

Organisation of African,  
Caribbean and Pacific States  
(OACPS)



Organisation des États  
d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et  
du Pacifique (OEACP)

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**7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF OACPS MINISTERS  
IN CHARGE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

**Accra, Ghana, 8 April 2022**

**DECLARATION**

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**DECLARATION**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture from the Member States of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), meeting in Accra, Ghana, from 7 – 8 April 2022.

**Mindful** of the immense importance of fisheries and aquaculture to our sustainable development, trade, livelihoods, and well-being of our people and emphasising the underpinning importance of securing fisheries, aquaculture, and sustainable blue economy for our present and future generations.

**Reaffirming** our commitment to support the attainment of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

**Reiterating** the importance of Resolutions Nos. 1/CXII/21 on Climate Action in preparation for COP 26, 2/CXII/21 on Biodiversity in preparation for COP15 and 3/CXII/21 on the COVID-19 Pandemic, adopted by 112th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers held in July 2021, in addressing current global crises and implementing recovery strategies to build sustainable and resilient societies.

**Stressing grave concerns** about the threat and devastating consequences of Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing on aquatic ecosystems, marine and inland fisheries, food security and the sustainable development of dependent communities and countries.

**Acknowledging** that transparency is a critical underpinning principle of good fisheries governance as enshrined in international legal and normative frameworks and regional fisheries policies, and management and conservation measures.

**Recognising** the importance of small-scale fisheries in providing employment, livelihoods, and food security and nutrition, for the health and well-being of OACPS populations, and its potential to significantly contribute to poverty alleviation.

**Concerned** that a large number of small-scale fisheries in the OACPS are in a precarious state, and dependent communities remain impoverished, vulnerable, and often work under very unfavourable conditions.

**Concerned** about the impacts of climate change on marine and inland waters and fisheries resources, such as ocean warming, acidification, sea-level rise, and its severe threats to food security, livelihoods, health, and well-being.

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**Reaffirming** our commitment to multilateralism, which is indispensable to establishing common approaches to all aspects of global governance, including in the ongoing multilateral negotiations that have implications on the sustainable management, use and conservation of oceans and fisheries resources.

**Committed** to unity and solidarity and bringing the influence of 79 members of the OACPS speaking with one voice in shaping the outcomes of the negotiations to advance our collective interests for good ocean governance and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management and conservation.

**Committed** to taking actions to enhance greater ownership, improved sustainability, and growth for fisheries and aquaculture that enhance environmental, ecological, social, and economic conditions of our countries, communities, and citizens.

**HEREBY DECLARE,**

#### **ON IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES GOVERNANCE THROUGH TRANSPARENCY**

**Recognise** the importance of transparency in fisheries governance and sustainable fisheries management as a concrete benefit and contribution to building resilience and sustainability at local, national, and regional levels.

**Acknowledge** increased transparency in sustainable fisheries management as an important contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, including SDG 14, SDG 16.6, and SDG 16.10, through collective partnerships under SDG 17.16.

**Recognise** the participation and consultation of stakeholders in policy-making as an important contribution to increasing transparency in fisheries governance.

**Recognise** Seychelles and Mauritania for their exemplary leadership in increasing transparency to improve governance and sustainable management of fisheries, and **acknowledge** Senegal, Cabo Verde, Madagascar and São Tomé and Príncipe for the public commitment to enhancing transparency in fisheries management.

**Call for** enhancing transparency in fisheries management as well as in all blue economy related activities as a crucial part of strengthening fisheries governance and securing long-term benefits, drawing from the lessons learned and successful experiences of member states through voluntary initiatives.

**Call on** development partners to support national and local actions to strengthen and facilitate enhanced transparency in fisheries governance through investments leading to tangible successful outcomes.

#### **ON COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING**

**Note** and commend the efforts already made by the Member States and Regions of the OACPS in the fight against IUU fishing and encourage experience sharing and increased coordination and collaboration.

**Recognise** the connection between IUU fishing and transnational organised criminal activities such as drug, human and small arms trafficking, illicit oil bunkering, trade-in contraband goods, document fraud, money laundering, which use fishing as a cover and **commit** to strongly engage at regional and multilateral levels to address criminal activities



**Reaffirm** our commitment to end IUU fishing as enshrined in SDG 14 Target 14.6 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Call for** reinforced dialogue with the European Union and other relevant entities concerning IUU fishing, especially regarding the catch certificate and the pre-identification process.

**Welcome** the ongoing global, regional, and national initiatives to implement measures to effectively combat IUU fishing and encourage Member States and regions of the OACPS to enhance cooperation and coordination as articulated in the draft *OACPS Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2030*.

**Commit** to ensuring robust and transparent national legal frameworks are aligned with international and regional requirements and establish and enforce a system of deterrent sanctions for IUU fishing offenses.

**Commit** to accede to and implement the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

**Agree** to support effective harmonised regional frameworks and approaches, share best practices, and build synergies to combat IUU fishing, including by establishing Regional Vessels Register, Regional Vessel Monitoring Control Surveillance Centre, Regional Observer Programmes, Regional Surveillance Programmes, Regional Catch Documentation Schemes, and Regional Ports State Measures Frameworks.

**Commit** to taking measures either as flag states or coastal states to update and implement national legislation requiring reporting of ultimate beneficial owners of fishing vessels and companies whenever flagging or granting authorisation to fish and maintain a register of beneficial owners of fishing vessels at the national level and to reinforce the pursuing and sanctioning for non-disclosure of beneficial owners.

**Call for** strengthening monitoring, control, and surveillance measures and development and implementation of deterrent sanctions to combat IUU fishing, including effective inter-agency cooperation.

**Strongly Urge** development partners to support the monitoring, control, and surveillance and provide legal and technical, technological, and capacity-building support to effectively combat IUU fishing and related organized criminal activities along the value chain.

#### **ON SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE"**

**Reaffirm** our commitment to achieve SDG 14.b to "provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets" and to encourage the implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Sustainable Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

**Welcome** 2022 as the United Nations "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" (IYAFA 2022) and **agree** to use it as an opportunity to raise ambition for accelerated action on small-scale fisheries and catalyse commitments to shape and harmonise appropriate policies, plans, and actions to create a better future for artisanal fisheries and aquaculture at community, national, regional, and intra-regional levels of the OACPS.



**Agree** to prioritise creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment to support small-scale fisheries and their specificities at national and regional levels and provide increased opportunities for Intra-OACPS sharing of experiences, expertise, and common positions, including at international, regional, and national levels.

**Agree** to improve the sustainable management of the small-scale fisheries sector through enhancing the participation of fisherfolk and local communities in its governance, developing transformational leadership and stewardship skills, maintaining healthy fish stocks, securing employment and livelihoods, ensuring the conservation of tropical coastal ecosystems and improving research and participatory data collection and sharing.

**Recognise** the important and critical role women play throughout the small-scale fisheries value chain and **commit** to removing barriers to engagement and involvement by providing opportunities to improve their working conditions and participation in production.

**Recognise** the need for modernisation of the small-scale fisheries sector in the OACPS in order to improve working conditions and local ownership of the fishing fleet.

**Commit** to developing and accelerating the implementation of participatory and gender-balanced national "Small Scale Fisheries strategic plans of action", to ensure support for small-scale fisheries communities and co-management of the fisheries resources; guided by national and regional policies, plans and roadmaps, and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

**Commit** to promoting the precautionary approach for the development of the blue economy so that the artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are not undermined, threatened, or compromised.

**Urge** development partners to work with governments to provide adequate funding and staffing for the institutions responsible for supporting small-scale fisheries, including governments and local fisher representatives.

**Urge** development partners to support OACPS' ambitious actions to strengthen small-scale fisheries' including building resilience to risks and shocks by increasing their preparedness and adaptive capacities in the face of environmental degradation, disasters from natural hazard risks, and climate change. **Agree** to mainstream small-scale fisheries concerns in UNFCCC Loss and Damage discussions.

**Encourage** innovation to improve the safety and efficacy of small-scale fishing operations by increasing access to digital services and information and communication technologies (ICTs) to increase small-scale and artisanal fishers' access to early warning and weather forecasts, microfinance, risk insurance, financial literacy, and modern technologies marketing tools.

#### **ON SCALING-UP SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN TO TRANSFORM FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Reiterate** the multi-dimensional scope and nature of sustainability and emphasise the importance of developing integrated approaches to the development of fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

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**Recognise** the FISH4ACP programme as an important initiative to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture value chains in 12 Member States of the OACPS and express the need for scaling up, in cooperation with OACPS RECs, and providing timely sharing of experiences and lessons learned with other Member States of the OACPS.

**Emphasise** the need to include aquatic/blue foods in national and regional food security and nutrition policies, strategies, and programmes.

**Commit** to taking appropriate actions to facilitate access to business support and financing for all value chain operators, with a focus on improving financial inclusion for small-scale actors. In that perspective, **encourage** the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Sustainable Fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication as critical for value chain development.

**Recognise** the importance of the aquaculture sector as a provider of aquatic food to reduce dependence on imports and ensure food security and **call for** sustainable development and financing of the aquaculture sector, including aquatic health policies and biosafety systems for aquaculture disease prevention, control, and management.

**Encourage** the inclusion of gender and youth in fisheries and aquaculture value chains upgrading strategies, including collecting socio-economic data on gender and vulnerable groups.

**Commit** to strengthen institutional structures and interagency collaboration to support value chain development and strengthen the capacity to capitalise on opportunities within the value chain.

**Encourage** the inclusion of all value chain actors in the development of policies and regulatory frameworks.

**Call on partners** to support actions to strengthen financial planning and mobilisation amongst all value chain actors to increase resilience and build generational wealth.

**Promote** the use of improved and innovative technologies, including energy-saving and clean technologies along fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

**Commit** to strengthening resilience by increasing preparedness for, mitigating the effects of, and assisting in the rehabilitation of aquatic/blue food value chains following disasters, crises, and emergencies.

**Invite** development partners to support actions to strengthen national and local quality and safety assurance systems for fish and fishery products and harmonise regional fish safety regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade and market access.

**Acknowledge** that careful investments in fish and seafood value chain development in the small-scale fisheries can lead to improved competitiveness and profitability, generate tangible economic benefits and contribute to poverty reduction and wealth creation in fishing communities of OACPS countries.

**Support** South-South cooperation among and between member states of the OACPS to facilitate knowledge sharing, study tours, technology transfer, and strengthened fisheries and aquaculture value chain development.

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## ON THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FISHERIES

**Recall and reaffirm** the Samoa Declaration of the 6th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture, made in Apia, Samoa, in September 2019.

**Express concern** about the impacts of climate change on marine and inland waters and **call** for improving data collection, modelling and forecasting on the impacts of climate change on marine and inland waters to inform adaptation policy-making.

**Express concern** about the findings of the IPCC's Special Report on "The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate" (SROCC), which unequivocally confirms the negative impacts of climate change on the Ocean and aquatic ecosystems, the livelihoods, and the well-being of dependent communities.

**Call** on the OACPS Member States to take measures to mitigate climate change and adapt to its consequences on marine and inland waters **and call** for actions to be undertaken in the framework of the OACPS Strategic Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture as a way to create cooperation and synergies.

**Advocate** for enhanced access to concessional finance for all Member States of the OACPS due to disproportionate vulnerabilities and susceptibility to climate change and disaster risks and impacts.

**Support** the advice and recommendation of the IPCC SROCC that by *strongly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting and restoring ecosystems, and carefully managing the use of natural resources it would be possible to preserve the Ocean and Cryosphere as a source of opportunities that support adaptation to future changes, limit risks to lives and livelihoods, and offer multiple additional societal benefits.*

**Commit** to OACPS advocacy and engagement in ocean governance, climate, and biodiversity-related multilateral processes, ensuring people-centred outcomes.

## ON OCEANS, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND BLUE ECONOMY: STRENGTHENING OCEAN-BASED ACTIONS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Acknowledge** the critical role played by the Ocean as a key life-support system for Planet Earth, including regulating the global climate and playing a critical role in the global carbon cycle, and providing ecosystem services for economies, livelihoods, and well-being.

**Express grave concern** about the increasing exogenous pressures placed on the ocean, marine, coastal and inland resources as a result of overfishing, pollution, biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, and climate change, which are foreseen to increase as the Ocean becomes the new frontier for economic development and growth.

**Emphasise** sustainable management, use and conservation of the Ocean, seas and marine resources is about environmental stewardship and sustainable economic development that is people-centred and inclusive, in order to build resilience, eradicate poverty and hunger and fight climate change, and sustainable livelihoods and economies.

**Promote** the strengthening of synergies between the ocean-climate-biodiversity agendas, processes, and policies.

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**Foster** greater collaboration to integrate cross-border and cross-sectoral policies to safeguard the underlying ecosystems they share, including coordinated actions by government agencies.

**Recommend** developing and implementing sustainable blue economy policies and strategies as holistic frameworks for the long-term health and resilience of the Ocean, while attracting investments and stimulating sustainable economic growth for coastal communities and national economies.

**Commit** to integrated, holistic, and climate-smart solutions for sustainably managing, using and conserving the ocean and marine resources to build resilience and address societal needs and challenges.

**Express concern** about the large influx of *sargassum* and *typha* weeds affecting national and regional economies of the Caribbean and the West African States, respectively, resulting in loss of livelihoods and economic opportunities, as well as threatening the health of critical ecosystems; and **acknowledge** the need to support research, improve the management and use of Sargassum in their waters including to develop innovations to utilize the weed such as for fertilizers, packaging materials, cosmetics and medical applications

**Noting** that marine and coastal ecosystems not only sequester and store enormous amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, but also safeguard coastlines and communities from the effects of climate change. In that perspective, **recognise** that blue carbon habitats can be critical for helping achieve net-zero carbon emission targets.

#### ON OCEANS & FISHERIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: PRESERVING MARITIME ZONES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED SEA-LEVEL RISE

**Acknowledge** that climate change-related sea-level rise is a real and pressing issue, and its consequential effects on maritime baselines and maritime zones could have catastrophic consequences for coastal States of the OACPS, including on their blue economy including their fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and ports and coastal infrastructure and assets.

**Reiterate** the decisions of OACPS Heads of State and Government in the *Nguvu Ya Pamoja* Declaration, in particular paragraph 24, and the subsequent OACPS Council of Ministers Resolution 1/CXII/21 on Climate Action for COP26.

**Mobilise** additional financial and technical support for innovative interdisciplinary adaptation strategies to address the multiple and complex issues arising from climate change-related sea-level rise and consequent shifting of maritime zones.

**Support** the 2021 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise.

**Agree** to collaborate with Members of the PIF, AOSIS, and the Climate Vulnerable Forum to advocate at all platforms and forums to achieve a global solution to addressing the issue of sea-level rise that will impact the lives, health, and well-being, livelihoods, ecosystems including fisheries resources and economies of OACPS.

**Encourage** all coastal States of the OACPS who have yet to deposit with the United Nations their base-point geographical coordinates as well as charts and information delineating their maritime zones as a requisite to establishing and securing their rights and responsibilities over their maritime zones to do so.



**Mandate** the OACPS Secretariat to provide an advisory opinion that would identify the issues, implications, and state-of-play on the options available to member states to preserve the maritime space and prevent the loss of fishing opportunities as a consequence of sea-level-rise and migrating baselines.

#### **ON OCEANS & FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY: POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AT CBD COP15 AND CITES COP 19**

**Acknowledge** fisheries and aquaculture and the sustainable use and conservation of the Ocean, seas, lakes and rivers and resources therein play a large and important role in sustaining OACPS people's livelihoods, health and well-being, and provide the basis for sustainable economies and trade.

**Reiterate** support of the 112th Session of OACPS Council of Ministers Resolution 2/CXII/21 on Biodiversity.

**Welcome** global efforts to develop and implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that will need to be ambitious and transformative to reverse biodiversity loss, transform society's relationship with biodiversity, and contribute to the shared vision of "living in harmony with nature" by 2050.

**Recall** the recent outcomes from multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that have a bearing on management and conservation of commercially exploited aquatic species.

**Further recall** that the focus of the two Conventions draft area-based targets for protected areas (CBD's post-2020 GBF) and conservation of individual species (CITES' Annex II) present very different challenges for the OACPS.

**Invite** Member States to promote alternative approaches that have been proposed by governments, regional organisations, and researchers from the OACPS, which are more appropriate, including support for a 100% management approach and recognition and use of traditional knowledge to address the underlying drivers of resource degradation and biodiversity loss.

**Recognise and promote** the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach and precautionary principle to fisheries to ensure the balance of sustainable management, use, and conservation of the fisheries resources for a sustained flow of benefits.

**Support** the explicit reference and recognition of the role of small-scale fishers and coastal communities, secure their rights and tenure, and prioritise locally-led governance and management systems in the upcoming Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.

**Call for** CITES listing and delisting to be based on the best available science, including traditional knowledge through an inclusive consultative dialogue between national environment and fisheries management sectors of Member States of the OACPS, including the dependent communities and fisheries management organisations.

**Invite** partners to provide adequate financial and capacity means to support national and local resource management institutions and actors' efforts to ensure that all fish and invertebrate species and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably to achieve Goal 14 of the

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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including using as appropriate other effective area-based management and conservation measures and ecosystem management tools.

#### ON THE SECOND UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

**Recommend** the implementation of the OACPS Strategic Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture be submitted as a concrete voluntary commitment to support the implementation of SDG 14 at local, national, regional and intra-regional levels.

**Commend** using the outcome Declaration of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of OACPS Ministers in Charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture as OACPS' key advocacy and engagement tool on the issues relevant to the 2nd UN Ocean Conference and other UN meetings and **reaffirm** OACPS unity and solidarity and speaking with one voice in the 2nd United Nations Ocean Conference.

#### ON THE WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

**Reaffirm** SDG 14 Target 14.6 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and **note** the sense of urgency to reach a balanced outcome in the WTO context to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognising that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation.

**Reiterate** that the entities to determine whether IUU fishing has occurred and whether a fish stock is in an overfished condition must be left to the relevant coastal State in areas under their jurisdiction and relevant RFMO/As in areas of their competence.

**Acknowledge** that while important for good governance and management, regional obligations on transparency should not be subject to WTO dispute settlement and **reaffirms** that fisheries management is not within the competency of WTO.

**Support** the following cleared positions of OACPS' Geneva-based negotiators on the WTO fisheries subsidies:

- Appropriate reflection of Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) provisions, allowing for necessary policy space and food security, adequate transition periods as well as technical assistance and capacity building for implementing obligations.
- Maintain support to ensure that the WTO agreement does not intrude on domestic fisheries management and enforcement, recalling that the mandate for the WTO is about the subsidy contribution to overcapacity/overfishing and IUU fishing.
- Ensure exclusion from the scope of the WTO agreement of inland waters, aquaculture, aquatic plants, and government-to-government access agreements, including determination of licensing fees, and subsidies to natural and manmade disasters.
- Ensure the exclusion of artisanal fisheries in the scope of the subsidies leading to overfishing and overcapacity.
- Maintain position on waters that are under dispute or are being contested.
- An adequate small player de minimis threshold exemption for OACPS Members, exclusive economic zone transition period; and exemption for artisanal and small-scale fishery for food security reasons.
- Primacy of coastal State determinations in IUU determination and stock assessments within its jurisdiction.

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- Access to technical assistance and capacity building should not be conditioned on arbitrary criteria such as per capita income and should not be conditioned on whether or not the beneficiary country benefits from SDT, for specific provisions.
- Transparency requirements should not be onerous, nor should the invocation of SDT be conditioned on fulfillment of transparency obligations

**Agree** that the subsidies mentioned in Articles 3, 4 and 5 of the Draft text should apply to countries that heavily subsidize their fishing vessels and operators while allowing for sufficient policy space for developing countries to develop and utilise their fisheries resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.

**Support** the need to further modify and balance the draft text to remove existing loopholes that could defeat the objective of the Agreement, such as Article 5.1.1, that may lead to a maintenance of the status quo and allow some large subsidisers to continue subsidising their fishing vessels and operators.

**Agree** that the special and differential treatment provisions of the Agreement:

- Should allow for and foster the responsible and sustainable development of the fisheries sectors in developing and least developed countries;
- Should benefit artisanal and small-scale fishers, who should therefore be exempted from the scope of the Agreement for their operation within the exclusive economic zone; and,
- The exemption should neither be restricted to the proposed 12 nautical miles limit nor a transitional period.

#### ON THE OACPS STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE 2030

**Recall** the mandate of the 6th Meeting of ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture to develop a new *Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2030*.

**Further Recall** the 110th Session of ACP Council of Ministers Decision 10/CX/19 instructing the Committee of Ambassadors to take appropriate actions to revise the ACP Strategic Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012-2020, and to *inter alia* align it with priorities identified in the outcome Declaration adopted by the Ministers during their 6th Meeting and to further place high importance on funding the identified strategic priorities.

**Acknowledge** that as Members and Regions of the OACPS enter the Decade of Action to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), significant challenges affecting the fisheries and aquaculture sector remain and are further exacerbated by the impacts of the Climate, Biodiversity and Financial Crises, and the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Welcome** efforts to deliver a new *Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2030*, which identifies OACPS' ten current and emerging priorities and outlines a Framework for Implementation.

**Approve** the "OACPS Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2030" and instruct the Secretariat to align it with the recommendations from the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting from OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture with the Vision for "Greater ownership, improved sustainability and secure growth for fisheries and aquaculture that enhances environmental, ecological, social and economic conditions for the benefit of all member countries, communities and citizens of the OACPS."

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**Commit** to the effective implementation of the "OACPS Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2030" within the context of the revised Georgetown Agreement, relevant national and regional policy frameworks and plans of the Member States and Regions of the OACPS, the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement, and the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement.

**Mandate** the Secretariat of the OACPS to pursue other sustainable financing mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, to support Member States and Regions of the OACPS' implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**Commend** with appreciation to the Government of Ghana for its leadership and hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Done in Accra, Ghana, 08 April 2022



Honourable Mavis Hawa Koomson  
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development  
(MoFAD), Republic of Ghana  
Chair of the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge  
of Fisheries and Aquaculture

