



World Fisheries Day Celebration, 2018 Report

Theme: « Defining a Pan-African Agenda for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries ».

Banjul, Gambia, November 19TH, 20TH and 21ST



Introduction

The African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA) has been celebrating every year since 2011 the "World Fisheries Day" in one of its member countries.

This year, two thousand and eighteen (2018), it was held in Banjul (Republic of The Gambia) and, as every year, this event is preceded by a two-day (02) workshop on a topical issue of interest to the fishing sector.

The particularity of this year is that it coincides, under the initiative of the Confederation at the start of the process in its member countries to implement the "*Voluntary Guidelines to Ensure Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries in a Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*" with the collaboration of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the country governments involved.

In this case, it should be noted that CAOPA has been involved since the beginning of the process, having participated in all the stages of drafting, negotiating and adopting this first international instrument entirely devoted to artisanal fisheries.

In addition, at the last FAO Committee on Fisheries, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution proclaiming 2022 as the "*International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture*".

In this respect, CAOPA, in partnership with our States, aims to give the African continent, the fisheries and aquaculture sector good visibility because of the important role it plays in our countries and for many countries throughout the world.

For this reason, the theme of this year's workshop is entitled: "*Defining a Pan-African Agenda for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries*".

The aim is to strengthen CAOPA's advocacy, in the one hand to make changes in order to give purpose and importance to Africa at the baptism in 2022 of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, and in the other, to develop an approach at the pan-African level for the concrete implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to ensure the

sustainability of artisanal fisheries through the development of national, or even regional, action plans for development.

I: Day of November 19



1. Opening ceremony:

The official ceremony began at ten thirty-five minutes (10:35 am) and was attended by about a hundred people. In addition to the nine (09) members of the CAOPA Executive Board, there were representatives of member countries of the Confederation from various countries in West, Central, North and East Africa.

Technical and financial partners were also represented, including: the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO Rome and Resident Representative in Banjul), the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements (CAPE-Belgium-Brussels), Bread for the World (Germany), the International Collective in Support of Fisheries Workers (ICSF) of Belgium

The workshop was held at Atlantic Hotel. It was chaired on behalf of the Minister in charge of Fisheries, Water Resources and Relations with the National Assembly by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry.

The following personalities addressed the audience and delivered the following messages:

- The President of the Organizing Committee

He highlighted the important role of fisheries for African populations in terms of food and nutritional security, employment and poverty reduction. In this respect, he stressed the importance of all actors of the sector to ensure its sustainability by implementing management measures for sustainability. In this context, the celebration of World Fisheries Day is an opportunity to draw attention to the important role of fisheries for all humankind.

- The representative of the National Federation of Artisanal Fisheries Organisations - NAAFO (National Association of Artisanal Fishermen Organisation).

The holding of this workshop, she said, is an opportunity to review the issues and challenges of artisanal fishing with a view to taking appropriate measures in order to ensure its sustainability

- Gaoussou Gueye President of CAOPA.

He mentioned that traditionally since 2011, CAOPA has organised two days of work in a member country, before the celebration of World Fisheries Day, during which discussions and exchanges of ideas on current issues of interest to the fisheries and aquaculture sector in general and the artisanal fisheries sector in particular.

The objective of this approach is to enable members of the Confederation to have good and broad information on the problems of the sector in order to identify the major issues and challenges to be addressed and, if necessary, to formulate recommendations for both governments and professionals in order to take appropriate measures to ensure its sustainability.

With regard to this year's meeting, the theme of which is entitled: "*Defining a Pan-African Agenda for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries*", the choice of this theme is justified by the stipulation that at the last FAO Committee on Fisheries, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution proclaiming 2022 as the "*International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture*".

In this context, the purpose of the workshop is to "*Strengthen CAOPA's advocacy for changes to give purpose and prominence to Africa at the baptism in 2022 of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, on the one hand, and on the other hand, to develop an approach at the pan-African level for the concrete implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to ensure the sustainability of artisanal fisheries through the development of national, or even regional, action plans for development*".

The aim is "*to identify the major challenges and issues to be addressed in order to develop sustainable artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in Africa in relation to the key issues*".

These include issues such as:

- transparency in African maritime fisheries,
- the impacts of climate change on coastal communities that rely on fishing;
- the recognition of the role of women in artisanal fishing;
- improving the contribution of artisanal fishing to food security;
- the financing of artisanal fishing and the setting-up of strong and credible fishermen's organisations;
- To the challenges of IUU fishing.

- The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries

He congratulated CAOPA for its inclusive approach bringing together professionals from artisanal marine, continental and aquaculture fisheries and for the strategy adopted in the implementation of its mission to promote the development of artisanal fisheries in Africa in a transparent, participatory and gender-sensitive manner with a particular focus on women, as well as national action plans for sustainable artisanal fisheries.

In this regard, he stated the commitment of the Ministry of Fisheries of the Gambia to support him in this process in the following terms: "*I would like to reassure delegates and participants that the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources is committed to supporting CAOPA in its efforts to work together to ensure the sustainable management and development of the sector*".

Regarding the issue of the fisheries sector in general, it underlines its place and the important role it plays in our countries and, correlatively, because of its importance due to the growing

world-wide demand for fish products, it faces major issues, challenges and questions that must be resolved to ensure its sustainability.

In his analysis of this issue, he states that *“the increasing international demand for fish has led to overcapacity in both large and small-scale fishing. This overexploitation of fisheries resources has created a series of difficulties with far-reaching and terrible consequences. Competition for fish in the absence of appropriate management practices is still increasing and intensifying, leading to the rapid depletion of resources, the destruction of ecosystems and fish habitats and the reduction of economic returns. In a context of increased competition and entry, lack of awareness of existing regulations and control mechanisms, cases of IUU fishing practices are occurring. These are worrying issues that need to be addressed.”*

For these reasons, he said, *"in view of the importance of fisheries in general and the artisanal fisheries sub-sector for the Republic of Gambia, the country is working to strengthen cooperation to address these issues, particularly fisheries with organizations at the bilateral, sub-regional and international levels".*

This option for Gambia is in line with the opinion of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries that artisanal fishing is increasingly recognized as an important contribution to poverty reduction, food and nutrition security and job creation and that women play an important role in the fisheries sector, particularly in the value chain.

The fishing sector contributes about 12% to GDP and employs about 36,000 people. It is the main supplier of animal protein to the population with a per capita fish consumption of about 23 kg and plays a central role in poverty reduction and food security.

Marine and coastal fisheries generate the majority of fish catches. They are the main source of raw materials for fish processing companies that export increasing quantities of value-added fishery products.

Fishery products trade and activities contribute significantly to employment, national income and foreign exchange earnings.

That is why the Permanent Secretary said that the Government gives priority to the development of fisheries and aquaculture while creating an enabling environment for the

participation of the population and the private sector, as stipulated in the National Development Plan 2018-2021.

However, he stressed that the overall lack of adequate human, material and physical resources hinders the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in a sustainable and responsible manner.

It is for these reasons that, with regard to national professional artisanal fisheries organizations, the Permanent Secretary declares that the Government of the Republic of The Gambia will continue to bring fishers together into viable organizations and raise their awareness of the need for responsible fishing practices.

On the outcome of the workshop, he invited and urged participants to interact and exchange experiences in order to enable the workshop to develop a "Pan-African Agenda for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries".

2 - Work resumption

The workshop began at 12:15 p.m. moderated by Dr. Alassane SAMBA, CAOPA's Fisheries Researcher and Technical Support, with the presentation of the participants followed by the review and adoption of the workshop agenda and other activities planned as part of the celebration of World Fisheries Day.

Successively, presentations were made respectively by Mr Dawda SAINÉ, General Secretary of CAOPA, Mrs Lena Westland, and FAO representative at FAO headquarters in Rome and Mr Sebastian Mathew of the International Collective in Support of Fishing Workers (ICSF) Belgium.

2.1. Presentation of CAOPA by Secretary General Dawda SAINÉ

The African Confederation of Professional Organisations of Artisanal Fisheries was created in March 2010 in Banjul by nine (09) founding member countries following annual meetings organized since 2000. Currently, the Confederation brings together twenty-four (24) national artisanal maritime, continental and aquaculture organizations from Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia,

Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Uganda, WAPF (Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius, Reunion Island).

It is officially recognized in 2013 by the Government of Senegal, which hosts the Headquarters by Order No. 010046 of 01.07.2013 published in the Official Gazette.

Describing the organization's mission, he said that it mainly consists of *"studying any issue and implementing initiatives related to the management and sustainable use of the fisheries resource"*.

This orientation aims to ensure sustainable economic and social living conditions for artisanal fishing communities.

In this regard, he said, to meet the challenge of sustainable artisanal fisheries CAOPA has placed its actions within a reference framework defined by the FAO's *"Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries in a Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication"* and the African Union's *"Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa"*.

In this respect, CAOPA is working to meet the challenge of the sustainability of artisanal fisheries, the key aspects of which are the following

- Improving transparency in the fisheries sector, with the aim of involving actors in the definition and implementation of sustainable fisheries policies;
- Improving the living and working conditions of fishing communities, particularly women;
- The permanent involvement of artisanal fisheries actors for an adaptation to the impacts of climate change;
- The fight against unsustainable, illegal fishing practices...

The General Secretary of CAOPA stressed that the achievement of expected results is closely linked to the capacity building of national professional organizations, which CAOPA is working on:

- Bring together in each member country all the organizations into an umbrella national structure;

- Organize training sessions for Confederation leaders and national federations;
- Promote and develop exchanges of experience, information and awareness through the media. On this action, CAOPA works with REJOPRA journalists (sipanews.org) to document the challenges faced by coastal communities in Africa and to raise awareness among actors, decision-makers and the public on sustainable artisanal fisheries.

2.2. Presentation of the Sustainable Artisanal Fishing Guidelines

By Mrs Lena Westland, FAO representative at the Rome headquarters.

She focused her presentation on the main areas of intervention of *the "Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries"*, the processes of its development, adoption and that suggested for their implementation.

In summarizing the Guidelines, she said that they are "the first internationally adopted instrument entirely dedicated to sustainable artisanal fisheries". Its principles have been defined by consensus and provide guidance for the sustainable management of artisanal fisheries.

They take into account links and are complementary to other international instruments such as: The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of Food Security; the Voluntary Guidelines for Governance Responsible of Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests...with which they have a common basis in human rights principles. The themes developed cover Land Tenure Governance, Social Development, Employment and Decent Work, Value Chain, Post-Capture Activities and Trade, Gender Equality, Disaster Risk and Climate Change.

With regard to the development of the Guidelines, she said that it had gone through a long process that began in 2008 with the "*First World Conference on Small-scale Fisheries*" in Bangkok, during which the Society's Organization made a statement.

It was followed by a series of consultations, workshops, national, regional and international events that mobilized more than 4,000 stakeholders directly concerned.

In 2014, the technical consultation session resumed and at the 31st session of COFI, the Guidelines were adopted.

The FAO Framework Programme for Implementation focuses on four (04) areas of intervention:

- 1 Awareness raising: knowledge and outreach,
- 2 Strengthening the science-policy interface: knowledge sharing and support for policy reform;
- 3 Stakeholder empowerment: capacity building and institutional development;
- 4 Support for implementation: collaboration and monitoring.

Implementation Requirements

- For the implementation of the Guidelines, which is only in its early stages, it requires the registration of the related actions, concomitantly by:
- Multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral approaches;
- Capacity building and organizational structures based on existing strengths and experiences;
- Strategic commitment with partners.

The Next Steps

In the further implementation of the Guidelines, it will be necessary to proceed:

- Building the capacity of artisanal fisheries stakeholders to participate effectively in decision-making and actions at local, national, regional and global levels;
- Further develop the sustainability and management of artisanal fisheries as a partnership mechanism (including regional representation);
- Develop national action plans to guide the implementation of the Guidelines at the national level (with the support of the mechanisms).

2.3 Interventions of the International Collective in Support of Fishing Workers (ICSF) in the Implementation of the Guidelines. By Sebastian Mathew.

Mr Matthew made a presentation on their organization's involvement in the implementation of the Guidelines in some countries in partnership with other NGOs and FAO's collaboration.

ICSF organized 2016 awareness workshops in partnership with WFFP, WFFP and IPC as part of the IFAD project. Referring to Hurricane Ockhi in November 2017, he outlined how the Guidelines, in particular Chapter 9 (Disaster Risk and Climate Change) and Chapter 6 (Social Development, Employment and Decent Work) can help to design a better disaster risk management system in India.

In this context, thematic workshops were organized in each of these countries according to their specific problems for building the capacity of artisanal fishing communities at the local level to actively commit in ensuring sustainable artisanal fisheries in the context of the implementation of the Guidelines.

In conclusion, Mr Matthew stressed that their interventions in the implementation of the Guidelines aim to promote a human rights-based approach, integrate gender equality and equity, contextualize the Guidelines and identify gaps that may hinder their effective implementation.

For these reasons, their actions are oriented at the local, provincial and national levels and focus on the active participation of fishing communities and CSOs/NGOs for greater awareness, better management, security of property (land), protection of human rights, including labour rights and the elimination of child labour, and the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources.

2.4. Discussions on the different presentations

Discussions for clarification or to make contributions included the intervention of participants from the following countries: Mauritania, Morocco, Togo, Republic of Guinea (Conakry), Guinea Bissau, -Chad, Senegal.

The following information emerged from his intervention: in a small number of countries the Guidelines are known, documents available and explanatory sessions for professionals have been organized or are in progress. In three (03) countries (Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea) national workshops has been organized and national platforms set up to develop action plans, implement and monitor actions.

However, in most countries, they are not well known. For most national Federations of professional organizations in CAOPA member countries, the major problem is in the dissemination at fishing communities level due to the lack of resources and the diversity of languages at the level of artisanal fishing professionals to make them understand the content and to appropriate the Guidelines because of the high illiteracy rate which is a hindrance for communication.

This situation is the consequence of resources shortage due to the lack of cooperation of local authorities. Other difficulties mentioned and which should be resolved through the implementation of the Guidelines include the practice of unsustainable fishing with the use of prohibited gear by fishermen, the resurgence of IUU fishing, difficulties linked to land management, mining that cause significant pollution of the sea and inland waterways which leads to the reduction or disappearance of some fish species.

In this case, the recurrent problem of the availability of resources at the level of professional artisanal fisheries organisations for the implementation of the Guidelines, particularly that of the creation of national and regional platforms, has been raised.

To address this challenge, it is proposed that FAO and partners support CAOPA, which has the expertise to assist other member countries in implementing the process.

2.5 Answers to the questions

The questions asked are related to the presentation made by the representative of FAO, to which the following answers are given:

- For implementation, FAO works with all countries and organizations that are active in this field. However, this collaboration requires a commitment from countries.
- Regarding the availability of documents, the framework document should be available at the FAO representation/country level. Otherwise, organizations wishing to obtain it may submit a request to FAO or upload it to its website where it is posted with other relevant documents.

- Concerning the translation of the Guidelines into national languages, it does not rule out the possibility of FAO support, but specifies that it must be done by countries with the support of their partners. She pointed out that several countries have already done so and that the document is already translated into thirty (30) languages and that there are many videos.



3. Organisation of working groups

The terms of reference of the group work aim as a result to "define an agenda for sustainable artisanal fisheries in Africa". This discussion is based on CAOPA's commitment to the following:

- 1: to promote the transparent, participatory and gender-sensitive development in Africa of national action plans for sustainable artisanal fisheries, rooted in the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainability of Artisanal Fisheries (Malta 2017 Conference);
- 2: to set up a pan-African agenda for sustainable artisanal fisheries, within the framework of the African Union's Policy Framework for Reform Strategy of Fisheries and Aquaculture, as a contribution to the preparation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries in 2022.

3.1: Objectives of the workshop:

a) Overall Objective :

Develop an approach at the pan-African level for the concrete implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to ensure the sustainability of small-scale fishing: the development of national, or even regional, action plans for development.

b) Specific Objectives :

3.1.1. Explore key issues for the development of sustainable artisanal fisheries

3.1.2. Develop a common approach to the development of national plans for the implementation of VGs;

3.1.3. Develop axes for the drafting of a CAOPA regional action plan (towards a pan-African agenda) for monitoring the implementation of national plans.

3.1.4. Identify the key events to be held for a good participation and visibility of Africa in view of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries scheduled for 2022.

The proposed approach is based on the implementation procedures in progress in Kenya, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, following the steps below:

a) Draw up a participatory survey of the artisanal fishing sector, taking into account the role of women and men at each link in the value chain;

b) Identify the limiting factors, at local, national or even regional level in the country under consideration for the development of sustainable artisanal fisheries, based on the topics selected by CAOPA;

c) Identify the guidance provided by the guidelines to remove these obstacles;

d) Identify who are the actors to be involved in changes;

e) Bring these actors together in a representative national platform and a small advisory committee, under the aegis of the authorities, to validate the analysis made and then develop a strategy on policies 'changes, practices to create an enabling environment for the development of sustainable artisanal fisheries;

f) Plan implementation and monitoring

The discussions and exchanges must take into account the topics already dealt with and retained by CAOPA (see details in the TORs document). These were grouped according to themes related to the Guidelines, and each group identified the key actions to ensure the sustainability of fishing, the actors to be involved, the prioritization of actions, the identification of possible limiting factors, and the palliative actions as well as CAOPA's involvement in their implementation.

Three (03) groups were formed, respectively bringing together Anglophones, Francophones and then journalists from the Network of Journalists for Responsible Fisheries in Africa (REJOPRA), CAOPA's partner.

The group work continued throughout the afternoon of the nineteenth (19) and part of the morning of the twentieth (20) November, during which the groups reported the results of their thoughts, followed by a plenary discussion, the summary of which is presented below.

4. Analysis of the results of the group work

4.1 The Fisheries and Aquaculture working groups (English and French) reviewed principles 1 to 6 of the Guidelines on: 1-Governance Responsible of land tenure, 2- Sustainable resource management, 3-Social development, employment and decent work, 4- Value chains of activities, post-harvest and trade, 5- Equality between men and women, 6- Disaster risk and climate change.

a) Among the flagship actions identified by the two Fisheries/Aquaculture groups in line with the themes of the Guidelines to ensure the achievement of the objectives targeted by them are the following:

- **Governance responsible for land tenure:** Define areas specific to artisanal fisheries and respect those already defined by regulations;
- **Sustainable resource management:** Promoting Transparency and good governance in fisheries, Promoting participatory monitoring (by creating local committees), Development of aquaculture;

- **Social development, employment and decent work:** Promote safety at sea and in the workplace, Identify, define and secure production areas, Develop and improve infrastructure and equipment for fish processing;
- **Value chains activities, post-harvest and trade:** Improve infrastructures and equipment for product development, Set up financing systems adapted to small-scale fishing;
- **Gender Equality:** Promote women's leadership in organizations, Make the role of women visible (Involvement of women in all actions);
- **Disaster risk and climate change:** Prohibition of all kinds of mining and oil exploitation in rivers and marine coastal areas, Awareness raising among coastal communities on the impacts of climate change, Management of Pollution, health and socio-economic impacts due to fish meal plants.

b) The constraints related to the implementation of these actions are related to:

Governance responsible for land tenure systems:

- The absence or non-application of the texts in some countries.
- The lack of knowledge of the texts by the actors at the grassroots level.

Sustainable resource management:

- Insufficient monitoring;
- Insufficient training of professionals;
- Lack of financial resources;
- High illiteracy rate;
- Linguistic diversity.

Aquaculture:

- Availability and accessibility of land;
- Availability and accessibility of inputs (spat, food, prophylactic products);
- insufficient technical capacity of aqua culturists;
- Limited financial resources.

Social development, employment and decent work:

- Failure to formalize the allocation of areas where fishing activities are located;

- Lack of financial resources.

Value chain activities, post-harvest and trade:

- Lack of financial and material resources;
- Insufficient conservation equipment in the cold chain;
- Insufficiency and/or non-existence of modern processing units;
- Lack of knowledge about environmental and sanitation policies.

Gender Equality:

- Socio-cultural burdens
- High illiteracy rate

Disaster risk and climate change:

- Lack of education, information and resources;
- Absence and/or inadequacy of environmental and social impact studies.

c) The proposed actions to remove constraints

Governance responsible for land tenure systems:

- Formalize the occupancy of land held by professionals;;
- Advocacy at the state level;
- Capacity building of (strong) PO.

Sustainable resource management:

- Involvement of grassroots communities in management (co-management);
- Improving communication;
- Capacity-building of POs: leadership, organizational management -organizational dynamics - legislation ;
- Developing the partnership;
- Promoting and strengthening functional literacy;
- Setting up participatory monitoring units;
- Developing rural aquaculture.

Social development, employment and decent work:

- Spatial planning studies for the delimitation of areas reserved for fishing activities;
- Development of occupation plans for areas dedicated to artisanal fishing activities;
- Creation of rescue centres in the countries.

Value chains activities, post-harvest and trade:

- Setting up suitable alternative financing systems;
- Carrying out economic, social and environmental impact studies (Petroleum Exploration and Development);
- Creating insurance systems in the value chain;
- Facilitating access to land (availability of space for activities);
- Promoting better market access (including export).

Gender Equality:

- IEC capacity building;
- Functional literacy;
- Training roles and responsibilities;
- Management of organizations;
- +legislation.

Disaster risk and climate change:

- Setting up specialized institutions for pollution control;
- Implementing mechanisms for the prevention of natural disasters;
- Implementation of national plans for adaptation to climate change;
- Awareness-raising and education of stakeholders on how to adapt to the effects and impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

4.2 The journalists' group focused on the transversal principles with the main objective of providing good information and communication for the dissemination of the Guidelines in order to allow a significant number of stakeholders to appropriate them and to participate effectively and efficiently in their implementation.

The principles reviewed are those relating to Chapter 7: Information-Education-Communication (IEC), 10 - Policy coherence, coordination and institutional collaboration, 11-

Information, research and communication, 12- Capacity building, 13- Support for implementation and monitoring

a) The flagship actions identified in connection with these themes include:

Information, Education, Communication (IEC):

- Dissemination of the Guidelines: Information, Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation

Policy coherence, coordination and institutional collaboration

- Harmonization and implementation of State policies;
- Dissemination of the common policies in force;
- Monitoring / Assessment and periodic evaluation of the implemented policies;
- Developing and make public policies on land tenure;
- Promoting the gender dimension;
- Organizing a prize to encourage States that implement this provision;
- Organize a prize to encourage stakeholders in the artisanal fisheries sector who implement this provision (federal organization of each country);

Information, research and communication:

- Technical and financial support from the National Institutes of Scientific Research (INRS);
- Revitalize SIPA and REJOPRA communication materials;
- Build the capacity of journalists on investigative issues related to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- Organize awareness campaigns targeting fishing communities and government officials;

Capacity Building

- Training workshops for actors (technical administrations, artisanal fisheries professionals and media journalists) on VGs;
- Training of PO leaders on the proper use of communication tools (Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram) in order to share experiences.

Implementation support and monitoring

- Organization of public conferences on the implementation of VGs;
- Strengthen the action of REJOPRA to relay the actions implemented on VG through the communication platforms / countries ;
- Produce and translate VGs into audio and video;
- Monitoring by REJOPRA of the actions initiated in the implementation of the VG by fisheries actors and governments.

b) The constraints identified for the implementation of these actions are related in particular to

Information, Education, Communication (IEC):

- Financial resources;
- Large number of targets;
- Linguistic diversity.

Policy coherence, coordination and institutional collaboration

- Lack of political will (States);
- Financial resources ;
- Language and cultural obstacles;
- Lack of appropriate tools;
- Insufficient capacity to use the tools.

Information, research and communication:

- Lack of political will;
- Deficiency and inadequacy and/or non-harmonization of information collection and data analysis tools;
- Bureaucracy (slow and complex procedures);
- Absence or insufficiency of financial resources;
- Insufficient number of competent resources;
- Non-accessibility of data to all relevant targets (format of publications and methods of dissemination of information);
- communities' lack of knowledge about the use of existing platforms and networks;

Capacity building:

- Financial resources ;
- Linguistic diversity ;
- Illiteracy ;
- Availability (free time/occupations).

Implementation support and monitoring

- Financial resources ;
- Motivation of journalists;
- Lack of communication platforms.

d) The proposed actions to remove constraints:

Information, Education, Communication (IEC)

- Workshops ;
- Focus group ;
- Translation of SSF guidelines;
- Videos, radio, etc.

Policy coherence, coordination and institutional collaboration

- Advocacy with leaders;
- Lobbying institutions and voice bearers;
- Defining a communication system and mechanisms;
- Identifying resources that can facilitate communication;
- Provide tools and training for the stakeholders concerned;
- Create an inter-organizational group to organize the award.

Information, research and communication:

- Improving the INRS operating system (Institutional Audit);
- Upgrading equipment;
- Strengthening research and operations budgets;
- Providing INRS with competent and optimal human resources;
- Promoting and strengthening cooperation between INRS;

- Defining an annual grant to support REJOPRA; involve fishing communities; access to government sources and decision-makers.

Capacity building:

- Political commitment *Involvement of stakeholders ;
- Search for financing;
- Study to identify training needs;
- Development of a training program / targets;
- Execution of training sessions.

Implementation support and monitoring

- Find appropriate sources of funding;
- Create motivational incentives;
- Creation of communication and information exchange platforms.

5- The actors to be involved in the process

The actors to be involved in the process of implementing the Guidelines are the same for all working groups.

- **The signatory States** of the Guidelines are addressed as a priority, because they have the sovereign responsibility and power to implement them by integrating all or part of the principles into their national legislation.
- **Development partners** who support States in the implementation of their economic and social development policies, particularly in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, also have an important role to play in providing financial and technical support, particularly for institutional capacity building.
- **International organizations** such as FAO, AU, NEPAD and Sub-regional organizations such as ECOWAS, CEMAC...etc. that have developed policies and strategies for the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector are also called upon to bring them in line with the Guidelines and to support their institutions' Member States in the implementation process;
- **Regional Fisheries Management Organizations** are called upon to harmonize the fisheries policies of States in their respective areas of competence, highlighting the areas covered by the principles of the Guidelines with a view to promoting

cooperation for the sustainable management of resources in general and shared stocks in particular with the aim of promoting their rational exploitation for the purpose of generating shared prosperity by all States and stakeholders in the various related activities;

- **Research institutions** have a key role to play in providing both decision-makers and professionals in the fisheries sector with reliable information on both the state of resources and the socio-economic data necessary and essential for the development of structural policies for the sustainable development of the sector;
- **Civil society organisations** such as **NGOs** and other similar organizations closer to the actors also have a decisive role to play in the fields of awareness-raising, capacity building of grassroots organisations and professionals in various fields (managerial, technical, financial... etc.).

6- Involvement of CAOPA

CAOPA, as a stakeholder and involved actor since the beginning of the process (negotiation, development and adoption) of the Guidelines, has a moral and operational responsibility in the implementation of the Guidelines.

Its action is expected as a priority in **capacity building and dynamics of member organizations** so that they can be equipped with the capacities (organizational, technical, financial), to foster good appropriation by local professionals, to be more responsible in order to enable them to assume and ensure their subsidiarity role for an effective and efficient involvement and participation in the implementation process of the Guidelines each at the level of its country.

In addition, its action is requested in **Advocacy** at the States level of its countries member organizations but also of national, sub-regional, regional, and international organizations and institutions in everything that can promote the effective implementation of the Guidelines.

The development of partnership with all actors, the States of its member organizations which are at the forefront and their activities are consistent with its mission and objectives in general and those relating to the implementation of the Guidelines in particular is also encouraged.

7- Agenda for CAOPA

Traditionally, the Confederation has included flagship events in its agenda on **World Fisheries Day, International Women's Day, World Oceans Day**, during which it organizes workshops and events that highlight the importance of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in contributing to food security, poverty reduction and job creation, but also the major challenges and issues related thereto and propose recommendations to country leaders, sector professionals and other relevant actors to address these issues.

The particularity for the next three years is the consideration of the United Nations Resolution proclaiming 2022 as the "**International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture**".

With regard to the preparations to be made at the African level for the celebration of this International Year in 2022, CAOPA is convinced that professionals, men and women in the artisanal fisheries sector, and other non-state organizations interested in fisheries, have an important role to play, in partnership with our States.

It is committed to promote the transparent, participatory and gender-sensitive development in Africa of **national action plans for sustainable artisanal fisheries, rooted in the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainability of Artisanal Fisheries**.

At the pan-African level, CAOPA is carrying out this commitment within the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa with African Union

Indeed, CAOPA believes that a large part of the guidelines must be put in place at national level in order to improve in a concrete way the living conditions of coastal communities that rely on fishing.

In this case, during this period, CAOPA adopted the objective of developing a "**pan-African agenda for sustainable artisanal fisheries**", which will be promoted at the level of the African Union by the artisanal fisheries actors.

In addition to the events traditionally organized, CAOPA will initiate other events to be held by 2022 to explore **key issues** for the development of sustainable artisanal fisheries, the outcome indicators of which must be managed and monitored at the country level by member

organizations to strengthen CAOPA's advocacy, with a view to the changes needed to give a purpose and importance to Africa at the 2022 celebration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

II. Day of November 20, 2018: Field visit.



The afternoon of November 20th was devoted to a field visit to Gunjur, an important fishing centre located about fifty kilometres from Banjul.

The welcoming ceremony was marked by speeches from the local representative of professional artisanal fishing organisations, the village chief, the representative of Senegalese migrant fishermen, the representative of local women's groups and the CAOPA President.

Visit to women's work sites

At the end of these speeches, the delegation visited the artisanal processing sites occupied by women. The main activity is smoking and the observation that emerges is the inadequacy and precariousness of existing facilities and equipment, particularly in the rest areas, preparation bins and drying racks. The same applies to tools used to prepare fish that do not ensure the safety of women.

Although the State and its partners, FAO, have built improved smoking workshops (sheds with oven batteries) in the locality, these are still insufficient in the opinion of the women, in relation to the number of people and the quantity of products to be treated.

The limiting factors mentioned by women include the load capacity of the ovens and smoking time, which slow down the production rate, as well as insufficient ventilation, which does not allow good air circulation and smoke evacuation, which can lead to lung disease; all of which are limiting factors for which women are urging for improvements to be made.

III. Day of 21 November 2018: Celebration of World Fisheries Da



This day was held in Banjul, the capital of Gambia, with a very strong mobilization of African artisanal fisheries stakeholders who, coming from several countries of the continent, with their technical and financial partners, peacefully beat the tarmac through the streets with the support of the main music group of the National Police (Police Ban), holding signs on which one can see the main issues, challenges and expectations of artisanal fisheries professionals.

The official ceremony and events took place on the Nation Square where those major are being held under the chairmanship of Mr James Formus Gomez, Gambian Minister in charge of Fisheries, Water Resources and Relations with the National Assembly.

During the ceremony, the following personalities delivered speeches.

- The Minister's Chief of Staff

After welcoming the participants, he welcomed the presence of CAOPA member countries, which is a good representation of African artisanal fisheries.

Referring to the work of the two-day (02) workshop held in preparation for the celebration of World Fisheries Day, he welcomed the theme which made it possible to examine all the problems of African artisanal fisheries and propose actions to find appropriate solutions through a pan-African agenda based on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries and the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in African Union.

He also mentioned the United Nations resolution declaring 2022 the as the "**International Year of Artisanal Fishing**" for which CAOPA is considering during this workshop and whose objectives are to identify key events to be held before and during this year to properly commemorate and give greater visibility to African traditional fishing.

- Mr Francisco Mari representative of CAOPA partners

He recalled the context of this year, the celebration of this Day, which is marked by the implementation of the FAO Guidelines, to which all Member States are signatories in several countries, was held, and reiterated their support and assistance to CAOPA for the successful implementation of this action in order to achieve the targeted strategic objectives, including that of food security which is mainly of concern to it.

- **Mr. Sébastien Matthew, representative of ICSF**

He greatly appreciated this celebration of World Fisheries Day in a fishing country by emphasizing all the areas of intervention of the Voluntary Guidelines to Ensure Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries.

This initiative underlines, it is timely and in this regard, thanks the Minister of Fisheries and all the stakeholders in the implementation process that will allow the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and consequently the improvement of the living conditions of artisanal fishing communities.

- **Dr Perpetua Katepa Kalala, FAO Resident Representative**

For her, one of the aims of the workshop organized by CAOPA is to ensure the contribution of artisanal fishing to the food security of the populations. She pointed out that aquaculture, particularly fish farming, which produces an average of eighty thousand (80,000) tons annually worldwide, makes a significant contribution to this field and employs some ninety million (90,000,000) people, more than half of whom are women in fishing communities.

It is in this context that we must understand the importance of the Guidelines, the implementation of which makes it possible to develop these two sub-sectors and to fight against all the factors that do not contribute to their sustainability, such as "illegal, undeclared and unregulated (IUU)" fishing.

Good plans of action and/or cooperation at national and regional levels should also be developed, and FAO is making efforts in this regard.

With regard to the "*International Year of Artisanal Fisheries*", she informed that FAO was working with the governments of the organization's member countries to ensure that the different related events were properly scheduled.

- **Gaoussou Gueye, President of CAOPA**

With reference to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on the Free Movement of Persons and Goods, notes that there are always obstacles at the various borders of the countries that make up the Convention to facilitate trade.

In this regard, he will say that *"food and nutritional safety issues can never be resolved, jobs can never be developed and poverty can never be fought without fishing. Integration is the best way to achieve this, and artisanal fishermen have done it perfectly well"*.

He pointed out that for better management of shared stocks, particularly small pelagic stocks, it is essential *"to involve fishing communities, women and fishermen, who are essential links in the value chain. Also, "To address this issue of food and nutritional security, we will have to face the threat to this fish resource, to suspend the fish meal factory plants, which are having an impact on fishing, especially artisanal fishing, and so our leaders, the decision-makers, will have to work on these issues to move towards the sustainability of the fisheries"*.

Emphasizing the crucial role of women in the fisheries sector, he said that this sector could never develop without their strong involvement in all decisions to be made and to improve their living and working conditions for those who work in the artisanal fisheries sector.

In this context, he referred to *FAO's "Voluntary Guidelines to Ensure the Sustainability of Artisanal Fisheries in a Context of Food Security and Poverty Reduction"*, which is the largest instrument dedicated to artisanal fisheries, adopted by all countries, including for him, is *"undoubtedly a guarantee to ensure the sustainability of the sector and generate a prosperity shared by all"*.

In this regard, he considers that *"the relevance of the principles and articles in this document requires, on behalf of all the concerned actors, particular attention for effective implementation because they are in perfect adequacy and harmony with other international instruments such as the United Nations' sustainable development objectives by 2030, the African Union's Agenda by 2063, and the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in African Union"*.

He highlighted the particularity of the celebration of the day, which coincides with a key period in Africa when the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines began in several CAOPA member countries and that, moreover, the results of the two days of exchange preceding this WFD 2018, with the theme "*Defining a pan-African agenda for sustainable artisanal fisheries*", had been discussed, will enable CAOPA, States and other partners to address the issues and major challenges by strengthening advocacy for change and giving a direction and prominence to Africa in 2022, the year chosen to celebrate *the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture around the world*.

In addition, these findings will help to develop an approach at the pan-African level for the concrete implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to ensure the sustainability of small-scale fisheries through the development of national and even regional development action plans

- **Reading of the "Banjul Declaration"**

Ms Fatoumata DOUCOURE, member of the National Federation of Artisanal Fisheries Organisations of Gambia, read the statement on behalf of the CAOPA member professional organisations submitted to the Minister of Fisheries.

This declaration summarizes the general issues of fisheries and that of artisanal fisheries in particular. In this instance, it refers to the various national and international conventions and other instruments dealing with major issues in the sector, including:

- Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in Africa by African Union;
- FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries;
- Objective 14b of Sustainable Development;

That emphasize and acknowledge equality and non-discrimination between men and women and the importance of their participation in decision-making processes.

In addition, the declaration identified some constraints, issues and challenges that affect the sustainability, the working and living conditions of artisanal fishing communities, on the one hand, and the "**International Year of Artisanal Fisheries**", on the other hand:

- the negative effects and impacts of climate change and other natural and man-made disasters that affect African coasts,
- the development of an increasing number of meal production plants in Africa, using small pelagic resources, mainly sardinella, which are so essential for the food security of African populations and the livelihoods of coastal communities.
- In preparation for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022, develop national and/or regional action plans for sustainable artisanal fisheries.

In relation to this statement, CAOPA through this declaration calls on and urges decision-makers on all sides to take and implement appropriate measures, particularly

- to ensure preferential access rights for artisanal fishermen to fish resources in waters under national jurisdiction, in order to achieve equitable benefits for different population groups, in particular for vulnerable groups;
- to build the capacity of artisanal fishers and fishery workers, to participate effectively in co-management, and in the restoration, conservation and protection of freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems;
- to provide appropriate means for scientific research, in order to assess the state of resources and monitor their exploitation;
- to protect access to resources and markets for artisanal fisheries and fishery workers;
- to support improvements to facilitate women's participation in post-harvest activities by providing them with facilities, such as water, electricity and sanitation, childcare and services are available to ensure that women can maintain and improve their livelihoods in post-capture activities;
- In line with the *"International Year of Artisanal Fisheries"*, develop action plans to set up national platforms bringing together all state structures (such as fisheries, education, health), professional organizations and civil society to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of living aquatic resources in order to improve the living conditions and livelihoods of fishermen and fishery workers.

- His Excellency Mr X Y GOMES Minister for Fisheries

It argues that fisheries resources are important for the development of the fishing community and people and must therefore be preserved.

The fisheries resources that provide us with food and sustain us require good care," he said. He deplored the looting carried out by the locals themselves with the capture of juveniles" and undertook to safeguard these resources which are very important for the development of fishing communities and the entire population".

He called on CAOPA to assume its responsibilities to ensure that the declaration made on the occasion of World Fisheries Day was implemented not only in Gambia but also in all African countries.

With regard to Gambia, he gave the assurance that "*From now on, Gambian men and women will better organize themselves and come to my department to be guided by our strategy and our solid plan for the development of artisanal fisheries*".

The Gambian minister also expressed his commitment to setting up a capacity building programme, not only for the staff of his ministerial department, but also and above all for Gambian women and young people working in the artisanal fisheries sector.

In this way, it intends to train "*large-scale*" economic actors in the field of artisanal fishing in the future. He also stated that his Ministry was committed to working closely with CAOPA and collaborating with all stakeholders in the artisanal fisheries sector to bring about the necessary changes.