

**NOTE  
ON THE ADVANCED TRAINING SESSION RELATED TO  
RESCUE OF HUMAN LIVES AT SEA**

**Legal references:**

*"Rescue is an operation designed to rescue people in distress, provide medical or other first aid, and return them to safety.*

*Assistance is provided to anyone in distress at sea regardless of the nationality, status or circumstances of that person".* **Extract from the 1979 International Convention on Rescue at Sea.**

*"States should make arrangements individually, together with other States or with the appropriate international organization to integrate fishing operations into maritime search and rescue systems".* **Article 8.1.6 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries- FAO**

**Context:**

The program for the continuous development of African skills in enhancing maritime safety and the preservation of human life at sea initiated in 2017 by ATLAFCO in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization and the International Maritime Rescue Federation includes a session advanced training in the management and coordination of maritime search and rescue operations for African rescue services.

**Problematic:**

The World Health Organization estimates that annual losses drowning amounted to more than 372,000 people which equivalent to the loss of 40 people every hour.

The fragility, vulnerability and peculiarities of the fisheries sector are responsible for a large number of losses of human life, thus negatively affecting the economies of the countries.

Small-scale fisheries, with its very large fleet of boats, very widespread on the African continent and in particular on the Atlantic side, is experiencing great difficulties and records a large number of losses of fishermen due to the lack of locating equipment and warning transmission in the event of an accident

This situation makes the African Atlantic coast face recurrent maritime safety accidents with disastrous economic and social consequences for the community as a whole and for the fishermen and their families in particular.

The establishment and development of a maritime search and rescue system is essential not only to enable States to comply with international provisions in this area but also as an important tool for the preservation of life at sea, the reduction of losses in the event of an accident and the preservation of the property without forgetting the protection of the marine environment.

In this context and following the recommendations of the first session organized in April 2017, this second session will continue the program of development of African skills in the field of rescue at sea.

**Main Objective:**

Strengthen the capacity of the rescue services of the African region for a better rescue of human lives at sea in African maritime waters.

**Description of the Session:**

This training action consists of providing information on the establishment of rescue services at sea, the development and improvement of the service provided and the techniques and actions to be undertaken for better management of the Maritime Rescue Mission conducted and coordinated by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers.

This session will include the following aspects

- ✓ Understanding the rescue device in its national and international scope;
- ✓ Elements of the rescue device ;
- ✓ Management of the mission in its managerial and operational aspects ;
- ✓ Active coordination of operations ;
- ✓ Developing and improving the rescue service.

A field visit to the MRCC Rabat is planned to give the participants a practical visualization of the mission of its consistency and the functions performed as part of the life-saving mission at sea.

**Date and place of the session:**

- Rabat, October 1, 2 and 3, 2018

**Speaker:**

- Mr. John Carey, Director of Maritime Rescue at the United States Navy

**Participating countries:**

Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Nigeria, Gabon, Benin, Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Seychelles, Uganda and Morocco.