

WORKSHOP ON AFRICAN FISHERIES AND TURKISH APPROACH



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Istanbul University Congress and Culture Center
Grand Hall Beyazıt, Istanbul - Turkey

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Report of the Workshop on the African fisheries and the Turkish Approach



1. The fisheries and aquaculture, vital source of means of existence, nutritious food and economic opportunities, has an essential role to play to meet one of the greatest global challenges: feed a population which is expected to reach 9.6 billion people in 2050.
2. To meet the growing demand of the expanding population, the sector is called upon to increase its production in a sustainable manner in a context of climate change, more competitive around the natural resources and of divergent interests.
3. One of the key elements to reach these goals is to set up a fruitful cooperation between the relevant actors.
4. In this effect and at the initiative of the University of Fisheries of Istanbul and the Government of Turkey, a workshop on **African fisheries and the Turkish Approach** took place on 22 Feb 2017.
5. The meeting gathered representatives of ATLAFCO, Gabon, Senegal, and Guinea from African part and representatives of the Turkish government, scientists, and fisheries relevant private sector.
6. The Member States of ATLAFCO, concerned by the problems of food insecurity, malnutrition and the fight against poverty, are called upon to work to meet these challenges in the respect of international law, where each state enjoys a full sovereignty and permanent basis on the whole of its natural resources and its economic activity, and that it exercises freely this sovereignty, in guaranteeing ensuring at the same time, the right of its citizens to a healthy and balanced diet in relevance with the essential role, that plays the marine resources particularly for coastal communities, in terms of employment, income and nutrition in Africa
7. The executive Secretary of ATLAFCO has made a presentation on the organization and its role in the regional cooperation and stressed that the key success of Turkish business in Africa is to avoid the mistakes committed in the past by some long distance fleets operating in the Atlantic coasts which have the extraction of marine resources as priority objective. They should associate the concerned countries in the whole value chain process.
8. The three African representatives have made national presentations on their fishery sectors showing the opportunities and constraints.
9. For their part, the representatives of Turkish government and scientists made presentations on the Turkish fisheries sector and the opportunities offered in order to investigate the ways to set up an adequate cooperation framework.
10. The representatives of the Turkish private sector gave presentations on their activities related to fisheries industries and aquaculture.
11. Both sides, African and Turkish expressed their willingness to set up a fruitful cooperation based on the principals of win-win and marine resources sustainability.
12. The two parties agreed to deepen discussions on the opportunities of doing business during the upcoming meeting between Turkish and African officials to be held in Antalya on 26-27 April 2017.
13. Gabon and Guinea have been chosen as priority countries to lead this cooperation initiative.

- 14.** ATLAFCO, as intergovernmental organization was considered as the facilitator of this cooperation initiative especially in the issues of scientific research and capacity building through its networks RAFISMER and REFMA.
- 15.** It was agreed that Turkey can joint ATLAFCO as observer in order to have a close and clear vision on the African countries needs related to fishery resources management.
- 16.** Among the recommendations raised during the workshop is that the African countries should make requests on their special needs to ease the Turkish partners to do business in those countries in the proper manner.
- 17.** It was highlighted that there is a need to promote research programs along the African coast to firstly estimate the population of different species in order to target those subject to a potential business.
- 18.** African representatives have shown their readiness to discuss all the opportunities offered by the Turkish part to do business in their countries once these propositions are based on the sustainable use of fisheries resources, transparency and good governance.