

**RECOMMENDATION NO.1/III/12 OF THE 3rd ACP MEETING OF MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR FISHERIES HELD AT NADI, FIJI, ON 18th JUNE 2012**

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ISSUES FOR ACP STATES

In its formal recommendation to the ACP Council of Ministers, The 3rd ACP Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Fisheries,

Meeting in Nadi, Fiji, on 18 June 2012,

- A. RECALLING** the objectives of the Georgetown Agreement and the Cotonou Agreement;
- B. CONSIDERING** the Cotonou Agreement, specifically Articles 23 (as amended in June 2010), 48, 51 and 53 thereof;
- C. RECOGNIZING** the key role that fisheries and aquaculture play in the social and economic development of ACP States, through their positive current and potential contribution to employment creation, revenue generation, and food security, all of which are crucial to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;
- D. REAFFIRMING** the resolutions of the 1st and 2nd Meetings of ACP Ministers Responsible for Fisheries, held in Brussels in 2009 and the Seychelles in 2010 respectively;
- E. NOTING** that many of the key threats to fisheries highlighted at the 1st and 2nd Meetings, such as piracy and IUU fishing remain unresolved;
- F. ACKNOWLEDGING** that good governance is an essential prerequisite for sustainability of fish stocks and the benefits that flow from fisheries;
- G. BEING AWARE** that there is increasing pressure on fish stocks due to a range of factors including increasing populations, market demands, inadequate governance, impacts of climate change, and Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing;
- H. BEING AWARE** that there is an opportunity for adding value focusing on local industry development;

- I. **HIGHLIGHTING** that ACP countries share common interests with respect to fisheries and aquaculture that can benefit from intra-ACP coordination and shared approaches to fisheries and aquaculture development and market access;
- J. **SUPPORTING** the work of ACP regional organizations in advancing the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
- H. **RECOGNIZING** the need for effective partnerships to achieve development objectives for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- L. **SEEKING** to enhance the ACP Fisheries Mechanism so that it works effectively in support of the ACP fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- M. **NOTING** that despite the increasing effort to address IUU fishing, it remains a nuisance undermining good governance and causing considerable losses of socio-economic benefits to ACP countries;

Has agreed as follows:

1. **Adopts** the ACP Fisheries Mechanism Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012 – 2016 as annexed;
2. **Mandates** the Fisheries Mechanism to develop sustainable financing options and mechanisms to implement the plan;
3. **Mandates** the Fisheries Mechanism to identify and facilitate programmes and projects aligned with the priorities and actions identified in the Strategic Plan of Action;
4. **Mandates** the Fisheries Mechanism to develop and implement a Communications Strategy to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of the Mechanism;
5. **Urges** ACP States to implement the Strategic Plan of Action in accordance with their capacity and circumstances;

6. **Welcomes** the EU transition towards Sustainable Fisheries Agreements and the expected benefits of increased transparency, assurance with respect to sustainability, and mutual benefit for the Parties from niche marketing, branding and Eco-labelling;
7. **Welcomes** new opportunities for funding and technical cooperation through international agencies including the World Bank, FAO, UNIDO, the Global Environment Facility and other partners;
8. **Welcomes** the Global Partnership for Oceans to be launched by the World Bank and Partners at Rio + 20 on 21 June 2012;
9. **Invites** the ACP Secretary-General to participate in the Global Partnership for Oceans which is united by the *Declaration for Healthy, and Productive Oceans to Help Reduce Poverty*;
10. **Recognizes** the importance of research, development and SME financing for utilisation of industrial by-catch and processing by-products for food security and economic development of ACP States;
11. **Reiterates** its appeal to the international community to tackle piracy and the root causes of piracy as a matter of priority and provide improved support to ACP States that are affected by piracy;
12. **Further** notes that vulnerable small developing economies continue to carry a disproportionate burden of global and regional conservation and management measures and this continues to impede development and trade in small vulnerable economies due to lack of capacity building;
13. **Urges** ACP States to provide an enabling environment to realize the potential for increased aquaculture production;
14. **Encourages** ACP States to strengthen South-South cooperation partnerships to support fisheries and aquaculture to supplement the work of traditional development partners;
15. **Encourages** ACP States to implement efficient monitoring, control and surveillance systems and facilitate capacity building programmes;

16. **Urges** distant water fishing nations to accept and adopt mechanisms to systematically transfer their regional fishing efforts, including those in regional high seas, to the small regional developing coastal states in order to avoid excess fishing capacity while accommodating the special requirements and development aspirations of small developing coastal states;
17. **Urges** the ACP Mechanism on Fisheries and Aquaculture to consolidate the partnership with existing mechanisms on fisheries and aquaculture, with a view to strengthen the coordination and coherence of the interventions for the sustainable development of fisheries in ACP States.

Done in Nadi, 18 June 2012

Honourable Jeketani Cokanasiga

Minister of Primary Industries and Acting
Minister of Defence, National Security
and Immigration

**Chairman of the 3rd ACP Meeting of
Ministers Responsible for Fisheries**