



**COMMISSION SOUS-RÉGIONALE DES PÊCHES
SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION**

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

**HOTEL ALMADIES
DAKAR, REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, 8-9 JUNE 2012**

Report of the Thirteenth Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers

OPENING CEREMONY

1. The Thirteenth Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) was held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 8 and 9 June 2012. All member States were represented at the Session. The meeting was also attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps and the financial and technical Partners of the SRFC. The participants are listed in *Annex 1* to this Report.
2. His Excellency, Honorable Mr. Pape DIOUF, Minister for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Senegal gave the welcoming remarks (*Annex 2*).

In his opening speech, Honorable Minister for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Mr. Pape DIOUF expressed, on behalf of the Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Macky SALL, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Government and the People of Senegal, all the pleasure and pride they feel in hosting the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC. He thanked Member States of the SRFC of their interest on the harmonization of policies and strategies of the fishing sector in the sub region. He also thanked the technical and financial Partners of the SRFC for their continuous support to member States of the Commission.

He then reminded the audience that the sub-region has abundant fishery resources. Recognizing the need to preserve those resources, the member States adopted in July 14, 1993 in Praia, Cape Verde a regional legal instrument regulating access conditions in waters under national jurisdiction called the "*Convention on the Determination of Conditions for Access and Exploitation of Marine Resources of Member States of the SRFC.*" This instrument, over time, became outdated because of the rapid changes in the fisheries sector. He concluded that this Session of the Conference of Ministers is important because it defines within the SRFC space, consensual rules for fishing access in the sub region. He finally gave his guarantee that the High Senegalese Authorities will examine with the greatest attention the outcomes of the present Session.

3. Honorable Kebba TOURAY (*Annex 3*), Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, on behalf of His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhagie Dr. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic of the Gambia and Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Affairs and Current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC, thanked His Excellency Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal, the Government and all the People of Senegal for the warm welcome they have benefitted since their arrival in the country. He stressed that the achievements of the SRFC demonstrate the commitment and interest of Member States to create a strong and dynamic organization. He underlined the challenges of coastal countries and the difficulties and costs associated with the protection of fisheries resources. To address these challenges, He recommended that cooperation among coastal States of the sub-region be strengthened and made more dynamic.

He reiterated that the agreements on access to the resource are an integral part of the environment that takes into accounts the sustainability aspects and equity of access consistent with the objectives of fisheries policies. Furthermore, the relevant Port State Measures of FAO to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing shall be integrated into the national legislations of member States.

He stated that The Gambia will continue to support the cooperation with member States of the SRFC and will continue to participate actively in the Commission activities. He reiterated the commitment of His government to fulfill its contribution to the budget of the SRFC and invites other Member States to do the same way. He thanked the members of the Coordinating Committee and the team of the Sub- Regional Fisheries Commission for the quality of works and preparation of this Session.

Finally, He declared, on behalf of His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhagie Dr. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President and Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Affairs of the Republic of Gambia, Current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC, opened the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

4. The Permanent Secretary of the SRFC presented the draft agenda (see Annex 4), which was adopted.

PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSIONS

5. The President of the Coordinating Committee and the Rapporteur presented the Report of the outcomes of the 22nd Extraordinary Session of the Coordinating Committee (*Special Annex 1*).
6. Following this presentation, the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC adopted the recommendations of the Report of the Coordinating Committee being integrated the following amendments to the draft *Convention on the Determination of the Minimal Conditions for Access and Exploitation of Marine resources within the maritime areas under jurisdiction of the Member States of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)*:
 - **Article 4, paragraph 2**, added: "*Where necessary, appropriate measures could be implemented depending to the specific context of the concern State*";
 - **Article 19, paragraph 2**, worded as follow: "*A sub-regional database and information on the fishing activities is established at the Permanent Secretariat of the SRFC. The content of this sub-regional database and information as well as the modalities publication will be defined in a protocol between the Permanent Secretariat of the SRFC and the competent authorities in each Member State*";
 - **Article 21, paragraph 2**, reworded as follows: "*States shall establish records of artisanal fishing vessels to monitor artisanal fishing.*"
 - **Article 25, paragraph 3**, added the following point 4: "*stop and facilitate, at the request of a Member State, the return of any vessel having committed an offense in the maritime area under its jurisdiction*".
 - **Article 31, Paragraph 1**, Item 4 reworded as follows: "*the non-boarding of observers.*"
 - **Article 31, paragraph 2**, reworded as follows: "*In case of repetition of above offenses in one of the Member States, the withdrawal of the fishing license or heavy penalties, without prejudice to those provided for by the national legislations, will be delivered.*"

- **Article 38, paragraph 2**, reworded as follows: "*Obligations and commitments arising from the application of this Convention shall cease at the expiry date of the written notification by the President of the Conference of Ministers to the requesting Member State.*"
- **Article 41, paragraph 2**, worded as: "*Done in Dakar, June 8, 2012, in English and French. Arabic and Portuguese. Versions of this Convention shall be available no later than July 31, 2012, the four versions (English, French, Arabic, Portuguese) are equally authentic.*"

The copy of the *Convention on the Determination of the Minimal Conditions for Access and Exploitation of Marine resources within the maritime areas under jurisdiction of the Member States of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)* is in the *Special Annex 2* of the current Report.

PRESENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROJECTS IN PERSPECTIVE BY PERMANENT SECRETARY

7. In addition, the Conference of Ministers took note on the projects and program in perspective at the SRFC and encourages the Permanent Secretariat to pursue the necessary efforts for their achievements.

IN A CLOSE DOOR MEETING

8. Honorable Mr. Kebba TOURAY, representing the Current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers, informed the Conference about the initiatives taken by His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhagie Dr. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic of the Gambia and Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters on the following items:
 - His intents to ask His Colleagues, Presidents and Head of States to proceed with the establishment of a Summit of Heads of State and Government as a political body orientation of the SRFC;
 - His willingness to contact the African Union and regional integration organizations (ECOWAS, UEMOA) that they take into consideration the SRFC as an executing institution on technical issues related to fisheries.
9. The Conference of Ministers calls on member States to clear their outstanding financial contributions to the budget of the SRFC, prior to the next ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers scheduled for November 2012 in Conakry, Guinea.
10. Regarding the appointment of Permanent Secretary, the Conference of Ministers instructed the Permanent Secretary to comply with the provisions of Article 9 of the Rules of the SRFC.
11. The Conference of Ministers asked His Current Chairman to convene the first Summit of Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the commemoration of the 28th anniversary of the creation of the SRFC, scheduled March 29, 2013 in Dakar, Senegal.
12. In order to expand the areas of operation of the SRFC and for better regional integration in the management of fisheries resources, the Conference of Ministers encourages the opening of the Membership to the Commission to other States.
13. The Conference of Ministers recommends the inclusion of Portuguese as a working language for the next sessions.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

14. In an effort to better plan the next Sessions of the SRFC, the Conference of Ministers decides:
- the holding of the 19th Ordinary Session of the SRFC in the second quarter of November 2012 in Conakry, Guinea. The exact dates will be proposed by the Republic of Guinea, in consultation with the Permanent Secretariat;
 - the organization of an Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers to be convened to mark the 28th anniversary of the creation of the SRFC, in Dakar, March 2013.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 13th EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

15. The report of the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC was adopted.

DECLARATIONS BY TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

16. The IUCN, represented by Mr. Racine Kane, Head of Mission in Senegal, on behalf of Mrs Julia Marton LEFEVRE, General Director of the IUCN and Dr. Ahmed SENHOURY, Director of the coordination unit of the PRCM, thanked the Honorable Ministers for the adoption of the revised Convention on the minimal access condition.

He stressed that the Revised Convention represents a major milestone in the partnership that exists between the SRFC and the PRCM. Mr. Kane informed the Honorable Ministers that this achievement will be presented at the IUCN World Congress scheduled for September 6-15 in Jeju, South Korea.

17. The World Bank, represented by Mr. Ioniirilala RADONIRINA, Fishery Specialist, on behalf of Mrs. Songwe VERA, Operation Director and Director of the World Bank Bureau in Senegal, thanked the SRFC for the invitation. He pointed out that the major challenge after the Convention signature is its implementation and in his assessment this challenge could be overcome. He also indicated that the World Bank is satisfied with its current collaboration with the SRFC.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

18. On behalf of his colleagues, Her Excellency Mrs Ferehmusu KONTEH-VERSINI, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Resources of the Sierra Leone, presented the vote of thanks (*annex 5*) to the Government and People of the Republic of Senegal for the marks of attention and for the generous hospitality, which they were subjected.
19. The closing ceremony of the Session was chaired by His Excellency Kebba TOURAY, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, on behalf of His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhagie Dr. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic and Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters of the Republic of Gambia, Current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC. He declared himself satisfied with the results from the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers and committed to monitor the implementation of the decisions that have resulted from the Session.

20. The Current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC thanked his Colleagues for their work and the Partners for their continued support. He especially thanked the PRCM and IUCN for their technical and financial support during the revision and finalization phases of the newly adopted Convention. He also thanked the Permanent Secretary of the SRFC and his team for the quality of work and excellent organization of this Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers.

Done in Dakar, June 9, 2012

The Conference of Ministers

ANNEXES TO THE PRESENT REPORT

- Annex 1: List of participants
- Annex 2: Discours de Son Excellence, Monsieur Pape DIOUF, Ministre de Pêche et des Affaires Maritimes de la République du Sénégal, à l'occasion de la 13^{ème} Session Extraordinaire de la Conférence des Ministres de la CSRP
- Annex 3: Statement by The Honorable Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters of the Republic of The Gambia at the Special Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission 8th-9th June 2012, Dakar, Senegal
- Annex 4: Agenda and Work Program
- Special Annex 1: Report of the of the 22nd Extraordinary Session of the Coordinating Committee
- Special Annex 2: Convention on the Determination of the Minimal Conditions for Access and Exploitation of Marine resources within the maritime areas under jurisdiction of the Member States of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)
- Annex 5: Vote of thanks to the Republic of Senegal

Annex 1 List of Participants

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Annex 2

Discours de Son Excellence, Monsieur Pape Diouf, Ministre de Pêche et des Affaires Maritimes de la République du Sénégal, à l'occasion de la 13^{ème} Session Extraordinaire de la Conférence des Ministres de la CSRP

**Monsieur le Président en exercice de la CSRP ;
Messieurs les Ministres ;
Monsieur le Secrétaire Permanent de la CSRP ;
Chers invités ;**

Permettez moi, tout d'abord, de souhaiter la bienvenue à toutes les délégations ici présentes en cette terre sénégalaise qui reste la vôtre.

Inutile de vous le rappeler, c'est un immense plaisir pour le Sénégal d'accueillir cette importante rencontre de notre organisation commune.

Ainsi, au nom du Chef de l'Etat, du Premier ministre, du Gouvernement et de l'ensemble du peuple sénégalais, je tiens à vous remercier de cet intérêt porté sur l'harmonisation de nos politiques et de nos stratégies dans ce secteur vital qu'est la pêche.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je n'ai pas besoin de m'étendre outre mesure sur l'importance du secteur de la pêche en général et de la pêche maritime en particulier pour nos pays.

En effet, en tant qu'espace bénéficiant de conditions climatiques et écologiques exceptionnelles, les Zones Economiques Exclusives sous juridiction des Etats membres de la CSRP sont réputées être parmi les plus poissonneuses du monde avec des captures estimées à 1,5 millions de tonnes par an.

C'est conscients de la nécessité de conserver cet avantage, eu égard, notamment à l'avènement de la crise du secteur de la pêche durant les années 1990, que les Etats de la Sous Région ouest-africaine ont adopté le 14 Juillet 1993 à Praia au Cap-Vert un instrument juridique sous-régional de régulation des conditions d'accès dans les eaux sous leur juridiction nationale dénommé «Convention relative à la détermination des conditions d'accès et d'exploitation des ressources au large des côtes des Etats membres de la CSRP».

Cet instrument de régulation, communément dénommé Convention CMA, s'est vite révélé dépassé compte tenu de l'évolution rapide du secteur de la pêche. Malgré l'adoption et la mise en œuvre d'importants instruments, force est de constater que des fléaux comme la Pêche illicite, non réglementée et non déclarée, appelée Pêche INN, sont venus s'ajouter à la surexploitation des ressources par les navires nationaux et étrangers.

C'est dire en d'autres termes, que cette rencontre dont l'objectif est de définir au sein de notre espace, les règles consensuelles d'accès aux pêcheries de la sous région, vient à son heure.

Je ne saurais terminer sans remercier les Partenaires Techniques et Financiers de la CSRP pour leur appui constant aux Etats membres de notre Organisation.

Je puis, finalement, vous assurer que les Hautes Autorités sénégalaises examineront avec la plus grande attention les résultats qui sortiront des présents travaux.

Merci de votre aimable attention.

Annex 3

Statement by The Honorable Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters of the Republic of The Gambia at the Special Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission 8th-9th June 2012, Dakar, Senegal

**Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Ministers
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Development Partners
Permanent Secretary Sub-regional Fisheries Commission
Delegates
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is with a great pleasure that I take this opportunity to make a statement on this Extra -Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC). I wish to convey the fraternal greetings of the government and people of the Gambia to the government and people of the Republic of Senegal for the warm welcome accorded to us.

Before going any further, I wish to convey fraternal greetings from His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhagie Dr. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic of the Gambia who is also the Minister of Fisheries and he has delegated me to represent him in this important meeting. I also bring you greetings from the government and people of the Gambia. May I also express my profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Senegal for the warm welcome and the gracious hospitality accorded to all delegations.

Mr. Chairman

We are all aware of the important role the fisheries sector plays in providing cheap animal protein, employment and foreign exchange earnings. The government of the Gambia recognizes the problem of depleting fishery stocks, degradation of coastal environment and loss of coastal habitats are trans-boundary in character.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished guests,

The achievements registered by the SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION offer abundant testimony to its commitments and strong desire to create a strong and dynamic organization to serve the collective interests of its members. It also serve as a viable organ for sub-regional integration which is the only way forward to achieve success in conserving and preserving our precious fisheries resources for now and posterity.

Mr. Chairman, as coastal states, we have been fully aware of the strong challenges to be faced in the struggle to ensure that the precious fisheries resources of the Sub-region are well conserved and protected. We are also aware of the enormous costs (financial human, material and physical) associated with monitoring, control and surveillance activities. To overcome these strong challenges require genuine cooperation among and between coastal countries in the sub-region and as well as the support of our development Partners.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,

A major concern of the Government of the Gambia in the Fisheries sector is the conservation of our fisheries stocks. Recent statistics indicate that the fish stocks continue to decline, particularly the high value demersals. This is partly due to over fishing, and aggravated by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). The requirements to protect our precious fish resources are enormous and involve the introduction and application of legal instruments and the putting in place an up-to-date mechanism for control, monitoring and surveillance from THE AIR, LAND and THE SEA.

Mr. Chairman,

The Gambia shares the view that Fisheries Access Agreements are more or less Trade agreements in which issues such as sustainability and equity are not inherent requirements. We hold the view that in so far as Fisheries Access Agreements form a part of a wider policy environment that may include sustainable and equitable issues, they must be consistent with other policy goals.

However it must be strongly emphasized that short term monetary rewards however tempting can undermine our overall policy goals of protecting and conserving this vital resource for sustainable development, food security and poverty alleviation. Therefore, in our view, the desired fisheries agreement is one in which the priority concerns of coastal countries are fully reflected and well respected

Mr. Chairman,

Since the adoption of the Convention of 14 July 1993 significant changes both technical and legal have place in particular with regards to the determination of conditions defining responsible fishing, the taking into account the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries for a sustainable management of resources, and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in accordance with international law. However, there is a need to incorporate in our national legislations relevant provisions of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures and Flag State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, approved by the FAO Conference in Rome in November 2009.

We must ensure that our policies and legislations are more effectively harmonized with a view to better exploit our fisheries resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to reiterate the commitment of the Government of The Gambia to the noble ideals of the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission and to renew our belief and conviction that the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission can be an effective and viable organ for sub regional cooperation and integration. The Gambia will continue to work for closer collaboration and cooperation among and between the member countries and will continue to participate fully in all the undertakings of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission. As host to the European Union funded project Strengthening of sub-regional Cooperation for Monitoring Control and (MCS) the Government of The Gambia will continue to support the project in all respects.

Before I conclude, let make reference to the issue of arrears owed by member countries including my own and to urge all member states to make genuine efforts towards payment of arrears. For the Gambia, I wish make firm commitment that my Government will as a matter of urgency work towards clearing its arrears with the organization.

I now have the singular honor to declare the 13thExtraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission open.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.

Annex 4 Agenda and Work Program

Thursday, 07 June 2012

Arrival of the delegations des Ministers (Hotel Almadies / Hotel King Fahd Palace)

Friday 08 June 2012

09h30-10h00

Opening ceremony:

- ✓ Welcome remarks by The Hon. Pape Diouf, Minister of Fisheries and maritime Affairs of the Republic of Senegal;
- ✓ Opening remarks by the Hon. Kebba TOURRAY, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, on behalf of His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhagie Dr. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic and Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters of the Republic of Gambia, Current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC

10h00-10h30

Coffee break

10h30-11h00

Presentation of the recommendations of the SRFC Coordinating Committee du document de la CMA et validation

11h00-12h00

Discussion and adoption of the revised Convention on the minimal Access conditions

12h00-12h30

Presentation of the recommendations on projects in perspective by the Permanent Secretary of the SRFC

12h30-02h30

Lunch

14h30-16h00

Closed Door meeting of the Ministers on option for strengthening the SRFC

16h30-16h30

Any other matters

16h30-17h00

Coffee break

17h00-17h30

Schedule of next Session

17h30

End of Session

20h30

Official dinner and screening of the film "Co-management - MPA: A tool to Protect Fisheries?"

Saturday 9 June 2012

09h00-10h00

Writing of the Report of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC

11h30-11h00

Coffee break

11h00-1200

Presentation and adoption of the Report of the conference of Ministers of the SRFC

12h00-12h30

Signing Ceremony of the Convention on Minimal Access Conditions

12h30-01h00

Closing of the 13th Extraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC

Special Annex 1
**Report of the of the 22nd Extraordinary Session of the Coordinating
Committee**

(See report in separate document)

Special Annex 2
**Convention on the Determination of the Minimal Conditions for Access and
Exploitation of Marine resources within the maritime areas under
jurisdiction of the Member States of the Sub-Regional Fisheries
Commission (SRFC)**

(See report in separate document)

Annex 5
Vote of Thanks to the Republic of Senegal

The Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, meeting on the 8th and 09th June 2012 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal at its 13th Extraordinary Session;

Thanks His Excellency, Mr. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal, the Government and People of Senegal for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to them since their arrival in Senegal;

Notes with satisfaction the excellent working conditions put at their disposal which ensured the success of the 13th Extrordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission;

These thanks are addressed particularly to His Excellency Mr. Kebba TOURAY, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, on Behalf of His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhagie Dr. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic of The Gambia and Minister of Fisheries, Water resources and National Assembly Matters, President of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC, who aptly led the deliberations of the session giving a special touch to the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission.

Done in Dakar on 09th June 2012

The Conference of Ministers