

1ST DIALOGUE ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT/EUROPEAN UNION ON FISHERIES GOVERNANCE

1ST DIALOGUE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION/ EUROPEAN UNION ON FISHERIES GOVERNANCE

EU PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE FISHERIES GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVE

European Union's publication of its November 2016 joint communication entitled: "An Agenda for the future of our oceans"¹ confirmed the key contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to Good Ocean Governance that will help deliver on the UN sustainable development goal 14 on Oceans² and sustainable blue growth.

In addition to its international and internal environmental obligations, the EU is committed to 'Policy Coherence for Development' (Art 208 of TFEU). Under this Policy, the EU has to take account of development objectives in all its policies likely to affect developing countries. It aims at minimising contradictions and building synergies across different EU policies to benefit developing countries.

This Dialogue is therefore focused to show the joint progress that EU and partner Coastal Countries have achieved up to now, and the best progress expected to better contribute to Fisheries Governance at International level. A joint International strategy could help to build up strategic alliances between the EU and its partners in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The key areas of development could be identified and coordinated through multi-stakeholder consultation from Coastal and EU countries, including fishers, administrations, civil society and industry representatives.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/sites/maritimeaffairs/files/join-2016-49_en.pdf

² <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/>

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

The new EU CFP has undeniably led to progress in a number of policy areas, but some problems and weaknesses persist at Global level, that the CFP external dimension alone is likely to struggle to remedy on its own. International cooperation is fundamental to improve Fisheries Governance. Improvements in this area would also contribute to sustainable blue growth and delivering on SDGs.

The main areas of action that could be analysed are:

- EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SPFAs)
- Joint actions at Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).
- Role of the EU IUU regulation
- EU Fisheries trade policy
- Development Policy coherence with Fisheries Governance at regional level

DIALOGUE ENHACEMENT

The mechanism that could be used to enhance the Dialogue of the Coastal Countries representatives, different stakeholders and EU officials, could start by a short presentation of the EU objectives in every action identified above, and an organized discussion, with time to allow Coastal Countries representatives to make presentations and/or suggestions related to every action.

The expected result could be a common strategy to lead joint actions that will improve Fisheries Governance at International level, generating synergies between the EU and the Coastal countries, coordinating the different policies that could contribute to SDG14, counting on other international bodies engaged on that objective like the World Bank, FAO, UN, GEF...