

## WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR WEST AFRICA

**14-15 May 2019**

Hôtel Ndiambour, Dakar, Senegal

### **Objective:**

This workshop is organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in partnership with the Centre Africain pour le Commerce, l'Intégration et le Développement (Enda CACID), Senegal's Ministry of Trade and SMEs, The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Réseau sur les Politiques de Pêche en Afrique de l'Ouest (REPAO), with the support of GIZ. The overarching objective of the regional workshop is to support WTO members from the West Africa region as they seek to successfully negotiate new fisheries subsidies disciplines at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Specifically, the workshop will bring together policy makers from across the region and experts from academia, the fisheries sector and civil society for an in-depth discussion of WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations. In particular, the workshop is designed to help West African coastal countries to answer, with the support of experts, the following three fundamental questions:

- What is the reality of global and, more specifically, West African fisheries and relevant subsidy policies?
- How could WTO rules on fisheries subsidies impact on subsidy policies and fisheries in West Africa and what are the potential implications for the region?
- How best can a WTO agreement be designed to reflect the interests of West African countries and help support sustainable development in the region?

The workshop will address these questions by providing delegations with the input of experts and presenting new pieces of research, including a draft case study commissioned by IISD on the sardinella fishery off the coast of West Africa. The event will also provide government officials with an opportunity to discuss key questions in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies in a regional setting. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in French and English.

## Agenda

Tuesday 14 May

**09:00 – 09:30** Welcome remarks

**09:30 – 10:15** **Session 1 – The current landscape of marine fisheries and fisheries subsidies around the world**

This session will explore the economic reality of fisheries subsidies globally, their impact on fish stocks and their implications from a sustainable development perspective. It will also touch upon fisheries subsidies in West Africa.

*Presenter*

Rashid Sumaila, Professor and Director of the Research Unit on the Economics of Fisheries, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia

*Open discussion*

**10:15 – 11:15** **Session 2 – WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies: What's on the table and what are the key questions?**

This session will provide participants with an overview of the current state of play in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies, including by looking at the various approaches and options on the table, as well as some of the key questions that WTO members will need to address to reach an agreement.

*Presenters*

Ahmed Tejan Kabba, Counselor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Magor Mbaye, First Counselor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Malick Diallo, First Counselor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

*Open discussion*

**11:15 – 11:30** **Break**

**11.30 – 13 :00 Session 3 – Marine fisheries in West Africa: Overview and challenges**

This session will provide an overview of maritime fisheries in West Africa and examine the key policy issues for the region in the context of WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies – including with regards to (1) illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, (2) overfished stocks and (3) overfishing and overcapacity.

*Presenters*

Ndiaga Gueye (FAO), Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa

Dyhia Belhabib, Principal Investigator, Ecotrust Canada

Monin Justin Amandè, Researcher, Centre de Recherches Océanologiques (CRO), Abidjan

*Open discussion*

**13:00 – 14:30 Break**

**14:30 – 15:15 Session 4 – Modelling the potential implications of WTO rules on fisheries subsidies**

This session will present a bioeconomic model developed by Chris Costello's team at the University of California in Santa Barbara for assessing the impacts of various options for potential WTO rules on fisheries subsidies.

*Presenter*

Ernesto Fernandez Monge, Officer, The Pew Charitable Trusts

*Open discussion*

**15:15 – 15:30 Break**

**15:30 – 17:00 Session 5 – The sardinella fishery in West Africa: Exploring the impact of WTO rules and pathways for reform**

This session will present the first draft of a case study on the potential impacts of possible new WTO rules on fisheries subsidies on the sardinella fishery off the coast of West Africa. It will provide an opportunity for participants to provide their feedback on the study and its preliminary results.

*Presenter*

Dyhia Belhabib, Principal Investigator, Ecotrust Canada

*Open discussion*

Wednesday 15 May

**09:00 – 10:30 Session 6 – Fisheries subsidies and sustainable development: What lessons can be drawn from the experience of fisheries stakeholders?**

This session will explore the links between fisheries subsidies and sustainable development through some of the lessons that can be drawn from the experience of key organizations in the fisheries sector in West Africa.

*Presenters*

Mohamed Sadiki, Counsellor, Fisheries Policy Expert, Executive Secretariat of the Ministerial Conference on fisheries cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)

Malal Sané, Permanent Secretary, Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)

Gaoussou Gueye, President, African Confederation of Professional Organisations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA)

Diaba Diop, Secretary General, Réseau National des Femmes Transformatrices du Sénégal

*Open discussion*

**10:30 – 10:45 Break**

**10:45 – 12:30 Session 7 - Design an agreement that supports the sustainability of West African fisheries and promotes sustainable development in the region**

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss some of the key questions in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies, including by examining their potential implications for West Africa. The discussions will address the three key areas in the WTO negotiations: (1) Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, (2) over-exploited stocks, (3) overfishing and overcapacity.

**12:30 – 13:00 Closing**