



*Association pour la Promotion
Et la Responsabilisation des*

Acteurs de la Pêche Artisanale

De Mbour



du poisson encore pour demain

ADDRESS

Mr. Gaoussou GUEYE, President of the APRAPAM

The Director of Fisheries Maritime ;
The Prefect of the Department of Mbour ;
The Mayor of the Mbour municipality ;
The FiTi Director ;
Ladies and gentlemen, representatives of professionals ;
Dear Students ;
Dear guests.

The *Association pour la Promotion et la Responsabilisation des acteurs de la pêche artisanale à Mbour* (APRAPAM) is very pleased that you have accepted its invitation and very honoured to welcome you to its sixth forum of artisanal fisheries stakeholders, entitled **"transparency in fisheries management in Senegal: what strategy for sustainable fisheries development of fishing"**.

Distinguished guests, at the beginning of this message of welcome, let me remind what we mean by sustainable fisheries and transparency which are at the heart of the forum which brings us together today.

Sustainable fishing has to be understood as the application to fisheries of the principles of sustainable development as recognized by the international community in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. Sustainable fisheries rely on topics such as fish stocks dynamics but also catch methods that aim to mitigate overfishing and destruction of the seabed.

Transparency is the quality of what can be seen and known to all. It is an essential element to ensure sustainable fisheries that generates prosperity shared by all.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Participating in the strengthening of transparency in the fisheries sector, the Fisheries Industry Transparency Initiative (FITI) is, in its design, inspired by the transparency Initiative of Extractive Industries (EITI).

It was formally launched in January 2015 and adopted on 3 February 2016, in Nouakchott, at the invitation of the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, his Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz. Mauritania is committed to becoming the first country to implement the FITI. It was followed by Senegal, the Indonesia and the Seychelles.

The declaration of Nouakchott, which includes 16 points, provides insight into the principles and approach of the FITI. Three principles illustrate the issue of sustainable fishing and transparency:

- Principle 1 : sustainable fisheries contribute significantly to food security, the reduction of poverty and sustainable development, and therefore national and regional stability and a better resilience to the effects of climate change;
- Principle 6 : for transparency to be effective, relevant information must be disclosed to the public in an accessible format and in a timely manner;
- Principle 7 : increased transparency and participation must be introduced progressively to ensure the broadest support for this initiative.

The item 14 of the declaration relates to the announcement by the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of The Seychelles, of the establishment, in 2016, of a Multipartite National Group dedicated to the FITI.

The FITI will, inter alia, establish a Multipartite International Committee with equal representation of Governments, the fishing sector and civil society. It will

draw up the principles and other criteria of transparency as well as guidelines on procedures: it will enumerate some of the information that should be published as well as the way in which this would be done to improve transparency in the fisheries sector.

Ladies and gentlemen ;

The APRAPAM in line with this orientation, and as part of the FITI, we want, as a forum, to commit to this dynamic, inviting the participants to reflect on the manner in which this National Multipartite group may form and to identify the concrete information that should be made public to enable improvements in the fisheries sector in Senegal, by better information and participation of stakeholders in the responsible management of fisheries in Senegal.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Our forum has two objectives:

- a) Identify the main areas where the publication of existing information is necessary in the case of Senegal;
- b) Propose a process for the establishment of the FITI National Multipartite group for Senegal: its composition, its functioning.

Ladies and gentlemen ;

We should aim at defining a framework and content for the FITI National Group, mobilising decision-makers, the fishing professionals and civil society stakeholders.

A concept note was made available to guide our discussions. I very much hope that our discussions will produce relevant recommendations likely to promote sustainable exploitation of the fisheries resources in our country.

We have the duty to exploit these fisheries resources always bearing in mind that "the satisfaction of the needs of the present generation should not compromise the opportunities for future generations to meet their needs'.

Thank you for your kind attention.