

**Proceedings of the second (2nd)
Ordinary General Meeting of the African Network of Institutions
in charge of the Development
and Promotion of Aquaculture - RAFAQUA**



October 17, 2025

Tangier, Morocco

**Minutes of the second (2nd)
Ordinary General Meeting of the African Network of
Institutions in charge of the Development and Promotion
of Aquaculture - RAFAQUA**

At the invitation of its President Mrs. Majida MAAROUF, the African Network of Institutions in charge of for the Development and Promotion of Aquaculture - RAFAQUA held its second (2nd) Ordinary General Meeting in Tangier (Morocco), on Friday, October 17, 2025.

This meeting was attended by representatives of the institutions responsible for the aquaculture sector of the ATLAFCO member States as well as guests whose list appears in Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

I-Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

A- Official opening

Opening the session, the President of RAFAQUA delivered a speech in which she welcomed all RAFAQUA members and thanked all participants for having responded favorably to the invitation.

She also expressed her gratitude to the Moroccan authorities, particularly to the Secretary of State for Maritime Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco for the constant support provided to the activities of ATLAFCO and its institutional networks.

Madam President then recalled that this second session of the General Assembly, which comes after the founding session of the network held in 2021, is being held on the sidelines of the capacity building workshop organized on October 16, 2025 in Tangier, Morocco under the theme "Food security through aquaculture: sustainability and regional synergies" and is part of the festivities marking the celebration on October 16, 2025 of World Food Day and the 80th anniversary of FAO.

She stressed that this session is of particular importance as it provides an opportunity to examine and discuss the progress of RAFAQUA in light of the challenges facing the development of sustainable and resilient aquaculture in the countries of the ATLAFCO zone.

Taking the floor in turn, the Secretary Executive of ATLAFCO, on behalf of HE Mr. Fassou THEA, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of the Republic of Guinea, Acting President of ATLAFCO, welcomed all participants and guests, and thanked the Moroccan authorities, the Secretary of State for Maritime Fisheries of Morocco and the OFCF for their support and assistance provided to the organization of this general assembly (Appendix II)

He also praised the commitment of the RAFAQUA Presidency during its mandate to the promotion and development of sustainable aquaculture in member countries through the establishment of a strategy and a roadmap for the sector.

He recalled that in its general recommendations, the 11th ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of ATLAFCO held on April 24, 2025 in Abidjan (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire) insisted on the need to support ATLAFCO networks and provide them with the technical and financial assistance required to accomplish their respective missions.

He urged the members of the Network to intensify their collaboration and share their best experiences and practices through strong partnerships, in favor of better harmonization of projects and programs on a continental scale.

The Secretary Executive concluded his speech by emphasizing the commitment of ATLAFCO and the Secretariat staff members to support and assist the new RAFAQUA Office in the success of its future activities.

B-Adoption of the agenda

After reading, the agenda of the 2nd RAFAQUA meeting was adopted by the participants:

- 1) Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
 - Welcome address from the President of RAFAQUA
 - Word from Mr. Secretary Executive of ATLAFCO
- 2) Presentation and adoption of the RAFAQUA activity report
 - Reminder of the status of RAFAQUA
 - Summary of the Office's activities
- 3) Election and installation of the new Executive Board
 - Presentation of the electoral process (ATLAFCO/Office)
 - Election of new members of the Executive Board
 - Official installation of the elected office
- 4) Presentation and adoption of the 2025-2027 Action Plan (Workshop results)
- 5) Miscellaneous
- 6) Closing of the session by the new President

II-Presentation and adoption of the RAFAQUA activity report

A- Reminder of the status of RAFAQUA

The Secretariat Executive of ATLAFCO made a presentation of the RAFAQUA status, the first version of which was examined and validated during the workshop organized under the theme of "sustainable development of aquaculture in the context of the United Nations SDGs" held in Agadir, Morocco on December 13-14, 2019.

An examination of this text shows that the RAFAQUA statute is made up of 17 articles, spread over 6 titles which define the general objectives of the network, its missions, its organization and the functioning of its governing bodies.

The First Title relating to objectives and missions defines RAFAQUA as a permanent body for reflection, consultation and cooperation in matters of development and promotion of sustainable aquaculture between the member countries of ATLAFCO and the regional and international institutions in charge of aquaculture, in particular through the exchange of information, the transfer of technology and training in aquaculture professions.

Regarding the composition of RAFAQUA, Title 2 of the statute distinguishes between two types of members: full members and associate members.

Under the provisions of Title 3 of the statutes, the operation of RAFAQUA is based on two main bodies: the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

Section 4 of the statute deals with the resources of RAFAQUA, while the last sections, namely Section 5 and Section 6, are devoted to possible modifications to the statute, its entry into force, the dissolution of the network and miscellaneous questions.

B- Summary of the Office's activities

After providing a historical reminder of the creation of the RAFAQUA network and the expectations of ATLAFCO with regard to it as an institutional and technical body, Madam President pointed out that despite insufficient financial resources to carry out the entire programme outlined, overall the results remain positive in terms of activities carried out by the outgoing RAFAQUA Office.

Indeed, only the financial resources provided by ATLAFCO within the framework of the Fisheries Promotion Fund (FPP) are currently available for financing the organization of workshops or specific network events.

By prioritizing its actions, emphasizes Ms. MAAROUF, RAFAQUA was able to initiate three structuring projects which provided visibility on what needed to be done in terms of promoting and developing aquaculture in member countries.

The first project concerns the state of aquaculture, in which RAFAQUA was involved as part of a collaboration with ATLAFCO.

Indeed, underlines Ms. MAAROUF, and taking into account the fact that the aquaculture sector constitutes one of the reliable solutions for the supply of fish protein and the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition, ATLAFCO entrusted in 2023 to an external research office the realization of a study on the diagnosis of the aquaculture situation in the member countries in order to draw up a roadmap aimed at the integrated and sustainable development of this sector.

This diagnosis highlighted, adds the President of RAFAQUA:

- An imbalance in aquaculture between member countries
- A mapping by groups of countries presenting the same aquaculture situation
- Actions to be implemented to develop the sector and
- A general orientation to develop these countries.

The second project aims to address the relative lack of performance of the aquaculture sector in member countries by highlighting the need to have a legislative and regulatory framework capable of strengthening and increasing the visibility of States and technical and financial partners in the aquaculture sector in the countries of the ATLAFCO zone.

The third project, which reinforces the two previous ones, concerns the strengthening of the capacities and technical and managerial skills of human resources in the development and management of aquaculture projects based on new technologies.

In this regard, the President recalled the training sessions and workshops organized in collaboration with the ATLAFCO Secretariat, the National Institute of Fisheries Research (INRH) of Morocco, the National Agency for the Development of Aquaculture (ANDA) of Morocco and the private sector to contribute to the transfer of expertise and the sharing of knowledge on the development of the aquaculture sector.

Following this presentation, The General Assembly officially confirmed the end of the mandate of the outgoing Executive Board and expressed its gratitude to the members of its office for their work accomplished.

III- Election and installation of the new Executive Board

With a view to ensuring the continuity and sustainability of the RAFAQUA management bodies, the outgoing President suggested that participants put forward proposals for candidates to fill the seats on the outgoing Executive Board.

After an exchange of views on the method of appointing the members of the Bureau, a consensus emerged among the participants and made it possible to form by acclamation the new Bureau of RAFAQUA, which now consists of the following member states:

- **President: Senegal**
- **1st Vice President: Nigeria**
- **2nd Vice-President: Benin**
- **Secretary: Côte d'Ivoire**
- **Assessor: Ghana**
- **Permanent member: ATLAFCO Executive Secretariat**

The new President of RAFAQUA expressed his gratitude to the General Assembly for the confidence expressed in his country and in the new members of the Bureau to take over and meet the challenges. He called on the other members of the Network to support the Bureau and expressed his commitment to working for the well-being of RAFAQUA and its sustainability.

The new President also expressed the wish to benefit from the expertise and advice of the outgoing President by appointing her as Special Advisor to RAFAQUA.

Mrs. MAAROUF took the floor to, on one hand, thank the ATLAFCO Secretariat Executive for the efforts made in organizing and holding at the same time a thematic workshop on aquaculture and the second ordinary general meeting of the Network on the sidelines of the celebration of World Food Day.

She emphasized the need for the new Office to strengthen the Private-Private partnership by developing a roadmap that sets out the various actions to be carried out in this area to strengthen the involvement of these actors in the promotion of African aquaculture.

She concluded her final remarks by expressing the hope that the project of creating a website dedicated specifically to the activities of RAFAQUA and its members would come to fruition.

The ATLAFCO Secretary Executive renewed his gratitude to the Secretary of State for Maritime Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco for the support provided to the organization of ATLAFCO events in Morocco and congratulated the members of the new RAFAQUA Executive Board while reaffirming the support of all members of the Secretariat to take the aquaculture sector to a high level in the ATLAFCO region.

IV-Presentation and adoption of the 2025-2027 Action Plan

The recommendations made by participants in the RAFAQUA Capacity Building Workshop under the theme "*Food Security through Aquaculture: Sustainability and Regional Synergies*" » held on October 16, 2025, in Tangier shall constitute the guidelines of the 2025-2027 Action Plan.

V-Miscellaneous

The date and place of the next general meeting of RAFAQUA will be set by mutual agreement between the incoming Bureau and the Secretariat Executive.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Done in Tangier – Morocco, October 17, 2025

Appendix I: List of Participants

CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE SUR LA
COOPÉRATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ÉTATS
AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'Océan
ATLANTIQUE



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES
COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

LISTE DE PRESENCE

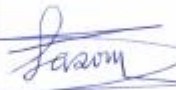
ASSEMBLEE GENERALE DU RESEAU AFRICAIN DES INSTITUTIONS CHARGEES DU DEVELOPPEMENT ET DE LA PROMOTION DE L'AQUACULTURE (RAFAQUA)

Le 17 octobre 2025 à Tanger (Maroc)

Hilton Garden Inn Tanger City Center

N°	Pays/Organisation	Nom et Prénom	Titre	Signature
1	Angola	M. Onde Antonio NSANDA	National Director Aquaculture	
2	Bénin	M. C. Eugène DESSOUASSI	Ingénieur du développement Rural au ministère de l'Agriculture de l'Elevage et de la Pêche	
3	Cameroun	M. Guy Pascal NANDJOU ZEZON	Chef service d'Aquaculture à la direction des pêches	
4	Côte d'Ivoire	Dr. NEZZI Epouse M ^{re} BCJA NICOLE EDWGE	Vétérinaire Principale, Directrice de l'Aquaculture	
5	Congo	M. Ahmed STANISLAS BELVERE NAKAVOUA	Directeur de l'aquaculture	
6	Gabon	M. Barthélémy NGOULAKIA	Secrétaire Général au Ministère de la Mer, de la Pêche et de l'Économie bleue	
7	Gambie	M. Baba NO DARBOE	Directeur adjoint de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches continentales	



8	Ghana	M. Anthony WASIPE	Gestionnaire Principal des Pêches	
9	Guinée	M. Louis KAMANO	Directeur Général de l'Agence Nationale de l'Aquaculture (ANAG)	
10	Guinée Bissau	M. Efraim Armando BARAI	Spécialiste en aquaculture affecté au Département des ressources halieutiques et de l'océanographie de l'INIPO	
11	Guinée Equatoriale	M. Lazaro OVONO	Ingénieur Technico de PESCA au ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'élevage, des forêts, de la pêche et de l'environnement	
12	Libéria	M. Yarkpawolo KPASAQUIO JONNSON	Associate Director, Inland Fisheries	
13	Maroc	Mme Majida MAAROUF	Directrice Générale de l'Agence Nationale pour le Développement de l'Aquaculture (ANDA)	
14	Mauritanie	M. Abdel Barka HMETTOU DADDA	Chef du service océanographie et aquaculture de la direction de l'aménagement	
15	Nigeria	Mme Onuselogu NCHEDO MARYROSE	Principal Fisheries Officer / Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, Federal Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

16		M. Samba KA	Directeur Général de l'Agence Nationale de l'Aquaculture (ANA)	
17	Sénégal	M. Mamadou SENE	Directeur technique / ANA	
18		M. Ibrahima Fagnane SENGHOR	Juriste Chef de division des partenariats et de la coopération	
19	Sierra Leone	Mme Jamilatu Tenneh SWARAY	Responsable des pêches désignée en charge de notre station expérimentale d'aquaculture	
20	Togo	M. Sanita LARE	Ingénieur des travaux d'élevage, directeur des ressources halieutiques, animales et de la réglementation de la transhumance des plateaux	
21		M. Mustafa AMZOUGH	Chef de département de l'Investissement, de la Promotion et des Etudes	
22	ANDA	M. Mohamed Amine MANSOURI	Chef de service des études	
23		Mme Fatimzahra NADIM	Chargée de la promotion et de la communication	
24		M. Rachid REGRAGUI	Expert des pêches	
25	COMHAFAT	M. Ali BOUALI	Conseiller des pêches	

Appendix II: Opening Address by the Executive Secretary of COMHAFAT

- **Madame la Présidente du RAFAQUA,**
- **Monsieur le Directeur Général de l'Agence Nationale de l'Aquaculture de la République de Guinée, Représentant de son Excellence Monsieur le Président en exercice de la COMHAFAT,**
- **Monsieur le Secrétaire Général du ministère de la Mer, de la Pêche et de l'Economie Bleue de la République du Gabon,**
- **Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, Secrétaire Exécutif de la Commission du Golfe de Guinée,**
- **Monsieur le Directeur Général de l'Agence Nationale de l'Aquaculture de la République du Sénégal,**
- **Monsieur le Secrétaire Général de la Comité des Pêches du Centre-Ouest du Golfe de Guinée,**
- **Messieurs les Directeurs de l'aquaculture des Etats membres de la COMHAFAT,**
- **Monsieur le Représentant du Président du RAFISMER,**
- **Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du RAFAQUA,**

Au nom de SEM Fassou THEA, ministre de la Pêche et de l'Economie Maritime de la République de Guinée, Président en exercice de la COMHAFAT, j'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole devant vous aujourd'hui à l'occasion de la tenue de la 2^{ème} Assemblée Générale ordinaire du Réseau Africain des Institutions chargées du Développement et de la Promotion de l'Aquaculture (RAFAQUA).

Tout d'abord permettez-moi de souhaiter la bienvenue à tous les participants et exprimer mes vifs remerciements aux Autorités marocaines et plus particulièrement à Madame la Secrétaire d'Etat chargée des Pêches Maritimes pour le soutien et l'appui apportés à l'organisation de cette assemblée générale et de l'ensemble de nos activités.

Mes remerciements vont également à l'adresse de l'OFCF, partenaire de cette organisation, des membres du RAFAQUA et des participants pour avoir répondu favorablement à cette invitation. Je vous souhaite à cette occasion la bienvenue et un agréable séjour à Tanger.

Permettez-moi aussi de saluer les efforts inlassables de tous les membres de votre réseau, de son Bureau exécutif et les partenaires nationaux et internationaux qui soutiennent notre engagement en faveur du développement et de la promotion d'une aquaculture durable et résiliente dans les pays membres de la COMHAFAT et qui constituent la clé de notre succès de nos projets collectifs.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Cette session qui intervient après celle constitutive du réseau tenu en 2021, revêt une importance particulière car, en plus d'offrir une plateforme cruciale pour discuter des opportunités et des avancées de notre Réseau dans le domaine de l'aquaculture dans la zone COMHAFAT, elle s'inscrit dans le cadre des festivités marquant la célébration le 16 octobre 2025 de la Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation et du 80^{ème} anniversaire de la FAO.

Cette session qui constitue le couronnement de l'atelier de renforcement des capacités tenu ces deux jours sous le thème « Sécurité alimentaire par l'aquaculture : Durabilité et synergies régionales » nous interpelle à plus d'un titre et nous impose notamment de collaborer étroitement pour surmonter les défis, de partager nos meilleures pratiques, d'établir des partenariats solides avec les organismes nationaux et les organisations internationales, et d'œuvrer pour une plus grande harmonisation des programmes de promotion de l'aquaculture marine et continentale à l'échelle régionale.

L'ordre du jour de la présente session est très riche et comporte l'examen de plusieurs points. Ainsi, après son adoption, une présentation du bilan des activités du réseau au titre du mandat écoulé de son Bureau exécutif sera faite par sa Présidente.

Un tour de table sera ensuite effectué pour donner la parole aux participants en vue, d'une part, formuler des observations et des commentaires sur le bilan présenté et, d'autre part, faire une esquisse des grandes lignes qui doivent contribuer à l'élaboration du Plan d'action du RAFAQUA au titre de l'exercice 2026-2027

Le renouvellement des membres du Bureau de notre Réseau sera un moment fort qui marquera la fin de la présente session.

Messieurs les membres du Bureau sont ainsi invités à soumettre des propositions en vue de faire de ce regroupement un outil d'excellence de promotion de l'aquaculture dans la région COMHAFAT.

Avant de clore mon allocution, je voudrais rassurer l'ensemble des Membres du RAFAQUA de l'entière disponibilité de la Présidence, du Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMHAFAT et de l'ensemble des membres de son personnel à poursuivre la collaboration et l'appui à ce jeune réseau de la COMHAFAT mais tout aussi dynamique.

Je vous remercie de votre attention et vous souhaite plein succès.