



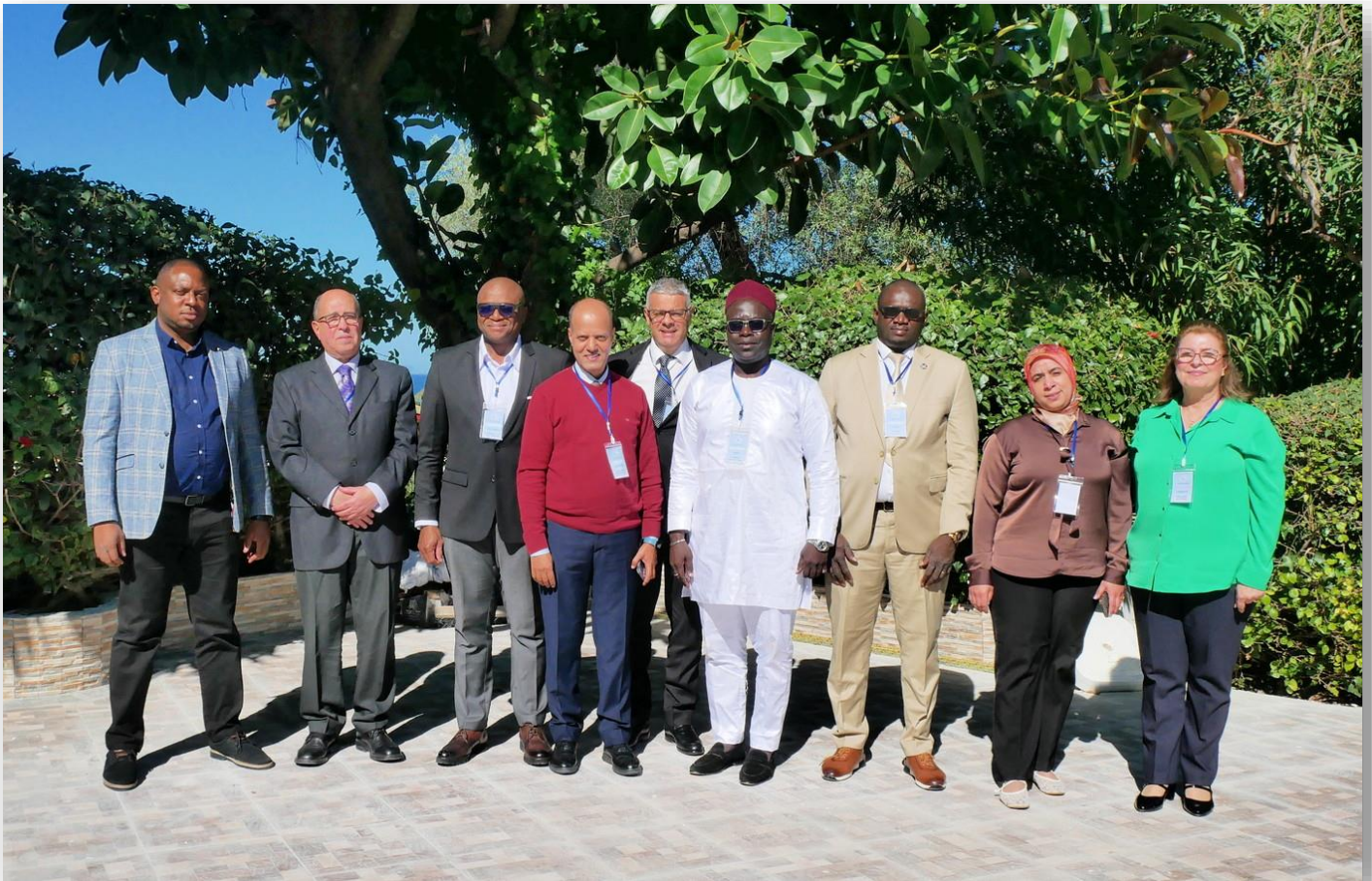
Executive Secretariat

*CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION
HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS
RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE*



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

Minutes of the Seventh (7th) Ordinary General Assembly of The African Network of Maritime Training Institutions- REFMA



April 14, 2026 Tangier, Morocco

Introduction

The Member States of the African Network of Maritime Training Institutions (REFMA), duly convened by the President, met on April 14, 2026 in Tangier, Morocco for the seventh (7th) session of the Ordinary General Assembly.

Representatives from maritime training institutions from 14 ATLAFCO Member States participated in this session, as listed in the Annex 1 of these Minutes.

The General Assembly approved the agenda, which includes the examination of the following items:

- Presentation of the outgoing Board's activity report (2018-2023 and 2023-2026)
- Appointment of the new Board
- Discussion and validation of the 2026-2027 Action Plan
- Participants' comments
- Closing of the session

The required quorum having been reached and after the appointment of the Rapporteur, the President declared that the General Assembly could validly deliberate.

The moderation of this session was entrusted to Mr. Naji LAAMRICH, Head of Department at the Executive Secretariat of ATLAFCO.

I. Official opening

Opening the session, the President, Mr. Karim Coulibaly, delivered a speech in which he welcomed the participants and expressed both personally and on behalf of all the members of the REFMA Board, his gratitude and thanks to the Moroccan authorities, particularly to the Kingdom of Morocco Fisheries Secretary of State, for hosting and supporting the organization of this meeting.

He then congratulated the ATLAFCO Executive Secretariat for the quality of the workshop on maritime training engineering which has just ended and thanked all ATLAFCO partners and stakeholders for their constant commitment to promoting the activities carried out by REFMA.

II. Activity report of the outgoing Board

As an introduction of the activity report for past mandates, the President of REFMA traced back to the building in 2002 of the network and stressed that REFMA, as a strategic network of ATLAFCO and a collaborative framework for African maritime training institutes, embodies the ambition of Member States to strengthen their maritime technical capacities, develop the skills of their human resources in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, ensure better pooling of efforts and energies and, therefore, lay the foundations for a sustainable and resilient blue economy in the region.

Link: <https://www.ATLAFCO.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/RAPPORT-RABAT-REFMA-26.pdf>

Two periods should be considered: 2018-2023 and 2023-2026.

Regarding the review of activities carried out during the period 2018-2023, the President of REFMA recalled the work and recommendations from the fifth (5th) Ordinary General Assembly of REFMA held on May 28, 2019.

In this context, he emphasized the work actually carried out by REFMA, focusing on thematic activities and particularly on the organization, both in person and remotely, of workshops dedicated to maritime training engineering, the development of reference frameworks for port inspectors and onboard observers with regional competence.

Mr. Coulibaly also noted that four training sessions in French and English were conducted for inspectors and observers from member states to strengthen this maritime training engineering project.

Regarding the strengthening of the control mechanism for fishing activities in the ATLAFCO zone, the President of REFMA stressed the importance of the seminar organized on the theme of monitoring, control and surveillance.

Concerning Members capacity building, Mr. Coulibaly mentioned the holding of several webinars dedicated to the activities of the REFMA Board and in particular the organization of a regional workshop on the blue economy.

The period 2023-2025 was marked by the holding in 2023 of the sixth (6th) session of the REFMA General Assembly when a strategic plan was proposed under the banner of revitalizing the group, improving its autonomy and visibility .

The activities carried out under this mandate include:

- The setting up of a WhatsApp forum which serves as a channel for transmitting information between Members of REFMA and focal points;
- The expansion of the Board to include new members such as Benin, Togo and Namibia, who participate in the group's activities;
- The designation of focal points in each country. This action facilitates direct contact with Member States and the monitoring of REFMA activities;
- The establishment of a map of maritime training institutions in ATLAFCO's Member States through a comprehensive census, with a view to promoting the membership of new members and facilitating collaboration between institutions;
- The organization during 2024 in Casablanca and during 2026 in Tangier (Morocco) of two workshops on harmonization of training programs.

In conclusion of the activity report presentation, the President of REFMA indicated that during this term, difficulties related to the lack of REFMA specific funding and the inactivity of focal points and their lack of involvement arose and prevented the implementation of several actions previously planned.

To address this situation, proposals for solutions have been formulated concerning the search for new funding, the development of partnerships to support REFMA activities and the strengthening of contacts between member institutions.

Mr. Coulibaly believes that after more than twenty years of existence and despite the difficulties, REFMA is striving to accomplish its mission, which is the strengthening of professional and technical maritime training and the development of fisheries research and marine sciences in the Member States of ATLAFCO.

To move forward, the President of REFMA is advocating for strong involvement from all members to meet the challenges of tomorrow with the ambition of making REFMA an excellent tool for promoting maritime training in the countries of the ATLAFCO zone.

On this optimistic note, the outgoing President announces the end of the current Board's mandate, which the General Assembly has adopted.

Taking the floor, the Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the outgoing Board members, headed by Mr. Karim Coulibaly, for their professionalism, commitment and the exceptional quality of work accomplished during the past two terms, which had a positive impact on anchoring REFMA at the regional and continental level, and which were essential to the success of the mission to strengthen the capacities of ATLAFCO Member States.

He further urged Member States to build upon these achievements and expertise and advocated for Mr. Karim Coulibaly to be elevated to the title of "Honorary President" of REFMA. **This proposal was unanimously adopted by the REFMA members present at this General Assembly.**

III. Renewal of the REFMA Bureau

Following a call for applications to renew the Board and in the absence of other candidates, the General Assembly unanimously selected the candidacy of the Republic of Benin for the REFMA Presidency.

Regarding the other positions to be filled, including those of Vice-President, members and Secretary General, the General Assembly decided among the different candidates by proceeding to the vote.

The composition of the new REFMA Board is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| - President | : Benin |
| - Vice-Président | : Mauritanie |
| - Members | : Côte d'Ivoire
Senegal
Ghana |
| - Secretary General | : Morocco |
| - Permanent member | : ATLAFCO |

Mr. Ibrahim IMOROU TOKO, the new President of REFMA, took the floor to thank and express his gratitude to the outgoing President for the dedication, time and energy invested in the service of REFMA.

He congratulated the ATLAFCO Executive Secretariat for the excellent work accomplished and expressed his hope to continue this momentum to meet the expectations of the member states. He assured the delegates present of his motivation and commitment to working together to strengthen cooperation within the ATLAFCO area and thanked the Moroccan Authorities for their hospitality and support of REFMA's activities.

After these thanks, a handover of the ATLAFCO pennant took place between Mr. Karim Coulibaly, outgoing President of REFMA and the new President.

IV. Adoption of the 2026-2027 Action Plan

The General Assembly took note of the organization in Tangier (Morocco) on April 13 and 14, 2026 of a workshop on the theme "Training engineering and technological innovation: towards a harmonization of programs and alignment with international standards in the ATLAFCO zone" and welcomed the successful completion of the workshop, which resulted in the development of a detailed Action Plan.

The General Assembly decided to adopt it as the REFMA's 2026-2027 Action Plan for the upcoming term.

V. Declarations by Member States

A round table discussion was organized to allow the delegates of the Member States to express their feelings and expectations regarding the work of this session and the actions and initiatives that ATLAFCO, through REFMA, intends to deploy.

They unanimously expressed their satisfaction and agreement with the conclusions of this 7th General Assembly and thanked the Executive Secretariat of ATLAFCO and the Moroccan authorities for their support and the quality of the welcome extended to them.

VI. Closing Session

The session was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on April 14, 2026, in Tangier.

Annex I: List of participants



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO



Liste des participants

7^{ème} Assemblée Générale du Regroupement des Etablissements de Formation Maritime Africains- REFMA

14 avril 2026, Tanger, Maroc

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ITPM Lagouane	KHABIB Ty smail	Directeur	0661582046	[Signature]
ITPM	El Gharbi	Directeur	0661607815	[Signature]
TamTam	Me Salou			[Signature]

Annex II: Agenda of the 7th Ordinary General Meeting

**Network of African Maritime Training Establishments - REFMA
April 14, 2026, Tangier, Morocco**

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of the rapporteur**
- 3. REFMA Activity Report**
- 4. Renewal of the Bureau members**
- 5. Development of the 2026-2027 Action Plan**
- 6. Statement by the Delegates of the Member States**
- 7. Meeting Closed**