

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF AFRICA

Banjul, Gambia, 9-11 May 2017

FOLLOW UP OF INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND WAY FORWARD

Summary

Many issues limit the effectiveness of CIFAA, including, weak institutional structure, low and inconsistent participation of members at its sessions, inadequate financial and technical resources. A performance review of CIFAA suggested how the Committee could be strengthened and better serve its members in a climate of financial resource depletion and accelerated environmental deterioration. In this context members decided to maintain CIFAA as an Article VI body, but amended its Statute and Rules of Procedure, in order to update functions, mandate and working modalities, and set up a Working Group, under the leadership of FAO, to further elaborate a proposal to address functional needs and make the organization more effective.

This paper provides Information on the background of the Committee and address the many issues that limit CIFAA's effectiveness and impede its delivery and threaten its very existence. It discuss all options to make members take ownership and responsibility for CIFAA.

To further discuss the issues that limit CIFAA, participants of the CIFAA 17th Session are requested to deliberate the issues faced and the potential means to forward CIFAA.

The Committee is invited to :

Deliberate the relevance and merit of the various options, with a view to providing the CIFAA Secretariat with guidance on how to proceed in ensuring that the future of CIFAA is in line with the will of its Members

BACKGROUND

1. At the Extraordinary Session of The Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) held in Lusaka, Zambia from 1 to 2 December 2014 the Committee reviewed its performance, effectiveness and its future. It noted many issues that limit CIFAA's effectiveness and which impede CIFAA ability to deliver its objectives and threaten its existence. The Committee recommended a review of CIFAA's statutes and rules of procedure to enable it address specific technical and scientific matters and recommended that a working group be

constituted to review the statutes and rules of procedure of CIFAA.

2. A meeting of this Working Group composed by DR Congo, Gambia, Malawi, Sudan and Uganda was convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 10th and 11th March 2015. The review of the Statutes and Rules of Procedures resulted in amended versions.
3. An Extraordinary Session of The Committee was convened in Dakar, Senegal from 14 to 15 July 2015. It reviewed the outcomes of the Addis Ababa meeting recommendations. The principle outcomes were:
 - a. The amended Statutes and Rules of Procedure were adopted. The amendments were to make CIFAA functional taking into account emerging over-arching socio-cultural and economic concerns such as biodiversity conservation, climate change, pressure on resources and sustainability. These amendments were approved by the FAO Council during its 153 Session.
 - b. Agreed in principle to the establishment of a CIFAA Multidonor Trust Fund (hereafter “the Trust Fund”) and to the establishment of a working group under the leadership of FAO, to further elaborate the proposal including identified areas of work, cooperation and capacity building.
 - c. The Dakar session further agreed on the following priority actions:
 - I. Provide views on developing sustainable aquaculture;
 - II. Collate information on needs including on infrastructure, material and human resources, and training;
 - III. Develop a strategic plan and related action plan;
 - IV. Work with countries, sub-regional and regional organizations to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in inland waters and harmonize legislations in countries sharing inland water resources.
4. The full report of the Dakar extraordinary session is presented as see CIFAA/XVII/2017/INFO-1. For the excerpt of the 153 FAO Council see CIFAA/XVII/2017/INFO-4.

LOW LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE AT CIFAA SESSIONS

5. CIFAA has **37** member countries and, as per the Committee’s Statues, a majority of the member countries shall constitute a quorum for its deliberations. The past two ordinary sessions of CIFAA sessions were unable to reach a quorum.
 - a. The fifteenth session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa was held from 9 to 11 December 2008 in Lusaka, Zambia. A total of 33 participants attended the Session from **16** member countries and 10 observer bodies.
 - b. The sixteenth session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa was held from 16 to 18 November 2010 in Maputo, Mozambique. A total of 28 participants attended the Session from **10** member countries and from four observer bodies.
6. The two extraordinary sessions of the CIFAA convened subsequently were able to reach a quorum:
 - a. The first extraordinary session was held from 1st to 2nd December 2014 in Lusaka, Zambia. A total of 47 delegates from **22** member countries and four observer bodies attended the Session.

- b. The second extraordinary was held from 14th to 15th July 2015 in Dakar, Senegal. A total of 45 delegates from 21 member countries and AU-IBAR as an observer body attended the Session.

THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF CIFAA AND ITS' ACTIVITIES

7. The Dakar extraordinary meeting agreed to establish a CIFAA Multi-donor Trust Fund (hereafter “the Trust Fund”), starting with the formulation of a detailed programme of work and budget in line with FAO’s Strategic Framework and delivery mechanisms at regional (i.e. Regional Initiatives) and national level (i.e. Country Programming Frameworks). It was decided that a working group composed of Senegal, Gambia, Lesotho Sudan, Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, under the leadership of FAO, should further elaborate the proposal.
8. A breakdown of the financial resources needed for the activities of CIFAA is under consideration and will be discussed during the next session.
9. In summary, FAO provides Regular Programme support to covers the cost of the Secretariat functions and time of the Secretary and administrative requirements for the convening of the Ordinary session of the Committee.
10. In addition, FAO has made available resources to convene two extra-ordinary sessions in order to move the deliberations on the future of the Committee forward. However, in the absence of additional funding, the participation at the Ordinary Session has not reached quorum and indicates that Member countries are not prepared to commit to supporting the work of the Committee.
11. The development of the CIFAA Multi-donor trust fund will offer the opportunity to leverage financial resources to support workshops, background studies and technical meetings of the Committee. However, a proposal has yet to be developed and suitable donors or contributors to the funds have yet to be identified.

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

12. In the light of the constraints facing the future of the Committee, a number of options have been identified by the Secretariat. There are three potential options for supporting cooperation in inland fisheries and aquaculture in Africa.

MAINTAIN CIFAA AS AN ARTICLE VI BODY OF THE FAO CONSTITUTION

13. This option would require the thorough review of CIFAA’s Statutes and Rules of Procedures to update its functions, mandate and working modalities
 - a) Individual Member countries may consider withdrawing if they no longer found CIFAA relevant
 - b) Establishment of the CIFAA Multi-donor trust fund and the identification of willing contributors to support regional activities.
 - c) Develop more flexible task-oriented and time-bound working arrangements that addressed priority needs of sub-regional groupings of Member countries.

TRANSFORM CIFAA FROM AN FAO ARTICLE VI BODY TO A REGIONAL FORUM UNDER A SEPARATE MECHANISM

14. This would see the Committee CIFAA transformed and replaced with a mechanism that facilitated cooperation and communication between Members and FAO on the issues of inland fisheries and Aquaculture.

- a. A periodic regional meeting or symposium could be planned to discuss emerging issues on fisheries and aquaculture of common interest. This meeting would not require a quorum for its deliberations and recommendations and adoption of the meeting report, merely a majority of the participating countries
 - b. A virtual networking approach for project activities and communication could be developed
- 15. The mechanism by which this could be achieved will require elaboration as it might require the Committee to be effectively abolished, or possibly migrated into another organization for support mechanisms outside of FAO.
- 16. Irrespective of the mechanism that is decided upon to support the regional consultative forum, a source of financial resources would need to be identified. The multi-donor trustfund arrangement would be applicable in this context.

ABOLISH CIFAA

- 17. This option could be taken if a majority of the Member countries perceived that:
 - a. The Committee was no longer relevant or important in performing the functions for which it is was established.
 - b. There were no applicable, or viable, alternatives to reform the Committee to enable it to perform its functions more effectively.
 - c. Alternative mechanisms existed which could more effectively address the needs of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the African region.