



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

March, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Concept note

***Maritime training engineering and technological innovation:  
"Towards a harmonization of programs and alignment with international standards  
in the ATLAFCO region"  
Rabat, April 13-15, 2026***

### **1. Context and Justification**

The fishing sector is facing profound changes, under the combined effect of rapid technological advances, increased pressure on fish stocks and strengthening environmental requirements at national, regional and international levels.

These dynamics require continuous adaptation of public policies, institutional frameworks and training and support mechanisms for actors in the sector to ensure sustainable, responsible and concerted exploitation of fisheries resources.

In this context, the continued implementation, within the member states of ATLAFCO, of adequate, coherent and coordinated programmes, aligned with the needs of the sector and in accordance with international standards, appears an essential lever to support this transition.

It is with this in mind that ATLAFCO, through its network of African Maritime Training Institutions (REFMA), organized a workshop in November 2024 on "*Harmonizing Maritime Training Programs: Aligning with Sector Needs and International Regulations*," which resulted in a consensus for the adoption of **resolutions aimed at standardizing and improving the quality of training in member states**. Transforming these resolutions into concrete actions and tangible results requires the implementation of an operational roadmap, a framework for accountability, and, above all, a monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

**In this regard, ATLAFCO, for the benefit of its REFMA network, is organizing a technical workshop on maritime training engineering from April 13 to 15, 2026, in Rabat (Morocco):**

- 1) The evaluation of the implementation of the resolutions from the Casablanca workshop in November 2024, and
- 2) The development of a concrete and formal action plan for the implementation of harmonized maritime training programs ensuring collective ownership, the feasibility of agreed measures, the identification of necessary resources and its implementation schedule (2026-2028).

Also, this meeting will be an opportunity for REFMA to hold its **General Assembly on the afternoon of April 14, 2026.**

## **2. Activity Objectives:**

### **a) General Objective:**

Develop a concrete, realistic and consensual action plan for the implementation of harmonized maritime training programs, in accordance with international standards and perfectly adapted to the evolving needs of the fishing sector within the member states of ATLAFCO.

### **b) Specific Objectives:**

The workshop will allow participants to:

1. Analyze the current training programs of Member States to identify gaps and compliance with international standards;
2. Analyze and prioritize the adopted resolutions;
3. Define for each priority action: the specific activities, the responsible parties (REFMA Institutions /States), the partners, the deadlines and the success indicators;
4. Estimate the resources needed and identify potential sources of funding;
5. Prepare an advocacy strategy for the ratification of the STCW-F;
6. Validate a mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reporting progress under the auspices of REFMA and ATLAFCO;
7. Consolidate all into a formal action plan document.

## **3. Beneficiaries and participants**

- Members of the REFMA Bureau;
- Directors/Representatives of maritime training Institutions of the Member States;
- Technical experts in maritime pedagogy, curriculum development and quality assurance of training;
- Representatives of the partners concerned.

## **4. Workshop Methodology**

- **Format:**

A two (2) day in-person technical workshop, followed by a third (1) day dedicated to a field visit

- **Approach :**

- Presentations by representatives of Member States of the national systems put in place for maritime training;
- Presentations by experts & panelists;

- Organization of interactive round tables (curriculum review, teaching equipment, certification, instructor mobility);
- Plenary sessions for synthesis and validation.

## 5. Expected Results

1. Concrete and operational interactions between REFMA members, thus promoting exchanges and better complementarity in maritime training;
2. To arrive at an operational REFMA action plan for the implementation of the resolutions;
3. Establish a schedule and timeline for implementing the actions;
4. Appoint a committee to monitor and implement the action plan.

## 6. Summary of the activity

### Day 1:

- ✓ Presentation by Member States (PowerPoint) of national mechanisms and progress in the implementation of the resolutions of the Casablanca workshop (November 2024);
- ✓ Status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the workshop on the harmonisation of maritime training programmes for fishing (Casablanca, November 2024);
- ✓ Analysis of resolutions and identification of objectives and actions to be taken;
- ✓ Group work to define the actions to be taken and the resources needed.

### Day 2:

- ✓ Presentation of the results of the group work;
- ✓ Development of the action plan and implementation;
- ✓ Validation of the final action plan.
- ✓ REFMA General Assembly (afternoon).

### Day 3:

- ✓ Site visit (Larache Institute of Maritime Fisheries Technology)
- ✓ End of the workshop.

The detailed agenda for the workshop and the general assembly will be communicated shortly.

## 7. Logistics

The costs of air transport to Morocco and accommodation (hotel in Rabat) for participants and guests at the expense of by ATLAFCO.

For all technical, logistical, practical and institutional information (Visa, etc.), please contact the following person:

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**For any questions relating to the REFMA General Assembly (statutes, minutes, etc.), please contact Mr. Ali BOUALI**, Secretariat of the ATLAFCO networks

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