



**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION
AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN
(ATLAFCO)**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

REPORT

SYMPOSIUM

**"FISHING IN THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK OF POST-2020
BIODIVERSITY"**

RABAT (MOROCCO)



09-10 MAY 2023

In order to integrate the fishing sector into the environmental decision-making process within the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, a two-day symposium entitled "Fishing in the Global Biodiversity Post-2020 Framework" was organized by the ATLAFCO. The symposium addressed the socio-economic factors of fishing in West Africa, the impacts of environmental decisions on the fishing sector, and the means to incorporate the voice of the fishing sector in environmental decision-making.

1. Context and Justification

With the conclusion of the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted. While the GBF is not legally binding, it provides guidance for biodiversity conservation approaches, with specific targets set until 2030 and long-term goals until 2050. One of these objectives, commonly referred to as the "30x30" target (Goal 3), aims to protect 30% of the world's terrestrial population through designated protected areas. Although scientifically justified, this approach has significant adverse implications for the economic and social aspects, particularly in West Africa, where countries heavily rely on the fishing sector.

Such a policy, based on strengthened protection measures, could prove detrimental to the food security and social conditions of the populations in these countries. For instance, in Senegal, the fishing sector contributes approximately 14.19% to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides about 43% of the protein intake. Unfortunately, most commercially exploited fish stocks in this region are already overfished.

At the same time, West African fishing zones have been identified as some of the "most biodiversity-rich marine regions in the Atlantic Ocean," justifying their protection under the 30x30 target, especially considering the pressures from fishing activities that these regions face. The most intensive fishing operations in the southern Atlantic occur directly within these biodiversity-rich areas, which are also intersected by major shipping routes. Given the socio-economic impact, particularly in terms of food security and sovereignty, an immediate reinforcement of protection measures through international bodies or multilateral negotiations for these regions is certainly not desirable. The recently adopted Central Arctic Ocean fishing agreement serves as an example demonstrating the possibility of such an agreement.

2. Purpose and relevance

In the context of international fisheries governance, the interaction of relevant regimes for the sustainable use of fishery resources poses challenges. On one hand, there are environmental regimes such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the legally binding agreement on biodiversity conservation beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) currently under negotiation. These regimes constitute a robust set of biodiversity conservation measures. On the other hand, there are fishing agencies and other departments representing their respective interests in these forums, leading to a significant imbalance in representation.

However, the fishing sector is barely present in these forums, making the interests of the fishing sector barely visible in international environmental negotiations concerning

marine conservation. Consequently, recently adopted protection measures are predominantly based on environmental considerations and are advocated and presented by national authorities responsible for environmental matters, with little or no consideration for the socio-economic factors related to fishing.

This has resulted in an imbalance between social equity regarding marine protected areas and the needs of local fishermen. Nevertheless, to fulfill their obligations under the CBD, it is imperative to fully consider socio-economic and cultural factors in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

3. Objectives of the Symposium

The general objective is to create strategies to reconcile the interests of the environment and the fishing sector. It contributes to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of marine species in the future, the sustainability of the fishing sector, and, consequently, the communities dependent on it within the global framework for biodiversity post-2020.

Specifically, the symposium aims to:

1. Draw attention and raise awareness among authorities responsible for fisheries and environmental issues regarding the challenges of environmental decision-making and the socio-economic aspects of fishing.
2. Explore means of recognizing the importance of the fishing sector in discussions within international forums.
3. Represent the interests of the fishing industry and facilitate information exchange between fisheries and environmental authorities.

4. Outcomes

At the end of the symposium, the following outcomes were achieved:

1. Increased visibility of the fishing sector in international negotiations on marine environmental protection.
2. Enhanced understanding of the challenges faced by fishing in light of more protective measures among environmental authorities.
3. Raised awareness among authorities responsible for fisheries and environmental issues regarding the challenges of environmental decision-making and the socio-economic aspects of fishing.
4. Means of recognizing the importance of the fishing sector in discussions within international forums.
5. The representation of the interests of the fishing industry and the exchange of information between fisheries authorities and environmental authorities.

5. Presentation of the Symposium

The organization of this symposium under the theme "Fishing in the Global Biodiversity Post-2020 Framework" aimed to address this issue by strengthening the voice of the fishing sector in negotiations within conventions/bodies such as CMS or CITES. It is not intended to overshadow conservation issues or weaken the environmental sector but rather to involve the fishing sector in international forums

dealing with these topics and thereby bring greater attention to the socio-economic consequences of adopting protection measures on the fishing sector.

To this end, the symposium:

- Explored ways to integrate fishing considerations into environmental decision-making processes
- Provided general information on the socio-economic role of fishing in West Africa and other regions
- Discussed the potential impacts of the 30x30 objective on artisanal and commercial fishing
- Reflected on the role of fishing in ongoing BBNJ negotiations
- Proposed solutions to reconcile conservation, food security, and sovereignty
- Proposed strategies and solutions for greater involvement of fisheries administration entities in environmental conservation and protection decision-making.

Several speakers were invited to present topics that were discussed, and representatives from fisheries authorities, professionals from the sector, environmental administrations of the ATLAFCO member states, and other countries facing similar issues participated in the event.

6. Symposium organization:

The symposium was organized at the initiative of THE ATLAFCO and took place on 09- 10 May 2023 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. The proceedings were conducted in plenary sessions with presentations followed by discussions. A moderator, Mr. Amadou TALL, along with two interpreters (French/English), facilitated the smooth running of the proceedings.

Participants:

The event brought together a diverse range of participants, including:

- The Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of Côte d'Ivoire
- The Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of Ghana
- The Minister of Fisheries and Economic Maritime of Guinea
- The Representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water, and Forestry of the Kingdom of Morocco
- The Ambassador of Japan in Morocco
- The Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire to Morocco
- The Ambassador of Dominican Republic to Morocco
- The Ambassador of El Salvador to Morocco
- The Ambassador of Benin to Morocco
- The Ambassador of Guatemala to Morocco
- The Ambassador of Panama to Morocco
- Representatives of OSPESCA
- Representatives of Fisheries from ATLAFCO MS
- Environmental representatives and Experts from ATLAFCO MS and other States
- Sub-regional Organizations
- Professors and Researchers
- Civil Society (MOSFA)

- Interns from Benin, Cameroon, and Morocco at the ATLAFCO

The full list of participants is attached in the **appendix. I**

Running of the symposium:

The symposium was marked by five (5) key moments: the opening ceremony, the signing of the MoU between the ATLAFCO and OSPESCA, the presentations and discussions, the establishment of a committee of wise men and a technical committee, and finally, the closing ceremony.

A. Opening Ceremony:

Five speeches were delivered during this ceremony. The full texts of these speeches are attached in the **appendix. II**

- In the speech of the Moroccan Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests, **Mohammed SADIKI**, presented by **Mr. Abdelmalek FARAJ** Director General of INRH, he expressed the pleasure of welcoming all the symposium participants and highlighted the importance of this reflection regarding the role of biodiversity in ecosystem balance and the alarming threat it faces. He then recalled the measures taken during COP15 to protect and restore biodiversity and the potential repercussions of these measures on the ~~the~~ ATLAFCO Member States, where a significant part of the economy depends on fishing activities.

- In her speech, the **Hon Movis Hawa KOMSON**, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Ghana expressed her warm regards to the ATLAFCO. She conveyed the sincere greetings of the President of the Republic of Ghana to **His Majesty MOHAMED VI** King of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Moroccan authorities. During her speech, she emphasized the importance of the fisheries sector in the Ghanaian economy and its significance for a large part of the population. She also outlined the challenges faced by the sector, such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU), environmental issues, and the impact of climate change on fishing and aquaculture activities. In conclusion, the Minister expressed her hope that this symposium would pave the way for solutions to support sustainable fisheries.

- The following speech was delivered by Hon Charlotte DAFPE Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy in Guinea, who paid tribute to His Royal Majesty, **King MOHAMED VI**, and conveyed sincere and fraternal greetings from the transitional President, the Head of State of the Republic of Guinea. She pointed out that Guinea's presence at this symposium reflects the common vision for the sustainable exploitation of the world's seas and oceans. The Republic of Guinea has prioritized biodiversity conservation due to the importance of the fisheries sector in economic, social, and food security aspects. She then emphasized the efforts made by the Guinean Government to develop this sector, including the development of a national strategy for the blue economy.

- In his opening address, the **Mr. Kuramitsu HIDEAKI**, Ambassador of Japan to Morocco expressed his gratitude to the ATLAFCO for their efforts in organizing the symposium. He then praised the excellent cooperation between Japan and the ATLAFCO member countries, which has been built and strengthened over the years to ensure the sustainable use of fishery resources in line with scientific standards. Through the partnership between OFC and ATLAFCO, the Japanese government

demonstrates its commitment to supporting the member countries in the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. In relation to the symposium's theme, he emphasized that international negotiations, especially in the field of environment and fisheries, must consider the crucial role that fisheries play in terms of food security, GDP, and employment in many the ATLAFCO countries. Therefore, representatives from the fishing sector should actively participate in these negotiations.

- Taking the floor, the President of ATLAFCO, **Mr. Sidi Tiémoko TOURÉ**, Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources in Côte d'Ivoire expressed his gratitude and congratulations to all participants for their keen interest in the symposium's theme.

He highlighted the impact of human activities on biodiversity conservation and the necessity of taking action. He posed a difficult question for the ATLAFCO member countries, where the fishing sector plays a vital role: Should the exploitation of fishery resources be halted in the name of biodiversity preservation, or should the increasing demand for these resources be met at the expense of biodiversity?

He firmly stated, "We must protect nature and its biodiversity by implementing any necessary protective measures for its preservation." He criticized the approach taken in international organizations and multilateral environmental negotiations, which seems to overlook the socio-economic realities of the ATLAFCO member states and their economic and social impacts. Thus, he regarded the symposium's theme as addressing a highly complex issue and concluded his speech by making the following recommendations:

- strengthening national coordination,
- adopting a modern approach to managing protected areas,
- increasing the involvement of the fishing industry in global environmental forums, and
- enhancing effective cooperation in the region to enable active participation of member states in decision-making within relevant international bodies.

On the basis of these recommendations that the President of the ATLAFCO officially declared the symposium on fisheries within the global framework of post-2020 biodiversity open.

B. Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ATLAFCO and OSPESCA

One of the significant moments of the symposium was the signing of a memorandum between ATLAFCO and OSPESCA to formalize the relationship between the two entities. The signing of this memorandum allows for the development of synergies and solidarity between the two organizations. The MoU was signed by Mr. BENABBOU, Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO and Mr. José INFANTE Director General of OSPESCA

The representative of OSPESCA expressed satisfaction with the signing of the MoU and gratitude to the Moroccan authorities for their warm hospitality.

The Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, in turn emphasized that the signing of the MoU is the culmination of a long-standing initiative within international fisheries management organizations, where similarities between the two organizations in terms of development and the importance of fisheries in member states were recognized. The

idea of working together emerged with the aim of pooling their strengths to defend their common interests.

C. Summary of presentations:

THEME I: THE FISHING SECTOR IN ONGOING ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS

-Presentation 1: Problem Description by *Mr. Eugene LAPOINTE – Consultant*

Biographical notice:

Mr. Eugene LAPOINTE, a lawyer, diplomat, hunter, and conservationist, is one of the most credible and optimistic thinkers in the field of conservation. He served his government (Canada) for 14 years and participated in the drafting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), where he served as Secretary-General from 1982 to 1990.

Presentation summary:

The fishing industry, often regarded as a noble profession, faces significant challenges and disorganization. Consultant **Mr. LAPOINTE** highlighted the potential decline of fisheries due to various factors. Certification programs aimed at promoting sustainable fishing practices have been criticized for transparency and effectiveness issues. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing threatens marine ecosystems and fish populations, necessitating international collaboration. Fishing quotas, intended for sustainable management, face implementation and control challenges, contributing to overfishing. Financial interests and exploitation practices also impact the industry. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted supply chains and livelihoods. To address these issues, it is necessary to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration, science-based policies, strengthened governance, and responsible choices by consumers to ensure a more balanced and sustainable fishing industry.

Consultant **Mr. LAPOINTE** proposes several potential solutions to tackle the challenges in the fishing industry, particularly the ongoing negotiations on BBNJ. These negotiations aim to establish a binding international instrument to combat illegal fishing and ensure the sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions. Additionally, the development and implementation of sectoral and spatial plans for sustainable ocean management (SAWS) can provide specific strategies and regulations for different sectors, including fishing, to promote sustainability, ecosystem health, and long-term viability of the fishing industry. These proposed solutions emphasize the importance of international cooperation and strategic frameworks to address challenges and disorganization in the fishing industry.

-Presentation 2: Fishing in BBNJ Negotiations by *Professor/ Consultant Joji MORISHITA (FAJ)*

Biographical notice:

Prof. Joji MORISHITA has been serving as an Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries for International Affairs (Fisheries) since 2019. He has been involved in international ocean and fisheries issues since 1982 as a representative of the Japanese government. He served as the Chairman of the International Whaling

Commission from 2016 to 2018 and the Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the NPFC from 2015 to 2019.

Presentation summary:

In his presentation, **Pr. MORISHITA** summarized the key points of the BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) agreement. He emphasized the importance of managing marine genetic resources, zone-based management tools including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessment, as well as capacity building and technology transfer in the maritime sector.

Prof. MORISHITA highlighted the potential impact of zone-based management measures and marine protected areas on existing frameworks for managing fishery resources. He also mentioned diverging views during intergovernmental conference meetings, particularly regarding definitions, the application of the precautionary principle, jurisdictional delimitation, recognition of measures established by other bodies, decision-making methods, and emergency measures.

Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of institutional arrangements in the BBNJ agreement, such as the Conference of the Parties, scientific and technical subsidiary bodies, the secretariat, cooperation mechanisms, funds and financing mechanisms, as well as the implementation and compliance committee and the capacity-building and technology transfer committee.

In summary, the presentation provides valuable insights into the BBNJ agreement, highlighting its key areas, challenges encountered during negotiations, and the essential institutional framework required for its successful implementation.

-Presentation 3: What governance for the conservation of living marine resources in Africa in light of the law of the sea? Overview of relevant international legal instruments: *Professor Miloud Loukili*

Biographical notice:

Professor Miloud LOUKILI, a specialist in international law, particularly in maritime law and ocean law, holds the position of Professor of Law of the Sea at Mohammed V University in Rabat. With extensive experience in the multilateral process related to the law of the sea, Professor Loukili's expertise in maritime studies has allowed him to contribute significantly to this field. He has served as the Director of the Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) and the Merchant Marine of Morocco, and is also a Member of the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Presentation summary:

During his presentation, **Pr. LOUKILI** addressed the reference framework for the conservation and utilization of marine resources. He highlighted that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has been identified as the primary legal norm governing all developments related to marine decision-making. On the occasion of the Convention's 40th anniversary, the President of the African Group and the Representative of Rwanda initiated a legal framework composed of 320 articles and 29 annexes, making a historic contribution to international relations. This underscores that the legal context for the conservation and utilization of marine resources is undoubtedly based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. All legal

instruments, including the 1995 Fisheries Legal Agreement and regional agreements, operate within the continuity of this parent convention. This convention is complemented by various regulatory texts adopted by specialized and regional organizations.

Sound governance regarding marine resources relies on considerations of economic and social development, as well as national jurisdictions. The notion of exclusive economic zones (EEZ) is considered the cornerstone or backbone of the entire ATLAFCO zone convention. The challenges faced by African countries regarding the governance and conservation of marine resources lie in the implementation of these legal texts. In this context,—ATLAFCO has been initiated to further enhance coordination.

THEME 2: POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE 30x30 TARGET ON THE FISHERIES SECTOR

-Presentation 4: Governance of marine fisheries within the global biodiversity framework post-2020 BBNJ: *Dr. Bernal Chavarria-OSPESCA*

Biographical notice:

Dr. Bernal CHAVARRIA, an attorney and notary specializing in international fisheries law, brings over 15 years of continuous work and 25 years of professional experience in this field. He coordinates environmental and fisheries issues and has provided services to member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA).

Presentation summary:

In his presentation, **Mr. CHAVARRIA** characterized the debates on biodiversity, understanding that there is an inherent relationship between biodiversity and human long-term well-being. As he highlighted that the international community has recognized the conservation and sustainable use as the main objective of management, the author stressed the need of ensuring coherence and enforceability in the global biodiversity framework.

The author explored UNCLOS and pinpointed that the use of the marine biodiversity obliges to conserve it where, science is of essence to guide such conservation and data, built on the fishing activities, is needed for scientific determinations that support management measures.

The author noted that governance requires of planning, goals identification and a building process where the State must lead on and ensure effective interactions from stakeholders. He also proved that the international governance is based upon treaties and declarations that should also be consistent with principles already in effect, among them the universal and effective participation of fishermen.

On such basis, the author tested the BBNJ process for drafting the new treaty on biodiversity and proved how, when it is about fisheries and conservation, all legitimate actors must participate and this BBNJ process did not allow fishermen to engage in the process, creating an ambiguous treaty-to-be that obliges a change in awareness and effective participation from fisheries sector.

THEME 3: SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR FOR THE ATLAFCO AND OTHER STATES

-Presentation 5: Role and Importance of the Fishing Sector in the Framework of the Blue Economy in Atlantic Africa by *Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH-ATLAFCO*

Biographical notice:

Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH is a highly qualified maritime expert who has held key positions in the Ministry of Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine, as well as at the ATLAFCO Secretariat. He has participated in internationally renowned programs such as the Rhodes Academy of Law and Policy of the Sea and regularly attends sessions of international organizations related to fisheries. His expertise and experience enable him to play an important role in cooperation and maritime information systems.

Presentation summary:

During the symposium, **Mr. LAAMRICH**, Head of the Cooperation and Information Systems Department at ATLAFCO, emphasized the importance of fishing in Atlantic Africa, highlighting its role in providing protein-rich food, creating jobs, and generating income for governments. He acknowledged the challenges posed by climate change, competition for marine space, and depletion of fish stocks, including the harmful impacts of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

To address these challenges, he proposed four key areas of intervention.

- Restoration of healthy ecosystems was highlighted as a crucial step to increase fish production and improve the valuable services provided by healthy ecosystems.
- Emphasis was placed on improving the sustainability of fishing operations by addressing foreign access agreements, combating informal and illegal fishing, and reducing bycatch and discards
- Improving harvest and post-harvest chains was identified as an opportunity to reduce losses and increase net supply through value-added processes such as fish smoking and drying.
- Strengthening intra-regional trade was highlighted as a strategy to enhance food security, limit vulnerability to external shocks, and prioritize the nutritional needs of African nations. He concluded by emphasizing the need for a collaborative framework that integrates bottom-up and top-down approaches for blue economy management. This would require active participation from governments, industry, stakeholders, and local communities throughout the process, ensuring the successful implementation of strategies for the sustainable development of fisheries in Atlantic Africa.

-Presentation 6: Fishing Activities and Marine Biodiversity Conservation in Africa: Current Status and Perspectives for Sustainable Exploitation in the ATLAFCO Region by *Dr. Rodrigue PELEBE-ACECoR*

Biographical notice:

Dr. Rodrigue PELEBE Edéya Orobiyi is a researcher at the African Centre of Excellence for Coastal Resilience, at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, and a

member of the Research Laboratory in Aquaculture and Aquatic Ecotoxicology at the University of Parakou in Benin. He holds a dual Ph.D. in Fisheries and Aquaculture, as well as Hydrobiology. His research focuses on fisheries science, aquatic ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, aquatic ecotoxicology, and molecular identification and genetics of fish populations. He is the author of numerous publications and provides technical and scientific assistance to NGOs in Africa.

Presentation summary:

In his presentation, **Dr. PELEBE** presented the ATLAFCO region, where fishing activities are carried out along nearly 14,660 km of coastline. These activities include both artisanal and industrial capture fishing and aquaculture. Marine waters contribute to the majority, accounting for nearly 60% of the production. In terms of global production, Africa has experienced some progress between 1950 and 2020. However, it should be noted that this progress has been slower compared to many other regions worldwide, indicating the significant work that still needs to be done.

Like the other speakers, he mentioned the important role played by the fisheries sector for the countries in the ATLAFCO region and its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

Addressing the state of biodiversity, he mentioned that 1811 species have been identified, of which 8% are listed as endangered. However, he criticized the fact that 78% of the data is insufficient, highlighting the need for extensive research to truly understand the status of what exists in our waters. According to current knowledge, he also noted that fish in coastal areas are much more threatened than those living in deep waters.

He also discussed the factors responsible for the decline in biodiversity, including overexploitation, habitat degradation, the dominance of invasive species over native species, pollution and climate change, inadequate policy responses and law enforcement, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU).

To exploit resources sustainably, he emphasized the need to consider biodiversity as a common concern and a national asset. He called for strengthening sub-regional and regional cooperation and improving the governance of shared stocks.

-Presentation 7: Regional Cooperation for a United and Prosperous Africa: *Mr. Tarik IZIRAREN / African Atlantic States Process*

Biographical notice:

Mr. Tarik IZIRAREN is the Permanent Secretary of the African Atlantic States Process (AASP). As a career diplomat and former senior United Nations official, he has played a key role in international negotiations, particularly on the 2030 Agenda and South-South Cooperation. His experience includes important positions in Morocco and significant contributions to the formulation of sustainable development strategies.

Presentation summary:

In his presentation, **Mr. IZIRAREN** emphasized the importance of cooperation in the African Atlantic region, offering significant opportunities for economic activities and

international trade. The African Atlantic Strategic Partnership (AASP) was introduced as a comprehensive initiative based on three key pillars: political dialogue and security, blue economy and maritime connectivity, and sustainable development and environment. The objective of AASP is to achieve stability, shared prosperity, and coordinated cooperation, based on the principles of consultation, collective leadership, flexibility, and solidarity. It recognizes the interconnections between different aspects of development and emphasizes policy coordination and partnership strengthening. The Rabat Declaration serves as a roadmap for future actions, focusing on coordination with other African processes to enhance outcomes.

THEME 4: CONSERVATION AND/OR SUSTAINABLE USE? HOW TO RECONCILE POTENTIALLY CONTRADICTIONARY CONCEPTS?

-Presentation 8: Marine Conservation for Whom/What? *Mrs. Hayat MESBAH, National Focal Point CITES/Morocco*

Biographical notice:

Mrs. Hayat MESBAH is the Head of Ecology and Conservation of Flora and Fauna at the National Agency of Water and Forests in Morocco. She represents the CITES Management Authority and is a member of the CITES Standing Committee for the North Africa and West Africa regions. She is also a member of the national sub-commission on biodiversity, Scientific Advisor to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and a member of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

Presentation summary:

In her presentation, **Mrs. MESBAH** clarified that marine environments are one of the main reservoirs of biodiversity in the world. They harbor over 250,000 known species and many others that have not yet been documented. Marine biodiversity is essential for the proper functioning of the planet, providing services that ensure the health, well-being, and prosperity of humanity. These goods and services contribute significantly to poverty eradication, sustainable economic growth, and food security.

Unfortunately, marine environments are threatened, particularly by human activities such as overfishing, the capture of endangered species, disturbance of flora and fauna, introduction of invasive species, and pollution. These activities compromise their ability to continue providing the goods and services necessary for life on Earth.

Therefore, urgent measures are necessary for the preservation of marine environments, including strengthening fishing quotas, establishing marine protected areas, and reducing pollution in seas and oceans. These actions aim to restore our marine ecosystems to a clean, productive, and vibrant state.

-Presentation 9: Maritime Cui Bono? Perspectives of Local Fishermen on Marine Conservation and Food Security: *Dr. Mustapha KEBE/Consultant*

Biographical notice:

Dr. Mustapha KEBE is an economist specializing in rural economics, with extensive experience in rural development in Africa, particularly in the fishing, agriculture, and

aquaculture sectors. As an international consultant, he has worked with organizations such as FAO, the African Development Bank, and the European Union. He is a member of several professional associations and scientific groups.

Presentation summary:

In **Dr. KEBE's** presentation, it is highlighted that the fisheries sector in the region makes a significant contribution to national economies. This is linked to the important social and economic role played by artisanal fishing in terms of creating national wealth, generating employment, improving food security, and combating poverty.

However, the sector has been facing a crisis in recent years, including the accelerated degradation of fishery resources (depletion of fish stocks) and a sharp decline in global catches since 2000. This situation is a result of overexploitation of fishery resources and climate change. Furthermore, the sector is only partially integrated into the majority of national and regional policies.

According to FAO forecasts, the sector will continue to play an important role by employing a large portion of the population, hence the urgency of implementing new management policies to limit the degradation of fishery resources, especially for artisanal fishing. The major challenge is to reconcile the objective of marine conservation with the objective of food security. This challenge can be addressed by adopting conservation/protection measures and fishery resource management. Fishing activities need to be carried out within the framework of ecosystem-based management to ensure the sustainable development of aquatic ecosystems and the preservation of resources.

In conclusion, it is possible for artisanal fishing to reconcile the objectives of marine conservation and food security. The establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) can lead to poverty reduction along with the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems. MPAs are used to conserve biodiversity, manage natural resources, and protect endangered species. This requires community-oriented governance, creating a local model of sustainable development. Co-management, including participatory surveillance, which is promoted in most countries in the region for regulating fishing practices, is a means for artisanal fishing to contribute to biodiversity and food security. This dynamic has led to the emergence of new ways in which artisanal fishermen claim a new role as guardians of the sea in many countries.

-Presentation 10: RFMOs and their Role in Developing Conservation Measures for Marine Biodiversity Protection: *Pr. Bernal CHAVARRIA-OSPESCA.*

Biographical notice

Bernal Alberto Chavarría Valverde, graduate of the University of Costa Rica, lawyer and notary public, specialized in international fisheries law, with more than 15 years of continuous work in this area and 25 years of professional experience. He began his professional career in banking and stock exchange, where he stood out for his fight against money laundering and strengthening of compliance and risk management. At the request of the authorities of his country, he entered the exciting world of the policy and legal management of fisheries resources

He is advisor on international fisheries policy and management of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador and coordinator of the Group of Latin American Experts for technical assistance to fisheries authorities within the framework of the negotiation of an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in waters beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Presentation summary:

In his presentation, the author explored the international legal framework for the management of marine living resources relevant to fisheries, highlighting the supreme value of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Seas, (UNCLOS) in implementing agreements for highly migratory and straddling stocks as well as the value of the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries as the basis upon which RFMOs operate.

He highlighted that the purpose of the law is to ensure conservation and sustainable use of the marine living resources, where states, through regional organizations and in use of best scientific information, are tasked to maintain or restore the fish stocks to maximum sustainable yield considering environmental, economic and social factors, while also protecting associates' species in accordance with the ecosystem approach

The author concluded that, in essence, the regional approach is the most appropriate to deal with the different stocks attached to the several ecoregions and ecosystems in the Ocean; notwithstanding the efforts to find a global and unique approach to management made by new trends in the political arena, the author stresses that RFMOs are called to continue doing and strengthening their substantive job on conservation and sustainable use, implementing new strategies such as area based management tools and impact assessments, to foster thereafter international cooperation and collaboration as envisioned by the UNCLOS.

THEME 5: ENHANCING THE INTEGRATION OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING

-Presentation 11: Strengthening Local Voices in Environmental Decision-Making:
Dr. Nikolas SELLHEIM/Consultant

Biographical notice:

Dr. Nikolas SELLHEIM is an independent consultant specializing in international conservation law, livelihoods, and marine mammals. With a Ph.D. in law, he has conducted extensive research on the European Union ban on the trade in seal products and Arctic governance. Dr. SELLHEIM has published several books and articles on these topics and actively participated in international conferences and organizations related to conservation and biodiversity.

Presentation summary:

The presentation by **Dr. SELLHEIM** highlighted the crucial need to strengthen the voice of local stakeholders in environmental decision-making. The identified issues underscored the inadequate consideration of resource users' interests within international conservation regimes, leading to conflicts of interest and hindering effective conservation and sustainable resource use. The presentation emphasized the importance of empowering indigenous peoples and local communities in these decision-making processes. While indigenous peoples have established lobbying efforts, representation of local communities is insufficient. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) recognizes indigenous subsistence whaling (ISW) upon presentation of a "Need Statement," but contentious issues persist regarding the absence of quotas for non-indigenous traditional whaling and the non-recognition of rights of non-indigenous hunters, particularly in Japan. Furthermore, conservation initiatives such as whale sanctuaries often neglect their impact on fisheries. In the case of CITES, the convention does not recognize traditional use, and livelihood-focused working groups face challenges in terms of funding and influence. Proposed solutions include advocating for the inclusion of food security and livelihoods in listing criteria, establishing dedicated forums for constructive dialogue, and conducting comprehensive social impact assessments. Failing to address these issues risks marginalizing fisheries' interests, subordinating food security and livelihood concerns to conservation priorities, weakening the rights of indigenous and local communities, and compromising the effectiveness and sustainability of conservation efforts.

-Presentation 12: Strategies and Solutions for Greater Involvement of Fisheries Administrative Entities in the Decision-Making Process: *Mr. Patrick KARANI - AU/IBAR*

Biographical notice:

Mr. Patrick KARANI currently holds the position of Technical Expert in Environment at AU-IBAR and is a Managing Partner at BEA International. He provides strategic consulting services on carbon finance, climate-related finance, and the blue economy. He has contributed to the development of the AU Blue Economy Strategy and leads climate change adaptation projects. He has also worked in renowned institutions and promoted clean energy and environmental sustainability.

Presentation summary:

In his presentation Mr. KARANI, highlighted the coordination challenges in the fisheries sector in Africa. Following the recommendations of the CAMFA 1 conference, a coordination mechanism was advocated to harmonize policies and promote the participation of non-state actors. The AFRM project is collaboration between the GEF and the World Bank, aims to reform fisheries governance in Africa, with the ultimate goal of ensuring environmental, economic, and social sustainability. As the host of the CAMFA secretariat, AU-IBAR ensures seamless coordination of events and relations with partners. The working groups, the Think Tank executive, and the advisory board actively contribute to the formulation of informed policy recommendations. The operationalization of the AFRM, extensively discussed during the Naivasha meeting, led to the creation of seven thematic working groups, providing a platform for the exchange of expertise. The CAMFA secretariat plays a vital role in mobilizing stakeholders and ensuring the effective implementation of AFRM activities. Strategic recommendations have been formulated to ensure sustainable funding for the secretariat, including the establishment of an annual budget line and a strong partnership of trust. Thus, through harmonious coordination and strong partnerships, the AFRM promises to open new exciting prospects in the fisheries sector in Africa.

Presentation 12: The perspective of African artisanal fisheries on marine conservation and food security by *Mr Gaoussou GUEYE, President of CAOPA*

Biographical notice:

Mr. Gaoussou GUEYE is Fishmonger since 1995 with more than 30 years of experience in the Senegalese artisanal fishing sector and more than 10 years of experience in Africa and in industrial fishing. He is also the President of the Platform of Non-State Actors Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in West Africa (PANEPAO), President of the African Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA), and President of the Association for the Promotion and Accountability of Fisheries Actors Artisanal Maritime (APRAPAM) as well as Member of the International Advisory Group of FiTI (Fisheries Transparency Initiative

Presentation summary

This presentation that was forwarded by **Mr. GUEYE**, pointed out that CAOPA, which represents African artisanal fisheries organizations from 27 countries, recognizes that protected areas can be effective means of restoring and conserving biodiversity and supporting coastal communities that depend on fisheries for their livelihoods and food security.

However, for CAOPA, the success of the 30 x 30 initiative will depend on participatory and transparent approaches to locate these areas and develop rules on the commercial activities that are allowed there. A hasty approach, without consultation and without recognition of the conservation efforts made by the communities and asked of the communities, aimed at classifying large areas of the oceans as protected areas could be extremely detrimental to small-scale fisheries.

A. CLOSING CEREMONY

The notable point of this ceremony was the reading of the recommendations formulated at the end of the proceedings. This was followed by words of gratitude addressed to His Majesty the King of Morocco for his vision and leadership. The representative of Sierra Leone expressed these thanks on behalf of all participants and experts present at the symposium.

The other major point was the establishment of a Committee of elders and a Technical Committee, with the appointment of members responsible for monitoring the situation and making any proposals that could enhance the role of fisheries within the framework of biodiversity.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

We, representatives of the authorities responsible for environmental protection and fisheries in our respective states, participating in the symposium "Fishing in the global post-2020 biodiversity framework," held on 9-10 May 2023 in Rabat, Morocco:

- Acknowledging the decline in biodiversity as identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
- Taking into account the economic interests of fisheries, particularly in the ATLAFCO region, in environmental decision-making processes at national and international levels, and the potential economic impacts caused by climate change and biodiversity loss;
- Reaffirming our commitment to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development, and Target 14.b: "Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.;
- Also reaffirming Sustainable Development Goal 10 that aims to reduce inequalities, particularly in terms of equal opportunities for social, economic, and political inclusion;
- Aware of the practical and political challenges of integrating the fishing sector, indigenous populations, and local communities into multilateral conservation initiatives and decisions;
- Also aware of the urgent need for active participation of indigenous populations and local communities in decision-making to ensure effective conservation and sustainable use;
- Emphasizing the vital importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector for developing countries due to its contribution to economic growth and the achievement of sustainable development goals, particularly eradicating hunger and reducing poverty;

- Concerned about the increasing discourse of "non-use" in multilateral environmental agreements and conservation initiatives lacking scientific justification;
- Recognizing the need for international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources while emphasizing the principles of sovereignty and the right associated with the sustainable use of ocean resources.;
- Recognizing the need to include the fishing sector in the implementation of the 30x30 target;
- Emphasizing that the conservation, management, and sustainable use of fishery resources are best ensured by competent regional and international fisheries management organizations;
- Committed to the spirit of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which calls for the promotion and defense of common African positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples, and to the principles of unity and solidarity, speaking with one voice, and weighing in negotiations to defend our collective interests in the management, use, and sustainable conservation of marine resources.

We recommend:

- Contributing to the international community's efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity;
- Promoting sustainable and responsible fishing by adopting measures to effectively combat overfishing, bycatch, and IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing;
- Promoting fisheries research to gain a better understanding of the fishery potential and exploitation levels through the assessment of fishery resources dynamics and fisheries.
- Incorporating scientific recommendations and traditional knowledge of fishermen into the development of fisheries policies;
- Integrating environmental protection into fisheries management and vice versa, through an "integrated" approach that allows for the development of a modern approach to protected areas;
- Prioritizing fisheries management in marine protected areas to move towards a management approach that goes beyond mere prohibition, where different fishing activities are tested, funded, and evaluated;
- Institutionalizing national coordination for any matter related to marine biodiversity prior to participating in international decision-making spaces on the conservation of marine resources;
- Developing effective regional coordination to influence international governance decisions on the environment and fisheries, taking into account the specificities and interests of our countries;
- Organizing an annual event focusing on the theme of fishing and biodiversity

Annex I: List of Participants

No.	COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	LAST NAME FIRST NAME	TITLE
1	African Atlantic States Process Rabat	Mr. Tarik IZIRAREN	Permanent Secretary African Atlantic States Process
2	Fishing Agency/Japan	Mr Yume KAWAI	Officer at the Fisheries Agency of the Government of Japan.
3	National Agency for Water and Forests	Ms. Hayat MESBAH	Head of Department for the Conservation of Wild Flora and Fauna Department for the Fight Against Desertification and Nature Protection
4	Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire in Rabat	Mr. Sem. DRISSA TRAORE	Ambassador
5	Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Rabat		
6	Embassy of El Salvador	Mr. Ignacio de Cossio	Ambassador of El Salvador
7	Embassy of Benin in Rabat		
8	Embassy of Guatemala in Rabat		
9	Embassy of Japan in Rabat	Mr. KURAMITSU Hideaki	Ambassador
10	Embassy of Japan in Rabat	Mr. SHIMIZU NOBUSHIGE	First secretary
11	Embassy of Panama in Rabat		
12	Angola	Mr Victor CHILAMBA	National Director of Fisheries
13	AU/IBAR	Mr. Patrick Karani	Technical Environmental Expert
14	Benin	Mr. DJAOUGA MAMADOU Boubacar	Technical Advisor for Livestock and Fisheries Production
15	Cabo Verde	Mr Carlos MONTEIRO	National Fisheries and Agriculture Director
16	Cameroon	Dr. Joseph Achille YEPKA	Deputy Director of Industrial and Artisanal Fisheries
17	IWC	Mr. Amadou Teliel DIALLO	President of IWC
18	ATLAFCO	Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU	Executive Secretary
19		Mr. Atsushi ISHIKAWA	Expert/OFCF
20		Mr. Mohammed HADDAD	Financial Manager
21		Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH	Head of the Cooperation and Information System Department
22		Mr. Mohamed SADIKI	Head of Programs and Projects Department
23		Mrs. Hayat ASSARA	Executive Officer
24		Mr. Abdelkrim MRABTI	webmaster
25		Mr. Ali BOUALI	Consultant
26		Mrs. Karima CHOUKRANI	Secretary
27		Mrs. Amal MOUTTAKI	Project Manager
28		Mr. Rachid REGRAGUI	Officer
29		Mrs. Wafaa AAMOUN	Assistant
30		Mr. Youssef ZAHER	Intern
31		Miss Yasmine LAHNIN	Intern
32		Mr. Agbaze jesugnime	Intern

		CELESTINE	
33		Mr. Djego FULBERT	Intern
34		Mr. Amadou TALL	Moderator/Fisheries Expert
35	Consultants	Mr. Bernal Albertino CHAVARRIA VALVERDE	SICA OSPESCA Management and Politics Fishing Internacional San Jose – Costa Rica
36		Mr Carlos MAZAL	International consultant on sustainable use of marine resources and technological innovation/URUGUAY
37		Mr. Eugene LAPOINTE	President/ CBI
38		Mr Joji MORISHITA	Professor, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology
39		Mr Nikolas SELLHEIM	Fisheries Expert
40		Mr. Miloud LOUKILI	Professor of law of the sea Mohamed V University
41		Mr. Edeya Orobiyi Rodrigue PELEBE	Representative of the African Center of the Blue Economy Institute in Ghana
42		Mr Moustapha KEBE	Fisheries Expert
43		COREP	Mr. Therence Arland NDONG OBIANG
44	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. SIDI Tiémoko TOURE	Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources
45		Mr. YAO BROU FERNAND	Biodiversity Project Coordinator
46	FCWC	Mr. Antoine Gaston DJHINTO	Doctor of Technical Sciences Secretary General of the CPCO
47		Mr Ayebaine Tomogha ERE-WALSON	MCS Compliance Coordinator
48	Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences Agdal	Doctor Hicham BENYASSINE	Professor
49	Gambia	Mr Basiru MANNEH	Associate CBD NFP/ Department of parks and wildlife
50	Ghana	Mrs. Mavis Hawaii Koomson	Minister for FISHERIES and Aquaculture Development
51		Ms. NANA AKUA AMPOMAAH	Minister's Assistant
52		Mr. Samuel QUAATEY	Technical Advisor of the Minister
53		Mr. Fred Kwasi ANTWI- BOADU	Executive Director, Fisheries Commission
54		Mr. Lawrence Armah AHIAH	Director of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture
55		Mrs. Janet Gyogluu ANCHIRINAH	Director, Post-harvest Management and Trade
56		Mr. Rukayah ISSAH	Fisheries Officer, Post-harvest Management and Trade
57	Guinea	Ms. Charlotte DAFPE	Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy

58		Ms BARRY RAMATOULAYE	Advisor / Minister
59		Mr. Balla Moussa KEITA	Deputy National Director of Marine Fisheries
60		Doctor Alkaly DOUMBOUYA	Researcher at CNSH
61		Mr. Adama CAMARA	Deputy Coordinator of PISCOFAM
62	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Gualdino Afonso TE	Representative of the Ministry of Fisheries
63	Liberia	Mr. Blamah S. GOLL	Technical Director Department of Forestry Research and Development Forestry Development Authority/ CHIEF CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
64		Mr Nacer ARJI	Minister's Cabinet
65		Mr. Abdelmalek FARAJ	Director General of INRH
66		Mrs. Souad KIFANI	INRH
67		Mr. Bouchta AICHANE	Director of Marine Fisheries
68		Mr. Mohamed BENBARI	Director of the Control of Maritime Fishing Activities
67	Morocco	Mr. Driss TAZI	Director of Maritime Training of Seafarers and Rescue
68		Mr. Taoufik El KTIRI	Director of General and Legal Affairs
69		Mr. Abdellah BENMANSOUR	Director of Strategy and Cooperation
70		Mrs BOUAMEUR Nabila	Executive at Sustainability Division/DPM
71		Mr. FAOUZI Kandil	Head of Service
72	Nigeria	Mr. Hassan Shettima MODU	Representative of the Federal Department of Fisheries
73	MOSFA	Mr .Kossivi Apelete	Coordinator
74		Mr. Casimir KOFFI MULUMBA	Advisor to the Minister/ Responsible for Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries
75	DRC	Doctor CHABO BYAENE ALAIN	In charge of health issues and "One Health " Focal Point CITES Management Body Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
76	Sao Tome and Principe	Mr. João PESSOA	Head of the Fisheries Inspection Service and Advisor to the Director.
77		Ms Abibatu CONTEH	Deputy Director of Fisheries
78	Sierra Leone	Mr. Samuel Ibrahim KOBBA	Head of Mobilization for Biodiversity Conservation
79		Mrs. TCHARIE KEBENZIKATO	Head of the Aquaculture Promotion Section
80	Togo	Lieutenant-Colonel Akondo TCHEDRE	Water and forest engineer, in service at the Department of Forest Resources

Annex II: Speeches

Opening speech by Hon Mohamed SADIKI, Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries Rural Development and Water and Forests of Morocco

Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Animal Resources of Côte d'Ivoire and Acting President of ATLAFCO;

Excellency Madam Minister (Ghana);

Excellency Madam Minister (Guinea);

Excellency the Minister (Cabo Verde);

Ambassadors

Mr. Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO;

Mr. Director of the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Isthmus of Central America (OSPESCA)

National Focal Points for CITES;

Distinguished Delegates of ATLAFCO Member States;

Distinguished Representatives of Member States of OSPESCA;

Distinguished representatives of the Fisheries Agency of Japan;

Distinguished Guests,

Distinguished Experts and Consultants

Ladies and gentlemen,

Honorable guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is particularly pleasant for me to be with you today for the opening of this symposium initiated by ATLAFCO, on the theme of "Fishing in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework".

In my capacity as representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Forests and Maritime Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco, you will allow me, on behalf of my government, to welcome you to Morocco, your second country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate the initiators of this meeting, which deals with a real problem facing developing countries and particularly those of our organization.

Fisheries and aquaculture have very close relationships with biodiversity which concern both the effects of exercising legitimate fishing and those associated with illegal fishing.

Biodiversity provides fundamental benefits for the well-being of humans and nature. However, it is clear that for several years and despite the efforts made, biodiversity continues to decline worldwide.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has not achieved concrete results commensurate with the ambitions of the signatory parties to curb the erosion of biodiversity.

To revamp the global biodiversity institutional framework and make it more efficient and in line with the shared vision of living in harmony with nature, CoP15 put in place a new architecture for the post-2020 CBD regime.

This new framework aims to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030 and ensure its recovery and restoration by 2050. It has 21 targets for urgent action in the decade to 2030, including the need to meet people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing in terms of nutrition, food security and sustainable management of freshwater and marine species and aquaculture.

However, while adhering to the findings and objectives of the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework, I would like to recall that for countries like those in West Africa, which are heavily dependent on the fishing sector, this new approach could have detrimental economic and social consequences. Such a policy, based on a strengthening of protective measures, combined with decisions taken at the level of other international bodies, in particular those of the World Trade Organization (WTO) relating to subsidies granted to the fishing sector, could be particularly harmful in terms of food security and the social conditions of the populations of these countries.

Given its socio-economic impact, particularly in terms of food security and sovereignty, the integration of biodiversity preservation measures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is of paramount importance.

One of the objectives of this symposium would consist in deepening the reflection on the orientations to be given to the conclusions of the 15th Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In particular, it aims to address this issue by strengthening the voice of the fishing sector and making its interests more visible in international environmental negotiations concerning the protection of the marine environment.

Through the representation of the fishing sector and representatives of fishing communities, it is expected that environmental authorities will gain a better understanding of the challenges facing fishing in the light of more protective measures decided at the international level.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Fishing and environmental protection are not contradictory: fishing can contribute to the improvement of marine biodiversity. It just needs to be durable. To do this, public authorities and the fishing industry must cooperate to reduce the risks of overexploitation and bycatch, and effectively combat IUU fishing practices.

Another area of collaboration between fisheries and biodiversity protection is marine protected areas. Without being a fisheries management tool, the benefits that can result from the establishment of an MPA in areas subject to overfishing are undeniable. Dialogue between the different stakeholders is the solution for reconciling fishing and environmental preservation through MPAs.

In addition, fishermen can play a major role in collecting data that can better protect marine biodiversity; from seabed inventory for fragile habitat to testing innovative devices to avoid wildlife bycatch

Without being exhaustive, here are some examples showing that fishing activities do not necessarily result in loss of marine biodiversity.

It is this complementarity that must be developed and defended. With this in mind, national coordination between fisheries and environment administrations is essential.

The participation of our States in international bodies and forums on the protection of the environment should also be done by associating the authorities in charge of the fishing sector, so that our interests are taken into account.

Ladies and gentlemen

To conclude, I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks to all those present here and wish full success to the work of our symposium and a pleasant stay in Rabat.

Statement by Hon Mavis Hawa Koomson, Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of Ghana

**CHAIR OF ATLAFCO,
COLLEAGUE MINISTERS,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ATLAFCO,
HEADS OF DELEGATION,
RESOURCES PERSONS,
DISTINGUISH INVITED GUESTS,
FRIENDS FROM THE MEDIA,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED.**

It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to deliver a statement at this important Symposium: A symposium on "Fisheries in the Global Framework of Biodiversity Post - 2020 held in the beautiful city of Rabat in Morocco. I thank the Executive Secretary and Staff of ATLAFCO for organizing this important symposium

His Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo President of the Republic of Ghana has asked me to extend his greetings to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Kingdom of Morocco and the Government of Morocco.

I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Minister for Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco and the ATLAFCO Secretariat for inviting Ghana to participate in the Symposium.

The fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Ghana contributes significantly to the economic development of the nation. The sector supports the livelihoods of over 3 million people, earns over USD 200 million annually from export of fish and fishery products, accounts for 60% of animal protein intake by the population and the annual per capita consumption of fish in Ghana is 26 kg. Thus, the sector contributes significantly to food and nutritional security.

However, in recent times the fisheries sector has been confronted with challenges, especially the menace of IUU fishing practices, climate change, pollution of our seas and oceans and destruction of marine habitats.

Environmental issues resulting from destruction of mangroves and marine habitats; and pollution of seas and oceans has negative impacts on the fisheries resources and biodiversity.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we are currently observing declining trend in fish catches especially for the small-scale fisheries due to environmental issues. Consequently, there is declining profit of fishing operations especially the artisanal fishers and prevalence of poverty in fishing communities.

There is evidence of rising water surface temperature and sea level, increase in water salinity, ocean acidification and changes in fish distribution due to the impact of climate change. The quantity and quality of water resources required for aquaculture production are being affected by climate change. There are also observed extinction of some fish species and disruption in traditional fishing patterns.

The implications of the above are the observed decline in marine fish production particularly for small-scale fishers and farmers, loss of investments and livelihoods, changes in fish migration behaviour and increase in aquatic food prices making it difficult for low-income earners to meet their protein requirements.

Failure to address the negative impact of environment on fisheries does not only affect food security but the livelihoods of fishers and artisanal fishing communities who are the most vulnerable to climate change.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the organization of the Symposium has come at the opportune time. Looking at the topics to be treated during the Symposium, it is my expectation that solutions and answers would be found to the challenges.

I wish the participants fruitful deliberations

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND MAY GOD BLESS US ALL

Speech by Hon Charlotte DAFFE Minister Of Fisheries and Maritime Economy

- **Mr. Representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Waters and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco;**
- **Madam Minister in charge of Fisheries of Ghana;**
- **Mr. Minister in charge of Fisheries of Côte d'Ivoire, current President of ATLAFCO;**
- **Mr. Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen, representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations;**
- **-Ladies and gentlemen representatives of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is with great honor and pleasure that I meet with you here in Rabat on the occasion of this important symposium "FISHERIES IN THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK"

For this, first of all, I would like to pay a deserved tribute to His Royal Highness, His Majesty King Mohamed VI, to whom the sincere and fraternal greetings of His Excellency, Colonel Mamadi DOUMBOUYA, President of the Transition and Head of the State of the Republic of Guinea.

My presence at this meeting is certainly the expression of the excellent cooperation between our two governments, but also their common visions for the sustainable exploitation of the seas and oceans of the world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear attendees,

I would then like to thank Mr. Benabbou Abdelouahed, Executive Secretary of COHMAFAT for inviting me to take part in this important meeting.

My thanks also go to all the other Moroccan authorities for the warm welcome and attention that the Guinean delegation and I have received since our arrival on this African land.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Guinea has listed biodiversity as one of its priorities and considers the theme "Fisheries in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework" as an important lever for the compact and efficient Blue Economy.

The practice of sustainable fishing inevitably guarantees the long-term viability of fisheries and the livelihoods of fishing communities, some of whom practice this activity from generation to generation.

In Guinea, the fishing sector provides more than 400,000 tons of fish per year, directly dumped on the local market, directly employs more than 75,000 people and nearly 500,000 indirect jobs, mainly young people and women. This demonstrates that it is one of the most important sectors in the fight against poverty and malnutrition in our countries.

It is because of this importance that it is one of our Government's priorities and as such benefits from the support of technical and financial partners.

The Transitional Government that I have the honor to belong to has adopted the Interim Reference Program (PRI) as the sole reference framework for development planning for the period 2022 - 2025 for accelerated, inclusive economic growth. and sustainability of the country.

Based on this program, a Strategic Fisheries Plan 2023-2027 was adopted with the objective of considerably improving the contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to economic and social development, food security, the reduction sustainable poverty and environmental protection.

To achieve this, substantial efforts have been made within the framework of support for the development of the artisanal fishing sub-sector and the promotion of fish farming, thus reflecting the political vision of the President of the Transition in favor of fishing and fish farming. villager.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite these efforts and this will, the fisheries sector is hit by the consequences of climate change due mainly to human actions.

Today, the Blue Economy development area is in perfect harmony with the concept of sustainable Aquaculture development enshrined in the Five-Year Fisheries Strategy Plan.

It is by taking into account this reason, the various interactions between fishing, other human activities and the need to maintain the health of our

sea and the thousands of waterways available to the Republic of Guinea, that our Government has launched the process of developing a Blue Economy Promotion Strategy with all national stakeholders with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Building a Blue Economy cannot be possible without a fisheries sector that effectively contributes to the food security of our populations, the creation of jobs and the mobilization of resources for our Economies.

This is why the Guinean Government attaches great importance to biodiversity, which could contribute to the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture, oceans, seas and climate resilience in Africa.

This meeting in Rabat therefore comes at the right time and finds all its importance for my delegation and myself. Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO for inviting me and congratulate the initiators and organizers for the quality and relevance of this symposium which fits perfectly with the objectives of peace and development of the CNRD and its President.

It is with these words that I would like to wish full success to our discussions.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Speech By Mr. Hideaki KURAMITSU, Ambassador of Japan to Morocco

- Excellency the Minister of Fisheries and Fisheries of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and President of ATLAFCO,
 - Excellency Ministers,
 - Dear colleagues,
 - Mr. Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO,
 - Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of member countries and International Organizations;
-
- Honorable participants,
 - Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to participate in today's symposium, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President of ATLAFCO, to the Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, and to the organizing team for their efforts remarkable people who made this event possible.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the satisfactory level of cooperation between Japan and ATLAFCO member countries, built and strengthened over the years with the aim of ensuring the sustainable use of fisheries resources in accordance with scientific forms and standards and proven. I would also like to underline the fact that Japan's partnership with ATLAFCO through the Japanese Foundation for International Fisheries Cooperation OFCF, testifies to the firm commitment of our Government to support member countries in the development of the fisheries sector and aquaculture and to promote sustainable methods for the balanced exploitation of fishery resources. Making this partnership even stronger in the years to come is of paramount importance.

Excellences Ladies and Gentlemen, with regard to today's theme, It should be mentioned that in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity by 2022. By the end of 2020, Japan had already designated 13.3% of its marine area as a protected area. Japan further committed to securing the remaining 16.7% of the 30x30 target by 2030 under the global GBS framework by involving various parties including fishers.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to emphasize that the international negotiations in the area of the environment and fisheries in particular must take into account that this sector of activity plays an essential role in terms of food security, GDP and jobs in many ATLAFCO member countries. Therefore, the representatives of the fishing sector must be actively involved in the negotiations and their voice listened

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all guests and participants for their valuable contributions to this symposium. I am convinced that the discussions and ideas shared here will pave the way for even more effective and lasting cooperation between ATLAFCO member countries and international organizations.

Thank you for your attention.

Address by Hon Sidi Tiémoko Touré, Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of The Republic of Côte Ivoire And President of ATLAFCO

- **Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Forests and Maritime Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco;**
- **Excellency Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers;**
- **Excellency Madam Minister (Ghana);**
- **Excellency Madam Minister (Guinea);**
- **Excellency the Minister (Cabo Verde);**
- **Ambassadors**
- **Mr. Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO;**
- **Mr. Director of the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Isthmus of Central America (OSPESCA);**
- **National Focal Points for CITES;**
- **Distinguished Delegates of ATLAFCO Member States;**
- **Distinguished representatives of the Fisheries Agency of Japan;**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Distinguished Experts and Consultants**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

I am particularly delighted to be with you this morning, for the opening of the work of this symposium, which constitutes a wonderful opportunity to exchange views in order to answer the question of how to make fishing compatible with the ecological imperatives and protection of marine biodiversity.

First of all, on behalf of all of you, I would like to thank, through Mr. Mohamed Sadiki, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Moroccan authorities for the welcome granted to us and all the facilities offered, for holding our meeting in good conditions.

I am very impressed by your large participation and would like to thank you and congratulate you for your interest in the issues of preserving biodiversity and the sustainable management of living marine resources.

Ladies and gentlemen

It is widely accepted today that human activities are degrading the environment through the unbridled taking of natural resources without concern for their renewal, and the destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity has reached an alarming level, never before reached.

It is also agreed that it is necessary to intervene to regulate these activities, for a better defense of the environment and the safeguard of biodiversity.

It is just as undeniable in this context of loss of biodiversity, as for the African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, but also for all the developing countries, the sea and the fishery resources occupy a place of choice in the equation of food security, economic development and the fight against poverty. As such, it is important for us to ensure its sustainable use in order to perpetuate its socio-economic benefits.

We are therefore faced more than anywhere else with a choice that seems difficult:

- Stop all exploitation of marine resources and implement daily actions to save these resources, with the aim of preserving biodiversity? Or
- Continue their exploitation under current conditions, to meet the ever-increasing needs of populations and ensure their employment and food?

My answer is unequivocal. We must protect nature and its biodiversity by resorting to all protective measures that prove necessary for its preservation.

However, these measures must be decided not on an emotional appreciation, but on an objective basis, which can only be science and taking into account the socio-economic particularities of our States and their economic and social impacts.

However, the trend observed for some time already indicates that the approach adopted within international organizations or multilateral negotiations for the defense of the environment does not seem to strictly respect this logic.

The analyses of the latest resolutions taken to limit or ban the exploitation or marketing of living marine species within decision-making spaces such as CITES, are far from all responding to an objective, verifiable and scientifically supported observation. The listings on the CITES Appendices of several species of fish in recent sessions have been made despite the contrary opinion of the FAO Scientific Committee, and

their successful management by a regional fisheries management organization.

In addition, not to mention the non-compliance with the rules and procedures for consulting the coastal States that are in the range of the marine species concerned, the national authorities in charge of fishing, are little or not consulted, for the submission of these measures to international conservation bodies.

Under these conditions, the protective measures adopted, a good part of which are binding, could turn out for our countries, whose economies are strongly linked to fishing activities, to be very harmful, particularly in terms of the contribution of the fishing sector in our national economies, food security and sovereignty and negative social consequences for populations.

Ladies and gentlemen

The theme of our symposium therefore focuses on a very complex subject. It is a question of reconciling between the imperatives of conservation and the maintenance of fishing activities to meet the requirements of survival, particularly for the populations of the countries of our region.

The presence today of representatives of national structures concerned with the protection of the natural environment and the management of fisheries, as well as the participation of eminent specialists and experts, offers a rare opportunity to offer us a set of recommendations capable of promote an approach that integrates environmental protection into fisheries management and vice versa.

Without prejudging your deliberations, which we are impatiently awaiting, I would like to submit for your consideration a few proposals that make fishing a sustainable activity based on a renewable resource that makes it possible to maintain the social and cultural fabric, to contribute to the local economy without have a significant negative impact on the environment:

- Initiate national coordination prior to any participation in international decision-making spaces on the conservation of marine resources, through a rapprochement between the national authorities concerned;

- Develop a modern approach to protected areas by changing the management of fisheries towards a management that is no longer understood solely in terms of prohibition;
- Involve fishing more in global environmental protection bodies
- Develop active regional coordination, capable of influencing international governance decisions on the environment and fisheries, taking into account the specificities and interests of our countries;

These are just a few ways that seem to me likely to reconcile conservation and exploitation. It is up to you to identify others and implement them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, by expressing the wish that this meeting constitute a wonderful opportunity to strengthen regional fisheries cooperation, in the service of the sustainable exploitation of marine resources in our region and of a prosperous and audible Africa within international organizations dealing with fisheries, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the authorities and partners of ATLAFCO, in particular the OFCF, without which this meeting could not have been held.

My thanks also go to the resource people who were kind enough to respond to our invitation and lead this meeting, as well as to the representatives of African and Central American States, who traveled a long way to join this reflection. .

Thanking you for your attention, I declare the symposium open.

Motion of Thanks to His Majesty, Mohamed VI, King of Morocco,

On behalf of the participants and experts of the symposium on Fisheries in the Global Framework of Biodiversity and members of OSPESCA held from 9th to 10th May 2023, we wish to extend our gratitude to His Majesty the King of Morocco for His vision and leadership, May Allah assist Him. We were very touched by his warm and professional welcome since our arrival in Morocco. We thank the Honorable Minister and also the Executive Secretary of AJLAFCO for the smooth implementation and historic outcome of the meeting. I wish you all a safe trip back home.

Thank you.

Closing Speech by Hon Sidi Tiémoko Touré, Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of The Republic of Côte Ivoire And President of ATLAFCO

- **Mr. Representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Forests and Maritime Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco;**
- **Excellency Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers;**
- **Your Excellency the Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy Republic of Guinea;**
- **Excellency Madame of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of Ghana Your Excellency the Representative of the Minister of Fisheries of (Cabo Verde);**
- **Ambassadors**
- **Mr. Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO;**
- **Mr. Director of the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Isthmus of Central America (OSPESCA);**
- **Mr. Permanent Secretary of the Atlantic African States Process;**
- **National Focal Points for CITES;**
- **Mr. President of the International Whaling Conference;**
- **Mr. CPCO Executive Secretary**
- **Distinguished Delegates of ATLAFCO Member States;**
- **Distinguished representatives of the Fisheries Agency of Japan;**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Distinguished Experts and Consultants,**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is up to me to close this symposium during which we have tried to reconcile fishing and biodiversity conservation concerns.

Difficult however, for such an issue, to speak of conclusion, or closure... Because everything is in front of us!

Indeed, we know that the issue related to the protection of the environment and therefore of biodiversity in parallel with fishing activities is a structuring question for many of our countries both economically and socially.

This is why this closing formality marks both the end of one stage and the start of the next, which in my view remains the most important, the stage where it will be a question of mobilizing for a concerted and coherent action.

Many ministers (Morocco, Ghana, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire) were present at the opening of this meeting with you. This is proof that our organization is taking action. I want to thank her for the organization and the success of this meeting, and that through the Executive Secretary Mr. Benabbou, as well as through the members of the Bureau.

I also want to thank all the speakers, all of you, for the quality and richness of the contributions.

This symposium was a highlight of the environmental and fisheries debate.

This debate cannot be closed in two days! It takes place throughout the year, particularly within our respective States, our regional institutions and within the institutions of multilateral negotiations for the conservation of biodiversity.

We all agree that we have passed the stage of urgency and are more than ever at the crossroads of our responsibilities that is to say of the decisions that we must take.

However, our decisions must be responsible and adapted to the socio-economic reality of our countries, for which fishing activities are of vital importance.

In fact, ecology or the protection of biodiversity should not be a drag on the economy and result in negative social impacts on our communities.

We retain in your recommendations the key words of:

- The need to develop active regional coordination, capable of influencing international governance decisions on the environment, fisheries and aquaculture, taking into account the specific characteristics and interests of our countries;
- The need, also, to institutionalize and strengthen national coordination for any issue relating to marine biodiversity, for better harmonization of positions prior to any participation in international decision-making spaces on the conservation of marine resources;

The recommendations made at the end of this symposium show us that fishing and the protection of biodiversity are compatible. They allow us to believe in an ecology that is not afraid of development, that does not regard science, technological progress, the fishing industry, with suspicion, or even worse as enemies.

The path we want to chart is one that promotes our growth while protecting our environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to see firsthand that this meeting was able to offer a tremendous opportunity to strengthen regional fisheries cooperation, in the service of the sustainable exploitation of marine resources in our region and of a prosperous and audible Africa within international organizations dealing with fishing,

This wonderful meeting also remains memorable, since it witnessed the conclusion of a trans -regional cooperation agreement between ATLAFCO and OSPESCA, to join our efforts in favor of a sustainable, integrated and inclusive development of fishing in our respective regions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of all of you, I would like to thank, through **Mr. Mohamed Sadiki**, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Moroccan authorities for the welcome granted to us and all the facilities offered for holding our meeting in good conditions.

This meeting could not have been so successful without the enlightened vision of His Majesty Mohamed VI, fervent defender of active and active South-South cooperation.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to the authorities and partners of ATLAFCO, in particular the OFCF, without which this meeting could not have been held.

My thanks also go to the resource persons who were kind enough to make use of their expertise in this area, as well as to the representatives of African and Central American States, who traveled a long way to join this reflection. .

I would also like to thank the interpreters, who enabled us to hear each other and to capture each other's messages;

Without forgetting to thank the linchpin, in terms of logistics, who facilitated our mobility and ensured a friendly setting for the smooth running of our symposium;

Thanking you all for your commitment to moving forward for a prosperous future in the context of sustainable, equitable and responsible development,

I wish you all a safe return home.

Thus, I declare the symposium closed.

Annex III- AGENDA

Day 1: 09 May 2023

OPENING AND INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKSHOP	
08:30- 09:00	- Registration
09:00- 9:45	- Official opening (Morocco+ Ivory Coast+ Japan)
9:45 - 10:00	- Intro to the workshop (ATLAFCO)
10:00 - 10 -30	- Signature of MoU OSPESCA-ATLAFCO
	- Group Photo
	- Approval of the agenda
	- Coffee break
THEME 1: THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS	
10:30 - 10:45	- Problem description: Mr. Eugene LAPOINTE - Consultant
10:45 - 11-00	- Fisheries in the BBNJ negotiations: Pr. Joji MORISHITA (FAJ)
11:00 - 11:15	- What governance for the conservation of living marine resources in Africa with regard to the law of the sea? Overview of relevant international legal instruments: Pr. Miloud LOUKILI
11:15 - 11 - 45	- Discussions
THEME 2: POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE 30X30 TARGET ON THE FISHERIES SECTOR	
11:45 - 12:00	- Marine Fisheries governance in post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and BBNJ: Dr. Bernal CHAVARRIA-OSPESCA
12:00 – 12:15	- Commercial fisheries and the 30x30 Target in the high seas: Amb. Carlos MAZAL
12:15 - 12:45	- General discussion
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch Break
THEME 3: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR FOR ATLAFCO AND OTHER STATES	
13:45 - 14:00	- Role and importance of the fisheries sector (commercial and artisanal) within the framework of the Blue Economy in Atlantic Africa): Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH-ATLAFCO
14:00 - 14:15	- Fishing activities and conservation of marine biodiversity in Africa: current state and prospects for sustainable exploitation in ATLAFCO region: Dr. Rodrigue PELEBE-ACECoR

14:15 - 14:30	- Regional Cooperation for a united and prosperous Africa: Mr. Tarik IZIRAREN /African Atlantic States Process
14:30 – 15:00	- Point of view of MS Fisheries representatives
15:00 - 15:30	- Discussions
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:30 - 17:30	- Guided discussion on presented topics - Wrap-up and conclusions

Day 2: 10 May 2023

THEME 4: CONSERVATION AND/OR SUSTAINABLE USE? HOW TO RECONCILE POTENTIALLY ADVERSARIAL CONCEPTS	
09:00 - 09:20	- Marine conservation for whom/what? Mrs. Hayat MESBAH National Focal Point CITES/Morocco
09:20 - 09:40	- Maritime Cui bono? Local fishers' perspectives on marine conservation and food security: Dr. Mustapha KEBE/Consultant
09:40 - 10:00	- RFMOs and their role in developing conservation measures for the protection of marine biodiversity": Dr. Bernal CHAVARRIA International fishery law specialist
10:00 - 10:30	- <i>Point of view of MS Environment representatives</i>
10:30– 11:10	- Discussions
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
THEME 5: IMPROVING THE INTEGRATION OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING	
11:30 – 11:50	- Strengthening local voices in environmental decision-making: Mr. Nikolas

<p>11:50 – 12:10</p> <p>12:10 – 12:30</p>	<p>SELLHEIM/Consultant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing linkages between fisheries and environmental authorities: Ambassador Carlos MAZAL/ Fisheries consultant - Strategies and solutions for a greater involvement of fisheries administrative entities in the decision-making process: Mr. Patrick KARANI - AU/IBAR
<p>12:30 – 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>Continued...</p>	
<p>13h30 - 13: 50</p> <p>13 :50 - 15 :00</p> <p>15 :00 –16 :00</p> <p>16 :00 – 17 :00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - The Blue Belt Initiative or How to combine Conservation and Exploitation of Living Marine Resources: Ms. Souad KIFANI, INRH - Open discussions and development of recommendations: Drafting Committee - Presentation and adoption of the recommendations - Summary and closing of the Symposium