	mentation of mid-term FCWC strategic plan 2011-2020	l			I	I	,
		1.3.1	Finalization, publication of the three-year (2018- 2020) strategic plan of the FCWC	5,000.00	FCWC	X			
	Total 1.3 Review of mid-term implementation of FCWC strategic plan 2011-2020 5,000.00								
	1.4 - Strengthen FCWC decision making process to improve its effectiveness in the fisheries management policies								
Focus area 1:		1.4.1	Organiser et tenir la 10e session de la Conférence ministérielle du FCWC	75,000.00	FCWC	X			
Improvement		1.4.2	Organise the Advisory and Coordination Committee meeting, jointly with the West Africa Task Force regional Meeting	10, 000.00 25,000.00	FCWC NORAD	X			
of Policies, governance and		1.4.3	Inception workshop of the PESCAO Propjet	5,000.00 25,000.00	FCWC PESCAO			X	
Institutional arrangements	Total 1.4 - Strengthen FCWC decision making process to improve its effectiveness in the fisheries management policies								
	1.5 –Review Regional approach in Fisheries Management policies and methods and project justments for stakeholders participation in the fisheries Management process			opose ad-					
		1.5.1	Publication of the fisheries management regional programme	5,000.00	FCWC			X	
			onal approach in Fisheries Management policies and methods ts for stakeholders participation in the fisheries Management	5,000.00					
	2.1- Strengther ies management	-	ration with fisheries associations to ensure awareness on sustaina	able fisher-					
Focus area 2: Conservation		2.1.1	Organize exchange visits with fishmongers' to promote fish trade (Tema/Adopodoume)	40,000.00	СОМНАГАТ	X			
and		2.1.2	Promote the celebration of the World Fishers Day	4,000.00	FCWC				X
responsible use of fisheries		2.1.3	Establish Collaborative platform with regional fishers associations to strengthen application of fisheries policies	5,000.00	FCWC		X		
resources	TOTAL 2.1- S sustainable fis	_	Cooperation with fisheries associations to ensure awareness on unagement	49,000.00					









Objective/	Planned		Sub-anti-attica	Cost	Source of Funds/	Time-line				
Focus area	Activities		Sub-activities	USD	Supporting partner	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	4.1. Support t	the opera	tionalization of the Regional Task Force (RTF) to combat IUU							
		4.1.1	Hold consultations and carry out studies on the cost of IUU fishing in the region	30,000.00	PESCAO		X	X	X	
		4.1.2	Arrange and hold 2 West Africa Task Force meetings	40,000.00	NORAD		X			
		4.1.3	Arrange and hold national level workshops and technical expert engagement to support implementation and capacity of the National Working Groups of the West Africa Task Force	26,000.00	NORAD PESCAO	X	X			
		4.1.4	Provide legal support to targeted cases on request from TF members. Develop legal study into national level recommendations.	15,000.00	PESCAO	X	X			
Focus area 4:		4.1.5	Support cooperation and coordination between FCWC-TMT-SIF-PESCAO	20,000.00	NORAD	X	X	X	X	
Monitoring, Control and		4.1.6	Provide ongoing fisheries intelligence and analytical support	50,000.00	NORAD	X	X	X	X	
Surveillance (MCS) and fight against IUU		4.1.7	Provide technical and capacity building support, including implementation Task Force meeting requests to the TT, such as exchanges, equipment, and technical support to MCS activities	60,000.00	NORAD	X	X	X	X	
		4.1.8	Develop partnerships with external partners to extend training opportunities, including regional workshop	10,000.00	FCWC+ NORAD	X	X			
					Notab	X	X			
	TOTAL 4.1. S IUU	upport th	e operationalization of the Regional Task Force (RTF) to combat	251,000.00						
	4.2 - Assess and strengthen national and regional legal frameworks to fight against IUU			fishing						
		4.2.1	Supporting the implementation and monitoring & evaluation of the recommendations from the national and regional level studies on the review of FCWC legal framework	20,000.00	FCWC/ PESCAO				X	
	TOTAL 4.2 - A		l strengthen national and regional legal frameworks to fight	20,000.00						





Objective/	Planned Activities		Sub-activities	Cost	Source of Funds/		Time	-line	
Focus area	Activities			USD	Supporting partner	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	5.1 - Develop a sis and inform								
		5.1.1	Support for the functioning of the Fisheries Regional Information System	5,000.00	FCWC		X	X	X
		5.1.2	Exchange of National Expert for the sharing of experience in the implementation of tools and methodology of data collection and sharing	10,000.00	FCWC				X
	TOTAL 5.1 - Develop and implement Systems, Tools and Methodologies for fisheries data collection, analysis and information dissemination								
	5.2 - Improve	Nation	al and Regional capacity for fisheries data collection and analysis						
		5.2.1	Organize workshop to follow up and share post TCP 3512 results on the Data Collection and the use of mobiles apps to collect artisanal fisheries data.	30,000.00	FCWC-FIRMS-CO- PACE				X
<u>Focus area:</u> 5 Research in	TOTAL 5.2 - Improve National and Regional capacity for fisheries data collection and analysis 30,000.00								
fisheries and related	5.3- Develop prove fisheric								
disciplines			Support the Marine Thematic Action of the AUC-EU Initiative on Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) - Contribution to the cooperative approach with the Consortium	5,000.00	FCWC/ MESA/ USAID				
		5.3.2	Contribute to the regional approach in focused research and technology development enabling to combat IUU in Sub-region	5,000.00	FCWC/ MESA/ USAD				
			cooperation approaches with the existing regional fisheries re- prove fisheries, marine environment and climate change research	10,000.00					
			cience and applied research to improve fisheries policies and actices for aquaculture development						
		5.4.1	Develop an aquaculture regional research and development plan	50,000.00	WORLD FISH CENTER/ AT- LAFCO			X	
			se use of science and applied research to improve fisheries policies practices for aquaculture development	50,000.00					

Objective/	Planned			Cost	Source of Funds/	Time-line				
Focus area		vities	Sub-activities Sub-activities	USD	Supporting partner	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	6.1 H	luman R	esources (Remuneration of Secretariat Staff)						,	
		6.1.1	Salary of the personnel of the Secretariat General	16,000.00 12,000.00 24,000.00	FCWC NORAD PESCAO	X	X	X	X	
		6.1.2	Allowances and other related cost of the personnel	20,000.00 30,000.00	FCWC PESCAO	X	X	X	X	
	TOTAL	6.1 - R	essources humaines (Rémunération du personnel du Secrétariat)							
	6.2- Re	nforcem	ent des capacités administratives du Secrétariat Général							
		6.2.1	Capacity building of the staff members (including administrative training on the financial and accounting procedures manual)	15,000.00	FCWC/ PESCAO		X			
		6.2.2	Sponsoring of international training for the Staff	12,500,00 7,500.00	FCWC/ NORAD		X	X		
	TOTAL 6.2- Renforcement des capacités administratives du Secrétariat Général 35,00								•	
Focus area	6.3 - C	oûts adn	ninistratifs / Dépenses de fonctionnement général							
6: Capacity building of		6.3.1	Water, electricity, internet and phone	6,000.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X	
the		6.3.2	Stationeries, small materials and other expendables	4,000.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X	
Secretariat General		6.3.3	Photocopy, maintenance, office cleaning, liaison officer and other services and purchases	6,000.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X	
		6.3.4	Transport and Travel, fuel and vehicles maintenance and repair expenses	15,000.00	PESCAO / FCWC	X	X	X	X	
	ĺ	6.3.5	Reception and other related expenses	5,000.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X	
	ĺ	6.3.6	Bank commissions and similar charges	9,000.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X	
		6.3.7	Local recruitment of workmen (Works)	3,000.00	FCWC					
	İ	6.3.8	Other operating expenses and Miscellaneous	3,000.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X	
	TOTAL	. 6.3 - Ca	ûts administratifs / Dépenses de fonctionnement général	51,000.00						
	6.4 P	6.4 Procurement of Equipment for Secretariat capacity strengthening								
		6.4.1	Procure 1 vehicle for FCWC Secretariat	40,000.00	PESCAO				X	
		6.4.2	Procure IT equipment for PESCAO Management Team	3,000.00	PESCAO		X	X		
		6.4.3	Procure IT applications, accessories and related Computer services	4,000.00	PESCAO					
		6.4.4	Procure equipment for Regional VMS	350,000.00	PESCAO		X			





	6.4.5	Procure two (2) pieces of Air-conditioning equipment for the Secretariat	2,000.00	PESCAO		X	X	
	6.4.6	Procure Office equipment and furniture for the Secretariat	2,000.00	PESCAO		X	X	
	6.4.7	Fitting and office works	2,000.00					
	6.4.8	Other office material and work tools	2,000.00	PESCAO		X	X	X
	6.4 Procuren	nent of Equipment for Secretariat capacity strengthening	400,000.00					
	6.5. Renforcer							
F	6.5.1	Prepare and adopt an integrated communication strategy for FCWC including engagement of a communications expert	10,000.00	FCWC/TMT	X	X	X	X
Focus area 6: Capacity building of	6.5.2	Develop Awareness tools to facilitate the implementation of the communication strategy	6.500.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X
the	6.5.3	Maintain, update and improve efficiency FCWC website	3,000.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X
Secretariat General	TOTAL 6.5 - St bility of the Sec	rengthen the Secretariat communication strategy to improve the visi- cretariat	19,500.00				•	
	6.6. Co-finance states to ensure							
	6.6.1	Travel and mission in the sub region	10,000.00 35,000.00	FCWC/ PESCAO	X	X	X	X
	6.6.2	Cost of the co-financed activities with partners and regional institutions	15,000.00	FCWC	X	X	X	X
		Co-financed activities, follow up of regional meetings attendance and ers states to ensure better application of recommendations of the Conisters	65,000.00					
GRANI	TOTAL	1,422,500.00						

Annual Contributions of the Member States

Countries	BASIC FEE (Fixed amount)		FISH PRODUCTION (Variable amount) 40 %			
Countries	60 %	Percentage per country (%) Amount		TOTAL		
Benin	25,000	1,8	1,800	26,800		
Côte d'Ivoire	25,000	6,0	6,000	31,000		
Ghana	25,000	39,0	39,000	64,000		
Liberia	25,000	1,2	1,200	26,200		
Nigeria	25,000	49,2	49,200	74,200		
Togo	25,000	2,8	2,800	27,800		
Total	150,000	100	100,000	250,000		





The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) facilitates cooperation in fisheries management between the member countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo.

For more information go to:

www.fcwc-fish.org

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FCWC Report Of The Tenth Conference of Ministers - Abuja, Nigeria - December 2017