



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

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Report of the Fourteenth Extraordinary Session of the SRFC Conference of Ministers

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27-28 March 2013 – Dakar, Republic of Senegal

Report of the Fourteenth Extraordinary Session of the SRFC Conference of Ministers

Opening of the session

1. The Fourteenth Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) was held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 27 to 28 March 2013. The session was attended by all member States as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps in Senegal, specifically the Embassies of Morocco, Cape Verde, Sierra Leone and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. Several institutions also participated in this session, namely: the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Management and Cooperation Agency between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau (AGC), the Intergovernmental Organization on Regional Fish Trade, Information and Cooperation in Africa (INFOPECHE), the French Development Agency (AFD), the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), the World Bank, the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas of West Africa (RAMPAO) and the National Authority in charge of coordinating maritime safety, maritime security and environmental protection in Senegal (HASSMAR). The list of participants is attached herewith (appendix 1).

2. In his opening address, His Excellency Mr. Abdoul MBAYE, Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal welcomed the Ministers of SRFC member States and technical and financial partners. He reminded that the conditions and reasons for establishing the SRFC in March 1985 were consistent with a vision to promote concerted fisheries policies and hence ensure the sustainable management of our fisheries resources. The Prime Minister then noted that the SRFC 2011-2015 Strategic Plan was a guidance tool that will ultimately transform the SRFC into a "reference and innovative institution". He touched on several fisheries-related issues that countries in the sub-region are facing, and pointed out that the items listed on the agenda of the Conference of Ministers were matters on which Senegal intends to be at the forefront, particularly regarding mechanisms for the sustainable management of small pelagics and combating IUU fishing. He then cited several management techniques being implemented in Senegal and stated that the application of these sustainable management measures however requires the use of significant logistical, technical and human resources that a single country cannot provide in isolation, and hence the need to pool resources and efforts. He therefore strongly urged member States to learn from best practices, especially in the use of technical means to monitor coastal areas. He

then raised the issue of access to resources and fisheries agreements in particular, prior to concluding on the need for strong and fruitful collaboration between SRFC member States in the area of MCS. Finally, the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to technical and financial partners for their valuable support to the SRFC and declared open the 14th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC.

3. Honourable Moussa CONDE, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Guinea, current Chairman of the SRFC Conference of Ministers, on behalf of his colleagues and himself, thanked all participants at this 14th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers which coincides with the 28th anniversary of the organization. He pointed out that the effective presence of all SRFC member States and the numerous other participants at this present session was a sign of their commitment to the Institution.

Mr. CONDE then indicated that this session was being held against the backdrop of depleting fish stocks owing to the over-exploitation of resources and the aggravation of IUU fishing, among other things. In response to this situation, he insisted on the need to strengthen sub-regional cooperation and reiterated his commitment to spare no effort in addressing the challenges faced by the SRFC. In conclusion, Mr. CONDE thanked the people and the authorities of the Republic of Senegal for the measures taken to ensure the success of this session.

4. The Permanent Secretary of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), Mr. Ciré Amadou KANE expressed his appreciation to the Prime Minister of Senegal, who despite his extremely busy schedule, accepted to preside over the official opening ceremony of the 14th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers. After providing a brief background on the creation of the SRFC, he highlighted the various accomplishments of the institution including the introduction of several legal instruments in 1993 and the institutional reform conducted in 2009, which helped inter alia to strengthen cooperation with technical and financial partners. The Permanent Secretary then underlined the importance of collaborative management on small pelagics as well as the issues and challenges of Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in our sub-region. To conclude, he stated that the SRFC is a cooperation tool with a medium-term objective of becoming an integration institution.

The Permanent Secretary informed the Conference of Ministers that he had received two letters from Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone conferring representational powers respectively to the Honourable Minister of Integration

of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and Honourable Charles ROGERS, Deputy Minister of Fisheries of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Adoption of the agenda

5. The draft agenda was presented by Honourable Moussa CONDE, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Guinea, current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers.

Mr. CONDE informed the meeting that due to the extremely busy schedule of the Prime Minister of Senegal, the latter could not preside over the opening ceremony of the Conference of Ministers at the time initially planned. He therefore proposed to change the time of the opening ceremony and the declaration of Heads of delegations to 4pm.

The amended agenda was duly adopted and is attached herewith (see Appendix 2).

Declaration of Heads of Delegations and invited guests

6. The Heads of Delegations each took the floor to thank the Senegalese authorities for the warm welcome extended to them and reiterated their commitment to the objectives of the SRFC. They emphasized the importance of the fisheries sector to their respective economies, poverty reduction and its contribution to food security.
7. Honourable Papa DIOUF, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Senegal welcomed all participants to Senegal. He pointed out that Dakar was the historical departure point for the establishment of the SRFC. He expressed satisfaction that the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) was doing well to the point where other countries have indicated their desire to become members. He concluded by reminding that it is vital for the development of our States that we join forces within regional groupings.
8. Honourable Jose BIAI, Minister of Economic Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, thanked the Senegalese authorities for the excellent preparation of the meeting and the warm welcome extended to delegations. He also thanked the current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers and the SRFC Permanent Secretary and recalled the important role being played by the fisheries sector in: (i) providing food security for the populations, (ii) creating jobs, (iii) increasing export revenues, and ensuring the balance of

payments in our countries. Honourable Jose BIAI finally expressed satisfaction at the SRFC's determination to evolve from a cooperation institution to an integration institution.

9. Honourable Adalberto VIEIRA, Secretary of State for Fisheries of the Republic of Cape Verde thanked the Senegalese authorities for the warm welcome and facilities provided for the meeting. He underscored the importance of the fisheries sector in providing food security for the populations. He indicated that issues being raised here should be dealt with from a regional perspective and hence the need to combine efforts and pool resources so as to combat scourges such as IUU fishing.

In this regard, the Minister called the attention of his colleagues to the need for the SRFC to be provided with the necessary means to fulfil its obligations vis-à-vis member countries. To conclude, he stated that the SRFC should be a space for national issues to be addressed, a motivating factor for member States.

10. Honourable Mass Axi GYE, Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters of the Republic of The Gambia, Head of Delegation, expressed words of gratitude and commended the SRFC for the quality of the English translated version of the Report of the Coordinating Committee. He also thanked development partners for their constant support. He then emphasized the high importance that His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr. Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh attaches to the fisheries sector.

11. Honourable Aghdhefna OULD EYIH, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania also cordially thanked the Senegalese authorities for the excellent working conditions of the Conference. He also commended the Permanent Secretary, the Coordinating Committee and all experts for the quality of documents submitted to the Conference of Ministers.

Honourable Aghdhefna OULD EYIH then recalled that his country had over the past 28 years served two mandates as Chair of the Conference of Ministers and two terms of office as Permanent Secretary. He also reminded the Conference of the conventions and protocols put in place by the organization as well as the institutional reforms that helped provide credibility to the SRFC vis-à-vis its technical and financial partners. He emphasized that member States should provide the SRFC with support to achieve its objectives. He then informed the Conference of the significant efforts that Mauritania has made in the development of management and governance tools to guarantee the objectives of sustainability

supported by both Mauritania and the SRFC, particularly the establishment of a Research Institute, a Health Inspection Bureau equipped with a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025, a Maritime College featured on the IMO's white list, a fisheries surveillance agency with considerable resources as well as an operational policy supported by development plans. The Minister reiterated the commitment of his country to the SRFC. Finally, he announced the candidacy of Mauritania for the post of SRFC Permanent Secretary.

12. Honourable Charles ROGERS, Deputy Minister of Fisheries of the Republic of Sierra Leone commended and thanked the Senegalese authorities for the measures taken to ensure the success of this session. He also thanked member States for their collaboration and the Permanent Secretariat for the high quality of work accomplished over the past years. Honourable Charles ROGERS expressed the concern of his country about IUU fishing, a major challenge for the Government of Sierra Leone. He recognized that resources available in member States were lacking to eradicate this scourge and called on the Permanent Secretariat and member States for the effective application of FAO instruments to combat IUU fishing taking into consideration artisanal fisheries.

13. Mr. Amadou Telliwel DIALLO, Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Guinea, thanked the Senegalese authorities on behalf of the Guinean delegation for the warm welcome extended to participants. He also conveyed the greetings of the Guinean people to the Senegalese people. He then took the opportunity of the 28th anniversary celebrations to reiterate the Republic of Guinea's commitment to achieving the objectives of the SRFC including the strengthening and pooling of resources to combat IUU fishing in the southern part of the SRFC zone. He finally thanked technical and financial partners and expressed the hope that the SRFC would become an integration institution.

14. The representative from the World Bank, Dr. Rebecca LENT, provided a brief overview of the results of the Mid-Term Reviews (MTRs) recently conducted in the first four countries (Cape Verde, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone) engaged in the West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme (WARFP). The objective of the WARFP is to sustainably increase the overall wealth generated by the exploitation of marine fish resources in West Africa, through improving capacity for good governance and reducing IUU fishing. The MTRs revealed considerable progress in registration of fishing vessels, the training of fishing community associations, and in addressing IUU. Key remaining challenges include addressing the open access nature of the fishing fleets through sound policy

positions that enhance a co-management approach to fisheries, including the use of territorial use rights for fisheries (TURFs) in coastal fishing communities.

15. The Secretary General of the West African Network of Marine Protected Areas (RAMPAO), Dr. Dominique DUVAL-DIOP, described the mission of the network. She emphasized the fact that marine protected areas (MPAs) are one tool among many that should be effectively harnessed to ensure a more sustainable management of our natural resources. She highlighted areas in which the SRFC has collaborated with RAMPAO in the past, and most recently in the establishment of an MPA-Fisheries working group. Dr. DUVAL-DIOP thanked the SRFC for its continued support and urged that this cooperation be formalized with the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

Presentation of the report of the Coordinating Committee

16. The Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, Mr. Hassimiou TALL, presented the report of the Coordinating Committee. Discussions focused on:

- The harmonization of legislations;
- The expiration of the current auditor's term of office and the recruitment of the next auditor;
- Issues raised in the report of the Coordinating Committee on the APAVE report were rescheduled for discussion during the closed session.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

17. After discussions, the Conference of Ministers adopted the report of the Coordinating Committee subject to the addition of the following paragraph at the end of recommendation 3:

“Submission to the Tribunal of a request can be made as required. This is however subject to the decision of the Conference of Ministers.” »

and its deletion from paragraph 9 of the said report.

OUTCOME OF THE CLOSED SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT SECRETARY

18.At the conclusion of its closed session on 28 March 2013, the Conference of Ministers decided to address the issue of appointing a Permanent Secretary during an extraordinary session to be held in May 2013. In this regard, the application files of candidates from the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall be maintained.

Any other business

- 1.** The Islamic Republic of Mauritania reiterated its commitment to accompany the SRFC in achieving its objectives. It also expressed the hope that the statutory texts of the institution will soon be revised to ensure consistency. The Conference of Ministers decided to discuss this issue during its closed session.
- 2.** Acting on a proposal from the Republic of Senegal, the Conference of Ministers decided to address a word of commendation to Mr. Kane Ciré Amadou for his accomplishments at the head of the Permanent Secretariat during his two terms of office.
- 3.** Acting on a proposal from the Permanent Secretary, the Conference of Ministers decided to address a word of commendation to Mr. Ndiaga Makhtar LAYE DIA, Head of the Accounting and Finance Divisions for his services during his term of office at the SRFC.
- 4.** Acting on a proposal from the Republic of Guinea, the Conference of Ministers decided to address a word of commendation to the Auditor for the services performed at the SRFC.
- 5.** On the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, the Conference of Ministers decided to discharge the Permanent Secretary for the management of the 2012 fiscal year accounts.

CLOSING CEREMONY

19.The Conference of Ministers thanked the Government of Senegal for the warm welcome extended to its members and the excellent working conditions of the meeting.

20. The Chairman of the Conference of Ministers congratulated and thanked all participants before declaring closed the 14th Extraordinary Session of the SRFC Conference of Ministers.

**FOR THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS, SIGNED BY THE DULY AUTHORIZED
PLENIPOTENTIARIES:**

For the Republic of Cape Verde
Hon. Adalberto VIEIRA

For the Republic of The Gambia
Hon. Mass Axi GYE

For the Republic of Guinea
Hon. Moussa CONDE

For the Republic of Guinea-Bissau
Hon. Jose BIAI

For the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Hon. Aghdhefna OULD EYIH

For the Republic of Senegal
Hon. Papa DIOUF

For the Republic of Sierra Leone
Hon. Charles ROGERS

Done at Dakar, on 28 March 2013

APPENDICES TO THE REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

- **Appendix I.**
List of participants at the Fourteenth Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers
- **Appendix II.**
Agenda of the Fourteenth Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers
- **Appendix III.**
Report of the Twenty fourth Extraordinary Session of the Coordinating Committee

APPENDIX 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE FOURTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

APPENDIX II

14th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC (from 27th to 28th March, 2013, Dakar, Republic of Senegal)

Provisional agenda working plan

Tuesday 26th March 2013

Arrival of Ministers and installation to the King Fahd Palace Hotel

Wednesday 27th March 2013

09:00 – 9:30	Registration of Participants and Guests
9:30-10:00	Official Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Welcoming of the Permanent Secretary○ Message of His Excellency Moussa CONDE, Current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC○ Opening Allocution of His Excellency Mister Abdoul MBAYE, Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 11:15	Presentation and adoption of the provisional agenda and working plan
11:15 - 12:00	Statements by heads of delegations and Guests
12:00 - 13:00	Presentation, discussions and adoption of the Coordination Committee Report
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 16:30	Nomination of the Permanent Secretary based on the presentation of conclusions (Report) of the Consulting Firm APAVE International (closed session)
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 - 17:30	Any other business
20:30 -	Dinner offered by His Excellency Mister Papa DIOUF, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Affairs (Senegal) at Terrou-bi Restaurant

Thursday 28th March 2013

09:00 - 10:30	Writing of the Report of the Conference of Ministers Session
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 13:00	Finalization of the Report of the session
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 16:30	Adoption of the Report of the session
16:00 - 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 - 18:00	Closing the session

Friday 29th March, 2013
Anniversary of the creation of the SRFC

09:00 - 10:30	Visiting the offices of the Permanent Secretariat of the SRFC
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break (at the SRFC)
11:30 - 13:00	Projection of a film on the MAC Convention (at King Fahd Palace Hotel)
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch offered by His Excellency Moussa CONDE, Chairman in office of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC (at King Fahd Palace)
Afternoon	End of manifestations and departure of delegations