



# **Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)**

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## **Permanent Secretariat**

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### **Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers**

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**Foreign Affairs Ministry - Dakar (Senegal)  
23 – 24 February 2004**

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#### **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC was held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2004. Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone participated in the work of the session as well as the representatives of the International Institutions. The list of participants is in annex 1.
2. The opening ceremony of the session was presided over by Dr. BA Mamadou Alias M'BARE, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Economy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania Chairman of the SRFC Conference of Ministers.
3. At the opening of the session, His Excellency Mr. Papa DIOUF Minister of Fisheries of the Republic of Senegal wished to the participants, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, the Government and People of Senegal, a warm and friendly welcome to Senegal.
4. In his opening address Dr. BA Mamadou Alias M'BARE, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Economy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania Chairman of the SRFC Conference of Ministers, firstly thanked, on behalf of all his colleagues, Ministers of fisheries of the SRFC member States, the Government and People of Senegal for their warm welcome and hospitality.
5. He also mentioned the actions undertaken during his term by emphasizing on:
  - the mission he made to the Heads of States and Governments in March 2003;
  - the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers and
  - the initiatives taken to the partners of the SRFC ;

Finally, he thanked all the development partners (international institutions and donors) which supported the SRFC.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE DELIBERATIONS**

6. The following agenda was adopted :
  - a. opening of the session .
  - b. adoption of the agenda and organisation of the deliberations .
  - c. settlement of the new Chairman of the SFRC Conference of Ministers .
  - d. Welcoming and settlement of Sierra Leone as the 7<sup>th</sup> member States of the SRFC .
  - e. Presentation of the Permanent Secretary's report of activities .
  - f. Examination of the report of the Coordinating Committee ;
  - g. Examination of the final report and the auditor's report/full discharge ;
  - h. Designation of the Permanent Secretary ;
  - i. Other issues ;
  - j. Dates and venue of the next ordinary session ;
  - k. Adoption of the report ;
  - l. Closing of the session.
  
7. The Republic of Guinea was designated as rapporteur of the session.

## **SETTLEMENT OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE SRFC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

8. In accordance with the provisions of the Internal Regulations, the Minister of Fisheries of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Papa DIOUF was settled in his function as current Chairman of the SRFC Conference of Ministers.
  
9. His Excellency Mr. Papa DIOUF, Minister of Fisheries of Senegal, current Chairman of Conference of Ministers underlined that his term would be that of continuation for the consolidation of achievements and revamping of the relevant objectives of fisheries surveillance management in the SRFC member States.

## **WELCOMING AND SETTLEMENT OF SIERRA LEONE AS THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MEMBER STATE OF THE SRFC**

10. On proposal of the new Chairman, the Conference of Ministers ceremoniously welcomed the Republic of Sierra Leone as the 7<sup>th</sup> member State SRFC
  
11. The Conference of Ministers heard an address of His Excellency Mr. Okere ADAMS, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources of the Republic of Sierra Leone. In his address, he thanked the Chairman and the Permanent Secretary of the SRFC for having invited him to the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers as well as all the member States that accepted to welcome his country to the sub-regional organization and precised that the Republic of Sierra Leone will be fully committed in the strengthening of the sub-regional Organization.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY'S REPORT OF ACTIVITIES**

**12.** The Permanent Secretary presented his report to the Conference of Ministers outlining the main activities undertaken during the period ranging from October 2001 and December 2003.

**13.** The Permanent Secretary described the environment under which these actions were undertaken. This environment was, over a long period, very unfavourable and created difficult working and living conditions for the staff, the postponement of implementation of activities, fragmented monitoring of the work plan and especially the slowing down of the speed of implementation of activities. However, this environment improved during the second quarter of 2003 owing to the first payment of the arrears of contributions of member States to the budget of the SRFC.

**14.** The presentation of the Permanent Secretary was followed by extremely important discussions notably on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and the delay in payment of the contributions of the member States.

**15.** At the end of these discussions, the Conference of Ministers congratulated the Permanent Secretary, his team and all the sub-regional and international experts who allowed the accomplishment of the tasks in a very difficult context.

**16.** The Conference of Ministers exhorted the Chairmanship to take any necessary steps with a view to ensuring the pursuit of the activities.

**17.** As a reply to the request to Switzerland, the Conference of Ministers granted it the status of observer to the SRFC.

## **EXAMINATION OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE SRFC AND ADOPTION OF THE SRFC**

**18.** The report of the deliberations of the 14<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Coordinating Committee was presented to the Conference of Ministers by His current Chairman Cherif Ould TOUELIB, Director of Studies and Fisheries Resources Management of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Economy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

**19.** This document annexed to the present report allowed the Conference of Ministers to know about the results of the discussions of the Coordinating Committee on the following items :

- activities of the SRFC Permanent Secretariat ;
- activities of the Surveillance Operations Coordinating Unit ;
- assessment and perspectives for the FIAS ;
- examination of Alpha Programme (first sub-regional support programme to the promotion of responsible fisheries, to the preservation and protection of the marine environment) ;

- communication on the monitoring of the sub-regional action plan for the management and conservation of sharks stocks ;
- examination of the auditor's report ;
- examination of the Permanent Secretariat Financial report ;
- examination of the draft budgets of the Permanent Secretariat and SOCU;
- examination of the draft convention on judicial cooperation in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing ;
- examination of the draft agreement establishing the sub-regional register of industrial fishing vessels and its annexes ;
- the examination and validation of the draft support document for the integration of the protected marine areas into the strategies of coastal fisheries sustainable management in the SRFC member States ;
- examination of the necessary actions to be taken towards the strengthening of the SRFC ;
- support project to the fisheries management in West Africa (AGPAO) ;
- other issues (preparation of an institutional support project for the management of small pelagics "sustainable fisheries in Africa" ; progress state of the PRCM Programme etc).

**20.** After discussions on these main items, the Conference of Ministers adopted the report of the Coordinating Committee and the recommendations made by the latter as well.

**21.** The Conference of Ministers decided on the holding of the extraordinary session of the Coordinating Committee in June 2004 to deal with urgent issues raised in the report of the Coordinating Committee. This session will deal with the ways and means to improve the strategic and operational framework of the SRFC.

**22.** The Conference of Ministers adopted the new distribution key of the contributions of the SRFC member States which is of 10 % for Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone and 20 % Mauritania, Guinea and Senegal.

**23.** The Conference of Ministers gave mandate to the current Chairman regarding the Permanent Secretariat to submit at the European Commission the AGPAO project document and this by the most appropriated channels.

**24.** The Conference of Ministers exhorted the Permanent Secretariat to monitor to the French cooperation the request for the funding of the project "Support for the integration of the protected marine areas into the strategies of coastal fisheries sustainable management" of the SRFC member States.

**25.** The Conference of Ministers urged the current chairman regarding the Permanent Secretariat to make the necessary approaches to development partners in order to secure the commitment to the implementation of the objectives assigned to SOCU further to the closing of AFR/013 Project.

## **EXAMINATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT, THE AUDITOR'S REPORT AND THE TRANSITIONAL DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 20004**

**26.** The Conference of Ministers followed with attention the presentation of the Auditor's report, on the functioning budget of the Permanent Secretariat for the period ranging from October 2001 and December 2003. This report certifies the sincerity of the accounts for the said period and suggests recommendations aiming at organizing and improving the accounting system of the SRFC Permanent Secretariat. These recommendations are annexed to the present document.

**27.** The Conference of Ministers congratulated the Auditor's firm AFRICCONSULT for the quality of the accomplished work. It urged the Permanent Secretariat to take appropriate steps towards the implementation of the recommendations.

**28.** Moreover, the Permanent Secretariat and the Director of SOCU presented each one a financial report as well as a transitional draft budget for the year 2004.

**29.** Further to these presentations, the Conference of Ministers granted full discharge to the Permanent Secretary for the period ranging from October 2001 to December 2003.

**30.** The Conference of Ministers adopted the transitional draft budgets proposed for the year 2004.

## **DECISION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**

**31.** The Conference of Ministers mentioned that the term of the current Permanent Secretary, Mr. Nabi Souleymane BANGOURA will run until end of June 2004.

**32.** The Conference of Ministers decided to appoint Mr. KANE Ciré Amadou from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania as Permanent Secretary of the SRFC starting from July 2004 for a four year term.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

**33.** The Conference of Ministers requested that the draft agreement establishing the sub-regional register of industrial fishing vessels and its annexes should also be an item of the agenda of the next ordinary session of the Coordinating Committee to be held in Dakar in June 2004.

## **DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF THE SRFC**

**34.** The Conference of Ministers favourably welcomed the offer of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to hold the sixteenth ordinary in March 2006.

## **ADOPTION OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

**35.** The final report of the 15<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers was unanimously adopted.

## **CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

**36.** On behalf of his colleagues, Her Excellency Mrs Susan Waffa OGOO, Secretary of State for Fisheries, Natural Resources and the Environment of the Republic of The Gambia presented a vote of thanks to the Government and People of the Republic of Senegal for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

**37.** The closing ceremony of the session was chaired on 24 February 2004 by His Excellency Mr. Papa DIOUF, Minister of Fisheries of the Republic of Senegal, new Chairman of the Conference of Ministers who was satisfied by the outcomes stemmed from the 15<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers. He committed himself to ensure the monitoring and implementation of the decisions stemmed from the said session.

**38.** The current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of the SRFC thanked his colleagues for the remarkable work accomplished as well as the partners for their unflinching support.

**39.** The session was closed on 24 February 2004 at 1 p.m

## **VOTE OF THANKS TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL**

The Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2004 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal at its 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session ;

Thanks His Excellency, Mr. Abdoulaye WADE, 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 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission;

These thanks are addressed particularly to His Excellency Mr. Papa DIOUF, Minister of Fisheries of the Republic of Senegal, who aptly led the deliberations of the session giving a special touch to the 15<sup>th</sup> ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission.

**Issued in Dakar on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

**The Conference of Ministers**

## Annex 1

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## **Annex 2: Agenda and working programme**

### **Monday 23 February 2004**

09 : 30 – 10 : 00 a.m Opening ceremony

- \* Welcome address by His Excellency Mr. Papa DIOUF, Senegalese Fisheries Minister
- \* Assessment-speech by His Excellency Mr. BA Mamadou alias M'Baré, Serving Chairman of the SRFC Conference of Ministers and Fisheries and Marine Economy Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- \* Installation of the new Serving Chairman of the SRFC Conference of Ministers and
- \* Ceremonious welcoming and installation of Sierra Leone as the 7<sup>th</sup> State to adhere to the SRFC

10 : 00 – 10 : 15 a.m Tea break

10 : 15 – 11 : 15 a.m Presentation of the Permanent Secretary's report to the session

11 : 15 – 11 : 45 a.m Examination and adoption of the report of the Coordinating Committee

11 : 45 – 12 : 30 a.m Examination, discussions and adoption of :

- Permanent Secretariat Financial report by its Head of Administrative and Financial Services,
- Auditor's report presented by AFRICCONSULT Agency
- Full discharge

12 : 30 – 03 : 30 p.m Lunch break

03 : 30 – 04 : 30 p.m Examination and adoption of the draft transition and ordinary budgets of the Permanent Secretariat

04 :30 – 05 : 00 p.m Renewal decision of the current Permanent Secretary for a second and last term or vacancy announcement of his post

05 : 00 – 05 : 30 p.m Other issues

05 : 30 – 05 : 40 p.m Dates and venue of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session

### **Tuesday 24 February 2004**

09 : 00 – 09 : 45 a.m Presentation and discussions of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session final report

09 : 45 – 10 : 15 a.m Tea break

10 : 15 – 10 : 45 a.m adoption of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session final report

10 : 45 – 11 : 15 a.m Closing ceremony :

- \* Motion of Thanks
- \* Closing address by His Excellency Mr. Papa DIOUF, Minister of Fisheries of the Republic of Senegal and Serving Chairman of the Conference of Ministers.