

**Comité des Pêches du Centre  
Ouest du Golfe de Guinée**

**(CPCO)**



**Fisheries Committee for the  
West Central Gulf of Guinea**

**(FCWC)**

**I.**

**RECORD OF THE FCWC ADVISORY AND COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE (CCC)**

***Accra, central Hotel, 27 April 2015***

## INTRODUCTION

The meeting of the Advisory and Coordination Committee (CCC) of the Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) was held on 27 April 2015, at the Central Hotel Accra, GHANA. This meeting is part of the follow-up of the recommendations from the 7th session of the Conference of Ministers of the organization.

The participants at the meeting are the Directors of fisheries in the six (6) Member States of the FCWC or their representative. The list of participants is attached as annex.

## II. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was marked by two (02) speeches.

In his introductory remarks, **Mr Seraphin DEDI NADJE**, Secretary General of the FCWC, on behalf of the current President of the FCWC, **Monsieur KOBENAN ADJOURMANI**, Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources welcomed the participation of all Member State delegations at the meeting of the Advisory Committee. He stressed that the organization was at a crucial stage of its development and it was time to act to permanently go forward and meet the different expectations of members and partners. As result from the recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Ministers of the FCWC, this meeting will follow up on these recommendations for effective implementation before the next meeting of Ministers.

In his opening speech, **Monsieur Samuel QUAATEY**, representing the Minister responsible for fisheries, welcomed the participants. He stressed that fishing has no borders and its management requires a synergy of actions. It is in this perspective that the FCWC was created, he said. On behalf of the Minister, he declared open the deliberations of the meeting of the Advisory and Coordination Committee of the FCWC.

## III. PROCEEDINGS

### 3.1 Setting-up of the bureau of the meeting

After the opening ceremony, the meeting's bureau was set up. It is composed as follows:

- **Chair:** Dr SHEP HELGUILE (**COTE D'IVOIRE**)
- **Rapporteur :** Mr Kossi AHOEDO (**TOGO**)

### 3.2 Adoption of draft agenda

The draft agenda was amended and adopted.

### **3.3 Discussion points**

- **Report format**

The Secretary General issued a reminder on the developing process of the FCWC 2011 - 2020 strategic plan, 2012- 2014 three-year plan and annual business plans of the organization. He reaffirmed the strategic plan as the core of business planning.

Furthermore he presented two new report formats. They include the technical and administrative report and the financial report of the FCWC. These formats were amended and adopted.

- **Follow-up to the recommendations**

- ✓ **Signing of the Headquarters Agreement**

Samuel Quatey, Director of Fisheries of Ghana outlined the difficulties associated with institutional changes occurred in his country and the efforts of the relevant authorities for the signing of this agreement.. However, he assured participants of the successful conclusion of this process prior to the next meeting of Ministers scheduled for December 2015 in Ghana.

- ✓ **Relocation of the FCWC Headquarters from TEMA to ACCRA**

Headquarters are currently based in Tema; but according to the FCWC Convention, steps are underway to its relocation in Accra, Ghana, to benefit from greater visibility and existing facilities in this city.

- ✓ **Reinforcement of the FCWC staff and their wages**

The SG recalled the FCWC flowchart adopted in 2008. To date only the positions of SG and the administrative and financial assistant have been provided. The remainder of the positions has not been staffed due to the limited financial resources of the organization.

- ✓ **Financing and management of the FCWC**

The SG pointed out the financial mechanism of the FCWC, the situation of the contributions of the countries and the management of funds.

- ✓ **Situation of the Member States annual contributions**

A payment of contributions effort was noted for Togo, Benin and Nigeria. The situation of Member States' contributions is attached as annex.

It was pointed out that Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana have to pay their annual contributions outside payment of wages of the SG and of the Headquarters premises respectively in accordance with the Convention.

- ✓ **Auditing the FCWC accounts**

Given the limited resources of the FCWC, the meeting accepted the proposal of the delegation of Ghana that the organization's accounts are audited by the relevant departments of the Ministry for fisheries of GHANA.

- **Review of the FCWC's activities of the first quarter of 2015**

The SG took stock of activities in the first quarter of 2015, as follows:

- ✓ **ADB support for the ratification international instruments**

An expert was recruited to assist countries in the ratification of relevant instruments of fisheries management by Member States. He has already visited Togo, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire. In their turn, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria will shortly welcome the mission of the expert.

- ✓ **Regional fisheries cooperation**

The FCWC worked on strengthening fisheries cooperation through the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the RFOs of COMHAFAT space for sustainable management of shared resources and development of aquaculture.

The FCWC contributed to the signing of a strategic partnership between the FCWC and the SRFC in order to initiate a joint commitment to ECOWAS for their formal recognition as an implementation technical structure of regional fisheries policy of this Institution.

- ✓ **Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support Project**

This project was developed to promote the sharing of fisheries information and building MCS capacities. The meeting participants were informed of the holding on 28 and 29 April 2015 in Accra, Ghana of information and consultation workshops for Member States for ownership of the activities of the project.

- ✓ **Memorandum of understanding between the FCWC and the NAFAG to collaborate**

A memorandum of understanding between the FCWC and the NAFAG was signed in 2013, defining a framework for collaboration, partnership and technical and scientific cooperation for the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the sub-region. The different areas include access to water; development of national and regional registers in the Committee area.

This memorandum provides a single 'window' for fishing license application between Member States of the sub-region, housed at the FCWC Secretariat. This "window" will facilitate license application procedures in the sub-region and secure the delivery of these documents to fight IUU fishing. In return, the actors of the NAFAG undertake to support the secretariat which will receive 5% of the costs of different licenses.

Member states appreciated this initiative and are committed to implement the provisions of the memorandum.

- **Implementation of the adopted conventions**

✓ **Convention on the minimum requirements for information sharing**

The Secretary General recalled that the Convention was adopted at the last conference of ministers of the FCWC. The Secretariat underlined the Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support Project funded by Norway as an initiative which thus contribute to the implementation of this agreement.

And through this project, it is planned the recruitment of an expert in communications or “project monitoring-evaluation”, who can permanently maintain the sharing of information between Member States and echo the efforts of the FCWC Member States and share good fisheries management practices in the sub-region.

✓ **Convention on the minimum requirements for access to fisheries resources**

The SG informed the participants of the initiatives taken for the implementation of this agreement, in particular with the support of ADB, or Gov project of AU-IBAR.

Furthermore Member States were invited to take initiatives including consolidated country reports which will be presented at every conference of Ministers.

#### **IV.RECOMMENDATIONS**

At the end of proceedings, the following recommendations were made by participants:

**For the President in office**

- Officially put a question to the Minister for fisheries of Ghana for the adoption of the headquarters agreement and the secondment of local technical staff to quickly fill vacancies in the FCWC secretariat.
- Ask the Member States to make available to the FCWC Secretariat the relevant technical staff from their respective civil service.

**For the Secretary-General**

- Make Member States aware of the importance of paying their annual contributions and make voluntary contributions to the FCWC, in particular towards Nigeria.
- Follow up on the proposal of the Republic of Togo to supply technical personnel in the person of Mr Sedzro Kossi, Fisheries Biologist.
- Submit the outcomes of the FCWC accounts and audit of these accounts at the next meetings of the FCWC.

**For Member States**

- Start paying voluntary and statutory contributions
- Write country reports on the implementation of conventions signed and other commitments made which will be presented at every conference of Ministers of the Committee.

- Implement the provisions of the memorandum of understanding between the FCWC and the NAFAG in order to create a regional fund for sustainable fisheries management.