

SAMUDRA

for Accra

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



The Accra statement 2023

The four day Africa regional workshop concluded on 18 February 2022, with the adoption of Africa Statement 2023

RECAP

- Photo Sharing
- Towards a gender plan of action
- Social Development



Presentation of the Africa Workshop statement

The adoption of the Africa statement at Accra marked the conclusion of the African regional workshop. The statement, acknowledging the existing and newer challenges grappling the small scale fisheries in the region called upon the African national governments, regional fisheries bodies and FAO to protect the rights of fishers, ensure the sustainability of resources and safeguard the sound implementation of policies. The statement also reaffirmed the need to promote gender justice and social development and protect the traditional rights and knowledge of the small scale fishing communities

“To go fishing is one of the most pleasurable experiences

I can imagine.”

Fennel Hudson



ICE BREAKERS IN GHANA

- How are you- Ete sɛn? (Ete sɛn?)
- I am fine- me ho yɛ? (Meho ye)
- How is the meeting- Nhyiamu no ɛɛk4 sɛn?
- Goodbye- Bye

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Discussions
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Social Development, Employment and Decent work

The session started with presentations by Benjamin Campion and the Mwambao Coastal Community network. Benjamin gave a historical overview on the development of discourses on decent work and detailed the ways in which it is being adopted in the policy spaces and offered a reality check on the adoption of the same. The second presentation focused on the ways to address these challenges. The detailed presentations thereafter guided by questions focusing on various social development

policies and strategies made clear of the availability of various policies at the national level. The major challenges identified by the participants were that of implementation gaps and access gaps that denies them the reach to these. The participants also reinstated the need to have differentiated policies for SSF considering their differential vulnerability.

The Cultural Forum

An original French song written by the participant

*“Ho L’Afrique
Soyons Tous unis
A la protection de nos
Resources Afois
Vive L’Afrique # ensemble*

What the song means:

Unite Africa to protect our natural resources.



Daïta Bassirou, Senegal

“Forward ever, Backward never”



Salem Mohammad Gaffar, Djibouti

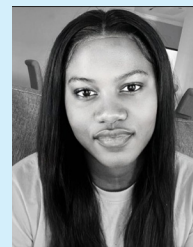
What it means :

I yearn to see the school of fish in the sea
we are the clouds of the sea,
casting our shadows in the waters
and the sand at the beach shares our feeling

*“aheb Albah Albasir
Nah alhawm
Waramail fi se hilak
yesbad fi me nishki”*

An arabic song sung by fisherman during their voyage to the sea. The singing is accompanied with rhythmic drumming.

Opinion



**Sibongiseni
Candy Gwebani
South Africa**

Platforms like this is incredibly good in building collective

understanding, collective experiences and collective solutions. The component of gender discussions were very interesting, but I believe that spaces for women shouldn't be just limited to discussions on gender, we should be prioritized in all discussions since they are an integral part of all steps in SSF. I am going to take a lot of these learnings to our workplans in South Africa on a national level. I think the language in the statement had to be more strong and straight forward, so that it will offer a firm approach towards gender transformations.



**Sid'Ahmed
Abeid,
Mauritania**

The workshop gave opportunities for great exchanges. The statement was the best part of the workshop for me. It had components of all the discussions we have discussed, it was augmented further with the discussions the participants had on the draft. I see it as a tool that can be taken to the governments for concrete actions. Transportation of fish across countries in Africa, sanitation issues, intrusion of trawlers, lack of financial resources and gender challenges are the major issues in my region. I think the statement is touching upon all of these issues, I am going to take it to the associations and ministry for action.

Voices of Women



Rose Adjoavi Togbenou, Togo

It was an interesting experience to be a part of this workshop, to have an opportunity to come together and discuss our common challenges. I think the major challenge for women in SSF is the depletion of resources that are pushing them out of SSF and forcing them to take up alternate income generation activities whereas SSF is where they are born to. We are also not sure how to deal with these issues in a contextual level, we are also planning to have a closed season like that of Ghana, so that it will replenish our resources. The statement also looks interesting to me, however it would have been better if it were little shorter and in a simpler language. When I go back home, I have to take this to our people, our associations and the ministry; I am little concerned about of the language in this regard and I would

also like us to have concrete actions defined in the statement. My message to women is to **be courageous and preseverent, because we are in difficult times.**

THE SSF WATCH

Gambia: The SSF account for about 75% of the country's total fish production and employ over 200,000 people, including fishers, processors, and traders. The country also has "Traditional management systems", in many parts of The Gambia, small-scale fisheries are managed using traditional systems that are based on community participation and cooperation

Kenya: According to the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, small-scale fisheries account for over 80% of Kenya's total fish production and employ over 100,000 people. Despite their importance, small-scale fishers face various challenges face economic challenges, with limited access to markets, inadequate infrastructure, and low prices for their catch

Senegal: The SSF sector employs over 100,000 people in the country, The sector contributes approximately 34% of the country's total marine fish production. One of the most notable aspects of the sector is its history and the role it has played in the country's struggle against apartheid

Seychelles: The sector provides employment and income for more than 1 million people, In 2018, it produced a total of 1,272,232 metric tons of fish, which accounted for approximately 80% of the total fish production in the country and contributes significantly to the country's food security.



A glimpse from the Photo sharing session detailing role of women in the SSF

OU SONT NOS DES POISSONS !



The most important thing we need to do is to support the least

privileged. I think the discussions here were very supportive in this regard. Especially, in the case of women, their needs to be prioritised.

While talking about Senegal, we have many policies and legislations, the recent one Local Small-scale fishing Councils (CLPA) is very idealistic but when it comes to implementation part, there is a huge gap. We have around 81 CLPAs in Senegal, but communities still doesn't have any decision making power. Our sea safety issues are gruesome, we have many casualties at sea, there are projects on geolocation of SSF fishing boats, but we don't see that in action. Many fishers go missing too for weeks but we are unable to track them down. Many of the SSF boats are not registered and licenced from 2018, because of which we are not considered legal.

WOMEN IN SMALL SCALE FISHERIES

The women's exchanges discussed the role, challenges and opportunities for women in the African region. The panel discussions brought fresh perspectives on women in SSF. Female representatives talked about the impact of blue economy, pollution, and digital exclusion on the livelihood of female fishworkers and demanded specific measures addressing the needs of women in SSF.



A panel of women discussing the major challenges and opportunities for women in SSF in the African region.

Workshop webpage!

Please checkout the ICSF Africa Workshop page here for regular updates:

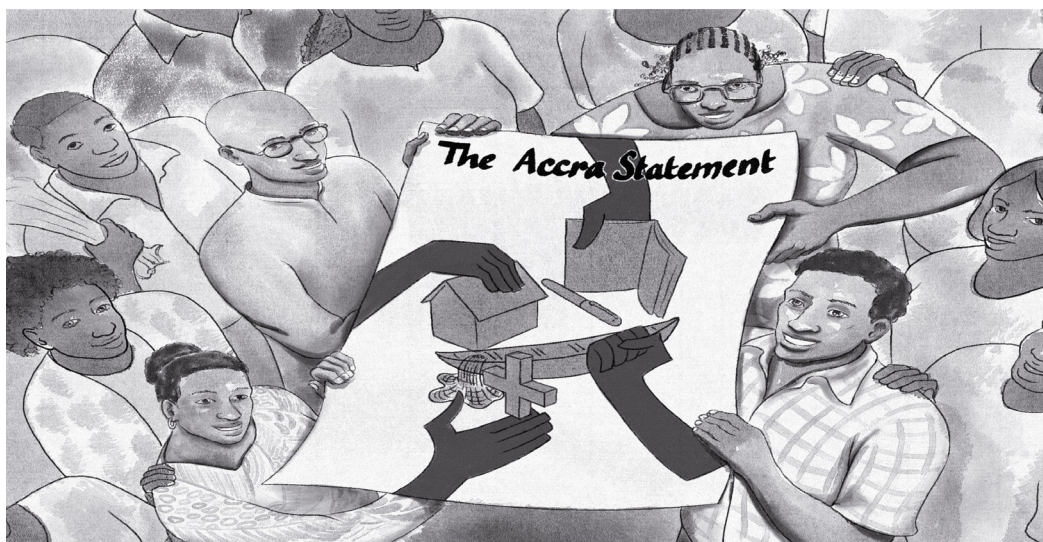
<https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

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WHAT IS FOR TODAY

- Social Development -Group presentation
- Group discussions
- Workshop statement adoption



CLOSING REMARKS



The IYAFA workshop (2023) has been a valuable experience, as expressed by the different participants in attendance. This workshop has offered an important moment of reflection of SSF in the continent. We took stock of the challenges but also used the moment to collectively strategize around national and regional solutions (Sibongiseni Gwebani, South Africa). It has been a platform for sharing ideas, networking and learning from each other better ways for sustainable resource management, including collaborative governance between

(Bassirou Diatta, Senegal); We have also shared how women's agency and mobilization have made a difference to women participation in the fisheries and SSF economies and homes, strategies which were worth emulating (Hadija Malibiche, Tanzania). Workshops such as these will remain immensely important as the continent shapes itself to be an important player and agent in the SSF global platform. Thank you for your active participation and valuable contributions and it is our expectation that the learnings from this workshop will be relevant and applicable to you in your national contexts. Let the spirit of sharing continue....

THANK YOU NOTE



The Interpretation team.



The Photography team



Audio and Videography team



The Kitchen Team