

6th Meeting of ACP Ministers in Charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Introduction:

The Fisheries and aquaculture sector plays a crucial role in providing much-needed employment and export revenues for many African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Member States. The sector also plays an irreplaceable role in the food and nutritional security and indeed the lifeline of many dependent communities particularly from ACP Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Fish also continues to be one of the most-traded food commodities with more than 60 of the ACP States engaged in the export of fishery and aquaculture products. For some ACP states, fisheries exports account for half the total value of their traded commodities.

The ACP Fisheries Mechanism was formed in 2009 to reinforce the key role that fisheries and aquaculture play in the socio-economic development of member states and continues to play a catalytic role to contribute to sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture. The priority areas of focus include actions to ensure effective management of fisheries, obtain optimal returns from fisheries trade, support the development of aquaculture, enhance food security and preserve the environment.

Five high-level ministerial meetings have been held to determine policy and strategic options for the implementation of actions for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture for ACP countries.

About the Meeting:

The sixth meeting aims to advance the foremost goal of sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture by providing an opportunity to consider a range of policy options for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in ACP Countries. The Ministers will review the implementation of earlier decisions and make decisions to give momentum to the following priority themes of the meeting;

1. Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
2. Small scale fisheries for food security and livelihoods;
3. Post-harvest losses reduction, enhanced value addition and market access;
4. Climate change and fisheries;
5. Inland fisheries for economic transformation;
6. Sustainable blue growth;
7. Aquaculture development; and
8. Multilateral ocean governance agreements (i) conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (ii) Fisheries subsidies.

Senior Officials Meeting: 10 – 11 September 2019

6th Ministerial Meeting: 12 – 13 September 2019

Participation

The meeting is open to (i) ACP Ministers responsible for fisheries and aquaculture; (ii) senior-level fisheries officials from the ACP states involved in policy development and implementation; (iii) Invited representatives of ACP regional fisheries bodies; (iv) Invited representatives from multilateral institutions; and (v) Invited experts to speak on selected thematic issues.

Presenters

Speakers on thematic areas during the meeting will comprise of officials from member states, invited representatives of the regional fisheries organisations/international organisations, and invited experts. It is also anticipated that side events and exhibitions by invited stakeholders to showcase new practices and tools can be organised on the side-lines of the meeting.

For more information:

[See attached documents](#) ^[1]

Contact US

Email: fisheriessamoa@acp.int ^[2]

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