

# PROGRESS REPORT UPON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AWFISHNET	African Women Fishery Processors Network
APRIFAAS	<i>Plateforme Africaine des Institutions Régionales de la Pêche, de l'Aquaculture et des Systèmes Aquatiques</i>
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ATLAFCO	Ministerial Conference for Fisheries Cooperation Among the African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean
FCWC	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
SRFC	Sub Regional Fisheries Committee
RCF	Regional Community of Fisheries
CEBEVIRHA	<i>Commission Économique du Bétail, de la Viande, et des Ressources Halieutiques</i>
CFC	Common Funds for Commodities
EPR	European Fish Price Report
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization for the United Nations
FIN	Fish Info Network News
GIHE	<i>Institut des Hautes Études de Glion</i>
INC	INFOPÊCHE Nouvelles Commerciales
ITN	INFOPÊCHE Trade News
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NORAD	Norway Agency of Cooperation for Development
UNIDO	United Nations for Industrial Development Organization
WAEMU	West African Economic Monetary Union
UA-BIRA	Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources of African Union
WAFON	West African Fisheries Organization Network
SIPPO	Swiss Import Promotion Programme

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The mission of the transitional phase is not only to relaunch the operational activities of the Intergovernmental Organization but also to clear the debt estimated at CFA(XOF) 192,163,751 equivalent to US\$384,328 representing 30 months of arrears of salaries due to the staff and social charges. The operational budget committed for a successful transitional phase is estimated at **US\$ 854,328**, with fundings mechanism from the Member States. Under this mechanism, member states have to pay their annual regular contributions during the transitional period, and started to clear part of the arrears in instalments.

During the period under review, **US\$255,635 equivalent to XOF (FCFA) 127,957,500**, representing 30% of the operational budget was generated. This Amount was used to implement operational activities including, co-organizing two capacity – building workshops for the representatives originated from the Member States with a particular training session in Lomé Togo to strengthen Quality Assurance for the officers of the Department of Fisheries. A diagnostic study for the performance of the national Competent Authorities dealing with assurance quality in Fisheries and aquaculture sector was carried out by a consultant.

Due to the low rate of payment of contributions by the Member States and the delay of fundings with the development Technical Partners for several support activities to the Member States, could not be carried out.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report concerns the implementation of the roadmap approved by the extraordinary session of the governing council held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021. This session recommended Côte d'Ivoire to appoint a citizen with the mandate of revitalizing the Intergovernmental Organization.

Specifically, the mandate covers the development and implementation of concrete actions in a short term which aimed at operating deep institutional, organizational and operational aspects of INFOPÊCHE and with the effect participation of all stakeholders.

### **1.1 Reminding the recommendations of the extraordinary session of the Governing Council held on the 04<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

It was specifically recommended to:

- develop, propose and implement political, institutional and governance reforms of the organization;
- develop, propose and implement actions and an internal and external communication strategy to ensure INFOPÊCHE's visibility;
- to upgrade INFOPÊCHE's stationaries and furniture and improve its working environment;
- to secure sustainable financial resources (member states and partners) to clear off social charges and relaunch INFOPÊCHE's regular activities.

**The report of the Extraordinary Session of the Governing Council is attached in Annex 1**

### **1.2 Preparation and structure of the report of the period under review**

This report is consolidated on the basis of the information and data contained in the monthly progress reports and the financial statements prepared by the administrator and his staff. The report is focused on the activities set out in the roadmap.

Further, the report is structured to inform the member countries and the partners on the progress made by the implementation of actions including the operating budget. The progress report is aligned with the activities outlined in the workplan.

## 2. Implementation of the recommendation of the roadmap

### 2.1 Reminder

A task force was set up by the extraordinary Session of the governing council to support the administrator in the implementation of the roadmap. The members of the task force are from Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Angola, Morocco and Sierra Leone.

The task force held an online meeting on the 06<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The following points discussed were as follows:

- Briefing on the hand over
- recall the different activities included of the roadmap
- prioritization of actions regarding the recommendations
- tailored activities to support the Member States' needs

The following miscellaneous items were discussed.

- The staff
- focal points to support the transition
- Meeting to sensitize ministers to the 2022 budget

At the end of the online meeting, it was recommended that the management to develop a sustainable funding mechanism in a view of stabilizing the organization operating activities

### 2.2 Staff

**The total due of INFOPÊCHE is as high as 30 months arrears of salary. Despite the vulnerability created by this debt, the staff still keeps a strong dedication and commitment to the Organization.**

At the entry on duty, the administrator had on his disposal only three (3) staffs, especially an accountant, a translator and a webmaster. These staffs are not in position to carry out the core mandate of INFOPÊCHE which is publication of INFOPÊCHE Trade News and INFOFISH International, European Price Report and The Fish inspector. To lessen this issue, we have retained two staff members who had retired and are now on contract (head of publications and the marketing assistant).

**Table 1: Staff of INFOPÊCHE**

N°	Full name	Duty position
01	Dr SHEP Helguilè	Administrator
02	ARRIKO Calice DIGRE	Translator
03	GNAFE Abdoulaye KONE	Accountant
04	Ibrahim SORO	Webmaster
Retired from INFOPÊCHE But still on duty		
05	Laugodo Woga Jean KABORE	Head of publication
06	Lamine YEO	Assistant Marketing

### 2.3 Office relocation (material and equipment)

#### 2.3.1 Office

Considering the agreement establishing INFOPÊCHE, Côte d'Ivoire graciously offered the Organization, since its establishment in 1995, equipped offices located at the *Cité Administrative* in Tower C were offered to INFOPÊCHE. The office, composes of 8 rooms, is employed for several activities of the Organization



**Table 2: Office of INFOPÊCHE**

N° of rooms	Duty carried out
01	The secretary Room
02	Director Room
03	Edition and publication room
04	Accountant room
05	Marketing Expert room
06	Quality Assurance Expert room
07	Translation room
08	Technical Information Center (Library)

However, in July 2023, we were notified that Tower C had to be renovated and we relocate our office to the NSIA Tower.

**Insert picture of the new office**

### 2.3.2 Materials and equipment's

INFOPÊCHE has two vehicles in good repair. In addition, to create a good working condition for the staff, an effort had made to supply INFOPÊCHE with the following materials and equipment:

**Table 3: Purchase of material and equipment for INFOPÊCHE**

Quantity	Type of equipment
03	Desktops
01	Video projector
01	Projection table
02	Televisions
08	Armchairs

## 2.4 Funding from the Member States contributions, projects and donations

### 2.4.1 Reminder

When the administrator took office the two (2) bank accounts of the Organization **were in red**. The recommendations of the ECOWAS's study adopted by the extraordinary session of the governing council, the roadmap estimated an operating budget of **US\$ 854,327 equivalent to ((XOF) FCFA 427,163,500)** to relaunch the operating activities and to clear the arrears of salaries and social charges of the staff. The mechanism for raising funds from Member States is the regular payment the annual contribution for the transitional phase including the payment of the arrears of contribution by instalment.

On 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023, the Organization received financial contributions from only five (5) countries, as follows: Angola, Ghana, Morocco, Senegal and Togo. Côte d'Ivoire regularly provides support to the Organization in kind and some subsidies.

The total amount of contribution from the five countries including the subsidies of Côte d'Ivoire amounts to **US\$255,635** or **(XOF) FCFA 127,957,500**. We are still expecting that the 13 other member countries will pay not only the regular annual contribution but also, part of their arrears of contributions.

During the period under review, INFOPÊCHE received about 30% of the initial budget planned for the transitional period. These contributions reach INFOPÊCHE late and are not sufficient. As a result, the financial situation of the organization is deeply unsustainable. The overall activities including support to the member countries are seriously affected. Indeed, the remaining staff always suffers from irregularity of salary payment. The funds received permitted to carry out the following activities (table 4):

(refer to Annex 2: INFOPÊCHE's Financial Report).

**Table 4: Expenditure from October 2021 to 31 December 2023**

Items	Amounts in (XOF) FCFA	Amounts in US\$
Operational activities	11 686 585	23 373
Joint capacity-building workshops for INFOPÊCHE representative of the member countries in Abidjan	3 683 770	7 367
Capacity-building workshop for the officers of the Department of Fisheries of Togo	5 060 124	10 120
A diagnostic study for the performance of the national Competent Authorities dealing with assurance quality in Fisheries and aquaculture sector	4 000 000	8 000
Salaries and allowances paid to INFOPÊCHE staff over 27 months (October 2021 to 31 December 2023)	71 544 710	143 089
Former driver arrears of salary	2 222 235	4 444
Ticket and baggage costs for the departure of the former director	1 037 000	2 074
Arrears received by the former director	10 555 020	21 110
Office supplies	3 351 000	6 702
Maintenance and repairs	3 883 364	7 766
Telecommunications (Internet / telephone)	2 035 669	8 287
website operation	2 107 945	4 216
Fuel	3 870 000	7 740
Vehicle insurance	618 032	1 236
Other operating costs	1 462 108	2 924
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127 957 500</b>	<b>255 635</b>

***N.B: 1 US\$ = XOF (FCFA) 500***

It is important to remember that, FAO is the depository of the final act of INFOPÊCHE. INFOPÊCHE is composed of 18 member countries which are committed to contribute to the annual regular budget of the Organization. Unfortunately, the payment of these annual contributions fails to be regular. As a result, the financial situation of INFOPÊCHE affects deeply its operational capacities.

With regard to the political, institutional and governance reforms in the roadmap, a request was sent to the FAO for assistance. We are still waiting for the response of our request. In addition, the terms of reference for the recruitment of consultants were prepared and funding will be sought from other donors to carry out these activities. Furthermore, INFOPÊCHE funded a capacity building workshop for the fishery officers of the Department of Fisheries of Togo.

#### **2.4.2 Cooperation with ATLAFCO (COMHAFAT)**

Collaboration with ATLAFCO led to the joint organization of two workshops in Abidjan on (i) Improving access to regional and international markets for fishery and aquaculture products and a regional seminar on (ii) Improving access to international markets for fishery and aquaculture products: Improving exports to international markets through quality control of fishery products and a good command of certain relevant international instruments. These two workshops were each attended by 47 people from the representatives of 18 Member States of INFOPÊCHE and from other African countries.





WORKSHOP: Towards a better access to the regional and international market of fishery and aquaculture products March 10-11 2022



ATLAFCO/INFOPÊCHE REGIONAL SEMINAR  
2023

“For better market access for fishery and aquaculture products: Improved quality control and control of Relevant International Instruments”  
March 16-17 2023

### 2.4.3 Securing financial resources

INFOPÊCHE had sent seven (7) request letters to technical development partners. Projects prepared are attached in these request letters. The global objective of these projects is to address the main challenges identified in the members countries.

INFOPÊCHE also held four (04) online meetings with technical and financial partners, as follows:

- **The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)**

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global partnership designed to facilitate safe trade by contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. It promotes capacity building in food safety, animal health and plant protection in developing countries. It has a secretariat within the World Trade Organization. INFOPECHE has initiated discussions with the SDTDF secretariat and has just submitted a request to the project development funds to support member states. The request is currently being examined by STDF.

- **The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)**

The Common Fund for Commodities is a financial institution located in the Netherlands. Fish is one of the commodities eligible for funding. INFOPÊCHE had benefited in the past from significant fundings from the CFC for its projects. At the request of INFOPÊCHE's administrator, the organization established contact with the CFC via two emails. During the online meeting the managing director of CFC said he agreed for further discussion related to this cooperation with INFOPÊCHE for new development programs implementation.

- **The FAO Headquarter-Sub-committee on Fish Trade**

The Secretary of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and coordinator of GLOBEFISH, invited INFOPÊCHE to an online meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022. He welcomed this transitional phase and said he was ready to resume cooperation with INFOPÊCHE. Discussions are underway with FAO headquarters to appoint a quality assurance expert to assist INFOPÊCHE with training for trainer programs. INFOPÊCHE will receive extensive documentation on trade. **Training on the requirements of certain key markets will be organized for the member states.**

- **The African Development Bank (AfDB)**

INFOPÊCHE had an online meeting with the AfDB on the 03<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. During this meeting, INFOPÊCHE presented its activities and prospects for support to its member states. The AfDB asked for clarification on INFOPÊCHE's budget and method of financing. The AfDB agreed for collaboration and asked INFOPÊCHE to prepare concept notes in accordance with the guidelines given. Two (2) projects were prepared on blue economy and aquaculture respectively. Documents related to the two projects were elaborated in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Head of the Fisheries Unit.

- **ECOWAS and WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union)**

Specific requests had been sent to these two organizations to seek funding for certain regional activities, in particular, strengthening trade in artisanal fishery products through improved sanitary standards and better price monitoring. Exchange with ECOWAS was satisfactory as the will is to provides direct financial support to INFOPÊCHE is on the way. One of the

reasons, the African Union is committed to have a regional observatory in commodities. The existence of INFOPÊCHE can avoid duplication of activities.

### **3. Communication for visibility**

#### **3.1 Technical Information's Centre (TIC)**

INFOPÊCHE has a Technical Information Centre with over 5000 technical documents in the field of fisheries and aquaculture. The Technical centre receives internships, researchers and various other professionals in quest of information. Over the period 2021-2023, 114 people consulted the centre as part of their research for their master's and doctorate papers.

## 3.2 The publications

### 3.2.1 Newsletters and other information manuals

Within the FISH INFO Network coordinated by GLOBEFISH, each intergovernmental organization organization participates in the publication of trade information on price trends.

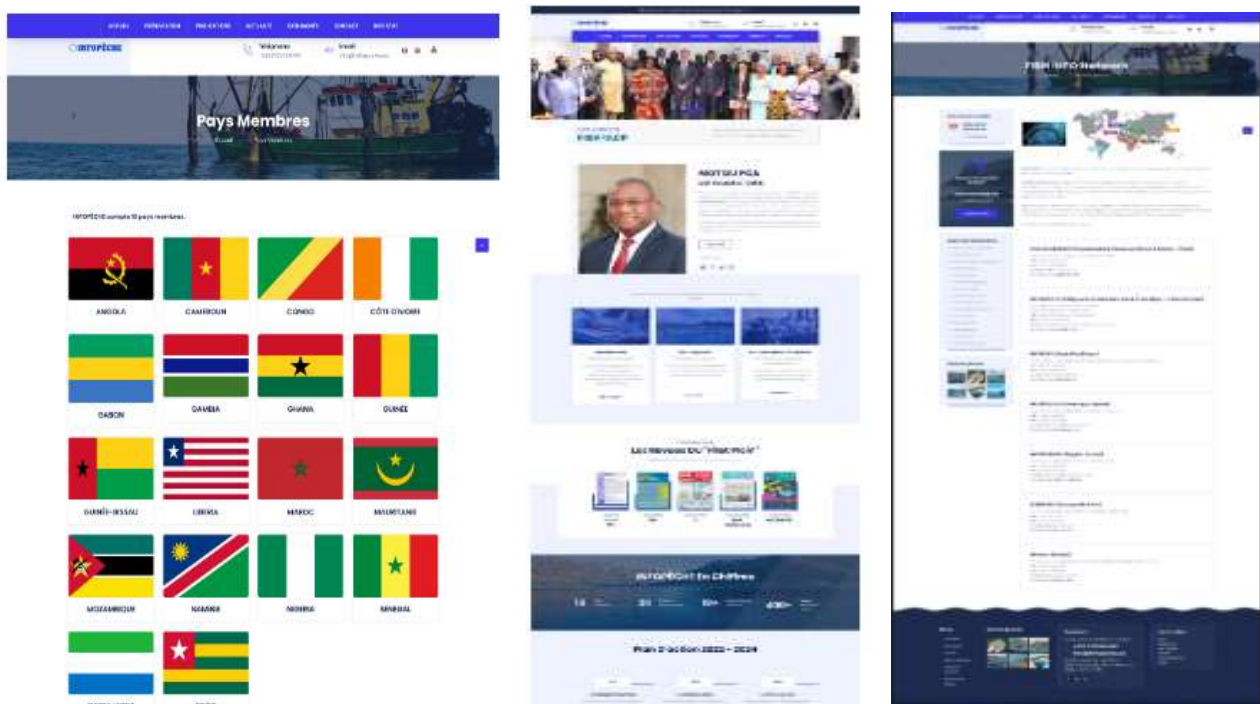
In fact, INFOPÊCHE had edited and published 23 issues « *INFOPÊCHE Nouvelles Commerciales* (INC) both in French and in English. In collaboration with GLOBEFISH and INFOFISH, INFOPÊCHE published 12 issues of **European Price Report (EPR)** and 6 issues of INFOFISH International (II) and 4 issues of **The Fish Inspector**. All these publications are destined for paying subscribers and the Fisheries Ministries of the member countries.



### 3.2.2 Tools and Communication Channels

#### 3.2.2.1 Activation of INFOPÊCHE's web site

The site was reactivated ([www.infopeche.co](http://www.infopeche.co)) and information notes had been sent to all the Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministries of INFOPÊCHE member countries as well as all the members of the FIN network. For the period 2021-2023 we had been able to record an approximate frequency of 40,000 followers. This shows the importance of this New Information and Communication Technologies tools. It enables INFOPÊCHE's quality assurance and marketing experts to provide support and advice to operators in the fisheries sector in member countries.



### 3.2.2.2 Participations in events

INFOPÊCHE prepared flyers which outlined the main activities pursuant to its mandates. During some workshops our meetings at regional and international level, these flyers can be used for the advertisement of INFOPÊCHE.

*(list of the different meetings of which INFOPÊCHE participated in Annex 3)*

### 4. Existing the Memorandum of Understanding signed with other Organizations

From 2022 to 2023, INFOPÊCHE held several work-meetings online and in presentation with ATLAFCO to discuss on the way of cooperation in order to revitalize the agreement between the two parties. This mechanism will continue in 2024 with other organizations.

*(list of existing conventions signed by INFOPÊCHE is in Annex 4)*

### 5. Main activities of communication and visibility

The monthly publications constitute the tools of communication and visibility which are important for INFOPÊCHE. Besides, the organization of workshops or participation in events permits the visibility of INFOPÊCHE.

In addition, the signature of conventions with other Organizations can strengthen the visibility of INFOPÊCHE. Therefore, INFOPÊCHE must update and make operational all the conventions that have already signed.

### 6. Activities not carried out

Some planned activities have not been implemented. There are (i) Workshop to assist the Directorate of Fisheries in Ghana (ii) Follow up of the Directorate of Fisheries of Côte d'Ivoire in implementing its activities related artisanal fishery products trade (iii) pilot project for fishmongers from AWFISHNET regarding the cross-bordering trade flow of artisanal fishery products (iv) Program for fish price follow-up in the main fish markets of the member countries of INFOPÊCHE.

### 7. Conclusion and recommendations

#### 7.1 Conclusions

Despite the strong efforts made by the administrator to sensitize the member States to pay their contributions, only five countries had paid their contributions. Côte d'Ivoire paid its duty in kind but had decided to provide support to INFOPÊCHE with a regular annual subsidy.

Despite the low rate of payment of the regular annual contributions, the Member States continue to trust the pertinence of the Organization. These are materialized through requests for assistance and their participation in all the events held by INFOPÊCHE. Also, they formulate the strong will to clear their arrears of contribution. INFOPÊCHE is an important tool for all the member countries since its establishment. **(Annex 5 list of workshops organized).**

During the period under review, INFOPÊCHE received only 30% of the planned operational budget. This amount is so little that this situation resulted to a negative impact on the overall implementation of activities, particularly the institutional reforms, the clear off the salary arrears and technical and Marketing capacity building sessions.

The request sent to the partners for funding of the regional programs in fisheries and aquaculture development is still being on the way of discussion with the partners.

## 7.2 Recommendations

- ✓ assure the payment of at least part of the arrears of the staff to keep them working the Organization.
- ✓ involve INFOPÊCHE in national events to improve the comprehensive understanding of its core mandate among the Ministries of Livestock and Fishery Resources, Ministries of Trade and Industry and non-state actors in the fishery sector not only in its member countries but also at the worldwide.
- ✓ revitalize the activities that used to be jointly organized by FAO and INFOPÊCHE in the implementation of cooperation agreement signed between the two Institutions
- ✓ facilitate the activities of INFOPÊCHE relating to free trade Area (AFTA), including institutional reforms.

## 8. Outlook

- Develop a dynamic partnership with NEPAD and AU-IBAR, in order to better contribute to AFTA's activities.
- Strengthen collaboration with ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC and ATLAFCO in order to formulate and/or implement programs on the marketing of fishery products.
- Strengthen cooperation with non-state organizations, Professional Organizations in the area of trade facilitation; trade development and capacity building.
- Widen INFOPÊCHE's skills in the field of the Blue Economy.
- Assess the performance of the transitional phase by the member countries of the Task force.

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Report of Extraordinary Session of INFOPÊCHE Governing Council



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#### *Report of the videoconference on*

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR MARKETING INFORMATION AND COOPERATION SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS IN AFRICA (INFOPÊCHE)**

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> extraordinary session of the Governing Council of INFOPÊCHE held by  
Visioconference on 04 February 2021

Page 1



## I. INTRODUCTION

Established in 1991 in Abidjan, INFOPÉCHE is an Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa. It gathers 18 African countries (Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo). The republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the hosting country, chairs the Governing Council.

In recent years, INFOPÉCHE has faced enormous financial difficulties. Regarding the increasingly critical development of the situation, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire as the Chairman of the Governing Council, requested the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to carry out a mission to assess the situation, the nature and the importance of INFOPÉCHE's needs. The study was carried out from, March 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The mission focused on the results and conclusions, recommended that an extraordinary session of INFOPÉCHE Governing Council to be held urgently for analyzing the conclusions and recommendations of the report in order to take suitable measures for its performance.

The extraordinary Session was followed by (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021) two-days meeting of the Directors of Fisheries, INFOPÉCHE's Administrators.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> extraordinary Session of INFOPÉCHE's Governing Council was held on February, 04<sup>th</sup> 2021 by videoconference due to Coronavirus disease.

## II. PARTICIPATION

Had taken part to the meeting the representatives of the following member countries : Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Kingdom of Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

Had also taken part as observers, the following Organizations:

- Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO);
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Chairman of the Governing Council had ensured that the quorum was reached with the participation of 15 States out of 18.

## III. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Moussa DOSSO, Minister of Livestock and Fishery Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Chairman of INFOPÉCHE's Governing Council.



It registered seven speeches.

- Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU, Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, congratulated Côte d'Ivoire for holding the extraordinary session which aims to revitalize INFOPÊCHE, whose relevance is still important, particularly in terms of promoting regional trade of fishery products. He highlighted the difficult financial situation undergone by INFOPÊCHE, due to the failure of payment of the member states contributions and which weakens the institution. He paid a vibrant tribute to the republic of Côte d'Ivoire for its role of regional and continental leadership for all questions relating to fisheries, and thanked the Minister of Livestock and Fishery Resources, for his personal involvement, his advice, his guidance and his availability despite its heavy national responsibilities.

He finally reaffirmed the commitment of ATLAFCO, which is linked to INFOPÊCHE by a Memorandum of Understanding, to support it by carrying out additional or joint programs, for the benefit of the fishery sector.

- Mr. N'diaga Gueye, Senior Officer at FAO, stressed that now more than ever, fish and fishery products are essential in the fight against hunger and poverty. The development of sustainable value chains is essential to improve market access and increase global trade of fish and fishery products. INFOPÊCHE has been an important source of marketing support for fish producers and exporters in Africa, a region that includes some of the world's largest fisheries. Its activities include buyers and seller's match-making, publishing current and long-term business information, and providing technical advice and specialized services.

The FAO, through its Regional Office for Africa, is delighted with the holding of these meetings and expresses the very strong wish that INFOPÊCHE will return completely to the Member States who have formally committed to establishing it. Regular payment of their contribution would encourage other partners to support them. He praised the determination of Member States to carry out the necessary reforms by involving the private sector and drawing lessons from the experiences of other Info networks such as INFOFISH.

- For his part, Dr. Aboubacar SIDIBÉ, conveyed in his speech, warm greetings from Mr. Sékou Sangaré, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment of ECOWAS. He recalled that the coordination of regional agricultural development policies and strategies became a reality in 2005 with the adoption of **ECOWAP/ECOWAS**. This regional agricultural policy aims to make a sustainable contribution to meeting the food needs of the population, to economic and social development and to poverty reduction in the member states.

He then noted that the potential of fisheries and aquaculture is not fully perceptible in the strategies for sustainable development of the agricultural sector. Also, he reported that to remedy this situation, a Detailed Strategic Framework for the Development of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (CSD/DPAD) was recently validated by the Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the ECOWAS's member countries. Finally, he reiterated, on behalf of the Chairman of the ECOWAS Commission, their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the region, and to the technical and financial partners of **ECOWAP/ECOWAS**, for their commitment and multi-dimensional support.

After the interventions of the Development Partners, the Chairman invited his peers to take the floor.

- Mr. Alioune N'DOYE, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of the Republic of Senegal, reaffirmed Senegal's commitment and membership at INFOPÊCHE after recalling the importance of this Organization's mandate for member countries. He then recalled the importance of the fishing sector for Senegal in particular and lamented that the potential of this sector is not fully exploited to ensure greater availability of fish for the populations despite the existence of a regional development policy.

He called for adapting the Organization's mandate to take into account emerging areas such as the blue economy, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), the value chain and labels certifying the products placed in the markets, etc.

He finally invited his colleagues Ministers to validate the experts report and recommended that the administrator of the transitional phase take office as soon as possible.

- Mrs. Esperança Da Costa, Secretary of State for Fisheries of Angola, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Republic of Angola, reaffirmed her country's commitment to the collective vision of revitalizing INFOPÊCHE. She thanked the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for its support to this important organization which contributes to food and nutritional security as well as to the creation of jobs in our countries.
- Mrs. Levina OWUSU, Chief Director of the Minister, had, on behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth Afole QUAYE, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, reaffirmed her country's commitment to the collective vision of revitalizing INFOPÊCHE. She underlined that INFOPÊCHE is a very important tool which had formerly provided technical support related to hygiene, food safety and development of the fisheries sector in the Member States.

She thanked the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the host country, for its support to this organization since its creation and supports the decision to revitalize INFOPÊCHE.

- In his opening speech, Mr. Moussa DOSSO, Minister of Livestock and Fishery Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of INFOPÊCHE's Governing Council, thanked his colleagues for their availability to hold discussion upon the organization which was born from the common will of each of the States in 1991. He then thanked the development partners, in particular the Economic Community of West African States, whose contribution permitted to carry out the INFOPÊCHE diagnostic study and the holding of this extraordinary session of the Governing Council, as well as FAO and ATLAFCO for their constant support.

He recalled the importance of INFOPÊCHE and noted that the positive development of the international political environment and the dynamism of fishing and aquaculture constitute opportunities for the development of the activities of this common institution.

He finally presented the main objective of the session, which is to draw the paths of a new departure in carrying out the necessary reforms to revitalize INFOPÊCHE with a view to making it a real instrument of development and creation of added value for fishery and aquaculture sector.



## **IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND WORK HOLDING**

### **4.1. Adoption of the agenda**

The following agenda was adopted by the session:

1. Opening of the session;
2. Presentation of the administrators report;
3. Examination and adoption of the Administrators ' draft recommendations;
4. Adoption of the summary report;
5. Other matters;
6. Closure of the meeting.

### **4.2. Work progress**

#### **4.2.1. Opening of the session**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Session of INFOPÊCHE's Governing Council was chaired by Mr Moussa DOSSO, Chairman of the Governing Council and Minister of Livestock and Fishery Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

#### **4.2.2. Presentation of the administrators report**

The recommendations of the experts' report were presented and submitted to the Governing Council (the directors' report is appended)

#### **4.2.3. Examination and adoption of the resolutions**

The Governing Council after deliberation adopted the following resolutions:

##### **4.2.3.1. Political Reforms**

The member states, having affirmed their interest in pursuing the mission of INFOPÊCHE, which has a clear comparative advantage in terms of marketing compared to those of other sub-regional, regional and continental fisheries management organizations;

The member states considering the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area as an opportunity to develop the activities of INFOPÊCHE throughout the continent;

The member states reaffirming their political will to continue supporting INFOPÊCHE, undertake to:

- a) revise INFOPÊCHE's mandate in taking into account changes operated in the environment regarding fisheries and aquaculture development, technical and technological innovations;
- b) revise the regulatory texts for adapting them to the current evolution of the political environment of fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- c) develop a five-year strategic development plan for putting INFOPÊCHE into perspective.

##### **4.2.3.2. Institutional Reforms**

The member states, noting that the institutional framework of INFOPÊCHE has become ineffective, undertake to:

- a) propose a new decision-making body at ministerial level and define its operating procedures;
- b) carry out a feasibility study on the opportunity to linking INFOPÊCHE to the African Union as a specialized Technical Institution.

#### 4.2.3.3. Governance Reforms

The member states, having noted significant dysfunctions in the governance mechanism within INFOPÊCHE, undertake to:

- develop a communication plan that strengthens links with the fisheries administrations of member states, professionals of the sector and with other similar organizations; which promotes dynamic consultation and lobbying and the effective operationalization of the Memorandums of Understandings (MoU) concluded.

#### 4.2.3.4. Transitional Phase

The member states having noted the weakness of the adaptation of INFOPÊCHE to the regional and global contexts of deep changes;

The member states having also noted the weakness of the strategic management of INFOPÊCHE which hampered the possibility of developing partners networks, of perceiving the development of the market, of adapting and of bringing the work team with profiles varied to adhere to a common and innovative vision to learn the lessons of the changes and seize the opportunities;

The member states, convinced of the need for a transitional phase to negotiate the full operating capacity so that INFOPÊCHE can recover its performance, undertake to:

- a) open an operational transition for a two-year period and select Côte d'Ivoire as Chairman of the Governing Council and hosting country of INFOPÊCHE to ensure the implementation of this transitional period;
- b) set up a task-force composed of the following countries: Angola, Morocco, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone to support the transitional authority actions;
- c) to support the transition
- d) set up the roadmap below:
  1. propose an optimal structure to modernize the management method in order to achieve the objectives of INFOPÊCHE;
  2. regularize the staff administrative situation;
  3. develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy at the level of member states and development partners;
  4. clear of salaries, salary accessories and social fees;
  5. provide INFOPÊCHE with appropriate equipment and logistics;
  6. examine and implement the resolutions set out in points 4.2.3.1, 4.2.3.2 and 4.2.3.3-7



#### 4.2.3.5. Funding INFOPÊCHE

The member states having claimed that INFOPÊCHE was born of their own agreement;

The member states having expressed their serious concern about the financial health of INFOPÊCHE and having noted that the accumulation of arrears weakens the functioning of the institution, have undertaken to:

- a) regularly pay their contributions to the INFOPÊCHE's budget;
- b) clear of their arrears;
- c) pay their contribution to the regular budget of INFOPÊCHE for the year 2021 and for the following years;
- d) pay their arrears on instalment option.

#### V. OTHER MATTERS

No other matter was registered on the agenda

#### VI. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT

The Ministers in charge of Fisheries of INFOPÊCHE's member states unanimously adopted the report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Governing Council.

#### VII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Mr. El MALAGUI Mohamed, Director of INFOPÊCHE expressed his thanks to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for all the attention he receives when being in this Country. He also addressed a very special mention to Mr. Moussa DOSSO, Minister of Livestock and Fishery Resources, Chairman of INFOPÊCHE's Governing Council and his collaborators for the enormous sacrifices carried out in benefit of the organization.

The Session expressed three motions to ATAFSCO, FAO and ECOWAS to thank them for their commitment to INFOPÊCHE.

Mr. Moussa DOSSO, Minister of Livestock and Fishery Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Chairman of the session was delighted with the effective participation of his peers and for their mobilization to make INFOPÊCHE one of the instruments of cooperation the most efficient and competitive one in the field of processing and marketing fishery and aquaculture products in Africa. He thanked the Ministers for their commitments for supporting the transitional phase and the required reforms to revitalize INFOPÊCHE. He called on the member states of the task- force to give the transitional phase all the support to ensure its success.

Then, he declared close the work of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Session of the INFOPÊCHE'S Governing Council.

  
**The Chairman of the Governing Council**  
  
**Moussa DOSSO**

### **Annexe 3 : Liste des ateliers à l'échelle nationale, régionale auxquels INFOPÊCHE a pris part de 2021 à 2023**

En dépit de la précarité des ressources financières, le Directeur a effectué des missions afin de repositionner la structure qui souffre d'un manque criant de contrat de consultation. Ainsi, au cours de la période 2021-2023, 04 missions ont pu être effectués.

- Atelier : Vers un meilleur accès au marché régional et international des produits de la pêche et de l'aquaculture du 10 au 11 mars 2022 à Abidjan, avec 47 participants venant de 22 pays membres de la COMHAFAT et d'INFOPÊCHE.
- Séminaire sur la promotion d'une aquaculture durable sur le thème 'Quelle aquaculture pour une contribution conforme à l'initiative de la croissance bleue' du 25 au 27 octobre 2021, à Dakhla, Maroc
- Atelier de validation de la méthodologie du système intégrée de collecte et de traitement de données statistiques halieutiques, 11 novembre 2021
- Renforcement des capacités du Togo : Suite à une requête du Ministre de l'Économie Maritime, de la Pêche et de la Protection Côtière de la République togolaise, un atelier de formation des agents de la Direction des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture du Togo en matière de certification des captures est prévu du 5 au 7 juillet 2022 à Lomé a vu la participation de 25 agents de la Direction des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture du Togo.
- Participation à la 5<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée Générale & Réunion biannuelle de l'APRIFAAS, 25 - 28 octobre 2022, Rabat Maroc. Au cours de cette réunion, la demande d'adhésion à APRIFAAS d'INFOPÊCHE a été acceptée.
- Gestion et résilience des pêcheries de petits pélagiques en Afrique de l'Ouest – GREPPAO-PESCAO-UE, 30 novembre 2022.
- Atelier de Grand-Bassam - réforme sur le faux thon....
- Atelier de Grand-Bassam - sur les lois de la pêche.
- Panel : Enjeux de la valorisation des produits de pêche : 1<sup>ère</sup> édition du Sommet de l'Élevage du 08 au 10 décembre 2022, à Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Séance de travail avec la Direction des Pêches, le 6 janvier 2023
- Participation à la consultation technique virtuelle sur la validation de cadre stratégique de l'économie bleue de la CEDEAO, février 2023.
- Séance de travail dans les locaux d'INFOPÊCHE avec le Secrétaire Exécutif de la Commission Régionale des Pêches du Golfe de Guinée (COREP), du 07 au 09 février.
- Séance de travail dans les locaux d'INFOPÊCHE avec une ONG américaine février 2023
- Participation à l'atelier de la célébration de la Journée Internationale des Droits de la Femme organisé par CAOPA "Promotion de l'appui à l'action de la pêche artisanale africaine" du 6 au 7 mars 2023 à Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Séminaire régional : "Pour un meilleur accès aux marchés des produits de la pêche et de l'aquaculture : Amélioration des exportations vers les marchés internationaux à travers les contrôles qualités des produits de la pêche et une bonne maîtrise de certains instruments internationaux pertinents", du 16 au 17 mars 2023, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Séance de travail avec le consultant Henry ZERBO au siège d'INFOPÊCHE, le 20 mars 2023.
- Participation à la réunion virtuelle sur le bilan de la mise en œuvre et les perspectives de la politique agricole de l'UEMOA (PAU), du 18 au 20 septembre 2023.
- Participation à la Sixième Assemblée Générale de la Plateforme Africaine pour les Institutions Régionales de la Pêche, de l'Aquaculture et des Systèmes Aquatiques (APRIFAAS), du 10 au 12 octobre 2023, Tanger, Maroc.
- Atelier Régional "Les Accords d'Accès aux Ressources Halieutiques des États Côtiers Riverains de l'Atlantique, du 25 au 26 octobre 2023, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire".
- Participation en ligne à la réunion annuelle de l'ICCAT, 13 au 20 novembre 2023.

#### Annexe 4 : Existence des MOU avec d'autres organisations

<b>Organisations ou Institutions</b>	<b>Nature de l'Accord</b>	<b>Date de signature</b>
ONUDI	Accord de coopération	24 juin 1996
SIPPO	Protocole d'Entente (MOU)	15 novembre 1999
FAO	Accord de Coopération	29 novembre 1999
COMAHAFAT	Protocole d'Entente	08 juillet 2000
CSRP	Protocole d'Entente	15 novembre 2001
NORAD	Accord de Coopération	16 juin 2003
CFC	Accord de Coopération	16 juin 2003
GIHE	Protocole d'Entente	06 novembre 2005
CEBEVIRHA	Protocole d'Entente	12 avril 2005
CRSP, COREP, CPCO, REPAO COMHAFAT	Mémorandum d'Entente	2015
APRIFAAS	Adhésion	Septembre 2022

## Annexe 5 : Répertoire des projets et ateliers et études d'INFOPÊCHE de 1993 à 2017

### ✓ Cas de projets exécutés

- Projet ONUDI TF/RAF/87/904/11-52/ EO3302-ONUUDI- Décembre 1988- Janvier 1989.  
Rapport publié : *Etude structurelle du secteur industriel de la pêche au Sénégal.*
- Projet Bonga (Valorisation des captures de la pêche artisanale) 1990
- Projet FAO/ GCP/ INT/ 467/ NOR- Augmentation du rôle des produits de la pêche dans l'allègement de la malnutrition- Octobre- Novembre 1993 - Rapport publié : *Une revue de la disponibilité des produits de la pêche pour les communautés les plus démunies de l'Afrique de l'Ouest dans la vallée du Rift.*
- Projet FAO GCP/ CVI/028/NET, Mindelo Cape Vert Mars- Avril 1994  
Rapport publié : *Études socio- Economiques de la pêche artisanale au Cap Vert : Demande de poisson et Opportunités commerciales ; Potentiel d'exportation pour les produits capverdiens de la pêche.*
- CFC, Gambia 1995 (Project Code FSCFT/01 "Development and Promotion of Value-added Fisheries Products in the Gambia")
- Projet CFC/FSCFT22 Diversification et Commercialisation des Produits de la Pêche à Valeur – Ajoutée en Guinée et en Mauritanie en 2005 ;
- PROJET ONUDI/CEBEVIRHA TF/RAF/05/021 : Assistance technique pour une étude de faisabilité d'un centre communautaire d'appui à la filière pêche, 2006 ;
- Rapport d'audit technico sanitaires des ETP au Bénin, Cameroun et Togo ;
- «Boîte à images» pour les acteurs artisanaux du Bénin, Cameroun et Togo au compte du programme SFP ;
- Projet Unité INFOSA 2001 ;
- Projet INFOPÊCHE/CPCO : Projet d'appui à la promotion du commerce et de l'information commerciale des produits de pêche en Afrique de l'Ouest : cas des Etats membres du CPCO, 2017.

### ✓ Cas d'études réalisées

- Bureau Régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique Accra - juillet 1993 - Rapport publié : *Commercialisation du poisson dans la zone Sahélienne.*
- CDI –avril mai 1995 - Rapports publiés : *Evaluation de 19 sociétés du secteur pêche repartie au Ghana et au Sénégal, avec l'objectif favoriser les rapprochements avec les opérateurs européens.*
- CDC septembre 1995 - Rapport publié : *L'Etude l'approvisionnement de GAFCO en thon (Ghana).*
- UNIDO November/December 1995 - Rapport publié : *Situation des pêches des pays sélectionnés de la conférence Ministérielle dans le cadre des objectifs formulés pour le programme régional.*
- FAO/INFOPÊCHE : *Etude sur les marchés et Industries de thon en Afrique, Octobre 2003*
- *Production et commercialisation des produits de la pêche à valeur ajoutée dans les régions du sud et de l'est de l'Afrique, Janvier 2004*
- *Etude de marché sur les potentialités de production de la perche du Nil, à valeur ajoutée, 2005*
- *Etude sur la pêche artisanale en Afrique de l'Ouest : le cas du Sénégal et du Ghana, Novembre 2005*
- *Évaluation des opportunités et des contraintes liées à la construction d'un centre communautaire des pêches en Guinée Equatoriale ; étude de faisabilité de la construction d'un centre communautaire des pêches en Guinée Equatoriale 2006 ;*



## Quelques ateliers de formation et conférences organisés

INFOPÊCHE a organisé, voire coorganisé plusieurs conférences et ateliers pour promouvoir les produits de pêche.

- 1- *Conférence internationale sur la pêche des petits pélagique et du merlu (Abidjan 1991)*
- 2- *Conférence internationale sur la pêche des petits pélagique et du merlu (Cap Town- 1995)*
- 3- *Atelier sur la deuxième croisade entre acheteur et vendeur (Douala – 1996)*
- 4- *Atelier sur la troisième croisade entre acheteur et vendeur (Accra – 1997)*
- 5- *Conférence Internationale sur les pêcheries des petits pélagiques – 1997*
- 6- *Atelier de formation sur le HACCP (Freetown-1997)*
- 7- *Atelier sous régional sur la vérification et l'audit des systèmes HACCP dans les industries de la pêche*
- 8- *Atelier sous régional sur la vérification et l'Audit des systèmes HACCP dans les industries de la pêche (Gabon -1999)*
- 9- *Atelier régional sur les pertes après capture des produits de la pêche et le programme des moyens d'existence des produits de la pêche en Afrique de l'Ouest (Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire- 2000)*
- 10- *Atelier sur l'assurance qualité des produits de la pêche (Dakar, Sénégal-2001)*
- 11- *Forum sur les produits de la pêche à valeur ajoutée (Mauritanie -2002)*
- 12- *Atelier national sur la construction et l'expérimentation des caisses isothermes (Douala – 2002)*
- 13- *Forum CFC sur les produits de la pêche à valeur ajoutée (Nouakchott, Mauritanie) 2003*
- 14- *Atelier sur les Accords de l'OMC et des pêcheries (Accra 2004)*
- 15- *Séminaire sur les technologies d'information pour l'appui de la sécurité et de la qualité des produits de la pêche (Dakar Sénégal 2004)*
- 16- *Atelier sur les accords de l'OMC et les pêcheries au (Cap Vert, Praia 2005)*
- 17- *MSC sur l'étiquetage écologique (Ghana – 2006)*
- 18- *Première Conférence Africaine sur le thon (Abidjan – 2014) en collaboration avec Atuna*
- 19- *Training workshop upon access to European market and safety of processed fishery products (smoked), (2017- Liberia)*
- 20- *Atelier de formation sur la collecte de données commerciales (Accra - 2017)*
- 21- *Atelier de formation sur la collecte de données commerciales (Lomé, 2017)*
- 22- *Atelier de formation sur la collecte de données commerciales (Cotonou - 2017)*
- 23- *Atelier de formation sur la collecte de données commerciales (Abidjan - 2017)*
- 24- *Atelier COMHAFAT/INFOPÊCHE, «Pour un meilleur accès au marché des Produits de la Pêche et l'Aquaculture» à Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (2022).*