

Dear friends and colleagues at LDAC,

As Chairman of Afrifish, I would like to thank you for your invitation to take part in the LDAC working groups.

Since our last meeting in May, I have some positive news to give you in relation to our Memorandum of Understanding.

First of all, I would like to thank the LDAC for sending an opinion to the European Commission on the €13 million EU-funded FISH GOV 2 project, calling for the concerns of African fisheries stakeholders to be better taken into account.

I can tell you that, thanks to this appeal, I have been formally contacted by the European Commission, as President of Afrifish, to give our opinion on the mid-term review of this project.

Like LDAC, we want EU funding through FISH GOV II to focus on actions that have a concrete and tangible impact on fisheries and fishing communities in Africa. In particular, we would like to see appropriate support for the AFRIFISH platform, to ensure the informed participation of all non-state actors in African fisheries and aquaculture in decision-making processes that affect fishing communities.

We hope that you will continue to follow this issue on your side.

Further proof that AFRIFISH is increasingly recognised by our institutions, the AFRIFISH office also held a meeting in Kenya with the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), which develops proposals for the African Union and its members to improve the use of fisheries resources for the benefit of African populations. AU-IBAR is now interested in how to better involve AFRIFISH in their work. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of November.

Finally, with the support of the FAO, all the members of the AFRIFISH Bureau will be travelling to Benin from 19 to 21 November, to celebrate the World Fisheries Day during events organised by CAOPA, where we will discuss what our governments, and their partners such as the EU, should do to implement the

Small Scale Fishers Call for Action that we had the honour of presenting to you last May.

As part of these discussions, we will be addressing a series of issues that are at the heart of our Memorandum of Understanding, such as the transparency of fishing agreements with foreign fleets; the development of a framework for joint ventures; improving safety on board for small-scale fisheries, in line with ILO Convention 188, and, finally, promoting the role of women in African fisheries.

With such a programme, I would like, on behalf of CAOPA and also of Afrifish, to officially invite the LDAC to take part in these exchanges, which will help us to move forward with the concrete implementation of our Memorandum of Understanding.

Thank you very much,

Gaoussou Gueye