



## **STATEMENT BY CAOPA YOUTH CELL**

**SENEGAL/SALY 30 JUNE 2021**

Youth is indispensable in all human institutions and enterprises, as well as in artisanal fisheries.

At the first youth cell meeting of the African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA), which was held in Saly Portudal, Senegal from 28 to 30 June 2021, we, representatives of our different organizations and countries in Africa, discussed the following points

1. CAOPA as an organization;
2. Awareness raising and effective implementation of SSF guidelines in Africa;
3. Organizational development;
4. IYAFA (International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture) 2022.

### **Regarding the existence of CAOPA as an organization;**

1. We find CAOPA's Charter ambitious, practical and relevant to protect the interests of artisanal fishers, support artisanal fisheries and protect Africa's marine resources and ecosystems.
2. We consider the setting up of CAOPA Youth Unit as a challenge to African youth to build our capacity and acquire relevant fisheries knowledge in order to effectively participate in fisheries governance and management at local, regional and international levels.
3. We call on:
  - i. African youth to take up the challenge;

- ii. Respective organizations to duplicate this CAOPA initiative; and
- iii. Respective governments to prioritize youth involvement in fisheries governance and management.

### **Regarding the voluntary guidelines for sustainable small-scale fisheries**

1. We recognize that this is a comprehensive instrument to mobilize resources, skills and competencies to address stakeholder interest in food and nutrition security, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. We declare our ownership of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries and are ready to raise awareness, involve stakeholders and mobilize support for effective implementation in our respective countries.
3. We commit ourselves to promote the implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

### **Regarding organizational development**

1. We are motivated and equipped with relevant knowledge to build functional organizations that support the achievement of CAOPA's objectives.
2. We are committed to converting the knowledge acquired into concrete actions for the development of grassroots organizations.
3. We commit ourselves to strengthening the involvement, training and awareness-raising of our peers.

### **On the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022)**

We share the view that the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022)

The introduction of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022) is recognition of the contribution of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to food and nutrition security, the achievement of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We commit to:

1. Be ambassadors for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022) in our respective countries.
2. Facilitate the setting up of organizing committees in our countries;
3. Carry out actions to celebrate the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022).
4. Set up a CAOPA Youth Committee to coordinate activities related to the celebration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022).

We call:

1. Our governments, the African Union, the FAO, technical and financial partners, civil society, the media and all artisanal fishing communities to invest in and support all actions for the success of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022).

Done at Saly, 30 June 2021

CAOPA Youth Unit (CYU)